



Military Despatches

Vol 19 January 2019

Unusual military units

Strange units, regiments and armies

Insane, effective, deadly

IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices)

Army Speak 101

Military slang from around the world

Heinz Guderian

The father of modern tank warfare



Forged in Battle

The French Foreign Legion

For the military enthusiast

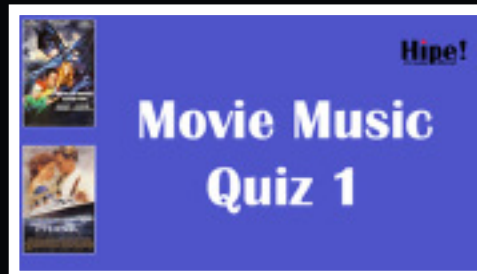


Click on any video below to view



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

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



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



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

Hipe TV brings you videos ranging from actuality to humour and everything in between. Interviews, mini-documentaries and much more.

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



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



Improvised Explosive Devices

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If the helmet fits...

Putting your thinking helmet on because this month our quiz is about exactly that - helmets. We show you 15 helmets, you tell us what they are.





Editor's Sitrep

Let me start off by wishing each and every one of you a happy and prosperous New Year.

I trust that you all had a good Christmas, and those that don't celebrate Christmas I hope that you at least had a bit of a break.

I was lucky enough to take two weeks off and believe me, I needed it.

One thing I noticed this year was how quiet the shops were. I went and did my grocery shopping on the Thursday before Christmas and had prepared myself for long queues. I went to two shops, one in a shopping mall, and both were a breeze.

On the Friday I went to buy some gifts, again at a large shopping mall. Yet again there were not that many people in the shop. Even the roads were much quieter than they normally are for this time of the year.

I think that the economy was having an effect on consumer habits this year and that many people could not celebrate the festive season as they have done in the past.

The good news is that we will not be putting up the price of Military Despatches. It will still

remain free, as it has been since it was started.

While researching for the January in Military History article, I was amazed to discover the story of Tsutomu Yamaguchi.

On 6 August 1945 the 28 year old Yamaguchi was at home in Hiroshima. At 08h15 an American B-29 bomber, the Enola Gay, dropped 'Little Boy'. The atomic bomb detonated over the city wiping out 90% of the city and immediately killing about 80,000 people.

Yamaguchi survived and set off for his cousin's house. Three days later, on 9 August 1945, he arrived at his cousin's house in Nagasaki.

Shortly after he had arrived, 'Fat Boy', a plutonium bomb even more powerful than the one dropped on Hiroshima, was dropped on the city at 11h02.

Not only did Yamaguchi survive both explosions, he lived until the age of 93, passing away in 2010.

Until next month.

Matt

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Front Cover

A member of the French Foreign Legion on a training exercise.



The most unusual military units

Ten military units, regiments, or armies that were unusual or downright strange.

Throughout the history of warfare there have always been units that were elite or even notorious.

Yet there have also been units, regiments or even armies that were different. Some were unusual, strange, or just plain weird.

This month we will be looking at ten such groups in no particular order.

10. 61st Cavalry Unit

It should come as no great surprise that horses have become largely outdated in modern warfare.

During World War I cavalry units found that the horse and lance was no match for a well placed machine gun.

These days most cavalry units have been converted to motorised and mechanised units and their steeds have been replaced with APCs (Armoured Personnel Carriers) or IFVs (Infantry Fighting Vehicles).

There really is no reason for horses to be used in the modern military. However, the 61st Cavalry Regiment would beg to differ.

This regiment is the largest mounted cavalry force still in existence.

They were created after the newly formed Indian govern-

ment decided to combine all of their cavalry units into one huge regiment.

While primarily employed on ceremonial occasions, the 61st Cavalry Regiment can be deployed for internal security or police roles if required.

The last publicized occasion on which the regiment saw active military service was when it undertook mounted patrol work during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971.

On Republic Day each year the 61st Cavalry and the President's Body Guard parade in full dress uniform in New Delhi, in what is probably the largest assemblage of traditional cavalry still to be seen in the world.

The regiment has a strong polo playing tradition, producing some of India's best polo players. Members of the regiment have won the Arjuna award – India's highest award for outstanding sportsmen – four times for polo and five times for equestrian events.

9. The Filthy Thirteen

You would think that a group of ruffian soldiers that refused to adhere to military discipline would never be sent into combat, much less survive World War II. In most cases, you

would be right.

But the US Army's 1st Demolition Section of the Regimental Headquarters Company of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division was no ordinary band of misfits.

There job was to carry out demolitions behind enemy lines, a job that was extremely dangerous to say the least.

Their unorthodox behaviour made them the bane of their superior officer's existence. They had no respect for rank, nor rules and regulations.

They were given the nickname 'The Filthy Thirteen' when they stopped washing and shaving and used their water rations meant for ablutions to cook game poached from a nearby manor.

They also sported Indian-style Mohawk haircuts and covered themselves with war paint before going into battle. This was in respect of their leader, Jake McNiece, who was part Choctaw Indian.

While they were an unruly bunch, their skills were impressive.

During the Normandy Invasion of Europe in June 1944, the group was air dropped with the 3rd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment by

aircraft of the 440th Troop Carrier Group of the United States Army Air Forces. They were ordered to secure or destroy the bridges over the Douve River.

Half were either killed, wounded or captured on the jump, but the rest led by Jake McNiece accomplished their mission.

Most of the 3rd Battalion leadership had been killed on the initial jump so without any contact with the 3rd Battalion, senior officers assumed the battalion had failed its mission and ordered the Air Force to bomb the bridges.

The Filthy Thirteen also participated in the capture of Carentan.

During Operation Market Garden, the Demolition Platoon was assigned to defend the three bridges over the Dommel River in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. German bombing of the city killed or wounded half the demolitions men in the platoon, and McNiece was then promoted to platoon sergeant of what was left.

McNiece considered that any activities not directly concerned with his mission were irrelevant, an attitude that got him in constant trouble with the military authorities.

Nevertheless, McNiece finished the war as an acting first sergeant and with four combat jumps, a very rare feat for an American paratrooper.

His combat jumps included Normandy, the Netherlands as part of Operation Market Garden, the pathfinder jump in to Bastogne, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge, and as an observer with the 17th Airborne Division during Operation Varsity.

Of the activities of the Filthy Thirteen, Jack Agnew, a member of the unit, once said, "We weren't murderers or anything, we just didn't do everything we were supposed to do in some ways and did a whole lot more than they wanted us to do in other ways. We were always in trouble."

8. The Ghost Army

While this may sound like the name of a cool video game, this unit had nothing to do with ghosts.

But there were given the name for a good reason. The Ghost Army was the nickname for the US Army's 23rd Headquarters Special Troops, an Allied deception unit in

World War II.

Made up of just

1,100 men, the unit was given a unique mission within the Allied Army: to impersonate other Allied Army units to deceive the enemy.

From a few months after D-Day, when they landed in France, until the end of the war, they put on a "traveling road show" utilizing inflatable tanks, sound trucks, fake radio transmissions, scripts and pretence.

They staged more than 20 battlefield deceptions, often operating very close to the front lines. Their story was kept secret for more than 40 years after the war, and elements of it remain classified.

They used tactics that wouldn't have been out of place on a Hollywood movie set.

To complement existing techniques, the unit often employed theatrical effects to supplement the other deceptions. Collectively called "atmosphere" these included simulating actual units deployed elsewhere by the application of their divisional insignia, painting appropriate unit insignia on vehicles and having the individual companies deployed as if they were regimental headquarters units.

Trucks/Lorries would be driven in looping convoys with just two troops in the seats near the rear, to simulate a truck full

NOT SUPERMEN: Members of the Ghost Army lift an inflatable tank into position.



of infantry under the canvas cover. “MPs” (military police) would be deployed at cross roads wearing appropriate divisional insignia and some officers would simulate divisional generals and staff officers visiting towns where enemy agents were likely to see them.

A few actual tanks and artillery pieces were occasionally assigned to the unit to make the “dummies” in the distance appear more realistic.

Of course it really helped that the soldiers of this unit were also actors, artists, sound engineers, illustrators, radio experts and even illusionists.

The Ghost Army is credited with saving anywhere between 15,000 and 30,000 lives due to their strange, but effective tactics.

7. Israel's Autistic Intelligence Unit

People on the autism spectrum often get looked down upon. They are either treated as though they are perpetual children or shunned because the majority of typical people do not understand why they act the way they do. It can be quite frustrating to deal with.

But Israel is offering teens

and young adults with autism a job with an elite intelligence unit known simply as Unit 9900.

The programme is known as *Ro'im Rachok* (Looking Ahead).

This is because people on the autism spectrum tend to have high perceptual skills, including extraordinary attention to visual detail to compensate for their slow social development.

They analyse complex images from military satellites to pick out the tiniest detail that could help the Israeli Army. This skill has helped the Israeli Army save countless soldiers' lives as well as uncovered hidden weapons caches.

Ro'im Rachok was founded in 2013 by two Mossad veterans who realized that certain individuals on the autism spectrum could be unusually skilled at spending long hours analyzing aerial reconnaissance photographs and picking out tiny details.

In addition to its military benefits, there are social benefits to the program. Military service is mandatory in Israel for almost all citizens, but teenagers on the autism spectrum are exempt.

This poses a barrier to ad-

vancement in their lives as military service is a significant step in Israeli society for young men, both symbolically as well as professionally.

Now, the military increasingly looks at individuals with High-functioning autism as potentially useful. Rather than forcing individuals to remain enlisted for the standard three years, *Ro'im Rachok* gives individuals the option to enlist in one-year increments once their three-month training is complete. When enlisted, the soldiers are accompanied by a therapist as well as a psychologist for their own benefit as well as to accommodate for some social barriers their commanders and colleagues may encounter.

The program also helps to prepare young adults with autism for their futures with training on how to deal with challenging situations related to their civilian life such as public transportation. The program also helps to prepare people for future careers in technological fields and careers.

Ro'im Rachok



SPECIAL TALENT: A member of Unit 9900 studies a satellite image.

aims to utilize skills people on the autism spectrum exhibit, as well as end stigma surrounding autism.

6. Jessie Scouts

The strange exploits of this American Civil War unit have the makings of a great television sitcom.

The Jessie Scouts were a small group of about 60 Union soldiers who went undercover as Confederates to collect valuable information from enemy forces.

This put them under constant risk of enemy capture as well as friendly fire. But this unit had an oddly fun time with their dangerous spy work.

A Jessie Scout named Henry Hale thought it would be funny to steal a horse from an old cessationist at gun point. It didn't take long for the cessationist to catch up, take both his horse and Hale's, and force him to walk back to town naked as punishment.

The Jessie Scout captain, Charles Carpenter, recalled the time he had to dress up and pretend to be a woman to deliver a letter to a Rebel officer.

5. The Monuments Men

The Monuments Men were made up of 345 men and women from 14 different countries, all of whom were accomplished museum directors, curators, art

TRAGIC TROOPS: Young girls undergoing their seven years of compulsory military service.

historians, archivists, educators and artists who had a single – to save as much art as they could from being destroyed at the hands of the Nazi regime.

While other armies in World War II fought for their country, this unit fought to preserve several countries art, culture and history before the Nazis were able to destroy it all.

After all, history is written by the victors and this unit would not stand to have history written by such a heinous regime.

They braved the front lines just as much as any other soldier would, all while recovering important pieces of culture that would otherwise be lost.

After the war was over they returned these priceless artefacts and cultural objects back to their respective countries so that they may be able to share their histories for years to come.

4. North Korean Women's Army

Not much is known about this army apart from what the few lucky deserters have had to say about it. This army isn't so

much unusual as it is tragic.

North Korea is faced with a low birth rate, a high child mortality rate and high fatality rates all over the country.

Their solution - force the women to do compulsory military conscription. Traditionally women only served in the military on a volunteer basis. But that has all changed.

Women between the ages of 17 and 20 are now forced to undergo seven years of military conscription. Men have to do 11 years compulsory military service.

Deserters state that the North Korean Women's Army faces constant malnutrition, poor living conditions and sexual harassment from male officers on a daily basis.

3. Paradoogs of D-Day

A dog parachuting out of a plane may sound like the beginning of a joke.

Something like, “How does a blind person go skydiving? Jump with your guide dog on a long leash. When the leash goes slack, pull your ripcord.”



TOP TEN

But this is no joke. Back in World War II the British Army trained dogs to do just that.

These days military forces around the world make use of dogs for a wide variety of tasks. But back in the 1940s it was a relatively new concept.

The British Army even sent out notices requesting that people volunteer their dogs for this very special honour. So many people sent dogs in that the small military training school quickly became a shelter.

Dogs were taught how to identify the smell of explosives and gunpowder, how to track down enemies and how to behave when under fire.

The dogs actually seemed to enjoy their parachuting lessons, probably because they were given tons of treats afterwards.

Three dogs, Bing, Monty and Rane, were eventually chosen to parachute from planes on D-Day to assist with operations.

So the answer to the age-old questions is, "Yes you can teach a dog new tricks."

SCALLYWAGS: Members of an Auxiliary Unit on a training exercise in England.

2. Russian Northern Fleet Motorised Rifle Brigade

Imagine a man riding on a sleigh pulled by reindeer. It's got to be Santa, right.

Now let's add machine guns to the sleigh and you'll quickly see that it's not Santa, it's the Russian Northern Fleet Motorised Rifle Brigade.

It was formed in early 2016 to protect what they believe to be an extension of Russian territory out in the Arctic Ocean, close to the North Pole.

Other countries have also tried to stake their claim on this land but none seem to want to fight against the imposing brigade to get to it.

This isn't the first time that Russia has used reindeer in their army. Back in World War II the Soviets used reindeer to help move supplies, wounded men and a quick method of getting from battlefield to battlefield.

And of course the Russians learnt this little trick from the Finns during the Winter War.

1. Scallywags

Europe wasn't the most fun place to live during World War II.

Countries were either under Nazi control or under siege by them. And it seemed as if the Germans would soon control the whole continent.

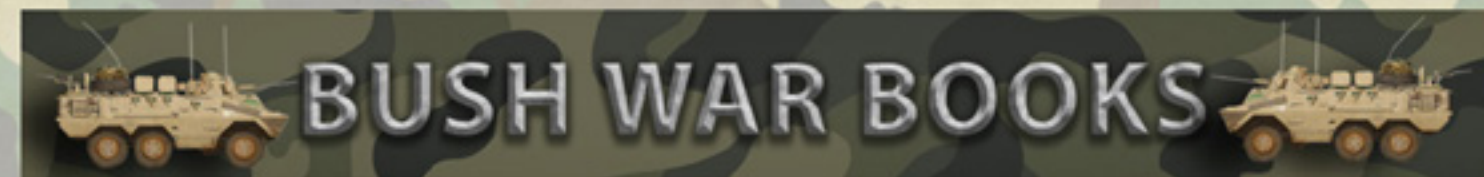
Enter the United Kingdom's Auxiliary Units, better known as the Scallywags.

These were specially training secret units ordered to 'scallywag' or carry out dangerous covert night missions and guerilla warfare in order to combat against the invasion forces.

These missions were so dangerous that the life expectancy for this unit was a mere 12 days in the field.

This unit was made up of teams of people that you wouldn't think would be qualified to serve in such a skilled unit – dentists, farmers, gamekeepers, and even priests all served together in this almost slapped together army.

They were tasked to carry out assassinations, demolition work and sabotage of enemy plans.



Bush War Books has probably one of the finest collections of military titles available. Especially on the South African Border War.

Click [here](#) to visit their website.

"War does not determine who is right - only who is left"

Disobedient Heroes

In the military it is expected that you obey orders. Yet there are cases where there is a good reason to disobey those orders.

The military has a very strict code of conduct. When a soldier is given an order he/she is expected to carry it out immediately.

Commanding officers can order troops into a suicide mission if it serves the greater purpose. When obeying orders, it's necessary for those troops to believe a commander wouldn't order them into harm's way unless it was necessary, that the order serves a greater good, and it's not an illegal order.

The military takes a dim view on anyone that fails or refuses to obey an order. Those that refuse to carry out an order can be court martialled and, in some cases, even sentenced to death if found guilty.

Yet there are cases where there is a valid reason for disobeying an order. Such as when they believe that the order is putting the lives of friendly troops or innocent people at stake.

The following people not only disobeyed orders, they even became heroes because of it.

Albert Battel

As a fifty-one-year-old reserve officer and a lawyer by profession, Oberleutnant Battel was stationed in Przemyśl in southern Poland as the adjutant to the local military commander, Major Max Liedtke. Battel had been a member of the Nazi Party since 1933.

When the SS prepared to launch their first large-scale "re-

settlement" (liquidation) action against the Jews of Przemyśl on 26 July 1942, Battel, in concert with his superior, ordered the bridge over the River San, the only access into the Jewish ghetto, to be blocked.

As the SS commando attempted to cross to the other side, the sergeant-major in charge of the bridge threatened to open fire unless they withdrew. All this happened in broad daylight, to the amazement of the local inhabitants.

Still later that same afternoon, an army detachment under the command of Oberleutnant Battel broke into the cordoned-off area of the ghetto and used army trucks to evacuate up to 100 Jews and their families to the barracks of the local military command.

These Jews were placed under the protection of the Wehrmacht and were thus sheltered from deportation to Belzec. The remaining ghetto inmates, including the head of the Judenrat, Dr. Duldig, underwent "resettlement" in the following days.

After this incident, the SS authorities began a secret investigation into the conduct of the army officer who had dared defy them under such embarrassing circumstances.

Heinrich Himmler, Reichsführer-SS, vowed to have the lawyer expelled from the Nazi party and arrested immediately after the war.

Battel's stand against the SS came to be recognised only a long time after his death; most notably, through the tenacious efforts of the Israeli researcher and lawyer Dr. Zeev Goshen. On 22 January 1981, almost 30 years after his death, Yad Vashem recognised Albert Battel as Righteous among the Nations.

Major Max Liedtke was also recognised as Righteous among the Nations.



Albert Battel

Thomas Currie Derrick

Tom Derrick was an Australian who went by the nickname of 'Diver'.

During World War II he joined the 2/48th Battalion of the Second Australian Imperial Force.

At the Siege of Tobruk, he was recommended for the Military Medal and promoted to

corporal. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal at El Alamein for knocking out three German machine gun posts, destroying two tanks, and capturing one hundred prisoners.

During the Battle of Sattelberg in the Pacific nation of New Guinea, Derrick was now a lieutenant.

On November 24, 1943, Lt. Derrick was ordered to withdraw his platoon because the CO didn't think he could capture the heights around Sattelberg.

Derrick's response: "Bugger the CO. Just give me twenty more minutes and we'll have this place."

Derrick climbed a vertical cliff by himself, holding on with one hand and throwing grenades with the other, stopping only to fire his rifle. He cleared out 10 machine gun nests that night and forced the Japanese to withdraw. The Aussies captured Sattelberg and Derrick was awarded the Victoria Cross.



Thomas Derrick

Desmond Doss

This was a man that wanted to serve his country during World War II. As long as he didn't have to kill anyone.

He was a pacifist and refused every order to carry a weapon or fire one. He was given a court martial and the court eventually decided that he did not have to carry a firearm and would be allowed to serve as a medic.

As his unit climbed a vertical cliffside at Okinawa, the Japanese opened up with artillery, mortars, and machine guns, turning his unit back and killing or wounding 75 men. Doss retrieved them one by one, loading them onto a litter and down the cliff.

A few days later, in the mouth of a cave, he braved a shower of grenades thrown from eight yards away, dressed wounds, and made four trips to pull his soldiers out. He treated his own wounds and waited five hours for a litter to carry him off.

On the way back, the three men carrying him had to take cover from a tank attack. While waiting, Doss crawled off his litter, treated a more injured man, and told the litter bearers to take the other man.

While waiting for them to come back, he was hit in the arm by a sniper and crawled more than 250 metres to an aid station.

He was twice awarded the Bronze Star Medal for actions in Guam and the Philippines. For his exploits at Okinawa, Doss was awarded the Medal of Honour.

He was the first conscientious objector to earn the Medal of Honour and was promoted to

the rank of corporal.



Desmond Doss

Daniel Hellings

Hellings was serving with the British Army in Afghanistan.

On 7 September 2010 he was on a joint patrol with Afghan allies in the Helmand Province. An IED (Improvised Explosive Device) was detonated in an alleyway.

Two troops were injured in the initial blast, one blinded and the second with severe leg wounds, and a third was wounded when he triggered another bomb just metres away from Private Hellings.

Private Hellings was ordered to withdraw from the alley by his commander but the young soldier realised there was no time to find an alternative route to recover the casualties and volunteered to return to the task.

With his metal detector rendered all but useless because so much metallic debris lay on the ground, he carried out an hour-long fingertip search for further IEDs.

One hidden bomb he found

had wires stretching the width of the alley, which would normally have prevented him going any further. But Private Hellings knew that his injured comrades would almost certainly die if he waited for a bomb disposal team.

He disregarded the danger to himself and continued clearing the ground around the IEDs so he could reach the three casualties, giving them life-saving first aid and helping to evacuate them.

For his bravery and quick thinking, he was awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal.



Daniel Hellings

Frank Luke Jr

Frank Luke Jr was an U.S. Army Air Service during World War I. He held the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

He was an ace with 18 confirmed kills, second only to Captain Eddie Rickenbacker. Luke's nickname was the 'Arizona Balloon Buster'.

On 29 September 1918 he had been grounded by his squadron's commanding officer, Captain Alfred A. Grant, and told that if he took off he would be considered AWOL.

He knocked out three balloons that day before his aircraft was hit by machine gun fire and he was forced down behind enemy lines.

He managed to land, climbed out of his aircraft and, using his sidearm, opened fire on the Germans that we heading to take him prisoner. He was killed in the one-sided fight.

He was later awarded the Medal of Honour, becoming the first pilot to receive the award.



Frank Luke Jr.

Dakota Meyer

Meyer was a member of the United States Marine Corps and it 2009 was at the Battle of Ganjgal in Afghanistan.

His commander ordered him to disregard a distress call from ambushed Afghan and American troops, four of them friends, pinned down by possibly hundreds of enemy fighters.

He repeatedly asked permission to drive his truck to help relieve his outnumbered and surrounded friends and allies. Each time the request was denied.

Taking matter into his own hands he and another Marine hopped in a Humvee. Meyer

manned the gun while the other drove the vehicle.

They drove right into the firestorm, loading the beleaguered Afghans, mostly wounded, onto their Humvee. As weapons jammed, Meyer would grab another, and another. They drove into the melee five times, until they came across Meyer's friends, now fallen, and pulled them out too.

For his actions Meyer was awarded the Medal of Honour. He is the second-youngest living Medal of Honour recipient.



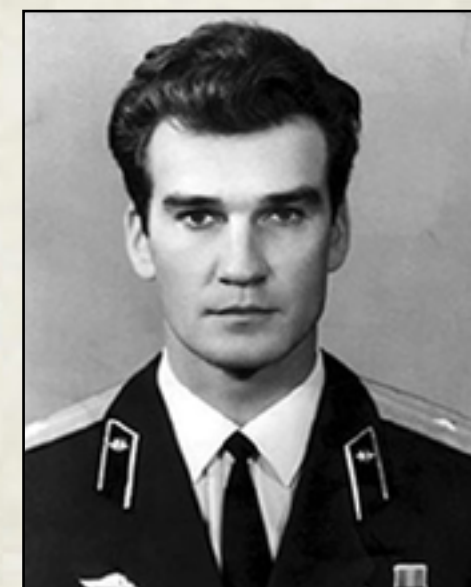
Dakota Meyer

Stanislav Petrov

On 26 September 1983, three weeks after the Soviet military had shot down Korean Air Lines Flight 007, Lt Colonel Petrov was the duty officer at the command center for the Oko nuclear early-warning system when the system reported that a missile had been launched from the United States, followed by up to five more

Standing orders were clear - report it immediately to his commanding officers, who would have likely launched a counter-strike with their nuclear arsenal..

Suspecting that it was a false alarm he disobeyed the standing orders and, in doing so, averted World War III and mutually assured destruction.



Stanislav Petrov

Benaya Rein

During the Second Lebanon War several Israeli soldiers, lacking accurate maps, became lost in 2006 while in Southern Lebanon. As they attempted to get their bearings, about 20 men appeared in the distance, and the commander, convinced they were Hezbollah fighters, ordered Benaya Rein to open fire.

Rein wasn't so sure. Instead, he took a tank out to the location to investigate. When he arrived, he found 20 of his fellow IDF soldiers.

Rein would later be killed after the tank he was commanding was hit by a Hezbollah missile. He was one of the last Israelis killed during the war.



Benaya Rein

Daniel Sickles

Major General Sickles' slight disobedience to orders during the Battle of Gettysburg changed the momentum of the war and may have changed the entire history of the United States. In a move historians haven't stopped talking about for 150 years, Sickles moved his men to Peach Orchard instead of Little Round Top, as Gen. George G. Meade ordered him. This move prompted Confederate Gen. James Longstreet to attack the Union troops in the orchard and the wheat field, nearly destroying the Union forces there. Which, admittedly, sounds terrible.

The Confederate move allowed Union troops to flank them in a counter-offensive and completely rout the Confederate forces, winning Gettysburg for the Union and ending Robert E. Lee's invasion of the North. Sickles himself lost a leg in the fighting, but received the Medal of Honour.



Daniel Sickles

David Teich

During the Korean War, US Army Lieutenant David Teich was in a tank company near the 38th parallel in 1951 when a radio distress call came in from the Eighth Ranger Company. Wounded, outnumbered, and under heavy fire, the Rangers were near Teich's tanks, and facing 300,000 Communist troops, moving steadily toward their position.

Teich wanted to help, but was ordered to withdraw instead, his captain saying "We've got orders to move out. Screw them. Let them fight their own battles."

Teich went anyway. He led four tanks over to the Rangers' position and took out so many Rangers on each tank, they covered up the tank's turrets. He still gets letters from the troops he saved that day, thanking him for disobeying his order to move out.



David Teich

IED - Insane, Effective, Deadly

In modern wars and conflicts the enemy could be anyone. And they will use any weapon and tactic to inflict casualties and damage. One of the most common weapons is the IED.

The battlefield has always been a harsh environment. After all, they have been places where people are trying very hard to kill each other.

Yet there was a time when war was far more simple. No less dangerous or horrific, but more simple. You could identify your enemy by the uniform they were wearing. There were certain protocols that governed the way the war was fought.

These days, however, things are not that simple. The battlefield could be anywhere - an open field, an urban area, the local shopping mall, or your back yard.

And it is often not that easy to distinguish who the enemy are. In many cases they do not wear a uniform of any sort. The enemy could be anyone - the man dressed in jeans and a tee-shirt that looks as if he could be a soldier, the harmless looking old man sitting on the street corner, or even the 10 year old schoolgirl with pigtails and a smile.

And the enemy will make use of any weapon or tactic

that could cause harm or damage. This often makes a war extremely difficult to fight.

The majority of modern conflicts consist of asymmetric unconventional warfare. This is war between belligerents whose relative military power differs significantly, or whose strategy or tactics differ significantly.

This is typically a war between a standing, professional army and an insurgency or resistance movement militias who often have status of unlawful combatants.

The professional army has certain advantages. For instance they are usually better trained, better equipped, and

have large resources that they can call upon.

But they also have disadvantages. They are normally easily identified by their uniform and equipment, their conduct and tactics are usually governed by "rules of engagement", and they are normally fighting in an unfamiliar and hostile environment.

The insurgents or militia are also at an obvious disadvantage - they are usually not well trained, often have inferior equipment, and their tactics are often not well co-ordinated.

On the other hand, they have some strong advantages. They are often highly motivated and dedicated to their cause, they are fighting on 'home ground', and they will use anyone and anything to achieve their objectives.

In many cases they receive

assistance from external sources. This assistance can take the form of providing training and weapons, financial assistance, or even offering sanctuary.

One of the most common and popular weapons used by insurgents and militia is the improvised explosive device (IED).

IED

An improvised explosive device (IED) is a bomb constructed and deployed in ways other than in conventional military action. It may be constructed of conventional military explosives, such as an artillery shell, attached to a detonating mechanism.

An IED is a bomb fabricated in an improvised manner incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic, or incendiary chemicals and designed

to destroy or incapacitate personnel or vehicles. In some cases, IEDs are used to distract, disrupt, or delay an opposing force, facilitating another type of attack.

IEDs may incorporate military or commercially sourced explosives, and often combine both types, or they may otherwise be made with homemade explosives.

An IED has five components: a switch (activator), an initiator (fuse), container (body), charge (explosive), and a power source (battery).

An IED designed for use against armoured targets such as personnel carriers or tanks will be designed for armour penetration, by using a shaped charge that creates an explosively formed penetrator. IEDs



are extremely diverse in design and may contain many types of initiators, detonators, penetrators, and explosive loads.

IEDs are triggered by various methods, including remote control, infrared or magnetic triggers, pressure-sensitive bars or trip wires (victim-operated).

In some cases, multiple IEDs are wired together in a daisy chain to attack a convoy of vehicles spread out along a roadway.

IEDs have been used in no fewer than 17 countries. In the second Iraq War, IEDs were used extensively against US-led invasion forces and by the end of 2007 they had become responsible for approximately 63% of coalition deaths in Iraq.

IEDs are commonly used as roadside bombs. They vary in both sophistication and strength, with some being very simple devices while others are far more complex.

IED delivery mechanism

Most IEDs are static weapons. They are placed in various locations and are detonated when the target is within range.

The device could be contained in a vehicle parked next to the side of the road, placed in a dustbin or under some rubble, or even disguised in a case of beer, in a child's toy, or in a piece of 'abandoned' military equipment.

These are excellent weapons for slowing down advancing troops, as nearly every object is regarded with suspicion and needs to be checked before the troops can advance.

Ernst Jünger mentions in his war memoir, *Storm of Steel*,



VBIED: Explosives packed in the boot of a car. These devices are known as VBIED (Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices).

the systematic use of IEDs and booby traps to cover the retreat of German troops at the Somme region during World War I.

Another early example of coordinated large-scale use of IEDs was the Belarusian Rail War launched by Belarusian guerrillas against the Germans during World War II. Both command-detonated and delayed-fuse IEDs were used to derail thousands of German trains during 1943–1944.

Throughout 'The Troubles' in Ireland, the Provisional IRA made extensive use of IEDs in their 1969–97 campaign. They used barrack buster mortars and remote controlled IEDs. Members of the IRA developed and counter-developed devices and tactics.

IRA bombs became highly sophisticated, featuring anti-handling devices such as a mercury tilt switch or microswitches. These devices would detonate the bomb if it was moved in any way.

Many IED, however, do not

wait for the target to come to them. Rather, they are delivered to the intended target.

Vehicle-borne IEDs (VBIED) are vehicles laden with explosives that are then driven to the target.

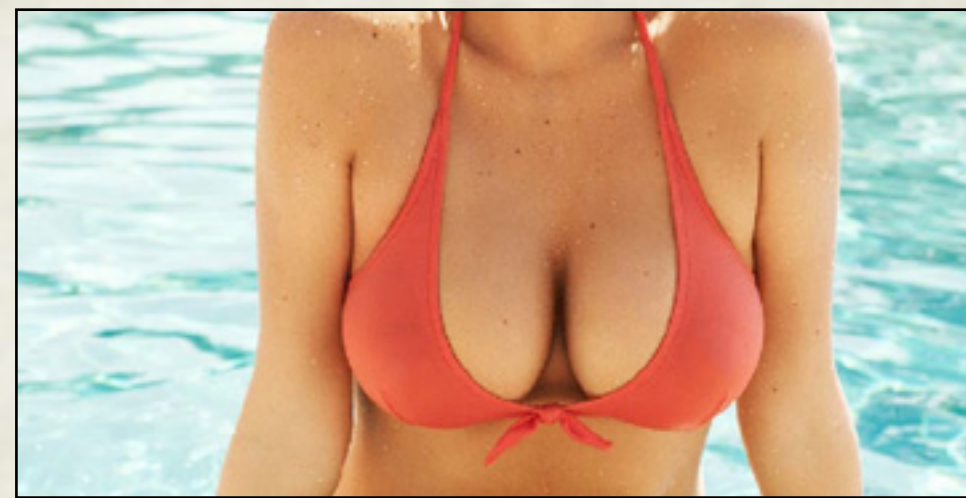
The explosive can then be detonated by remote control or by the driver or passenger. These are commonly known as car bombs.

On occasion the driver of the car bomb may have been coerced into delivery of the vehicle under duress, a situation known as a proxy bomb.

In most cases, however, the driver or passenger that detonates the bomb is a more than willing participant and considers it a great honour to become a martyr for the cause.

Car bombs can carry thousands of kilograms of explosives and may be augmented with shrapnel to increase fragmentation.

Now if a car can carry a large amount of explosives, just think of the amount of explosives that



BOOBY TRAP: While they may look visually attractive, they could easily be explosive-filled implants.

could be carried by a truck. ISIS has used truck bombs with devastating effects.

On 23 October 1983, at 06:22, a 19-ton Mercedes-Benz flat-bed truck drove through an open vehicle gate of the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine stationed at Beirut International Airport.

The truck drove through a guard hut in front of the building and smashed into the lobby of the building serving as the barracks for the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit.

The truck, which had been hijacked earlier, was packed with explosives. And these were no ordinary explosives.

The bed of the truck was surrounded by 20 kg compressed butane canisters employed with pentaerythritol tetranitrate (PETN). These canisters surrounded 9,525 kilograms of TNT.

Once in the lobby of the building the driver, an Iranian national named Ismail Ascari, detonated his explosives.

The resulting explosion killed 220 Marines, 18 sailors and three soldiers, making this incident the deadliest single-day death toll for the United States

Marine Corps since the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II, the deadliest single-day death toll for the United States Armed Forces since the first day of the Tet Offensive in the Vietnam War and the deadliest terrorist attack on American citizens overseas.

Boats laden with explosives can be used against ships and areas connected to water. An early example of this type was the Japanese *Shinyo* suicide boats during World War II. The boats were laden with explosives and attempted to ram Allied ships, sometimes successfully, having sunk or severely damaged several American ships by war's end.

Suicide bombers used a boat-borne IED to attack the USS Cole, US and UK troops have also been killed by boat-borne IEDs in Iraq.

Using animals as a method of delivering IEDs or as incendiary devices has been around for a long time.

Do a bit of research on the 'anti-tank dog' and the 'bat bomb' that were developed during World War II.

In recent times, a two-year-

old child and seven other people were killed by explosives strapped to a horse in the town of Chita in Colombia.

The carcasses of certain animals were also used to conceal explosive devices by the Iraqi insurgency.

War pigs are reported to have been used in ancient warfare as military animals, mostly as a countermeasure against war elephants.

Pliny the Elder reported that "elephants are scared by the smallest squeal of the hog". The Romans exploited squealing pigs (and rams) to repel the war elephants of Pyrrhus in 275 BC.

Historical accounts of incendiary pigs or flaming pigs were recorded by the military writer Polyaeus and by Aelian.

Both writers reported that Antigonos II Gonatas' siege of Megara in 266 BC was broken when the Megarians doused some pigs with combustible pitch, crude oil or resin, set them alight, and drove them towards the enemy's massed war elephants.

The elephants bolted in terror from the flaming, squealing pigs, often killing great numbers of their own soldiers by trampling them to death.

One of the most difficult IEDs to deal with is the suicide bomber wearing explosives and detonating them in order to kill others including themselves.

The bomber will conceal explosives on and around their person, commonly using a vest (or possibly a prosthetic and will use a timer or some other trigger to detonate the explosives.

In addition, there is the psy-

chological impact of fighters prepared to deliberately sacrifice themselves for their cause.

The Americans have made great use of drones, both for observing and attacking potential targets.

It was only a matter of time before insurgents reasoned that what was “sauce for the goose, was sauce for the gander.”

Small commercial drones, operated via a cellphone or tablet and equipped with a camera, can be purchased for as little as R2,000.

The camera transmits live video footage to the operator who is then able to control the height and direction of the drone.

The camera can then record still images or video footage than can be used for intelligence purposes. They can also be used as IED, as a report from early this year on an attack on Russian forces in Syria earlier this year by 13 homemade drones points out.

According to the report, “Ten drones attacked a Russian airbase at Khmeimim. The other three went for a nearby naval base at Tartus.

“Rather than being quadcopters (the most popular design for commercial drones), the craft involved in these attacks resembled hobbyists’ model aircraft. Their wingspans were about 13 feet, and they were crudely constructed of wood and plastic and powered by lawnmower engines.

“Each carried 10 home-made shrapnel grenades under its wings.”

I have saved the best for last. As early as May 2012 Ameri-



FLYING BOMB: Cheap commercial drones are now being used as a method of delivering IEDs.

can counter-terrorism officials leaked their acquisition of documents describing the preparation and use of surgically implanted improvised explosive devices.

The devices were designed to evade detection. The devices were described as containing no metal, so they could not be detected by X-rays.

Security officials referred to bombs being surgically implanted into suicide bombers’ “love handles”.

According to the UK security officials at MI-6, female bombers could travel undetected carrying the explosive chemicals in otherwise standard breast implants. The bomber would blow up the implanted explosives by injecting a chemical trigger.

IED triggering methods

For an IED to be successful it has to explode. Various methods are used to detonate an IED.

Command-wire improvised explosive devices (CWIED) use an electrical firing cable that affords the user complete

control over the device right up until the moment of initiation.

The trigger for a radio-controlled improvised explosive device (RCIED) is controlled by radio link. A signal from the transmitter causes the receiver to trigger a firing pulse that operates the switch.

One of the most common methods these days is to use a mobile phone to trigger the detonation. This uses a radio-controlled IED (RCIED) incorporating a mobile phone that is modified and connected to an electrical firing circuit.

The easiest method is the victim-operated improvised explosive devices (VOIED), also known as booby traps. They are operated by means of movement. Switching methods include tripwire, pressure mats, spring-loaded release, push, pull or tilt.

IEDs have become a huge problem and will continue to be so in the future. As quick as solutions to combat them are found, counter-methods are invented.



The Tin Hat

Putting your thinking helmet on because this month our quiz is about exactly that - helmets. We show you 15 helmets, you tell us what they are. You’ll find the answers to the quiz on page 73.



Army speak 101

The military has always had their own way of doing things. And this includes having a rich vocabulary of slang terms.

The military world-wide has always had their own way of doing things. And this includes having their very own language.

The South African Defence Force (SADF) used a strange mixture of Afrikaans, English, slang and techno-speak that few outside of the military could hope to understand.

Some of the terms were humorous, some were clever, while others were downright crude.

Other armed forces around the world also have their own slang terms.

This article looks at just a few of these slang names and terms. Obviously we had to leave out some of the more crude and offensive terms. But I'm sure most of our readers will remember them.

Here is but a small sample of military slang.

- **Admin vortex (British)** - A disorganised Soldier.
- **Admiral of the Swiss Navy (Allied Forces WWII)** - A self-important person.
- **Agitate the gravel (Rhodesian Army)** - Lets go. Leave the place.
- **Air-dale (UK and US)** - Derogatory term for a pilot or aircrew.
- **Amen wallah (British Army)** - Used during World War I to describe a Chaplain.
- **Archie (British)** - Expression used during World War

I to describe an anti-aircraft gun.

- **Armoured cow (Australia)** - Tinned milk.
- **Army Banjo (Allied Forces WWII)** - Shovel.
- **Army Strawberries (Allied Forces WWII)** - Prunes.
- **Army's Lawn Dart (US)** - UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. Named for its inability to stay in the air. Also Known as a "Crash Hawk".
- **Asino morto (Italian)** - "Dead donkey", term for canned ham.
- **Axle Grease (Allied Forces WWII)** - Butter.
- **Bagger (Ireland)** - Derogatory term referring to an Irish reservist Soldier, comparing him/her to a sandbag, i.e.; useless.
- **Bait layer (Australian)** - An Army cook. Refers to a person who drops poison meat to kill dingos. The are also known as a Ration Assassin.
- **Battery Acid (SADF)** - Slang term given to concentrated cold drink that was mixed with water.
- **Bayonet Course (Allied Forces WWII)** - Hospital treatment for venereal diseases. "Bayonet" refers to the male member.
- **Beasting (British)** - Punishment drill or PT.
- **Become a Gold Star in Mom's Window (Allied Forces WWII)** - A gentle way of saying killed in ac-

tion.

- **Blister Mechanic (Allied Forces WWII)** - Medic.
- **Blou Gat (SADF)** - Expression used to describe a national serviceman who had reached the halfway point of his initial national service. It is an Afrikaans word literally meaning 'blue arse'.
- **Bokkop (SADF)** - Slang term for infantry soldier. It is derived from the Afrikaans word 'Buck Head'. The emblem of the infantry was a Springbok's head.
- **Bohica (US Navy)** - Bend over, here it comes again.
- **Blanket-stacker (British)** - Any storeman (even if he doesn't deal with blankets).
- **Bleu (France)** - A recruit. Derived from the French term for barely-cooked steak, symbolizing a "raw" recruit.
- **Blue on blue contact (UK and US)** - A friendly fire incident.
- **Body Snatcher (Allied Forces WWII)** - Stretcher bearer.
- **Boomer (US Navy)** - A nuclear ballistic missile submarine, or personnel serving aboard same.
- **Boozier (Australian)** - Pub or Bar on an Army Base.
- **Bottled Sunshine (Allied Forces WWII)** - Beer.
- **Bowl us the ages ek se (Rhodesian Army)** - What is the time?
- **Box 500 (British)** - The



Bokkop

nickname given by the SAS to MI5. Their official address is PO Box 500, London.

- **Brake Shoes (SADF)** - Slang term used to describe Provita Biscuits.
- **Brass (Worldwide)** - Top ranking officers.
- **Bravo Zulu (Worldwide navies)** - Well done.
- **Brown Navy (SADF)** - A term used to describe the South African Navy's Marines. They wore the normal brown uniform of the SADF, as opposed to the 'blue navy' who were the seafaring element of the navy.
- **Bundu (Rhodesian Army)** - The bush, the countryside.
- **Bungalow Bill (SADF)** - When troops lived in a bungalow or dormitory one of them would often be put in charge. Although this troop usually had no rank he was known as the Bungalow Bill.
- **Canned Morale (Allied Forces WWII)** - A movie.
- **Canteen medals (Australian)** - Beer or food stains on the breast of a shirt or jacket.
- **Charles (US)** - Nickname for the Viet Cong during

the Vietnam War. Shortened from the phonetic alphabet Victor Charles for VC.

- **Cherry (US)** - New recruit still in basic training.
- **Chibuli (Rhodesian Army)** - Beer.
- **Chicken Parade (SADF)** - Basically a clean up of an area, picking up papers, cigarette butts, and general refuse. In the navy this was known as 'skirmishing'.
- **Civvie sitrep (Rhodesian Army)** - News on the commercial radio.
- **Clutch Plate (SADF)** - Slang term given to hamburger patties.
- **Craphat (British)** - Used by members of the parachute regiment to denote what they class as lesser regiments. Taken from the fact that they wear the coveted Maroon beret that no-one else wears.
- **Culling (Rhodesian Army)** - Killing the enemy.
- **Dad (Allied Forces WWII)** - The oldest member of a group.
- **Dart thrower (Australian)** - A member of the Australian Intelligence Corps. Refers to the perceived method of identifying compounds/ areas of interest for future operations, usually conducted eyes-shut with non-master hand to ensure statistically random results.
- **Devil Dodger, Siel Tiffie (SADF)** - Slang term for a padre, chaplain or priest.
- **Dicker (British)** - A look out, usually used to describe an enemy. A friendly look out is a stag.
- **Dirt dart (Australian)** -

Paratrooper.

- **Dirty Gertie of Bizerte (Allied Forces WWII)** - A promiscuous woman.
- **Doss bag (British)** - Sleeping bag.
- **Egyptian PT (British)** - Sleeping, particularly during the day. Probably dates from WW2 or before.
- **Elephant Virgin (SADF)** - Slang term given to slices of polony.
- **Engine Mountings (SADF)** - Slang term given to tinned braised Steak.
- **Flat dog (Rhodesian Army)** - Crocodile.
- **Fish and Chips (British)** - Slang term for urban warfare (Fighting in someone's house, causing havoc in people's streets).
- **Fitter and turner (SADF)** - Nickname for a chef, because he fits food into a pot and turns it into sh*t.
- **Flossie (SADF)** - Slang term for the Hercules C-130 transport aircraft.
- **Freds (Rhodesian Army)** - Frelimo. Mozambique Army.
- **Gimpy (British)** - The L7A2 GPMG 7.62x61mm belt-fed general purpose



Staaldak

machine gun.

- **Glasshouse, the (British)** - Military prison.
- **Go Kart (SADF)** - Slang term used for a twenty-man toilet. These were fibreglass toilet shells which were placed over a hole dug in the ground. They were mounted on wheels for easy movement.
- **God (British)** - The Regimental Sergeant Major.
- **Gomos (Rhodesian Army)** - Hills.
- **Gong (British)** - A campaign medal.
- **Green slime (British)** - Army intelligence personnel.
- **GV (SADF)** - A term used for someone who was very enthusiastic. It was short for the Afrikaans *Grens Vegter* or 'border fighter'.
- **Gypo (SADF)** - Used as a term for avoiding work. A person that was lazy was known as a *gypo gat*.
- **Gypo Guts (SADF)** - Slang term for diarrhoea.
- **Hondo (Rhodesian Army)** - War, conflict (Shona).
- **Houding (SADF)** - An Afrikaans word meaning 'attitude'.



Jimmy

- **Interflora (SADF)** - Derogatory term for a member of the Signals Corp. Their emblem of the winged figure of Mercury was also used by the national florists, Interflora.
- **Jimmy (SADF)** - Slang term for signaller.
- **Jol (SADF)** - An Afrikaans slang expression for a party.
- **Jollie patrollie (SADF)** - Used to denote any excursion or activity regarded as fun. Literal translation means 'jolly patrol'.
- **K-Car (Rhodesian Army)** - Nickname given to an Alouette III helicopter armed with twin FN-MAG light machine guns. The K stood for 'kill'.
- **Katunda (Rhodesian Army)** - Personal kit.
- **Kettenhunde (German WW II)** - Military Police, named for the chain and badge they wore as a symbol of their duties.
- **Lemon (Rhodesian Army)** - Nothing there. Normally used to describe an operation or patrol which produced nothing.
- **Long (Rhodesian Army)** - Many / much / a lot.
- **Min Dae (SADF)** - Afrikaans expression meaning 'few days'. This was used by troops who had only a short time before they completed their military service.
- **Min Dae Chips (SADF)** - Slang term for Cornflakes (breakfast cereal).
- **MMWC (Rhodesian Army)** - The leader / person in charge. (Main man what counts).



Tommy cooker

- **Mujiba (Rhodesian Army)** - Young insurgent supporter, their 'eyes and ears' (Shona).
- **Muti - (Rhodesian Army)** - Medicine of any description.
- **Mushi (Rhodesian Army)** - Really nice / good.
- **Noddy Car (SADF)** - Slang expression for an Eland-60 armoured car.
- **Numpty (Australian)** - An individual who just doesn't get it
- **Olifant Skilfers (SADF)** - Slang term for Cornflakes (breakfast cereal). It is an Afrikaans expression meaning 'elephant dandruff'.
- **Ou Man (SADF)** - Term used for a troop who only had a short time left of his national service. It is Afrikaans for 'old man'.
- **PB's (SADF)** - Term for local population. From the Afrikaans 'plaaslike bevolking'.
- **Pineapple (Allied Forces WWII)** - A hand grenade.
- **Pongo (SADF)** - Slang for members of the army. Refers to the often unavailability of washing facilities. The expression; "Everywhere the army goes, the pong goes," was the origin of this.
- **Put your slayer onto sing (Rhodesian Army)** - Put your LMG/rifle on automatic.



Varkpan

- **Retread (Allied Forces WWII)** - A veteran of World War I fighting in World War II.
- **Rofie (SADF)** - Term used for a new recruit. It comes from the Afrikaans word meaning 'scab'.
- **Santa Maria (SADF)** - SADF issued underpants. Hardly ever worn by the troops but rather used to polish floors or boots.
- **Screw (Australian)** - Corporal.
- **Shrapnel (SADF)** - Slang term for tinned mixed Vegetables.
- **Shumba (Rhodesian Army)** - Lion Lager. From the Shona word for Lion.
- **Skrapnel hoender (SADF)** - Term used to describe a meal consisting of shredded chicken. It is an Afrikaans expression meaning shrapnel chicken.
- **Sleeve trash (Australian)** - NCOs. They wear their rank on their sleeve as opposed to officers who wear theirs on their shoulder.
- **Slot (Rhodesian Army)** - To kill.
- **Sniffel tiffy (SADF)** - Member of the Intelligence Corps. From the Afrikaans 'sniffing mechanic'.
- **Staaldak (SADF)** - Afrikaans term for the helmet

that was issued to SADF troops. It was hardly ever referred to as a steel helmet though. Even the English speaking people would refer to it as a staaldak.

- **Stay frosty (US)** - Regular term among Soldiers to both stay calm and stay alert.
- **Suurstof dief (SADF)** - Derogatory term for those in non-combatant roles. Afrikaans expression meaning 'oxygen thief'.
- **Tab (British)** - To march quickly with full pack and rifle. Used by the British Army.
- **Tampax Tiffy (SADF)** - Slang term for a medic.
- **Taxi's (SADF)** - Cloths or strips of blankets which were wrapped around your boots so as not to dirty the floor.
- **Throw some sky into my rounds (Rhodesian Army)** - Put air in the tyres of a vehicle.
- **Tiffy (SADF)** - Mechanic or member of the Technical Services Corps.
- **Tit's up (British)** - To be dead, lying on your back with your chest facing skyward, hence Tits-Up.
- **Tommy (German WW II)** - British soldier.
- **Tommy cooker (German WW II)** - German nickname for the American Sherman tank.
- **TTL (Rhodesian Army)** - Tribal Trust Land.
- **Tubbin (Australian)** - Thumb Up Bum, Brain In Neutral.
- **Varkpan (SADF)** - Slang term for the tray on which food was sometimes served.

It is an Afrikaans word meaning 'pig pan'.

- **Vasbyt (SADF)** - Afrikaans term meaning 'bite fast'. It was used to encourage each other.
- **Vleisbom (SADF)** - Derogatory term used to describe parabats (paratroopers), usually by non-parabats. Afrikaans term meaning 'meat bomb'.
- **Vindaloos (British)** - Fireproof underwear used by the SAS.
- **Vorster Orrel (SADF)** - Nickname for the Valkiri 127 mm multiple rocket launcher. It refers to the late President John Vorster. The feared Soviet equivalent was nicknamed the 'Stalin Organ'.
- **White Gold (SADF)** - Slang expression for toilet paper.
- **Wombles (Rhodesian Army)** - Police Special Reserve. Middle aged volunteers who patrolled the urban areas.
- **Yomp (British)** - To march quickly with full pack and rifle. Used by the Royal Marines.

Trust you enjoyed these.



White Gold

Rank Structure

French Foreign Legion

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 French Foreign Legion.

The ranks within the French Foreign Legion (*Légion étrangère*) are based on the French Army ranking system.

However, there are some distinctions that make the Legion's ranking system unique.

Before receiving his *Képi blanc* (White Kepi) and the right to called himself as the Legionnaire, an enlisted volunteer/recruit is addressed as a simply *Engagé Volontaire* (Enlisted Volunteer) and authorized to wear a green beret only.



Legionnaire de 2e classe Second Class Legionnaire

Recruits receive this designation (it is not a rank officially) after the first four weeks of the basic training at *La ferme* (The Farm), if he has also finished his *Marche Képi blanc* (White Kepi March) successfully.

The rank is equivalent to a private.

He is addressed as *Legionnaire*.

Legionnaire de 1re classe First Class Legionnaire

Legionnaire de 2e classe receive this rank after a minimum of 10 months of his service.

The rank is equivalent to a lance corporal.

He is addressed as *1re classe*.



Caporal Corporal

In the 1st Foreign Cavalry Regiment (1er REC), a Corporal is called *Brigadier* (a Cavalry tradition).

Legionnaire de 1re classe receive the rank at the end of the successful completion of a *Stage Caporal* (Corporal's course), a practical one to two-month-long course for future Corporals.

He is addressed as *Caporal*.

Caporal-chef Senior Corporal

In 1er REC, Senior Corporal is called *Brigadier-chef* (a Cavalry tradition).

A *caporal* is promoted after a minimum of six years of service, if he does not want (or is not allowed) to continue as a *Sous-Officier* (a Non-Commissioned Officer, NCO).

He is addressed as *Caporal-chef*.



Non-Commissioned Officers (Sous-Officiers)



Sergent Sergeant

In 1er REC, a Sergeant is called *Maréchal des logis* (a Cavalry tradition).

Caporal that successfully complete a *Stage Sergent* (Advanced Leader Course), a practical eight month-long course for future Legion's Sergeants, are promoted to this rank.

He is addressed as *Sergent*.

Sergent-chef Staff Sergeant

In 1er REC, a Staff Sergeant is called *Maréchal des logis-chef* (a Cavalry tradition).

A *Sergent* is allowed to receive that rank after a minimum of three years of service as a *Sergent*. A *Sergent-chef* is able to command a platoon.

He is addressed as *Chef*.





Adjutant

Warrant Officer 2nd Class

A *Sergent-chef* is allowed to obtain that rank after a minimum of three years of service as a *Sergent-chef*. An *adjutant* is able to command a platoon.

You have to address him as *Mon Adjutant* or *Mon Lieutenant* for Cavalry.

Adjutant-chef

Warrant Officer 1st Class

An *Adjutant* is allowed to obtain that rank after a minimum of four years of service as an *Adjutant*. An *Adjutant-chef* is able to command a platoon.

You have to address him: “Mon Adjutant-chef.



Major

Regimental Sergeant Major

An *Adjutant-chef* can obtain this most senior NCO rank if he is unwilling to continue his career as an officer. Usually, he has to serve more than 25 years to be able to obtain it.

He has to pass an audition/examination successfully or, if he has been serving for a sufficient time, he can apply for the position. Major is an uncommon rank within the Legion. Usually, there are no more than two *majors* in a regiment.

He is addressed as *major*.

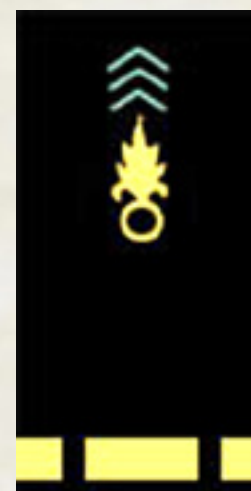
Commissioned Officers (Officers)

Aspirant

Officer Cadet

An *Aspirant* is able to command a platoon.

He is addressed as *Mon Lieutenant*.



Sous-Lieutenant

Second Lieutenant

Once an *aspirant* is commissioned, they will normally be promoted to the rank of *sous-lieutenant*. They are able to command a platoon.

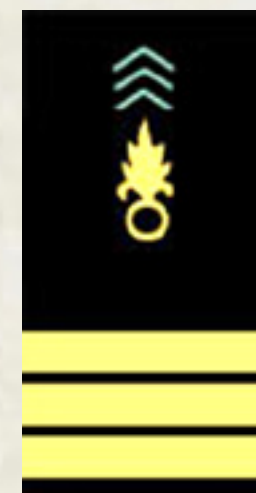
He is addressed as *Mon Lieutenant*.

Lieutenant

Lieutenant

A Lieutenant is able to command a platoon. If there is a lack of officers, he may be allowed to command a company.

He is addressed as *Mon Lieutenant*.



Capitaine

Captain

A *capitaine* is able to command a company (or squadron for cavalry). If there is a lack of officers, he could be allowed to command a battalion.

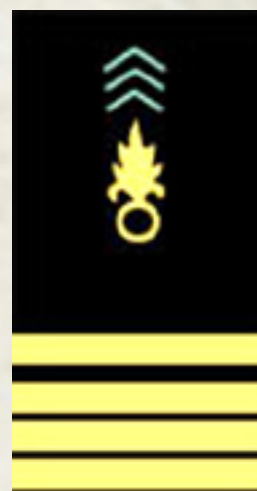
He is addressed as *Mon Capitaine*.

Commandant

Major

A *Commandant* is officially referred to as *Chef de bataillon* (or *Chef d'es-cadrons* for Cavalry). He is able to command a battalion or a half-brigade. He might act as a deputy for a regiment commander.

He is addressed as *Mon Commandant*.





Lieutenant Colonel

Lieutenant Colonel

A *Lieutenant Colonel* will usually command a regiment.

You have to address him as *Mon Colonel*.

Colonel

Colonel

A *Colonel* will normally be given command of a regiment.

You have to address him as *Mon Colonel*.



Général de Brigade

Brigadier

A *Général de Brigade* is able to be the commander of the whole French Foreign Legion.

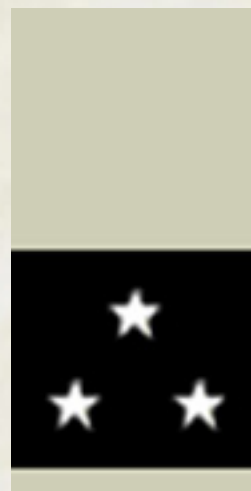
You have to address him as *Mon Général*.

Général de Division

Major General

A *Général de Division* is able to be the commander of the whole French Foreign Legion.

You have to address him as *Mon Général*.



A matter of survival - Finding Food III

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 animals for food.

The good news is that all animals can be a source of nourishment in a survival situation. The bad news is that not all of them are that keen on becoming part of the food chain.

A few worms and insects can be collected with little skill, but most animals need to be trapped or hunted. This will require both knowledge and skill.

We need to go back to the very first article in this series which ran in May 2018. One of the first lessons that we learnt was “do your homework”.

The more you know of animals that can be found in the area where you are operating, the better.

You must study each species habits, find out where they sleep, what they eat, and where they water. You must learn how best to make a kill, what traps to set, and what to use as bait.

Finding game

There are very few places on earth where there are no wild animals. Sometimes, however, the signs of their presence are far from obvious. You need to know what to look for.

If you can recognise and read the signs that animals leave, and identify the animal, you will know what methods to adopt in hunting and trapping your prey, what bait to use, and what type of traps to set.

Mammals will most move at first and last light. Only the

larger and more powerful venture out during the day.

Larger herbivores need to graze for almost the entire day to satisfy their appetites. Some very small ones have to eat so frequently that they are intermittently active the entire day.

Most small animals, such as rabbits, eat mainly at night and will only change their habits when the weather is bad.



Animals that feed on other animals will hunt at the times when their prey is active. Use this as a guide and do the same.

The more you know about the animal that you are after, the easier it will be to set traps and catch them when they are about.

Tracks and signs

Something that works to your advantage is the fact that most animals are creatures of habit. They will use regular routes between their feeding places, wa-

tering spots and homes. Look out for signs of these trails.

Tracks will be more obvious on wet ground and in damp sand, while others are more noticeable in heavy vegetation.

The size of the impression left is in proportion to that of the animal.

The age of the track can be accurately judged by its sharpness and moisture content. Has water seeped into it or has rain fallen into it? Has it become smudged? The clearer the track, the more likely it is to be recent.

In the early morning tracks can be checked by observing them at ground level. If dew and spider webs have been disturbed it's a good indication that the tracks are only a few hours old at most.

Some animals make tunnels through the dense undergrowth and these tunnels will give a good indication of the size of the animal that made them.

The height of broken twigs along a track will also suggest an animal's size. Check to see how fresh they are.

Have trampled leaves wilted? Are broken twigs still green and supple? Marks on trees and logs, feeding signs and discarded food are other useful indications.

Droppings indicate the type of animal that left them.

Feeding signs

The way in which bark has been stripped from trees, the

gnawed shells of nuts, partially eaten fruit, bitten off shoots and the remains of prey animals are all indications of species living or hunting in the area.

When food is plentiful you will often find discarded fruits or nuts lying around.

An animal will take a bit, find it's not to its liking, and will drop it to try another. This not only reveals an animal's presence, but also suggests bait for traps.

A trained eye can often identify the species by the pattern left by tooth or beak marks on a nut, or the way in which a pine cone has been stripped to get at its seeds.

Bark, twigs and buds, especially of young trees and bushes, form an important part of the diet of many animals. This includes several species of deer and goats, hares, squirrels and numerous other small rodents. In most cases the marks made by an animal's teeth will show clearly in the bark.

Many deer will bite off shoots leaving a torn and frayed edge. Deer also scrape their horns against trees to mark their territory, leaving frayed bark and wood with long scratches.

Droppings

Droppings are one of the best indications of an animal type. An animal's size can be judged from the size and amount of droppings. You can also get a good idea of how long ago the droppings were made.

Old droppings will be hard and odourless while fresh droppings will be wet and will smell. Flies will also draw attention to droppings.



A GOOD SIGN: Droppings are not only a sign that their are animals around, they can also tell you how long ago the animal was in the area. If you can identify what type of animal made the droppings - even better.

Mammals: Many mammal droppings have a strong scent. This plays an important role in marking territory and giving sexual signs. You can use this to your advantage when baiting traps.

Meat eaters produce long tapering droppings. Those that live on vegetation will produce roundish and strawy droppings.

Some animals have mixed diets. Break open a dropping too see if there are any clues as to what the animal has been eating, then bait your trap accordingly.

Birds: Birds fall into two basic groups: flesh eaters and seed/fruit eaters. Both groups can be distinguished by their droppings.

Smaller seed-eating birds' droppings are small and mostly liquid, whereas owl, hawks and eagles produce pellets which may contain indigestible parts of the meal taken.

Loose are an indication that there is water nearby. Small birds need to be close to water. Birds of prey, however, do not need to be close to water.

Roosts and nesting sites will often be indicated by copious amounts of droppings on the boughs of trees or the ground underneath.

Birds generally feed in older tress where there is some decay and plenty of grubs.

Rootings

Some animals root up the ground in search of insects and tubers. Pigs, for example, turn over large areas of earth.

If the earth is still crumbly and fresh, an animal is likely to have been active in the spot recently.

A big muddy wallow is usually a sign of pigs. Small scratches may be where a squirrel has been digging for shoots.



WHO SHOT ROGER RABBIT? If I was hungry enough, then it would probably be me that shoots Roger Rabbit.

Scent and smell

Listen to the noises around you, register the smells. They are a good sign on the presence of wildlife.

Where one kind of animal exists, there will be others. If there are predators in the area you can be sure that there will

be prey.

Many people neglect their sense of smell. You need to re-develop it.

Some animal smells are very strong and, with a bit of training, easy to identify. Keep your eyes open as well.

In cold weather, for instance,

the breath of large animals forms a cloud of condensation. This can be seen from some distance if you are in a good vantage point.

Burrows and dens

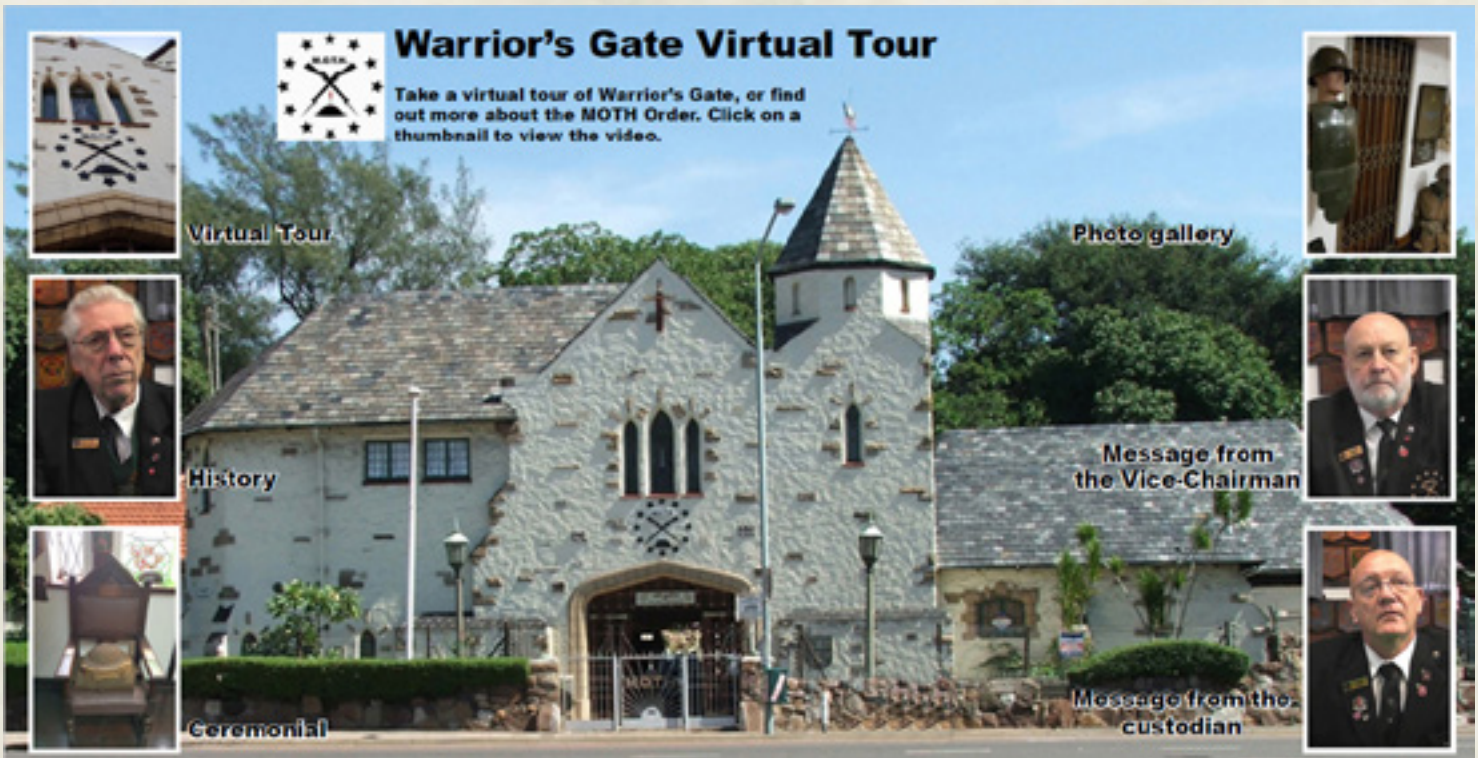
Many animals make their homes in burrows, usually on high ground. Some, such as rabbits and ground squirrels, take little trouble to try and conceal them.

Predatory animals normally hide their holes, which are generally in wooded country or thicker bush.

Tracks or droppings nearby my give their location away, and are an indication that a hole is in use.

Next month we will be looking at birds, insects and reptiles as a source of food.

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



Wheeled Artillery Systems

This month ten of the best wheeled artillery systems go head-to-head. This analysis is based on firepower, rate of fire, ammunition load, deployment and redeployment time, protection, and some other factors.

Recently there is a trend to obtain truck mounted howitzers opposed to traditional tracked artillery systems.

Typically truck mounted howitzers are, less expensive to produce and to maintain, but as capable as tracked artillery systems. Truck-mounted howitzers

are also far more mobile than towed howitzers.

These artillery systems (self propelled howitzers) are used as combat support weapons. Normally they provide indirect fire, however, if needed, they also have direct-fire capability.

Some modern self propelled howitzers have armoured cabs.

In modern combat these artillery systems often exploit their mobility for shoot-and-scoot type attacks in order to avoid counter-battery fire.

So which is the best truck-mounted howitzer in the world? Which is the most advanced, capable and effective self propelled howitzer?



10. DANA M1 CZ (Czech Republic)

The DANA (the name being derived from “*dělo automobilní nabíjené automaticky*”) is a wheeled self-propelled artillery piece. It was designed by Konštrukta Trenčín and built by ZTS Dubnica nad Váhom in the former Czechoslovakia (now Slovakia).

Produced in 1977, it was the first wheeled 152 mm self-propelled artillery gun to enter service.

It is based on a modified 8x8 Tatra 813 chassis with excellent cross-country mobility. Currently it is in service with the Czech Republic, Libya, Poland, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Slovakia.

Specifications

- **Weight:** 28 t
- **Length:** 11.156 m
- **Width:** 3 m



- **Height:** 3.63 m (with AAMG)
- **Crew:** 5
- **Shell:** HE, HEAT
- **Shell weight:** 43.5 kg (HE), 27.4 kg (HEAT)
- **Barrel:** 5,580 mm
- **Breech:** Semi-automatic, vertical sliding-wedge
- **Elevation:** -4° to +70°
- **Traverse:** ±220°
- **Rate of fire:** 4 rpm (semi-automatic), 2 rpm (manual)
- **Effective firing range:** 18.7 km
- **Maximum firing range:** 20 km
- **Main armament:** 152 mm howitzer (60 rounds)
- **Secondary armament:** 12.7 mm DShKM (2,000 rounds)
- **Engine:** Tatra T2-930-34 253.7 kW
- **Ground clearance:** 0.41 m
- **Operational range:** 600 km
- **Speed:** 80 km/h



9. EVA (Slovakia)

EVA is a Slovak self-propelled howitzer, developed by Konštrukta Defence and publicly revealed in 2015. The EVA is based on a Tatra T810 6x6 truck, but the system can be also mounted on a 8x8 truck chassis. Not a lot has been published about the EVA.



Specifications

- **Weight:** 29.250 t
- **Length:** 11.5 m
- **Width:** 2.7 m
- **Height:** 3.28 m
- **Crew:** 3
- **Shell:** HE ER-BB
- **Elevation:** -3.5° to +75°

- **Traverse:** ±60°
- **Effective firing range:** 41.4 km
- **Maximum firing range:** 20 km
- **Main armament:** 155/52 mm howitzer
- **Engine:** Tatra T3C-928.90 turbo-charged 300 kW



8. MKE YAVUZ (Turkey)

Electronics specialist Aselsan teamed with the country's General Directorate of Military Factories (AFGM) to integrate the Turkish 'Panter' 155mm 52 cal gun – a towed system – onto the chassis of a 6×6 10 ton truck.



Specifications

- **Weight:** 18,000 kg
- **Length:** 11.60 m
- **Crew:** 6
- **Shell:** ERFB/BB
- **Breech:** Semi-automatic Interrupted screw with electronic rammer
- **Elevation:** -3° to +65°
- **Traverse:** ±40°

- **Rate of fire:** 6 rpm
- **Effective firing range:** 40 km
- **Maximum firing range:** 40 km
- **Main armament:** 152 mm howitzer (60 rounds)
- **Secondary armament:** 12.7 mm
- **Operational range:** 600 km
- **Speed:** 90 km/h



7. CAESAR (France)

The CAESAR (CAmion Equipé d'un Système d'ARTillerie) is a French self-propelled 155 mm/52-calibre gun-howitzer, installed on a 6X6 truck chassis. The CAESAR platform was developed by the former GIAT Industries (now known as Nexter) and is operated by the French, Indonesian, Saudi Arabian, and Thai military.

Specifications

- **Weight:** 17.7 t
- **Length:** 10 m
- **Width:** 2.55 m
- **Height:** 3.7 m
- **Crew:** 5-6

- **Shell:** HE, Ogre
- **Rate of fire:** 6-8 rpm
- **Effective firing range:** 40 km
- **Maximum firing range:** 42 km
- **Main armament:** 155 mm/52 howitzer
- **Engine:** Six-cylinder diesel 240 hp
- **Operational range:** 600 km
- **Speed:** 100 km/h



6. ATMOS 2000 (Israel)

ATMOS 2000 (Autonomous Truck Mounted howitzer System) is a 155 mm/52 calibre self-propelled gun system manufactured by Israeli military manufacturer Soltam Systems.

Specifications

- **Weight:** 22 t
- **Length:** 9.5 m
- **Width:** 2.65 m
- **Height:** 3.24 m
- **Crew:** 4-6
- **Shell:** HE
- **Elevation:** +70°
- **Traversal:** ±50°
- **Rate of fire:** 4-9 rpm
- **Effective firing range:** 30 km
- **Maximum firing range:** 41 km

- **Main armament:** 155 mm/52 howitzer (32 rounds)
- **Engine:** 315 hp diesel
- **Ground clearance:** 0.41 m
- **Operational range:** 1,000 km
- **Speed:** 80 km/h



5. NORA B-52 (Serbia)

The Nora B-52 is a 155 mm self-propelled howitzer weapon system developed by Military Technical Institute Belgrade for export and domestic use. The first self-propelled Nora B (developed on the basis of Nora C) was designed by MTI in 1984 with a modified 152 mm gun-howitzer M84 NORA mounted on an FAP 8x8 truck bed and was a third generation of artillery weapons.

Specifications

- **Weight:** 34 t
- **Length:** 11 m
- **Width:** 2.95 m
- **Height:** 3.45 m

- **Crew:** 3-5
- **Shell:** HE ERFB/RA-BB VLAP
- **Elevation:** -3° to +65°
- **Traversal:** ±60°
- **Rate of fire:** 6-12 rpm
- **Effective firing range:** 42 km
- **Maximum firing range:** 46 km
- **Main armament:** 155 mm/52 howitzer
- **Secondary armament:** 7.62 mm machine gun
- **Engine:** 410 hp turbo diesel
- **Operational range:** 1,000 km
- **Speed:** 90 km/h



4. Zuzana 2 (Slovakia)

Zuzana is a Slovak artillery system with a 45-caliber gun and automatic loader for loading of both projectile and charge. It is an evolution of the 152mm SpGH DANA self-propelled howitzer.

Specifications

- **Weight:** 28,45 t
- **Length:** 12.97 m
- **Width:** 3 m
- **Height:** 3.3 m
- **Crew:** 3
- **Shell:** HE ER-BB
- **Shell weight:** 43.5 kg (HE), 27.4 kg (HEAT)
- **Elevation:** -3.5° to +70°

- **Traversal:** 360°
- **Rate of fire:** 6 rpm
- **Effective firing range:** 39.6 km
- **Main armament:** 155 mm/52 howitzer (40 rounds)
- **Engine:** Tatra T3C-928.90 turbo-charged 300 kW
- **Operational range:** 750 km
- **Speed:** 80 km/h





3. CAESAR 8x8 (France)

In 2015 Nexter unveiled the Caesar 8x8 at DSEI 2015 with high level of mobility ensured by a modified Tatra T-815 8x8 chassis. The 8x8 Caesar is fitted with a standard unarmoured forward control four-person cab, but one of the options is a fully armour protected cab.

Specifications

- **Weight:** 17.7 t
- **Length:** 10 m
- **Width:** 2.55 m
- **Height:** 3.7 m
- **Crew:** 5-6
- **Shell:** HE, Ogre
- **Rate of fire:** 6-8 rpm
- **Effective firing range:** 40 km
- **Maximum firing range:** 42 km
- **Main armament:** 155 mm/52 howitzer
- **Engine:** Six-cylinder diesel 240 hp
- **Operational range:** 600 km
- **Speed:** 100 km/h



2. Archer (Sweden)

The Archer Artillery System, or Archer - FH77BW L52, or Artillerisystem 08 is an international project aimed at developing a next-generation self-propelled gun system for Sweden and Norway.

The crew and engine compartment is armoured and the cab is fitted with bullet and fragmentation-resistant windows.

Specifications

- **Weight:** 30 t
- **Length:** 14.1 m
- **Width:** 3 m
- **Height:** 3.9 m
- **Crew:** 2-4
- **Shell:** NATO HE
- **Rate of fire:** 8-9 rpm
- **Effective firing range:** 30 km
- **Maximum firing range:** 40 km
- **Main armament:** 155 mm/ L52 howitzer (21 rounds)
- **Engine:** 250 kW diesel
- **Operational range:** 500 km
- **Speed:** 65 km/h



1. G6-52 (South Africa)



The G6, sometimes denoted as the G6 Rhino, is a South African mine-protected self-propelled howitzer. It was developed as a turreted, self-propelled variant of the G5 howitzer series, mating the gun to a six-wheeled armoured chassis.

Design work on the G6 began in the late 1970s to replace the obsolescent Sexton being retired from service with the artillery regiments of the South African Army.

Although it was designed in 1981 it is still regarded as

the best artillery system in the world.

Specifications

- **Weight:** 46 t
- **Length:** 9.20 m
- **Width:** 3.40 m
- **Height:** 3.20 m
- **Crew:** 6
- **Shell:** HE, HE BB, HE V-LAP
- **Breech:** Semi-automatic interrupted screw
- **Elevation:** -3° to +75°
- **Traverse:** 360°
- **Rate of fire:** 4 rpm
- **Effective firing range:** 30 km
- **Maximum firing range:** 58 km
- **Main armament:** 155mm G5 howitzer (47 rounds)
- **Secondary armament:** 12.7mm M2 Browning machine gun (900 rounds)
- **Engine:** Magirus Deutz Model FL 413 F/FR air-cooled diesel 391 kW
- **Ground clearance:** 0.45 m
- **Operational range:** 700 km
- **Speed:** 90 km/h

Heinz Guderian

Regarded by many as the father of modern tank warfare, Heinz Guderian redefined the concept of mobile warfare.

Nicknamed *Schneller Heinz* (Hurrying Heinz) and a veteran of World War I and World War II, Heinz Guderian is regarded by many to be the father of modern tank warfare.

Not only did he survive the war, he later served as an advisor

overseeing the establishment of the military in West Germany. Yet who exactly was he?

Early life

Heinz Wilhelm Guderian was born in Kulm, West Prussia (now Poland) on 17 June 1888.

In 1907, at the age 19, he joined the army. On 1

October 1913 he married Margarete Goerne, with whom he had two sons, Heinz Günther and Kurt.

At the start of World War I he served as a signals officer in the 5th Cavalry Division.

On 28 February

1918 Guderian was appointed to the General Staff Corps. He was 29 years old at the time.

Like many Germans, Guderian was not happy when Germany signed the armistice in 1918. He believed that the German Empire should have continued the fight.

Between the wars

Early in 1919, Guderian was selected as one of the four thousand officers to continue on in military service for the reduced size German army, the *Reichswehr*.

He was assigned to serve on the staff of the central command of the Eastern Frontier Guard Service. This Guard Service was intended to control and coordinate the independent *Freikorps* units in the defence of Germany's eastern frontiers against Polish and Soviet forces engaged in the Russian Civil War.

In June 1919, Guderian joined the Iron Brigade (later known as the Iron Division) as its second General Staff officer. The commanders of the regular German army had intended that this move would allow the army to reassert its control over the Iron Division; however, their hopes were disappointed.

Rather than restrain the *Freikorps*, Guderian's anti-communism caused him to

empathize with the Iron Division's efforts to defend Prussia against the Soviet threat.

The Iron Division waged a ruthless campaign in Lithuania and pushed into Latvia; however, traditional German anti-Slavic attitudes prevented the division's full cooperation with the White Russian and Baltic forces opposing the Bolsheviks.

Guderian was assigned as a company commander for the 10th Jäger-Battalion. Later he joined the *Truppenamt* ("Troop Office"), which was a clandestine form of the Army's General Staff which had been officially forbidden by the Treaty of Versailles.

In 1927 Guderian was promoted to major and transferred to the command of Army transport and motorized tactics in Berlin. This placed Guderian at the centre of German development of armoured forces.

Guderian, who was fluent in both English and French, studied the works of British maneuver warfare theorists J. F. C. Fuller, Giffard Martel and B.H. Liddell Hart. In 1931, he was promoted to *Oberstleutnant* (Lieutenant-Colonel) and became chief of staff to the Inspectorate of Motorized Troops under Oswald Lutz. In 1933 he was promoted to *Oberst* or Colonel.

Guderian wrote many papers on mechanized warfare during this period. These papers were based on extensive study of the lessons of the First World War, research on foreign litera-

ture on the use of armour, and war gaming done with dummy tanks and later with early armoured vehicles. Some of these trial manoeuvres were conducted in the Soviet Union.

Britain at this time was experimenting with tanks under General Hobart, and Guderian kept abreast of Hobart's writings using, at his own expense, someone to translate all the articles being published in Britain.

In October 1935 he was made commander of the newly created 2nd Panzer Division (one of three). On 1 August 1936 he was promoted to *Generalmajor*, and on 4 February 1938 he was promoted to *Generalleutnant* and given command of the XVI Army Corps.

In 1936, General Lutz asked Guderian to write a book on the developing panzer arm and the theories that had been developed on its use in war. The resulting volume, *Achtung - Panzer!*, was his most important work.

It reviewed the state of armoured development in the European nations and Soviet Russia, and presented Guderian's theories on the effective use of armoured formations and combined-arms warfare ideas of other general staff officers. The book included the importance of airpower in support of the panzer units for future ground combat.

Germany's panzer forces were created largely along the lines laid down by Guderian in his book.

Mobile warfare

The German army developed infiltration tactics towards the end of World War I.

Special combat teams of *sturmtruppen* (storm troopers) would advance in dispersed order rather than in massed rushes. They would bypass strong points, attacking rear areas and causing their collapse.

This method was used in the 1918 German Spring Offensive, but the German forces lacked the mobility to exploit breakthroughs and achieve deep penetrations of the enemy defences. They were unable to sustain the impetus of the initial attack, and ultimately they failed to gain decisive results.

The key to sustaining a breakthrough was motorized troops. Once the *sturmtruppen* had taken an area, reserve troops should have been brought up to hold the area. Yet up until the 1920s the extent of motorization necessary was not possible.

Soviet marshal Mikhail Tukhachevsky pursued the idea, but he was executed in 1937 in Stalin's "Great Purge" of Soviet military leaders. So we will never know just how far he may have taken the idea.

Guderian was the leading advocate in Germany of motorization and tanks, and of using armoured forces in deep penetration operations. He is regarded as the chief architect of Germany's panzer divisions.

Guderian developed and advocated the strategy of concentrating panzer ("armoured")



formations at the point of attack (the *Schwerpunkt*) and deep penetration.

In *Achtung Panzer*, he described what he believed were essential elements for a successful panzer attack: surprise, deployment in mass, and suitable terrain.

He proposed armoured divisions in which motorized infantry and artillery would operate in conjunction with tanks to achieve a decisive success. In his memoir *Panzer Leader*, he wrote that as early as 1929, he "became convinced that [...] it would be wrong to include tanks in infantry divisions: what were needed were armoured divisions which would include all the supporting arms needed to fight with full effect."

After Hitler came to power and Germany began re-arming, Guderian was empowered to put his ideas into practice.

Guderian believed that among those things need-

ed for success was for commanders of mobile forces to be able to communicate with each other and their sub-units. Guderian insisted in 1933 that German tanks be equipped with radios and intercoms (throat microphones) to enable each tank commander to communicate with his crew and with other tanks in his platoon and company.

In each individual German tank, the tank crew worked as a team, and the tank commander could communicate with each crew member. Moreover, German tanks worked collectively as teams, providing mutual protection and increased effective firepower.

Of Guderian's contributions, Hermann Balck (highly decorated tank commander) considered some of the most important to be the five man tank crew, with a dedicated radio operator in the hull of the tank, and the organization of divisional

signals troops to allow the commander to direct the division from any unit.

This allowed forward control of the division, which was critical to mobile warfare. The German victories from 1939 through 1941 were not due to superior equipment, but to superior tactics in the use of that equipment, and superior command and control which allowed the German panzer forces to operate at a much faster pace.

World War II

Guderian led the XIX Corps during the invasion of Poland. This corps comprised a panzer division and two motorized infantry divisions. Guderian led his corps in the Battle of Wizna and the Battle of Kobryn.

In each of these, he abandoned his theories of rapid manoeuvre and was highly successful using tanks to deliver offensive sapper companies that successfully blew up the majority of the

Polish bunkers at Wizna.

During the invasion of France and the Low Countries, Guderian's panzer group led the "race to the sea" that split the Allied armies in two, depriving the French armies and the BEF in Northern France and Belgium of their fuel, food, spare parts and ammunition. Faced with orders from nervous superiors to halt on one occasion, he managed to continue his advance by stating he was performing a "reconnaissance in force", but the German High Command ultimately denied him the authority to attack the Allied forces encircled in the pocket at Dunkirk.

Invasion of the Soviet Union

In 1941 Guderian commanded the 2nd Panzer Group, also known as *Panzergruppe Guderian*, during Operation Barbarossa, the German invasion of the Soviet Union. The unit later was redesignated 2nd Panzer Army.

Following the completion of the encirclement in the Battle of Kiev, Guderian was ordered to make a drive for Moscow in mid-September 1941. In November, the attack by the 2nd Panzer Group on Tula and Kashira, 125 km south of Moscow, achieved only fleeting and precarious success.

In the face of the Soviet counter-offensive, Guderian was not allowed to pull his forces back but instead was ordered to "stand fast", keeping them all in their current positions. He disputed that order, going personally to Adolf Hitler's headquarters, but it was not changed.

After returning to his command, Guderian carried out a series of withdrawals anyway, directly disobeying his orders. A heated series of disputes with Field Marshal Günther von Kluge, the commander of Army Group Centre, then followed.

Guderian was relieved of command on 26 December 1941, along with 40 other generals. He was transferred to the reserve pool. Guderian was bitter towards Kluge, who he felt had failed to support him.

The final chapter

After the German defeat at Stalingrad, Hitler realized he needed Guderian's expertise. He personally requested Guderian to take a new position as "Inspector General of Armoured Troops". Guderian made a number of stipulations to ensure that he would have the requisite authority to perform his duties. Hitler agreed to these conditions, and on 1 March 1943 he was appointed to the newly created position.

His responsibilities were to oversee the rebuilding of the greatly weakened panzer arm, to oversee tank design and production, and the training of Germany's panzer forces, and he was to advise Hitler on their use. His new position allowed him to bypass much of the Nazi bureaucracy and report to Hitler directly.

On 21 July 1944, after the failure of the 20 July Plot to assassinate Hitler, in which Guderian had no direct involvement, Guderian was appointed Chief

of Staff of the Army (*Chef des Generalstabs des Heeres*) succeeding Kurt Zeitzler who had departed on 1 July after multiple conflicts with Adolf Hitler.

Guderian and his staff surrendered to U.S. forces on 10 May 1945. He remained as a prisoner of war in U.S. custody until his release on 17 June 1948. His conduct was investigated and no charges were brought.

After the war he was often invited to attend meetings of British veterans' groups, where he analysed past battles with his old foes. During the early 1950s Guderian was among the military advisors who helped in the establishment of West Germany's military defence force, the Bundeswehr, which has gone on to be the military defence force of Germany today.

Guderian died on 14 May 1954 at the age of 65, in Schwangau near Füssen in Southern Bavaria.

Awards and Decorations

- Iron Cross (1914) 2nd Class & 1st Class
- Knight 2nd class of the Friedrich Order with Swords
- Saxe-Ernestine House Order Commander 2nd Class with Swords
- Royal Hungarian War Memorial Medal with Swords
- War Memorial Medal with Swords
- Order of St. Sava 1st Class
- Clasp to the Iron Cross (1939) 2nd Class & 1st Class
- Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves



Légion étrangère

French Foreign Legion

While they may be part of the French Army, the French Foreign Legion swear allegiance to the Legion

On 10 March 1831, King Louis Philippe of France created the French Foreign Legion.

It was made up from the foreign regiments of the Kingdom of France, including soldiers from the recently disbanded Swiss and German foreign regiments of the Bourbon monarchy.

The Royal Ordinance for the establishment of the new regiment specified that the foreigners recruited could only serve outside France.

The French expeditionary force that had occupied Algiers in 1830 was in need of reinforcements and the Legion was

accordingly transferred by sea in detachments from Toulon to Algeria.

The Foreign Legion was primarily used, as part of the *Armée d'Afrique*, to protect and expand the French colonial empire during the 19th century,

but it also fought in almost all French wars including the Franco-Prussian War, World War I and World War II.

The Foreign Legion has remained an important part of the French Army and sea transport protected by the French Navy, surviving three Republics, the Second French Empire, two World Wars, the rise and fall of mass conscript armies, the dismantling of the French colonial empire, and the loss of the Foreign Legion's base, Algeria.

The Foreign Legion is a military service branch of the French Army and is unique in that it was, and continues to be, open to foreign recruits willing to serve in the French Armed Forces.

Commanded by French officers, the Legion is open to French citizens who make up about 25% of the recruits.

The Legion is the only part of the French military that

does not swear allegiance to France, but to the Foreign Legion itself.

After serving three years in the Legion, foreigners may apply for French citizenship.

Any soldier who becomes injured during a battle for France can immediately apply to be a French citizen under a provision known as "*Français par le sang versé*" (French by spilled blood).

Members of the Legion come from 140 countries.

Since 1831, the Legion has suffered the loss of nearly 40,000 men on active service in France, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Madagascar, West Africa, Mexico, Italy, the Crimea, Spain, Indo-China, Norway, Loyada, Syria, Chad, Zaïre, Lebanon, Central Africa, Gabon, Kuwait, Rwanda, Djibouti, former Yugoslavia, Somalia, Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Afghanistan, Mali, Sahel and others.

The French Foreign Legion was primarily used to protect and expand the French colonial empire during the 19th century. The Foreign Legion was initially stationed only in Algeria, where it took part in the pacification



and development of the colony.

Subsequently, the Foreign Legion was deployed in a number of conflicts, including the First Carlist War in 1835, the Crimean War in 1854, the Second Italian War of Independence in 1859, the French intervention in Mexico in 1863, the Franco-Prussian War in 1870, the Tonkin Campaign and Sino-French War in 1883, supporting growth of the French colonial empire in Sub-Saharan Africa and pacifying Algeria, the Second Franco-Dahomean War in 1892, the Second Madagascar expedition in 1895, and the Mandingo Wars in 1894.

In World War I, the Foreign Legion fought in many critical battles on the Western Front. It played a smaller role in World War II than in World War I, though having a part in the Norwegian, Syrian and North African campaigns.

During the First Indochina War (1946–1954), the Foreign Legion saw its numbers swell. The FFL lost a large number of men in the catastrophic Battle of Dien Bien Phu.

During the Algerian War of Independence (1954–1962), the Foreign Legion came close to being disbanded after some officers, men, and the highly decorated 1st Foreign Parachute Regiment (1er REP) took part in the Generals' putsch. Operations during this period included the Suez Crisis, the Battle of Algiers and various offensives launched by General Maurice Challe including Operations Oranie and Jumelles.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Legion regiments had additional roles in sending units as a rapid



POLE PT: Foreign Legion recruits undergoing basic training at The Farm.

deployment force to preserve French interests – in its former African colonies and in other nations as well; it also returned to its roots of being a unit always ready to be sent to conflict zones around the world. Some notable operations include: the Chadian–Libyan conflict in 1969–1972 (the first time that the Legion was sent in operations after the Algerian War), 1978–1979, and 1983–1987; Kolwezi in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo in May 1978. In 1981, the 1st Foreign Regiment and Foreign Legion regiments participated in the Multinational Force in Lebanon.

In 1990, Foreign Legion regiments were sent to the Persian Gulf and took part in Opération Daguet, part of Division Daguet. Following the Gulf War in the 1990s, the Foreign Legion helped with the evacuation of French citizens and foreigners in Rwanda, Gabon and Zaire. The Foreign Legion was also

deployed in Cambodia, Somalia, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the mid- to late-1990s, the Foreign Legion was deployed in the Central African Republic, Congo-Brazzaville and in Kosovo.

The Foreign Legion also took part in operations in Rwanda in 1990–1994; and the Ivory Coast in 2002 to the present. In the 2000s, the Foreign Legion was deployed in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, Operation Licorne in Ivory Coast, the EUFOR Tchad/RCA in Chad, and Operation Serval in the Northern Mali conflict

Recruitment and selection

There is only one way of joining the French Foreign Legion. You have to go to mainland France and knock on the door of one of the Foreign Legion recruiting centres.

The entry requirements are pretty straightforward:

- You need to be a male be-



KÉPI BLANC: After completing the *Marche Képi Blanc* recruits are presented with their white kepi.

tween the ages of 17.5 and 39.5 years.

- You need a verified copy of your birth certificate.
- You must not be wanted by Interpol for criminal activities.
- You need to be physically fit to serve at all times and in all places around the world.
- You need to have a BMI between 20 and 30.
- You must meet the height and weight requirements for joining the French Foreign Legion.
- You must be able to write and read in your native language.

The entire recruiting and selection process takes between two and five weeks.

The process ends when you are officially accepted or rejected. During the whole period free accommodation, food and clothing are provided by the Legion.

If you meet the above requirements you will then have

to pass certain tests that include IQ tests, personality tests, fitness tests, and medical tests.

They will also run a background security check.

Take into consideration that for every 100 people that apply to join the French Foreign Legion, only 10 to 15 are selected.

If you are selected you will have to sign an initial contract for five years. You will be enlisted as a single man, even if you are married.

Basic training

Basic training for the Foreign Legion is conducted in the 4th Foreign Regiment. This is an operational combat regiment which provides a training course of 15–17 weeks, before recruits are assigned to their operational units.

Initial training lasts for four to six weeks at *La Ferme* (The Farm).

This is followed by the three day *Marche Képi Blanc* (March White Kepi), a 50 kilometre

march in full kit. During the first two days the recruits march 25 kilometres per day. On the third day a ceremony is held and they are presented with their *Képi Blanc*. Up until then the recruits are only allowed to wear their green berets.

Recruits then recite Le Code d'honneur du légionnaire (The Legionnaire's Code of Honour). It is made up of seven parts, which are:

1. Legionnaire, you are a volunteer serving France with honour and fidelity.
2. Each legionnaire is your brother in arms whatever his nationality, his race or his religion might be. You show him the same close solidarity that links the members of the same family.
3. Respect for traditions, devotion to your leaders, discipline and comradeship are your strengths, courage and loyalty your virtues.
4. Proud of your status as legionnaire, you display this in your always impeccable uniform, your always dignified but modest behaviour, and your clean living quarters.
5. An elite soldier, you train rigorously, you maintain your weapon as your most precious possession, and you take constant care of your physical form.
6. The mission is sacred, you carry it out until the end and, if necessary in the field, at the risk of your life.
7. In combat, you act without passion and without hate, you respect defeated enemies, and you never abandon your dead, your wound-

ed, or your arms.

The recruits then do three weeks of technical and practical training. This is followed by a week of mountain training in the French Pyrenees.

They then undergo another three weeks of technical and practical training.

This is followed by a week of examinations where they are expected to obtain the Elementary Technical Certificate (CTE).

The next challenge is the Raid Marche, a 120 kilometre final march that must be completed in three days.

Recruits then do light vehicle drivers education and obtain a military drivers licence.

Finally they return to Aubagne before being assigned to an operational regiment.

Education in the French language (reading, writing and pronunciation), is taught on a daily basis, throughout all of basic training.

Current units

Once recruits have successfully completed basic training they are then sent to a regiment or unit.

1er Régiment Étranger (1er RE)

1st Foreign Regiment. The oldest regiment of the French Foreign Legion. It has been stationed at *Quartier Viénot* in Aubagne, France, since it moved from Sidi-bel-Abbès (Algeria) in 1962.

1er Régiment Étranger de Cavalerie (1er REC)

1st Foreign Cavalry Regiment. The only cavalry regiment in the French Foreign Legion. It has been stationed at



PIONEERS ON PARADE: Foreign Legion pioneers with their distinctive leather aprons, axes, and beards.

Quartier Labouche in Orange, France, since it moved from Mers-el-Kébir, Algeria in October 1967.

1er Régiment Étranger de Génie (1er REG)

1st Foreign Engineer Regiment. One of two combat engineer regiments in the French Foreign Legion. It has been stationed at *Quartier General Rollet* in Laudun-l'Ardoise, France, since 1984.

2e Régiment Étranger de Génie (2e REG)

2nd Foreign Engineer Regiment. The youngest regiment of the French Foreign Legion, "the mountain regiment". It has been stationed at *Quartier Maréchal Koenig* in Saint Christol, France, since 1999.

2e Régiment Étranger de Parachutistes (2e REP)

2nd Foreign Parachute Regiment. The only airborne regiment of the French Foreign Legion. It has been stationed at Camp Raffalli near the town of Calvi on the island of Corsica since June 1967.

2e Régiment Étranger d'In-

fanterie (2e REI)

2nd Foreign Infantry Regiment. The longest-serving and the largest regiment of the French Foreign Legion. It has been stationed at *Quartier Colonel de Chabrières* in Nîmes, France, since November 1983.

3e Régiment Étranger d'Infanterie (3e REI)

3rd Foreign Infantry Regiment. The most decorated regiment of the French Foreign Legion. It has been stationed at *Quartier Commandant Forget* in Kourou, French Guiana (South America), since September 1973.

4e Régiment Étranger (4e RE)

4th Foreign Regiment. The training regiment of the French Foreign Legion. It has a responsibility of training French Foreign Legion personnel. The 4e RE has been stationed at *Quartier Capitaine Danjou* in Castelnau-d'Aud, France, since May 1986.

13e Demi-Brigade de Légion Étrangère (13e DBLE)

13th Demi-Brigade of the Foreign Legion. It is stationed near Abou Dabi, United Arab Emirates. From 1962 to the end of 2011, 13e DBLE was stationed at *Quartier général Monclarin* in Djibouti, Africa.

Détachement de Légion Étrangère de Mayotte, (DLEM)

Foreign Legion Detachment in Mayotte. The smallest independent operational unit of the French Foreign Legion. It has been stationed at *Quartier Cabaribère* of Dzaoudzi, Mayotte (Indian Ocean) since 1976.

Commandement de la Légion Étrangère (COMLE)

Foreign Legion Command. The headquarters of the French Foreign Legion. It has been stationed at *Quartier Viénot* in Aubagne, France, since 1984.

Groupe de Recrutement de la Légion Étrangère (GRLE)

Foreign Legion Recruiting Group. The recruiting unit of the French Foreign Legion. It has been stationed at *Fort de Nogent* of Fontenay-sous-Bois, Paris since 2007.

Foreign Legion traditions

The Legion has many unique traditions.

Bataille de Camerone et la main du capitaine Danjou. The Battle of Camerone is the most significant event in the French Foreign Legion's history. It occurred in Mexico on 30 April 1863.

The battle became a symbol of bravery and determination of fighting to the death. A Legion company, consisting of three officers and 62 legionnaires led by Captain Jean Danjou, faced

around 2,000 Mexicans. Captain Danjou and his men had refused to surrender and were fighting until their ammunition ran out. At the end of the battle, only three legionnaires were combat-ready.

To commemorate this fundamental event, a celebration has been held by the Legion annually, since the early 1900's, called Camerone Day. During this event, the wooden hand of Captain Danjou (he lost his left hand in Algeria in the 1850's) is paraded in public, usually carried by a selected officer or legionnaire. This honour is seen as the highlight of a legionnaire's career.



Legio Patria Nostra (The Legion is our Fatherland) is the most frequent motto in the current Legion. The *Legio Patria Nostra* motto has an unknown origin. Initially, it was used by legionnaires within the 3rd Foreign Infantry Regiment. At a later date, it became the main motto of the whole Legion. Nowadays, the motto *Legio Patria Nostra* is the best known motto of the Foreign Legion.

Les Pionniers de la Légion étrangère. The Pioneers (or Sappers) are a traditional unit of the Foreign Legion. They wear large beards and the traditional Foreign Legion Pioneers uni-

form including leather aprons and axes. The sappers had been very common in the French Army during the Napoleonic Era, but disappeared between 1870-1940, excluding the pioneers of the Foreign Legion.

Some regiments of the Foreign Legion have its own group of pioneers (mostly one NCO and nine legionnaires). The 1er RE is the Legion's only regiment with its own traditional pioneer platoon, composed of at least three NCOs and 36 ordinary legionnaires.

The parades of the Foreign Legion are led by this unit.

Marche de la Légion Étrangère (March of the Foreign Legion), is the official march of the French Foreign Legion. The song is better known as *Le Boudin*, a reference to *boudin*, a type of blood sausage or black pudding. *Le boudin* colloquially meant the gear (rolled up in a blanket) that used to be carried atop the backpacks of Legionnaires.

Another popular marching song of the Foreign Legion is *Képi Blanc*.

Click on the underlined links below to listen to these songs.

[Le Boudin](#).

[Képi Blanc](#).

Since 1831 the French Foreign Legion has fought in no fewer than 30 wars or conflicts, more than earning the title 'Forged in battle'.

In June 1876 near the Little Bighorn River, Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer made his last stand. In this article we look at some facts from the Battle of Little Bighorn.

Known to the Lakota and other Plains Indians as the Battle of the Grease Grass, it is more commonly known as the Battle of Little Bighorn, or as Custer's Last Stand.

It was an armed engagement between combined forces of the Lakota, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho tribes and the 7th Cavalry Regiment of the United States Army.

The battle, which resulted in the defeat of US forces, was the most significant action of the Great Sioux War of 1876. It took place on 25–26, 1876, along the Little Bighorn River in the Crow Indian Reservation in southeastern Montana Territory.

The battle was an overwhelming victory for the Lakota, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho, who were led by several major war leaders, including Crazy Horse and Chief Gall, and had been inspired by the visions of none other than Sitting Bull.

The US 7th Cavalry, a force of 700 men, suffered a major defeat while under the command of Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer (formerly a brevetted major general during the American Civil War). Five of the 7th Cavalry's twelve companies were annihilated and Custer was killed.

In this article we're not going to look at a blow-by-blow account of the battle, nor the reasons for it and the consequences there after. Rather we're going to look at a few interesting facts about the battle.

Family affair

The total US casualty count included 268 dead and 55 severely wounded (six died later from their wounds), including four Crow Indian scouts and at least two Arikara Indian scouts.

It was a grim day for the Custer family. Besides the fact that George Custer was killed, so were two of his brothers, a nephew and a brother-in-law.

Defensive wall

Some accounts of the battle claim that Custer ordered horses killed to form a defensive wall.

By most accounts, many of the men ran away from the carnage to make defence farther up, and it was on Custer Hill that Lt. Edward Godfrey and General Edward McClerand (and later confirmed by archaeologists) found the bodies of Cavalry men surrounded by a circle of dead horses.

"On top of Custer Hill was a circle of dead horses with a 30-foot diameter, which was not badly formed. Around Custer some 30 or 40 men had fallen, some of whom had evidently used their horses as breastworks." - General McClerand.

"Numerous dead horses were lying along the south-western slope of Custer Hill. On the very top were found four or five dead horses that were swollen, putrid, and offensive, their stiffened legs sticking straight out from their bodies. Close under the brow of the hill several horses are lying together, and by the side of one of these Custer was found." - Colonel John Gibbon.

Fire power

The Cavalry was armed with breech-loading, single-shot Springfield Model 1873 carbines, and the 1873 Colt single-action revolver.

The Indians, however, were



LAST STAND: An artists impression of George Custer making his last stand.

armed with not only spears and bows and arrows. About 450 of them carried firearms.

This included 100 that were armed with Winchester Mod 1866 repeating rifles. While these may have had a shorter range than the Springfield rifles, they had a much higher rate of fire.

The Cavalry soldiers were possibly not all well trained. There were several minors that were not yet of military age among them, and several of the men found in archaeological excavations were not in military uniform. Indian accounts of the battle describe the men as scared and in a panic.

Defence of the homeland

Many believe that in the Battle of Little Bighorn the Sioux and Cheyenne were merely defending their homeland. This is not true. The land actually belonged to the Crow nation.

The Crow territory included Little Big Horn and, in 1851, that land was included in the reservation boundaries set by the U.S. government for the

Crow nation.

For decades, nearly a century, before the formation of the Crow reservation and the Crow's alliance with the U.S., the Cheyenne, and Sioux had been stealing Crow horses and warring with the less armed nation on a regular basis.

The Crow did not have enough numbers to defend themselves and neither did the Army, but together they were more formidable. Sioux made numerous raids on the Crow and Army outposts, and the Crow would often sacrifice their warriors in attempts to recover stolen horses and goods.

Looting the bodies

Many believe that the Sioux and Cheyenne would loot the bodies of enemies that had fallen in battle. This was sort of true.

Sioux warriors would take the scalps of their enemy. This was to prove how many men they had killed in battle and to show what a great and brave warrior they were.

They would, however, also

take things from the soldier's bodies that intrigued them.

Watches, for example, were seen only as objects that ticked. Once the ticking stopped the watches were mostly discarded.

They also took compasses, as these really fascinated them. They saw that the needle floated and moved when the compass case was turned.

Because of their position to the bodies of the dead soldiers, the compass happened to point at the bodies. They concluded that these devices were somehow attuned to the soldiers, and that's how white men found each other.

They reasoned that if you used one of these devices it would point out where the white soldiers could be found.

Paper money was of no use to them. It was given to the children to play with, or just thrown away. What they did take was the wallets because they felt that these were of some value.

The warriors also found flasks. They assumed that the strong, burning liquid inside was some type of 'holy water'.

It's all over

Some battles can drag on for ages. Little Bighorn was not one of them.

By all accounts, the battle with Custer's Battalion lasted less than an hour. In fact, some evidence shows that it was less than half an hour.

Which makes sense, considering that the 7th Cavalry was really outnumbered. No exact numbers have ever been determined, but it could have been as high as 9:1.

What's in a name

Something George Armstrong Custer was never short of was nicknames.

When he was young his family called him Armstrong. Another nickname was Autie. This came about because Custer could not pronounce his middle name.

Later on his troops would call him Curley or Jack. The last nickname was because his initials, which were emblazoned on his satchel, were G.A.C.

The Plains Indians gave him the nicknames Yellow Hair or Son of the Morning Star.

Little Big Horn Armoury

After the battle all of the Cavalry's weapons were collected up by the Indians.

Black Elk, a famous Sioux Medicine Man, said he acquired his first gun at the Battle of the Little Bighorn when he took it from a dead trooper. Black Elk was one of Crazy Horse's cousins and took the name Nicholas Black Elk later in life when he and his family converted to Catholicism.

Panic and chaos

After Custer himself fell, the remaining soldiers fled in a disorganized panic toward a stand of cottonwood. The stampede was such that an Indian warrior compared it with a "hunting buffalo".

"The white men went crazy. Instead of shooting us, they turned their guns upon themselves. Almost before we could get to them, every one of them was dead. They killed themselves." – Wooden Leg.

"More and more soldiers

were getting off their horses, preferring to hide or crawl along the ground . . . As hundreds of Indians surrounded this ridge, I saw one of the soldiers point his pistol at his head and pull the trigger. Others imitated his example, sometimes shooting themselves, sometimes each other. When Chief Lone Wolf reached the soldiers, all of them were already dead. Indians then attacked the first ridge, and again, most of the white men were already dead. The only thing remaining for the Indians to do was pick up the abandoned guns and ammunition." – Kate Bighead.

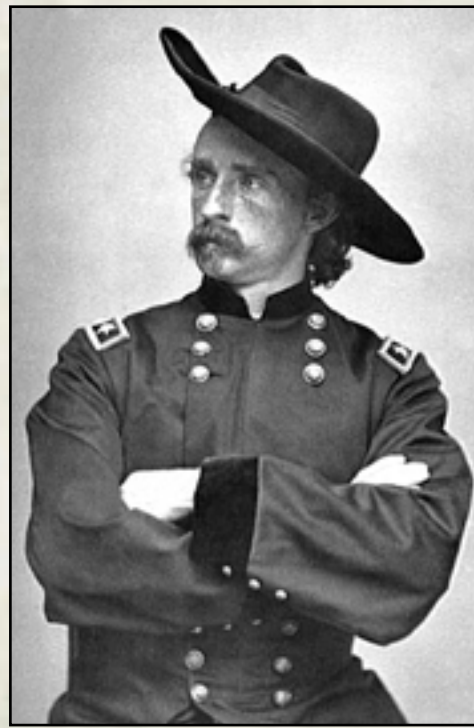
Lone survivor

Soldiers under Custer's direct command were annihilated on the first day of the battle (except for three Crow scouts and several troopers that had left that column before the battle; one Crow scout, Curly, was the only survivor to leave after the battle had begun), although for years rumours persisted of other survivors.

Over 120 men and women would come forward over the course of the next 70 years claiming they were "the lone survivor" of Custer's Last Stand.

The phenomenon became so widespread that one historian remarked, "Had Custer had all of those who claimed to be 'the lone survivor' of his two battalions he would have had at least a brigade behind him when he crossed the Wolf Mountains and rode to the attack."

The only documented and verified survivor of Custer's command (having been actual-



YELLOW HAIR: One of the nicknames given to Custer by the Plains Indians was Yellow Hair. They also called him Son of the Morning Star.

ly involved in Custer's part of the battle) was Captain Keogh's horse, Comanche. The wounded horse was discovered on the battlefield by General Terry's troops, and although other cavalry mounts survived they had been taken by the Indians. Comanche eventually was returned to the fort and became the regimental mascot.

Civilian deaths

There were three civilians that were killed at the Battle of Little Big Horn.

Boston Custer was a forager for the 7th Cavalry. He was the brother of George and Thomas Custer.

Henry Armstrong Reed was a herder for the 7th Cavalry. He was Custer's nephew.

Mark Kellogg was a newspaper reporter.

All three were armed and embedded with the Army.



MARKED WHERE THEY FELL: Marble markers indicate the exact spot where Custer's men died.

Marked where they fell

If you visit the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument in Montana, you get a really good idea of how the battle went down.

Marble markers indicate the spot where each soldier fell. Originally, they were buried where they died, but the bodies were moved later. The markers remain.

The missing treasure

Captain Grant Marsh of the Far West Steamboat was the first to deliver the news of what happened at Custer's Last Stand. His mission had been to take supplies to Custer, but instead, he ferried 51 wounded soldiers away from the massacre.

To do this, he had to drop some weight. Rather than drop the fuel needed for steam, or supplies needed for the men, he chose to drop \$375,000 worth of gold bars on the shores of the

Bighorn River. To this day it has never been recovered.

Battlefield detectives

It's amazing what can be achieved with modern equipment and technology.

Studies underway at Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument are so advanced that researchers can find a bullet on the ground and track where it was shot from, who shot it, and how adept at fighting the soldier was.

They conduct their research with metal detectors and microscopes and match firing pins to rifle cartridges. They are also working with new translations of Native American accounts of the battle.

So at some stage in the future the history of the Battle of Little Big Horn and Custer's Last Stand may be rewritten with a few new twists. Watch this space.

The legendary legend

There are many legends surrounding George Armstrong Custer.

Custer's life is a mishmash of failure, brazen luck, and some success, but he wasn't the hero or anti-hero so often portrayed.

When he studied at West Point Academy he was known to be a bit of a joker and a prankster. In fact he graduated last in his class.

Many people believe that Custer was a general. Well he was, but only for a very short time. During the American Civil War he was given the rank of Brevet Major General.

After the war, however, he reverted to the rank of captain, and remained so for the rest of his career.

While Custer was known for his strict discipline, he was court martialed twice. Once for going AWOL to visit his wife.

Many of Custer's troops thought of him as a "vain dandy". Custer was known for his appreciation of his hair and his attention to it with cinnamon oil for scent and other treatments.

Most of the legend surrounding Custer was embellished or even made up by Custer's wife during speeches throughout her life after he was killed, and by the shows put on by a friend and fellow soldier, Buffalo Bill.

It is interesting to note that Chief Sitting Bull, one of those that had fought Custer at Little Big Horn, travelled with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show for a few months in 1885.



Sharpen the swords, polish the armour, and beat the bodhrán. Matt O' Brien is off on his quest to become King of Ireland. We all know how this is going to end.

Forget about fighter jets, assault rifles and main battle tanks. This month we're heading back to the days when combat was face to face.

This month we're looking at *Thrones of Britannia*, a game that is part of the Total War franchise.

I've always been a big fan of the Total War games and over the past 18 months I've actually reviewed three of the games in Military Despatches. We looked at *Shogun 2: Total War*, *Rome: Total War*, and *Empire: Total War*.

Thrones of Britannia focuses on a pivotal flashpoint in British history. The land is fractured following the Viking invasion and ambitious leaders are fighting for control.

Choose from one of ten playable factions to expand settlements, raise armies and embark on a mission to take the British Isles for yourself.

There are two English factions (West Seaxe and Mierce), two Welsh factions (Gwined and Strat Clut), two Great Viking Army factions (Northymre and East Engle), two Viking Sea King factions (Dyflin and Sudreyar), and two Gaelic factions (Mide and Circenn).

Now you just need to look at my surname to know which factions I prefer to play as.

Once you've chosen a faction you begin in a province in your area.

Provinces have been made more influential, with key settlements within your regions that cannot defend themselves.

If an enemy army invades your lands, they can take key strategic settlements such as, farms that supply your armies with food, when that is lost, and you do not have enough reserves, your men will begin to starve.

Mines supply you with coin to pay your armies. If the enemy take them you cannot pay your troops and then watch how fast they pack up and go home.

The good thing is that you can do the same to your enemies and take their settlements.

Recruiting your army is not so simple. When recruiting a unit, you can select the army you want it in, and recruit it. However, it will not give you an entire unit, only a small band of men, which will replenish to a full unit over time. You can improve this by building granaries, *souterrains*, and arenas, all of which have replenishment multipliers.

To improve your faction you need to research and unlock new technology. This is split into military and civic tech.

These technologies will un-

lock new buildings, grant public order bonuses, raise the starting capacity of units, and upgrades to later game regiments.

The Character system has been reworked for *Thrones of Britannia*, allowing you to progress with your characters in a way that makes sense to you.

Let's say you play as Flann Sinna, leader of the Gaelic Kingdom of Mire. You get to decide what sort of a leader he will be.

He could be a leader who makes your men formidable fighters, that only a fool would meet in battle. Or he could be one who can range far and fast, striking enemy settlements and sacking them for all their worth. You decide.

Combat has been revamped in *Thrones of Britannia*. This is the era of the shield wall. It's the tactic with which Alfred beat the Great Viking Army at the battle of Edington, and remained predominant across battlefields of the era.

To complement this, all units with shields now have the Charge Reflect attribute, which means that if they're stationary and braced when charged by cavalry, the horses will refuse the charge. You'll see them rear up before slowly advancing into close-quarters combat, negating any bonuses from impact. Of



course, this means you'll have to be very choosy about where to point your cavalry – either at unshielded targets, or manoeuvring them into positions where they can play hammer to your shield-wall's anvil.

Cavalry versus cavalry is a different ball-game. The developers actually increased cavalry spacing in *Thrones of Britannia*, which promotes more realistic cavalry combat, as horses pass through gaps in the opposing unit and cycle round to clash again.

Of course the game is not just all about combat. As in real life, other factors come into play.

One of these is loyalty. With all the characters under your command, some are going to like you more than others. You need to keep your armies happy as well as your citizens.

Keep your soldiers well fed, pay them on time, and don't get them slaughtered in needless battles and they should remain

loyal and ready to fight for your cause.

Likewise, your citizens should also be kept smiling. Make sure they have enough to eat, keep taxes at a reasonable rate (while still remembering that you have to bring in money) and the locals will be on your side.

Naturally you can't have a war without a bit of religion, politics and intrigue thrown into the mix. There are enhanced diplomatic options available to you in *Thrones of Britannia*. Learn how to manage your disloyal subjects with force or bribery, arrange marriages for your heirs and allies and perform underhanded actions.

With some factions, the Gaelic for example, the church plays an important role. Get the church on your side and it will swell your coffers as well as keep the population happy.

Thrones of Britannia is a decent game that will offer hours

of fun. You can play a short campaign, a long campaign, or even just set up your own battles.

If you enjoy real time strategy games, give this one a try.



Publisher - Sega

Genre - RTS

Score - 8/10

Price - R409 (on Steam)



Movie Review

Restrepo

Released: 2010

Running time: 93 minutes

Directed by: Tim Hetherington & Sebastian Junger

Released in 2010 and directed by American journalist Sebastian Junger and British photojournalist Tim Hetherington, *Restrepo* is a documentary film.

The film begins with background that reads: "In May 2007, the men of Second Platoon, Battle Company began a 15-month deployment in the Korengal Valley of eastern Afghanistan. It was considered one of the most dangerous postings in the U.S. Military."

The film explores the year that Junger and Hetherington spent in Afghanistan on assignment for Vanity Fair, embedded with the Second Platoon, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team of the U.S. Army in the Korangal Valley.

The 2nd Platoon is depicted defending the outpost (OP) named after a platoon medic who was killed earlier in the campaign, PFC Juan Sebastián Restrepo, a Colombian-born naturalized U.S. citizen.

The film chronicles the lives of the men from their deployment to the time of their return home, and begins with video footage of PFC Restrepo on a train one week prior. The goal of the deployment was to clear the Korengal Valley of insurgency and gain the trust of the local populace. The Korengal

flows north to the Pech, which then flows east to the Kunar River valley on the porous border with Pakistan. As an example of the ever-present dangers, the first scenes cover a fire-fight after a military Hummer is disabled on a narrow mountain road by an IED.

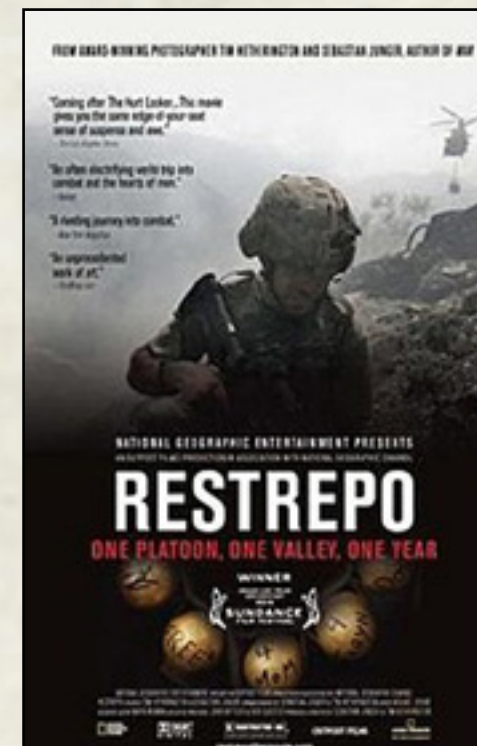
The soldiers are ferried in by Chinook and begin their deployment at Combat Outpost (OP) Korengal, or "KOP", and early in the campaign PFC Juan S. Restrepo is killed, as well as another team member, PFC Vi-moto. The film portrays negotiations with the local people, construction of an advanced outpost called "OP Restrepo", as well as the challenges and intermittent fire-fights they face.

In the latter part of the film, the dangerous mission Operation Rock Avalanche is shown along with some of its tragic consequences. One event was the loss of Army Sgt. Larry Rouble. It was there, in 2007, when Army Sgt. Rouble, who served two tours in Iraq and three in Afghanistan, was ambushed by a large number of Taliban.

It was learned that Rouble, at point, took the brunt of the attack, allowing his soldiers to secure a position and fight. Army Sgt. Larry Rouble, who is a recipient of the Purple Heart, is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Restrepo is a film not just about the events of combat, but also about "brotherhood," according to Junger. The film shows the dedication to their duty as a soldier and their commitment to one another as brothers. The film is narrated by several men who fought with PFC Juan S. Restrepo. The men discuss loss such as dead civilians and soldiers, as well as the emotional distress that the soldiers are left with in its aftermath.

The film ends with a coda that reads: "In April 2010, the United States Army withdrew from the Korengal Valley. Nearly 50 American soldiers died fighting there."



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

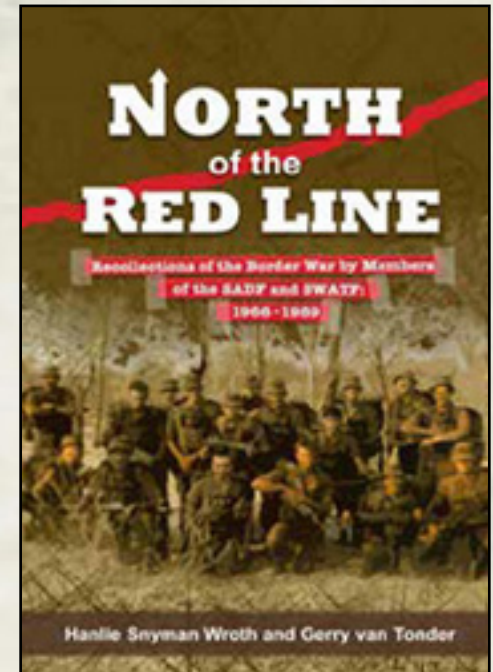
North of the Red Line

Over the years, much has been written about individuals and the forces and their operations in what became commonly known as South Africa's Border War, or *Grensoorlog*, but never before has the human spirit of this 23-year-old conflict been so graphically and unashamedly captured and chronicled as in this book.

Equally unique, was the exclusive use of social media to invite and encourage individuals to tell their personal stories, without apology or recrimination, and so provide an indelible oral history of the war.

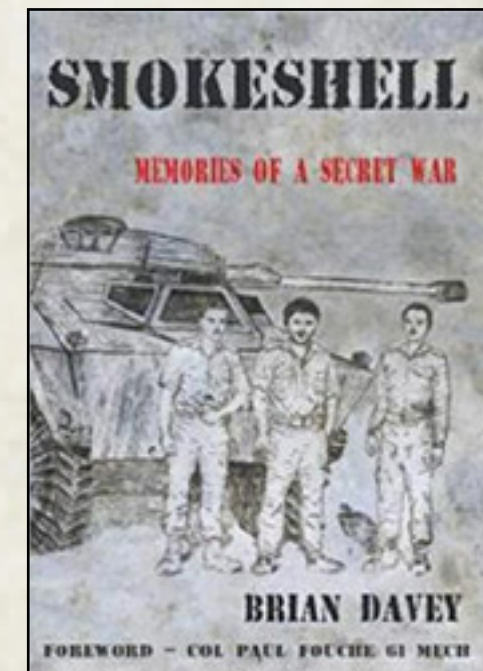
Over a period of three years, 21,000 of them spoke: national service troops, permanent

force officers, aviators, aircrew, medics, submariners and padres. Erstwhile antagonists also stepped up to the plate, placing their own personal first-hand experiences amongst those of their enemies of yesterday: Russians, Cubans, Angolans and SWAPO. The story is further enriched by the inclusion of a rich plethora of hitherto unseen 'unofficial' photographs of stolen memories, in a war situation where the taking of any such photographs was strictly prohibited. Veterans unabashedly wear their hearts on their sleeves, speaking of the psychological impact of untold tragedy and grief; of bravery and unmitigated fear; of shenanigans and mischievous escapades to

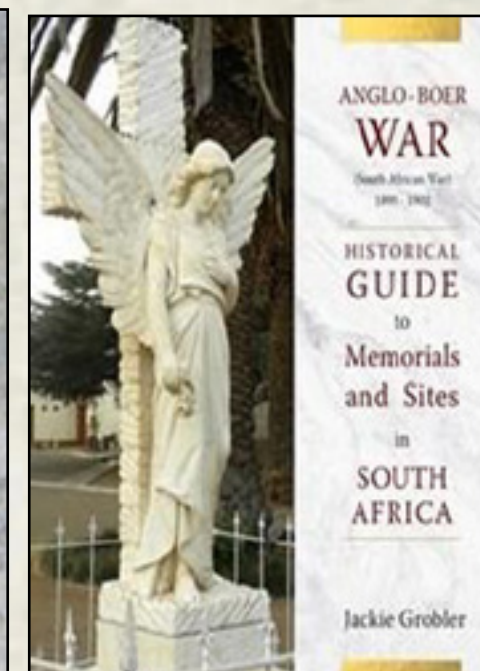


relieve the pressures of war; of miracles and fate; and of camaraderie.

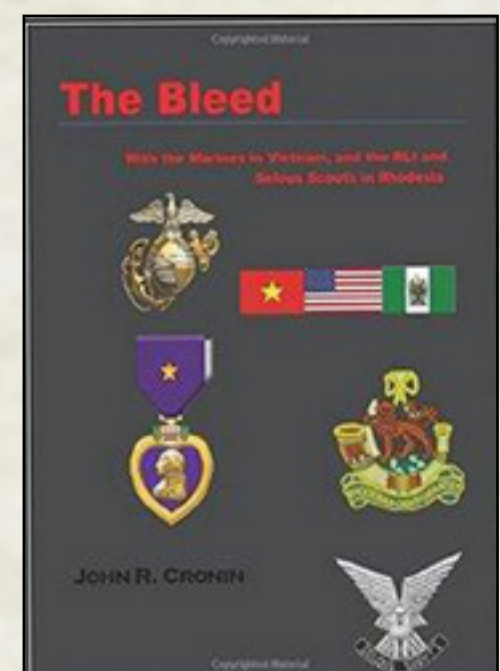
Softcover, 540 pages
Cost: R400



Smokeshell
R375



Anglo Boer War
R460



The Bleed
R395

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

Some of the significant military events that happened in December.

1 January

- **1776** - During the American Revolution, George Washington unveiled the Grand Union Flag, the first national flag in America.
- **1776** - British seaborne raiders torch Norfolk, Virginia.
- **1887** - Wilhelm Canaris, German admiral and spy-master, who was executed by Hitler, 1945, was born on this day.
- **1915** - During World War I, the British Battleship Formidable was hit by a torpedo in the English Channel, killing 547 crewmen.
- **1915** - The first known act of German sabotage in the U.S.: The John A. Roebling Munitions Plant in Trenton is destroyed by fire.
- **1920** - Basil L. Plumley, Sgt Maj, US, veteran of three wars and five combat jumps, hero of the Ia Drang Valley in Vietnam, was born on this day.
- **1942** - Twenty six countries signed the Declaration of the United Nations, in Washington, D.C., reaffirming their opposition to the Axis powers and confirming that no single nation would make a separate peace.
- **1950** - Indo-China: Viet Minh open a major offensive against the French.
- **1951** - Massive Chinese/North Korean assault on UN-lines.
- **1959** - Fidel Castro seized power in Cuba after leading a revolution that drove out Dictator Fulgencio Batista. Castro then established a Communist dictatorship.
- **1962** - The US Navy SEALs were established on this day.
- **1969** - Ian Fleming, former Royal Navy Commander and creator of James Bond, died at the age of 56.
- **1990** - General Johan van der Merwe is appointed as new commissioner of police.
- **1991** - The Defence Special Tribunal Act, 1998, providing for the expeditious adjudication of disputes concerning military institutions and the rationalisation process of the Department of Defence, becomes effective.
- **2008** - The last German veteran of WWI, Erich Kaestner, dies at the age of 107.

2 January

- **1776** - The four corner

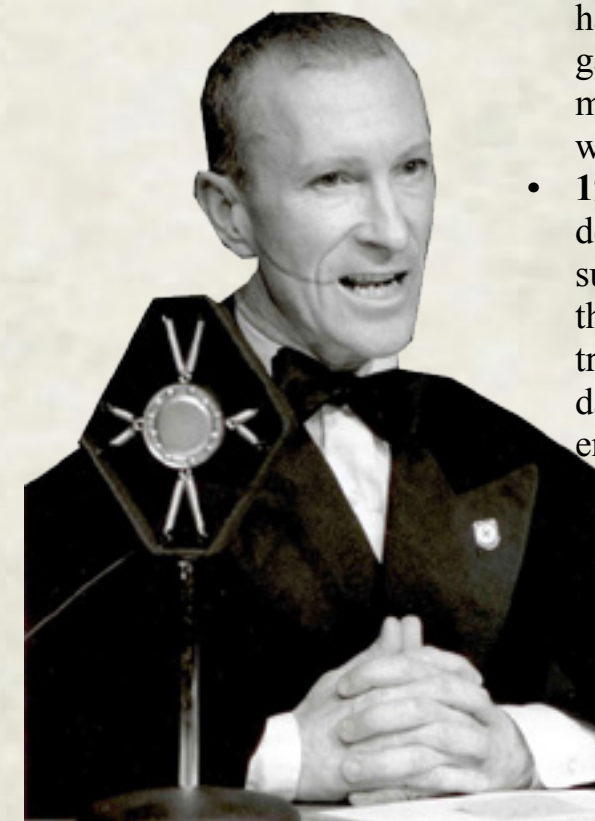
stones of the castle (Kasteel de Goede Hoop) at the Cape are laid by Zacharias Wagenaer, Johan van Arckel, Gabbema and Lacus.

- **1837** - Voortrekker leaders Andries Hendrik Potgieter and Gerrit (Gert) Maritz, each with his own men, leave for Western Transvaal to punish Mzilikazi for the Ndebele attack on the Voortrekkers at Vechtkop (Vegkop).
- **1883** - Battle of Boschberg during the Mapoch War takes place.
- **1896** - Sir Leander Starr Jameson and about 500 Rhodesian police surrender at Doornkop, near Krugersdorp, after the failure of the Jameson Raid.
- **1904** - Draft dodger and radical socialist Benito Mussolini reports for conscription into the Italian Army under an amnesty.
- **1905** - The Russians surrendered to the Japanese after the Battle of Port Arthur during the Russian-Japanese War.
- **1933** - US Marines withdraw from Nicaragua after a 20 year occupation.
- **1942** - During World War II in the Pacific, the Japanese captured the Philippines capital of Manila and the nearby air base at Cavite.
- **1942** - German troops in Bardia surrender.
- **1944** - New Guinea: Allies land on Saidor, isolating



Ian Fleming

- 12,000 Japanese troops.
- **1945** - US Navy convoys depart Leyte to invade Luzon, while beating off Kamikaze.
- **1945** - Admiral Sir Bertram Home Ramsay, mastermind of Dunkirk, dies at the age of 61.
- **1967** - Operation Bolo: In the largest air combat action of the Vietnam War, 28 F-4C Phantoms engage 9 MiG-21s; US aircraft down 7-9 MiGs with no loss.
- **1984** - Major-General Muhammadu Buhari is declared Head of State in Nigeria, following a military coup.
- **1988** - Major General Bantu Holomisa, who became head of a military state in Transkei after a coup in December 1987, lifts martial law and reinstates part of the constitution.
- **1988** - Right-wing guerrillas ambush a train near Mozambique's western border,



Lord Haw Haw

killing at least twenty-two people and injuring seventy-one.

- **2001** - Richard Winters, who led "The Band of Brothers", Company E, 506th Parachute Infantry, 19 days short of his 93rd birthday.

3 January

- **1926** - Mussolini assumes the Ministries of War, Navy, & Air.
- **1931** - Joseph "Papa" Joffre, Marshal of France, dies aged 78.
- **1935** - Ethiopia asks League of Nations to guarantee peace with Italy.
- **1941** - World War 2: North Africa. Australian troops take 5,000 prisoners during a major assault on Italian forces at Bardia.
- **1946** - An Englishman known during World War II as "Lord Haw Haw" (William Joyce) was hanged for treason in London. Joyce had broadcast Nazi propaganda via radio from Germany to Britain during the war.
- **1990** - Manuel Noriega, the deposed leader of Panama, surrendered to American authorities on charges of drug trafficking after spending 10 days hiding in the Vatican embassy following the U.S. invasion of Panama.

- **1993** - President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed the Start-II (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks) Treaty, eliminating about two-thirds of each country's long range nuclear weapons.

4 January

- **1943** - Japanese GHQ orders the evacuation of Guadalcanal.
- **1944** - Operation Carpetbagger begins, the Allied campaign to airdrop arms and supplies to the Resistance in Europe.
- **1945** - Luzon: 3rd Fleet hit by kamikaze, USS 'Ommaney Bay' (CVE-79) is lost.
- **1951** - Chinese and North Korean forces capture Seoul.
- **1966** - Lieutenant-Colonel Sangoulé Lamizana deposes President Maurice Yaméogo of Burkina Faso in a military coup.
- **1989** - Second Gulf of Sidra Incident: two US Navy F-14s down two Libyan MiG-23s.
- **2010** - Tsutomu Yamaguchi, who survived both the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, dies at the age of 93.

5 January

- **1919** - The German Workers' Party (Deutsche Arbeiterpartei) was founded by Anton Drexler in Munich. Adolf Hitler became member No. 7 and changed the name in April of 1920 to the

National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei) commonly shortened to Nazi or Nazi Party.

- **1968** - Lt Clarence W. Cote becomes the first male officer in the Navy Nurse Corps.
- **1982** - The forty-five mercenaries alleged to have commandeered an Air India Boeing and forced it to fly to Durban, after attempting a coup in the Seychelles in November 1981, appear in magistrates' courts in five South African cities. They are all to go on trial in South Africa.
- **1989** - The ANC agrees to close its military training base in Angola and in return South Africa must stop aid

to the rebel Angolan UNITA movement, the Angolan president, Jose Eduardo dos Santos says in an interview.

6 January

- **1412** - Joan of Arc is born in France on this day.
- **1900** - The Battle of Waggon Hill (Platrand), south of Ladysmith, takes place, in which the Boer forces make an unsuccessful attempt to bring about the fall of Ladysmith.
- **1842** - Afghanistan: Anglo-Indian forces begin a disastrous retreat from Kabul; all but one of 4,500 troops & 12,000 camp followers will be lost or captured.
- **1940** - Germans massacre Poles in Poznan.
- **1943** - Papua: US and Australian troops mass for a final assault on Sanananda.
- **1961** - Nikita Khrushchev declares that the Soviet Union will back Third World "wars of national liberation".
- **1988** - General Bantu Holomisa, who ousted Stella Sigcau in a coup, appoints himself as the Transkei's military and government chief.

7 January

- **1903** - The Boer generals report back in Pretoria after a campaign in Europe to procure aid for the reconstruction of the country after the Second Anglo-Boer War.
- **1941** - Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto proposes a surprise attack on Pearl Harbour.
- **1943** - Guadalcanal: US strength reaches 50,000, Japanese less than 25,000.
- **1945** - British Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery tells a press conference that he won the Battle of the Bulge.
- **1953** - US President Truman announces development of the hydrogen bomb.
- **1979** - Vietnamese forces capture Phnom Penh from the Khmer Rouge.
- **1986** - The ANC in exile in Lusaka calls on its supporters to take the struggle into White areas.
- **1987** - The British army suggests that 600 troops returning from a tour in Kenya should take an AIDS test.
- **1989** - Emperor Hirohito of Japan, who ruled Japan during World War II died after a long illness. He had ruled for 62 years and was succeeded by his son, Crown Prince Akihito.
- **2015** - Islamist terrorists attack the office of the magazine 'Charlie Hebdo' in Paris, killing 12 and wounding several others.



Emperor Hirohito

8 January

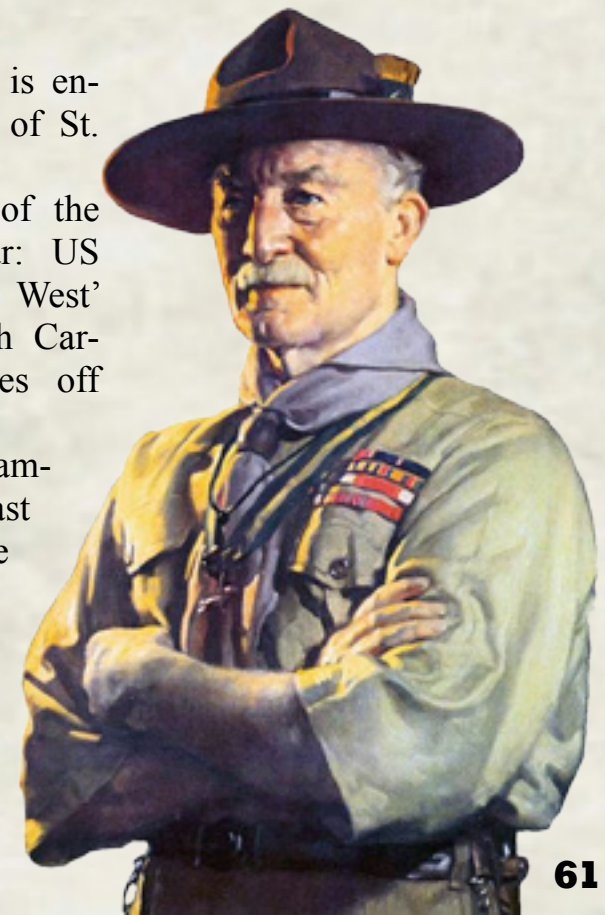
- **794** - First Viking raid on Britain, Lindisfarne Abbey is destroyed.
- **1806** - The Battle of Blaauwberg takes place, and part of the defending force capitulates two days later. Cape Governor Janssens and the rest of the force capitulated on 18 January, after which the second British occupation of the Cape started.
- **1815** - The Battle of New Orleans occurred as General Andrew Jackson and American troops defended themselves against a British attack, inflicting over 2,000 casualties. Both sides in this battle were unaware that peace had been declared two weeks earlier with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent ending the War of 1812.
- **1918** - Amid the ongoing World War in Europe, President Woodrow Wilson proposed his Fourteen Points, calling for a reduction of arms, self determination for governments, and the creation of a League of Nations, all intended to serve as a basis for resolving the conflict and establishing a lasting peace in Europe.
- **1941** - Lord Robert Baden-Powell, British general during the siege of Mafeking during the Second Anglo-Boer War and founder of the Boy Scouts, dies in Nyeri, Kenya.
- **1943** - British turn control of Madagascar over to the Free French.

- **1973** - Two South African policemen are killed and five policemen (two South African and three Rhodesian) injured in an explosion near the Zambezi River in north-western Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).
- **1973** - Secret peace talks between US & North Vietnam resume near Paris.
- **1984** - South African security forces begin withdrawal from southern Angola.
- **1989** - The ANC announces it will dismantle its guerrilla camps in Angola in support of peace.
- **1989** - Soviet Union promises to eliminate stockpiles of chemical weapons.
- **2007** - A United States military gunship launches air raids against hideouts of prominent members of the al-Qaeda network in southern Somalia.

9 January

- **1805** - Lord Nelson is entombed in the crypt of St. Paul's, London.
- **1861** - First Shot of the American Civil War: US steamer 'Star of the West' is fired on by South Carolina militia batteries off Charleston.
- **1916** - Gallipoli Campaign ends as the last allied troops evacuate the peninsula.

Lord Robert Baden-Powell



- **2005** - After nearly three years of negotiations, Sudan's government and main rebel group sign the final agreement to the Naivasha, Kenya, peace accord to end more than twenty-one years of civil war.

10 January

- **1806** - Signing of the second and final surrender of the Cape to the British under Gen. David Baird at Papendorp (presently Woodstock) after the defeat of Gen. J.W. Janssens.
- **1879** - British troops enter Zululand and the Anglo-Zulu war starts.
- **1879** - The 22-year-old Prince Imperial of France, Eugene Louis Jean Joseph Napoleon, who studied in England at the Royal Military Academy and joined the British forces, was killed in the Anglo-Zulu War.

- **1900** - Lord Frederick S. Roberts arrives at the Cape, replacing Sir Redvers Buller as commander-in-chief of the British forces in South Africa. Herbert H. Kitchener as his chief-of-staff accompanies him.
- **1942** - Heinz Hitler (19), nephew of Adolf Hitler, is captured on the Eastern Front while serving as an NCO in the 23rd Artillery; dies in a Soviet POW camp.
- **1943** - Guadalcanal: U.S. forces begin a general offensive to eliminate Japanese.
- **1946** - The League of Nations dissolves after twenty-six years and is replaced by the United Nations, with its first meeting in London.
- **1965** - Sirr al-Khatim al-Khalifa, the Sudanese prime minister, admits to providing aid to Congolese rebels.
- **1981** - Mozambique and Zimbabwe sign a defence and security agreement under which an attack by SA on either country will be



Hermann Goring

taken as an assault on both.

11 January

- **1904** - The Herero of German Southwest Africa revolt against colonial domination.
- **1944** - Krakow-Plaszow Concentration Camp established.
- **1970** - The 32-month-old secessionist Biafran regime collapses under onslaughts by Nigerian military.
- **1976** - Military coup in Ecuador ousts Dictator/President Guillermo Rodriguez Lara.
- **1989** - 140 nations agree to ban chemical weapons.
- **1991** - US Congress authorizes President G.H.W. Bush to undertake offensive operations against Iraq.

12 January

- **1893** - WW I flying ace and future Head of the Nazi Luftwaffe, Hermann Goring, is born on this day.
- **1915** - South African forces invade German South-West Africa at Ramansdrift.
- **1940** - Daniël Hermanus (Dan) Pienaar is appointed to command the First South African Infantry Brigade.
- **1944** - Churchill and de Gaulle confer in Marrakech.
- **1964** - One month after independence, a bloody uprising by the black majority ousts the Arab ruling minority of Zanzibar, installing a government that shortly unites with Tanganyika to form Tanzania.
- **1987** - Prince Edward re-

signs from the Royal Marines.

- **1992** - Algerian government cancels second round of voting in parliamentary elections that an Islamic party looks set to win. The Islamists take to arms, and ten thousands of Algerians die in the next few years.
- **2008** - Bill Stone, Royal Navy veteran, last surviving Briton to have served in both world wars, dies at 108.

13 January

- **1915** - South African troops occupy Swakopmund, German South-West Africa.
- **1935** - The population of the Saar region bordering France and Germany voted for incorporation into Hitler's Reich.
- **1943** - General Philippe Leclerc's Free French troops merge with the British army under the command of Montgomery.
- **1943** - Hitler declares Germany must wage "Total War".
- **1961** - Fighting erupts between UN troops and supporters of Patrice Lumumba

in the Congo.

- **1963** - Sgt Gnassingbe Eyadema murders West African Republic of Togo's President Sylvanus Olympio in a military coup.
- **1968** - Beginning of the Tet Offensive in Vietnam.
- **1972** - A group of junior officers overthrows civilian government of Ghana in West Africa.
- **1979** - A clash between police and suspected guerrillas is reported near the Botswana border. Botswana denies that it is being used as a springboard for attacks on his neighbours.
- **1986** - Bloody coup overthrows government of South Yemen.

14 January

- **1867** - Alfred Nobel makes the first public demonstration of dynamite.
- **1942** - Malaya: Japanese capture Malacca.
- **1943** - President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met at Casablanca in Morocco to work on strategy during World War II.
- **1967** - New York Times reports the Army is conducting secret germ warfare experi-

ments on the public.

- **1969** - Fire aboard USS 'Enterprise' (CVN-65), off Vietnam, 28 die, 344 injured.
- **1971** - Britain proposes the sale of arms to South Africa.

15 January

- **1926** - John Harling, the last known veteran of the "Charge of the Light Brigade", dies aged 93.
- **1942** - Japanese Southern Army invades Burma from Thailand.
- **1945** - Red Army liberates the Krakow-Plaszow concentration camp.
- **1949** - Mao's Red army captures Tientsin.
- **1966** - Prime Minister Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa is killed in Nigeria's first military coup.
- **1973** - US President Nixon suspends all US offensive action over North Vietnam.
- **1986** - A military coup deposes the Lesotho Government.

16 January

- **1900** - British troops under General Neville Lyttelton and General Charles Warren cross the Tugela River.
- **1904** - Herero Revolt: Gobabis is besieged. A German company from Outjo is ambushed at Okanjande near present-day Otjiwarongo.
- **1941** - The US War Department forms a squadron for black aviation cadets.
- **1944** - General Eisenhower



Winston Churchill

takes command of Operation Overlord.

- **1951** - Viet Minh offensive at Hanoi.
- **1963** - Khrushchev claims to have a 100-megaton nuclear bomb.
- **1966** - Nigerian Army chief, General Johnson Aguiyi-Ironsi, briefly takes power in a military coup. Over fifty government officials are killed, including the existing prime minister Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.
- **1970** - Col Kadhafi becomes premier of Libya.
- **1977** - Mercenaries mount an unsuccessful military coup in Benin.
- **1991** - The war against Iraq began as Allied aircraft conducted a major raid against Iraqi air defenses. The air raid on Baghdad was broadcast live to a global audience by CNN correspondents as

operation Desert Shield became Desert Storm.

- **1992** - The twelve-year civil war in El Salvador ended with the signing of a peace treaty in Mexico City. The conflict had claimed over 75,000 lives.
- **2014** - Hiroo Onoda, Japanese Army officer who did not surrender until 1974, on his 52nd birthday, dies at the age of 91.

17 January

- **1837** - The Voortrekkers under Hendrik Potgieter and Gerrit Maritz defeat the Ndebele under Mzilikazi at Mosega, near the present Zeerust. The Ndebele flee north and the majority cross the Limpopo River.
- **1879** - On the afternoon of 17 January 1879 the Zulu king Cetshwayo (Cetewayo) addresses 20,000 of his warriors at the great military kraal of Nodwengu: "I am sending you out against the Whites, who have invaded Zululand and driven away our cattle. You are to go against the column at Rorke's Drift and drive it back into Natal."
- **1885** - In the desperate hand to hand Battle of Abu Klea, the British under General Sir Herbert Stewart repulse the Sudanese Camel Corp of 10,000 under Command of Mohammed Ahmed.

Hiroo Onoda

- **1944** - HM Corvette 'Violet' sinks 'U-641' in Atlantic Ocean.
- **1945** - During World War II, Warsaw, Poland, was liberated by Soviet Russian troops.
- **1951** - China refuses cease fire in Korea.
- **1966** - A Hydrogen bomb accident occurred over Palomares, Spain, as an American B-52 jet collided with its refueling plane. Eight crewmen were killed and the bomber then released its H-bomb into the Atlantic.
- **1991** - Operation Desert Storm: Coalition air offensive is unleashed over Iraq, US pilot Jeffrey Zahn is shot down and captured.

18 January

- **1900** - Mafeking siege: Two Black cattle-herds are captured and summarily executed at Mafeking by burghers, in accordance with a council of war decision on cattle-rustlers. President Kruger immediately repudiates this decision and orders this practice to cease forthwith.
- **1900** - The 104mm field-gun known as 'Long Cecil' is test fired for the first time.
- **1902** - Commandant Gideon Scheepers is executed by a firing squad near Graaff-Reinet after being found guilty by a British military court on charges of murder, arson and demolishing trains during the South African War.
- **1904** - The German bat-

tleship "Habicht" lands at Swakopmund, bringing fresh German troops who proceed into the interior under the command of Second Lieutenant Gygas.

- **1919** - Versailles Peace Conference begins.
- **1943** - Warsaw Ghetto uprising begins.
- **1960** - US & Japan sign joint defence treaty.
- **1991** - Iraq launches SCUD missiles against Israel.

19 January

- **1807** - US Civil War Confederate General Robert E. Lee was born on this day.
- **1900** - Mafeking siege: General J.P. Snyman sends a starving group of Black women, who have been encouraged by the British to attempt a breakout, back under a White flag. Colonel Baden-Powell objects and threatens to commence hostilities if they should advance further.
- **1915** - Germans begin Zeppelin raids on Great Britain,

bombing Great Yarmouth & King's Lynn. 20 people are killed.

- **1940** - General J.B.M. Hertzog, as leader of the Opposition, announces he will introduce a motion calling on the Union of South Africa to make a separate peace treaty with Germany.
- **1941** - The 1st SA Division enters Abyssinia from the south.
- **1941** - Kassala, on the Sudan-Eritrean border, is retaken by the British as Major General William Platt begins an offensive against Italian troops in Eritrea.
- **1943** - Guadalcanal: U.S. destroyers shell Japanese positions.
- **1983** - Former Gestapo official Klaus Barbie, known as the "Butcher of Lyon," was arrested in Bolivia, South America.

20 January

- **1835** - Xhosa warriors overrun the Eastern Cape frontier.
- **1879** - British troops under Lord Chelmsford pitch their camp on the slopes of Isandhlawana, where Zulu warriors attack them two days later.
- **1900** - In the Battle of Tabanyama, Natal front, a group of Indian stretcher bearers, among whom the

young Durban attorney Mohandas Ghandi, becomes intermingled with fighting troops. Six of them are killed and twelve wounded in the crossfire. The battle continued two more days.

- **1942** - During the Holocaust, Reinhard Heydrich, Himmler's second in command of the SS, convened the Wannsee Conference in Berlin with 15 top Nazi bureaucrats to coordinate the Final Solution (Endlösung) in which the Nazis would attempt to exterminate the entire Jewish population of Europe, an estimated 11 million persons.
- **1944** - Burma: Allies prepare major offensive to open the "Burma Road".
- **1944** - The Royal Air Force drops 2,500 tons of bombs on Berlin.
- **1951** - Fort Klapperkop and Fort Skanskop, Pretoria, are opened to the public.
- **1964** - Army mutiny in Tanganyika over pay is put down with British assistance.
- **1965** - It is reported in London that the British government will not issue a permit for the export of the ground-to-air missiles South Africa requires.
- **1991** - During an Iraqi SCUD attack on Israel, US Patriot missiles are used for the first time, with mixed success.

21 January

- **1824** - American Civil War Confederate Army Gener-



Reinhard Heydrich

- al "Stonewall" Jackson was born on this day.
- **1942** - Rommel begins a new offensive against the Allies in North Africa, hoping to push them back to the east.
- **1943** - Soviet forces recapture Worosjilowsk.
- **1945** - The Red Army destroys the German Tannenberg monument in East Prussia.
- **1954** - The USS Nautilus, the world's first nuclear powered submarine, was launched at Groton, Connecticut.
- **1968** - B-52 bomber with nuclear weapons crashes in Greenland.
- **1968** - Battle of Khe Sanh begins.
- **1988** - According to Jane's Defence Weekly, Armscor, the South African armaments producer, is the country's largest single exporter. Armscor sales to twenty-three countries in 1987 amounted

- to R1,8-billion.
- **1988** - According to reports from Angola, the strategic town of Cuito Cuanavale is about to fall to an onslaught by South African and UNITA forces. The reports say South African and Cuban troops have clashed for the first time in twelve years.

22 January

- **1879** - Cetewayo's impi wipe out British troops at Isandhlwana in one of the worst disasters in British military history, stabbing 1272 soldiers to death. The impi of the Zulu king then descend on the trading post at Rorke's Drift. About 4000 Zulus attack the fortified buildings held by 130 men of the 24th regiment at about 4.30 p.m. At the end of the attack at about 4 a.m. early the next morning, more than 350 Zulus are killed, while the defenders' casualties amount to seventeen dead and ten wounded. A record eleven Victoria Crosses were awarded to the defenders of Rorke's Drift.
- **1879** - The British (no 1) supply column moving up the North Coast towards Eshowe is attacked by about 5000 Zulus as they cross the Nyezane River. The attack is beaten off south of Eshowe,

- north of the Nyezane river.
- **1941** - The Australian 6th Division captures Tobruk from the Italians.
- **1943** - Axis forces pull out of Tripoli and head back towards Tunisia.
- **1943** - During World War II in the Pacific, Japanese resistance ended in New Guinea, resulting in the first land victory of the war for Allied forces.
- **1944** - Operation Shingle: Allies land at Anzio.
- **1957** - Israeli forces withdraw from the Sinai Peninsula.
- **2005** - Carlo Orelli, last Italian combat veteran to have served throughout WW I, dies at the age of 110.

23 January

- **1900** - Battle of Spion Kop: Boers defeat the British; Winston Churchill & Mohandas Gandhi are both present, but do not meet.
- **1932** - El Salvador's army kills 4,000 protesting farmers
- **1935** - Abyssinian tribesmen in Somaliland massacre French colonial troops.
- **1903** - Colonel Arthur Alfred Lynch is found guilty of high treason and sentenced to death for leading the "Irish Commando" against British forces in the South African War. The death sentence is commuted to life imprisonment on 24th January 1904.
- **1943** - In North Africa, British forces under General Bernard Montgomery cap-

Erwin Rommel

- tured Tripoli in Libya.
- **1943** - Casablanca Conference: FDR & Churchill agree on the "unconditional surrender" of the Axis.
- **1962** - Kim Philby, long-term spy in Britain, defects to the USSR.
- **1968** - The American ship USS Pueblo was seized by North Koreans in the Sea of Japan amid claims the Navy ship was spying. The ship was confiscated and its crew held in captivity until December, with one fatality.
- **1971** - After a compromise is reached at a Commonwealth Conference, Britain is allowed to sell weapons to South Africa, though African leaders oppose the step.

24 January

- **1891** - Capain. Kurt von Francois arrives as leader of a small German regiment in South West Africa to suppress the Herero rebellion.
- **1891** - Walter Model, German Field Marshal, is born on this day.

- **1900** - The British, under General Warren, surrenders to General Botha at Spioenkop. At least 1 000 British and sixty Boer soldiers die in this battle.
- **1901** - Emily Hobhouse, English nurse who visited the Transvaal and Orange Free State Republics during the South African War, reports that she found 2,000 women and children in shocking circumstances in the concentration camp at Bloemfontein.
- **1915** - Battle of Dogger Bank: Royal Navy defeats the Germans in the North Sea.
- **1923** - The Italian Air Force was formed as the Regia Aerea.
- **1941** - British troops invade Italian East Africa.
- **1961** - A B-52 breaks up over the North Carolina coast, losing two H-bombs, one of which is still missing.
- **1964** - British troops are flown in to Uganda to suppress an army mutiny over low pay.
- **1965** - Winston Spencer Churchill, British Prime Minister during World War II, dies at the age of 88.
- **1986** - Guerrillas advance into Ugandan capital of Kampala as army opposition crumbles, pushing military government to edge of

- collapse.
- **1991** - US Navy helicopters liberate Kuwaiti offshore oil rigs from the Iraqis.
- **1993** - Three Somalis are killed and at least five are wounded in clashes with troops of a US-led coalition trying to safeguard efforts to feed the country's starving.

25 January

- **1916** - Montenegro surrenders to Austria-Hungary.
- **1919** - At the end of the war, the Paris Peace Conference accepts the proposal to create the League of Nations. The League was eventually established by Part I of the Treaty of Versailles, which was signed on 28 June 1919.
- **1940** - Nazis decree the establishment of a Jewish ghetto in Lodz Poland.
- **1943** - Guadalcanal: Japanese in full retreat, closely pursued by U.S. forces.
- **1945** - Audie Murphy earns the Medal of Honour.
- **1951** - UN begins counter offensive in Korea.
- **1961** - Military coup in El Salvador.
- **1971** - General Idi Amin Dada takes power in Uganda by military coup while the existing president, Milton Obote, is at a Commonwealth meeting in Singapore.

26 January

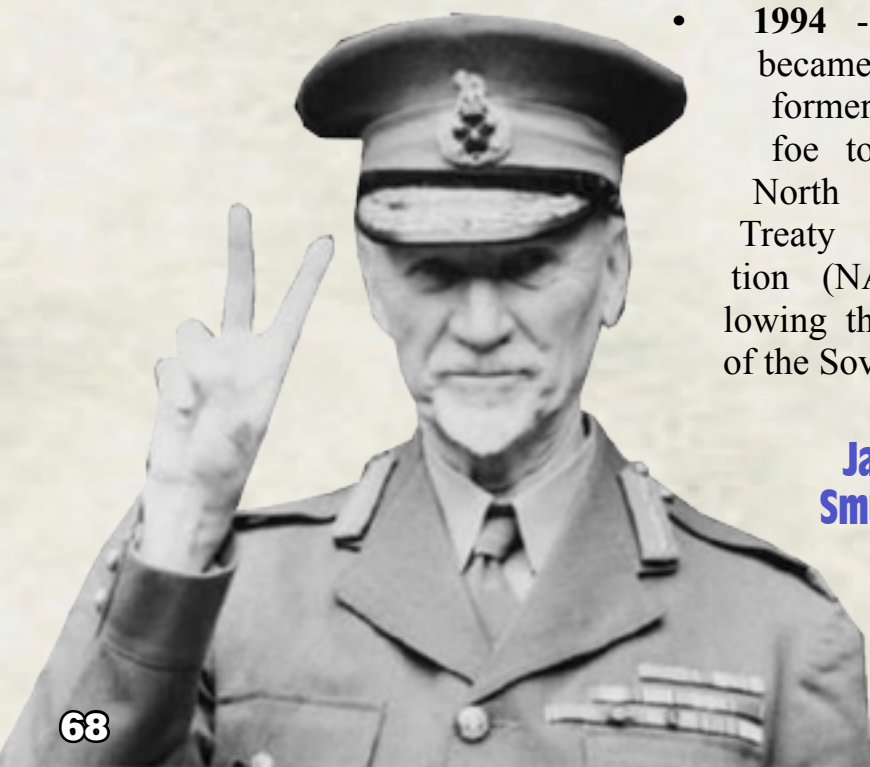
- **1880** - General Douglas MacArthur was born on this day.

Kim Philby

- **1885** - The Mahdist forces take Khartoum in Sudan after a nine-month siege and slaughter most inhabitants and the British garrison, including General Gordon.
- **1901** - General Christiaan de Wet, accompanied by President M.T. Steyn, starts his journey at Doornberg, near Winburg, to invade the Cape Colony for the second time.
- **1902** - General Ben Viljoen and seven men are ambushed and captured by the British. His pocket book saves his life by warding off a bullet and preventing it to strike his chest.
- **1934** - Nazi Germany and Poland sign ten year non-aggression pact.
- **1939** - Franco's Spanish Nationalists capture Barcelona.
- **1943** - Nazis began using Hitler Youths to operate anti-aircraft batteries in Germany following heavy Allied bombing of Berlin and other cities.
- **1950** - India becomes a republic within the British Commonwealth, converts the Victoria Cross to the Param Vir Chakra, 14 of the 21 of which awards have been posthumous.
- **1952** - Egypt is placed under martial law in response to wide-spread riots against the British.
- **1983** - At a special press conference it is announced that a senior South African naval officer, commanding Simon's Town dockyard, Commodore Dieter Gerhardt and his wife, have been detained for questioning in connection with alleged espionage.
- **1986** - The National Resistance Army takes over the Ugandan capital of Kampala.
- **1991** - Rebels overrun the Somali capital of Mogadishu.
- **1992** - Russia announces it will no longer target US cities with nuclear weapons.
- **1994** - Romania became the first former Cold War foe to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

27 January

- **1859** - German Kaiser Wilhelm II was born on this day.
- **1915** - US Marines begin occupation of Haiti.
- **1943** - SA prime minister, General Jan Smuts, asks parliament's approval to send troops to Europe, contrary to his promise in 1939 that SA troops would only fight in Africa.
- **1943** - The U.S. 8th Air Force conducted the first all-American bombing raid on Germany as 55 bombers targeted Wilhelmshaven, losing three planes while claiming to have shot down 22 German fighters. The success of this first mission encouraged U.S. military planners to begin regular daylight bombing raids, which eventually resulted in high casualty rates for the American crewmen involved.
- **1944** - Russian Army General Govorov announced the lifting of the Nazi blockade of Leningrad. During the 900-day siege, an estimated one million Russian civilians inside the city died of disease, starvation and relentless German shelling.
- **1944** - U.S. issues a report on "The Bataan Death March".
- **1945** - The Russian Army liberated Auschwitz death camp near Krakow in Poland, where the Nazis had systematically murdered an estimated 2,000,000 persons, including 1,500,000 Jews.



Jan Smuts

- **1967** - Treaty signed banning military use of nuclear weapons in space.
- **1973** - U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War ended as North Vietnamese and American representatives signed an agreement in Paris.
- **1991** - President Mohamed Siad Barre of Somalia flees the capital, Mogadishu, as a coalition of rebels seize power. The country plunges into virtual anarchy.
- **1996** - Niger's first democratically elected president, Mahamane Ousmane, is ousted in a coup and army Colonel Barre Mainassara Ibrahim takes over as head of state.
- **2002** - Munitions at an army base in Lagos, Nigeria's commercial capital, explode, sending fireballs and shrapnel into the air and forcing hundreds of area residents to flee. As many as 600 people drown in a canal that blocked their way to safety.
- dered to the Germans after a four month siege.
- **1871** - The British forces are defeated and 83 British soldiers under Sir George Colley are killed and 111 wounded in the battle of Laings Nek in the Anglo-Transvaal War, caused by the refusal of the Transvaal Boers to submit to British authority as proclaimed by Shepstone in 1877.
- **1885** - British relief force reaches Khartoum, and the Sudan is evacuated.
- **1916** - German colony of Cameroon surrenders to Britain & France.
- **1932** - Japanese capture Shanghai.
- **1942** - Five power stations are blown up by pro-Axis saboteurs in an attempt to destabilise the Rand gold mines.
- **1942** - German troops capture Benghazi, Libya.
- **1944** - RAF puts 683 bombers over Berlin.
- **1970** - Cairo suburbs are attacked by Israeli jet fighters.
- **1993** - Troops in Zaire run riot, killing the French Ambassador.

28 January

- **1871** - The Franco-Prussian War ended as Paris surren-



Zeppelin

29 January

- **1915** - Erwin Rommel is awarded the Iron Cross, First Class, for action in the Argonne.
- **1916** - During World War I, the first aerial bombings of Paris by German Zeppelins took place.
- **1943** - HMNZS 'Kiwi' rams & sinks Japanese sub 'I-1' off Guadalcanal.
- **1944** - Heavy Luftwaffe raid on London.
- **1991** - Battle of Khafji, Saudi Arabia: Iraqis capture the town.
- **1993** - French marines land in Kinshasa, Zaire, to free French nationals confined to the embassy.
- **1996** - Two serving members of the army and a third man are arrested in connection with the attack on St James's Church in Cape Town in July 1993.

30 January

- **1882** - Franklin Delano Roosevelt was born on this day.
- **1902** - Anglo-Japanese alliance formed.
- **1911** - The Royal Canadian Navy was founded on this

- day.
- **1915** - German submarine attack on Le Havre.
- **1930** - Magnus André De Merindol Malan, former Chief of the SADF and SA Minister of Defence, is born in Pretoria on this day.
- **1933** - Adolf Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany by President Paul von Hindenburg.
- **1939** - Hitler calls for the extermination of the Jews.
- **1943** - Hitler promotes Friedrich Paulus, commanding the Sixth Army, surrounded at Stalingrad, to field marshal, with a hint that he should commit suicide.
- **1945** - Danzig: Soviet sub sinks German ship 'Wilhelm Gustloff'. More than 7,700 die, making it the worst loss of life in a single sinking in history.
- **1952** - Martial law is imposed in Egypt as King Farouk dismisses the premier Nahas Pasha and his Wafdist government.
- **1964** - Military coup by Gen Nguyen Khanh in South-Vietnam.
- **1968** - Beginning of the Tet Offensive in Vietnam as North Vietnamese troops attacked 36 provincial capitals and 5 major cities in South Vietnam, including an attack on the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and the presidential palace.
- **1972** - In Londonderry, Northern Ireland, 13 Roman Catholics were killed by British troops during a banned civil rights march. The event became known as Bloody Sunday.
- **1981** - Twenty-four people are killed in Operation Beanbag, an attack by the South African army on the ANC and PAC in Matola, a suburb of Maputo, Mozambique. A Portuguese engineer, Jose Ramos, is "mistakenly identified" as Joe Slovo, one of the raid's main targets, by the South African forces and is shot at a roadblock. Numbers killed vary. Some sources state that twelve were killed and three abducted.
- **1992** - Argentina allowed access to numerous files of Nazis who had fled to South America from Germany after World War II, thus aiding

the hunt for Nazi war criminals.

31 January

- **1901** - Generals Smuts and Liebenberg captures Modderfontein, Transvaal.
- **1915** - Battle of Bolimów: The Germans stage the first major poison gas attack, but the Russians hold.
- **1917** - Germany notifies the US that it will resume unrestricted submarine warfare.
- **1943** - German troops surrendered at Stalingrad, marking the first big defeat of Hitler's armies in World War II. During the Battle of Stalingrad, 160,000 Germans were killed and 90,000 taken prisoner, including the commander, Friedrich von Paulus, the first German field marshal ever to surrender. The captured Germans were forced to march to Siberia, with few ever returning to Germany.
- **1945** - Eddie Slovik, a 24 year-old U.S. Army private, was executed by a firing squad after being sentenced to death for desertion, the first such occurrence in the U.S. Army since the Civil War.
- **1972** - Military coup ousts civilian government of Ghana.
- **1994** - In Mogadishu, US Marines in a convoy carrying American diplomats open fire near a crowded food distribution centre. At least five Somalis are killed and many wounded.



**Friedrich
Von Paulus**



The Sharp Edge answers

1. SADF M87

Kevlar composite helmet that replaced the *staaldak* in the late 1980s.

2. German Stahlhelme

Replaced the traditional Pickelhaube during World War I in 1916. This is a Wehrmacht version.

3. M15 Adrian helmet

Standard French helmet during World War II.

4. Type 92 helmet

Japanese etsukabuto (steel helmet) used during World War II.

5. Pickelhaube

Boiled leather spiked combat helmet used by the Germans

until 1916.

6. M1 helmet

Used by the Americans during World War II. and afterwards.

7. Galea

Standard helmet used by the Roman Legion.

8. Brodie helmet

Used by British and Commonwealth troops during both World Wars.

9. German Stahlhelme

Waffen SS steel helmet. Identified by the SS lighting runes.

10. SSH40

Used by the Russians during World War II.

11. US ACH

Advanced Combat Helmet used by the United States.

12. Viking helmet

No, they did not have horns.

13. Mitznefet

Combat helmet used by the Israeli Defence Force (IDF).

14. M38 Stahlhelme

Used by the German Fallschirmjäger (Paratroopers) in World War II.

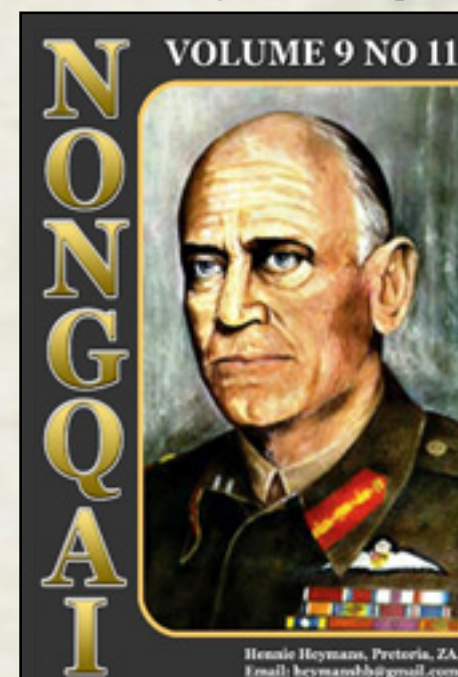
15. M63 helmet

The M63, better known as the *staaldak*, was used by the SADF until the late 1980s when it was replaced with the kevlar M87.

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.



Hipe!

media

E-mail
editor@hipe.co.za



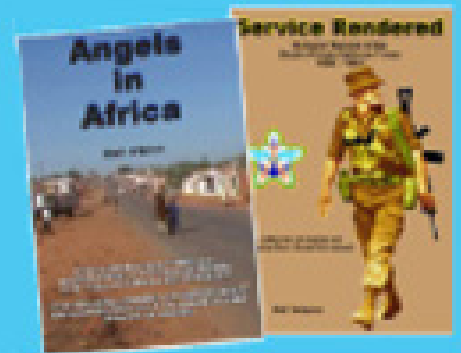
Online Magazines

Flip book magazines with pages that can be turned.



E-books

Produced in any electronic format required.



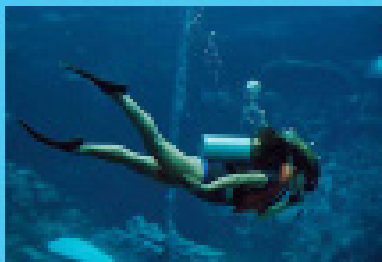
2D & 3D Animation

Produced in any video format.



Video Production

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



Still Photography

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