



Military Despatches

Vol 20 February 2019

Black Hawk down

The Battle of Mogadishu

A thousand words

The stories behind the most iconic war photos

E-yih-sih yil-tas

World War II Navajo code talkers

Adolf Galland

German ace respected by friend and foe

Top Secret

Military machines that were once top secret



For the military enthusiast

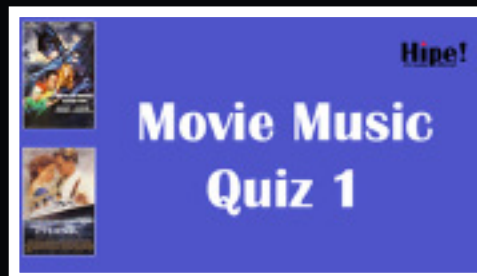


Click on any video below to view



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

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



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



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

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



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

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Editor's Sitrep

So, here we are in February, the last month of summer and the shortest month of the year.

It's also that time of the year again - Valentine's. I must confess, I'm not the biggest fan.

Look, don't get me wrong. I'm not against romance, I'm against the concept of Valentine's Day. Truth be told, I'm a hopeless romantic.

It's just that I feel that Valentine's Day has become a commercial rip-off. The price of chocolates, flowers, cards and so on skyrockets come 14 February.

I feel that if you want to be romantic then you should be a romantic all year around. Not just on one day of the year.

Why wait until 14 February to tell that lady or man how you feel about them (no matter how old you are)? Why wait until then to buy the special person in your life flowers or chocolates, or give them a gift, make them a special meal, or take them somewhere special. Valentine's Day should be every day of the year.

I normally leave this part of the magazine until last.

Everything is done and dusted, I sit back and pour myself a bucket of Bushmills, and then realise I've still got to write my Editor's Sitrep. Hell, bugger and tarnation.

This month, on 3 February to be precise, the Border Boy's Parade is held in Bergvliet, Cape Town. Is it my imagination or are there fewer of us marching every year.

Then I realise that the Border War took place between 1966 and 1989. So that means it has been over for thirty years. It also means that those 18 year old boys that fought in 1989 are now 48. Those of us that fought in the 1970s are now in our late 50s and early 60s. No wonder we're all looking a little rough around the edges.

For many of us that fought in the Border War, it was a great adventure. These days just getting up out of a chair can be an adventure all on its own.

Until next month.

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media

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February

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Front Cover

An American Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk on patrol. Two of these were shot down during the Battle of Mogadishu.



Military machines that were once top secret

While some of these ten military machines are now obsolete, at one stage they were top secret.

There is an old cliché that says “Never bring a knife to a gun fight.” And the saying does make sense. Especially if you’re the side armed with the guns.

The biggest military organisations in the world are always trying to stay on top of cutting-edge technology - and for good reason.

The country that has the most technologically advanced equipment will always have a distinct advantage.

The military is always working on some new invention, most of which are kept top secret. Then, when they are finally unveiled, the world is often left stunned. Either by the sheer brilliance of the project, or at just how much money they wasted on a project that just didn’t work.

Here are ten such military machines.

10. Harrier Jump Jet

When jets first made their appearance above the skies of Europe towards the end of World War II they were a massive leap in technology from the flimsy balsa wood and canvas biplanes that engaged in aerial combat during World War I.

Now just image a military jet that could take off and land like

a helicopter. It was something straight out of science fiction.

Yet in the early 1960s British manufacturer Hawker Siddeley was already hard at work developing just such a machine.

On 28 December 1967 the Harrier Jump Jet made its first flight.

The Harrier emerged as the only truly successful V/STOL design of the many attempted during that era, despite being a subsonic aircraft, unlike most of its competitors.

It was conceived to operate from improvised bases, such as car parks or forest clearings, without requiring large and vulnerable air bases. Later, the design was adapted for use from aircraft carriers.

9. Zubr-class Hovercraft

During the 1980s the Russians tended to follow the doctrine of “think big or go home.”

One only needs to look at the huge Typhoon Class ballistic submarines or the menacing Kirov Class Battle Cruisers to realise that the USSR of the 1980s tended to prefer their military hardware on the massive side.

When it comes to hovercraft, the Russians were already using the Aist Class LCAC (Landing Craft, Air Cushioned).

Then in 1988 the Russians unveiled the Zubr-class hovercraft. With a length of 57 metres and a displacement of 555 tons, it took things to a whole new level. It could reach a speed of 63 knots and had an operating range of 560 kilometres.

Nicknamed Pomornik by NATO, it could carry three tanks in its huge cargo hold while the US Navy’s largest hovercraft can only carry one.

The Russians planned to build 17 of these massive hovercraft but in the end completed 15. Ten of these are still active while five were retired and later scrapped.

8. 1K17 Szhatie

This was something straight out of a script from Star Wars - a self-propelled laser vehicle that was able to disable the optical-electronic equipment of enemy missiles, ground and aerial vehicles.

The 1K17 Szhatie was developed by the Russians in the 1970s and 1980s. Although the Soviet Union attempted to keep the plans secret, the Pentagon managed to obtain drawings from defectors. Western intelligence services code named it the Stiletto.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the development of

the Szhatie was abandoned, as the development and manufacturing of the laser projection system had become too expensive and unnecessary.

Two of these “tanks” were tested, with one being scrapped and the other being displayed in the Army Technology Museum near Moscow, but without its laser projector.

7. Zil-157

During World War II the Russians designed and produced some of the best tanks and self-propelled guns of the war.

Yet when it came to trucks and transportation in general the Russians were left woefully lacking.

When they received the first series of trucks from the United States under lend-lease in 1942 the Russians were amazed at both the sophistication and reliability of the American trucks.

After the war the Russian truck industry build their own version based on the American

trucks. It was called the Zil-151 but not long after the Zil-157 took its place.

The Zil-157 was a 2 1/2-ton 6x6 cargo truck. It had a crew of two and could carry between 12 and 16 soldiers in the rear.

The ZIL-157 was the standard Soviet truck until it was replaced by the ZIL-131 and Ural-375 series that became the standard Soviet army trucks alongside the GAZ-66.

6. PL-01 Stealth Tank

This tank wouldn’t look out of place in a futuristic video game.

It’s called the PL-01 Stealth Tank. It’s a Polish light tank mock-up created by state-owned defence firm OBRUM, with support from BAE systems.

The concept vehicle was first unveiled at the International Defence Industry Exhibition in Kielce on 2 September 2013.

This is the world’s first fifth-generation

“stealth tank” which is practically invisible to infrared and radar detection.

The layout of the PL-01 is similar to those of modern standard main battle tanks. The driver is located at the front of the vehicle’s hull, with the commander and gunner also located in the hull and the unmanned turret mounted in the rear. In addition, there is a rear compartment in the hull which can accommodate four soldiers.

The PL-01 will be equipped with a 940 horsepower diesel engine that will give the tank a maximum speed of 70 km per hour on paved roads and 50km per hour over rough terrain. It will have a maximum operating range of 500 kilometres.

The primary weapon of the PL-01 is a 105mm or 120mm cannon fitted within the unmanned turret, in accordance with NATO standards. The can-



PL-01 Stealth Tank

non will be able to shoot both conventional projectiles and guided anti-tank missiles. It has an autoloader, which ensures a shot fire rate of six shots per minute. The vehicle carries 45 rounds, 16 of which are located in slots within the turret and ready to fire, with the remainder stored within the chassis compartment. The tank is also armed with a 7.62 UKM-2000C machine gun with an ammunition supply of 1,000 rounds.

All equipment will be electronically stabilized, and observation and sighting systems will come with laser rangefinders, day-night cameras and third generation thermal imaging, with visual data displayed on a screen.

4. M-80 Stiletto

The M80 Stiletto is an American prototype naval ship of a new generation type of ship utilizing advanced stealth technologies.

It was built by Knight & Carver, a commercial and private shipbuilder out of San Diego, California utilizing advanced

composites and a slew of then cutting-edge technologies with an emphasis on adaptability.

It is notable for its advanced Pentamaran hull design and sophisticated carbon fibre and advanced material composite construction, as well as its innovative networked architecture.

A key feature of this vessel is that it can set up a network between a special forces team by launching an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) that relays information between the team and boat. The Stiletto can also carry surveillance UAVs to provide reconnaissance for the SEAL team, and, using a clustered supercomputer on board, will be able to send real-time images to the team on shore.

The Stiletto carried a Rigid hull inflatable boat and is manned by a crew of three. It can also carry 12 Navy Seals.

The Stiletto is being tested by the United States Navy SEALs and Special Warfare Combat Crewmen, who operate small, fast craft in the rough littoral seas for which the vessel was designed.

3. Sea Shadow (IX-529)

If you can build a stealth plane, then surely it would be possible to build a stealth ship? That was the concept of the IX-529.

Sea Shadow was built in 1984 to examine the application of stealth technology on naval vessels, and was used in secret until a public debut in 1993. In addition, the ship was designed to test the use of automation to reduce crew size.

The ship was created by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the U.S. Navy and Lockheed. Sea Shadow was developed and built at Lockheed's Redwood City, California facility, inside the Hughes Mining Barge (HMB-1), which functioned as a floating drydock during construction and testing.

Sea Shadow had a SWATH hull design. Below the water were submerged twin hulls, each with a propeller, aft sta-

bilizer, and inboard hydrofoil. The portion of the ship above water was connected to the hulls via the two angled struts.

The SWATH design helped the ship remain stable in rough water up to sea state 6 (wave height of 5.5 metres or "very rough" sea). The shape of the superstructure was sometimes compared to the casemate of the ironclad ram *CSS Virginia* of the American Civil War.

In 2006, the U.S. Navy tried to sell Sea Shadow to the highest bidder, after the initial offering met with a lack of interest, it was listed for dismantling sale. The US government mandated that the buyer not sail the ship and be required to scrap it. The ship was finally sold in 2012. Sea Shadow was dismantled in 2012 by Bay Ship.

2. F-117 Nighthawk

The Lockheed F-117 Nighthawk is an American single-seat, twin-engine stealth attack aircraft that was developed by Lockheed's secretive Skunk Works division and operated by the United States Air Force (USAF). The F-117 was based on the Have Blue technology demonstrator.

The Nighthawk was the first operational aircraft to be designed around stealth technology. Its maiden flight took place in 1981 at Groom Lake, Nevada, and the aircraft achieved initial operating capability status in 1983. The Nighthawk was shrouded in secrecy until it was revealed to the public in 1988. Of the 64 F-117s built, 59 were production versions, with the other five being prototypes.

The F-117 was widely publicized for its role in the Persian Gulf War of 1991. Although it was commonly referred to as the "Stealth Fighter", it was strictly a ground-attack aircraft. F-117s took part in the conflict in Yugoslavia, where one was shot down by a surface-to-air missile (SAM) in 1999; it was the only Nighthawk to be lost in combat. The U.S. Air Force retired the F-117 in 2008, primarily due to the introduction of the F-22 Raptor.

1. Arleigh Burke Destroyer

The Arleigh Burke class of guided missile destroyers (DDGs) is the United States Navy's first class of de-

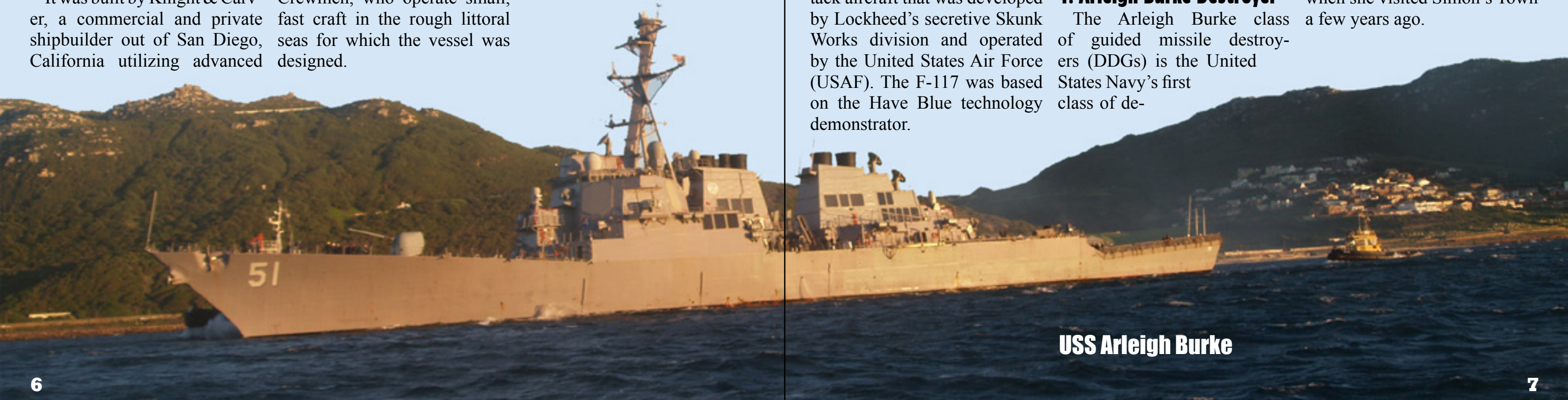
stroyer built around the Aegis Combat System and the SPY-1D multifunction passive electronically scanned array radar.

These warships were designed as multimission destroyers, able to fulfil the strategic land strike role with Tomahawk missiles; anti-aircraft warfare (AAW) role with powerful Aegis radar and surface-to-air missiles; anti-submarine warfare (ASW), with towed sonar array, anti-submarine rockets, and ASW helicopter; and anti-surface warfare (ASuW) with Harpoon missile launcher.

Their hull and superstructure were designed to have a reduced radar cross-section.

At a cost of \$1.8 billion each, they don't come cheap. Currently the US Navy has 66 Arleigh Burke Class Destroyers, with more being built.

Military Despatches deputy editor John Verster and I were lucky enough to get a guided tour of *USS Arleigh Burke* when she visited Simon's Town a few years ago.



USS Arleigh Burke

Reserve Force Seniority List

Known in the days of the SADF as Citizen Force Units, these days they are known as Reserve Force Units by the SANDF. Yet who is the oldest of these units?

Many of our readers served in the old South African Defence Force (SADF). Others served in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). Some even served in both.

Many of our readers did compulsory military service in the SADF. It was commonly known as 'National Service'.

National service began in 1968 when it was decided that all white South African males would be required to do a period of compulsory military service.

Note carefully the use of the word compulsory. It was not a request, it was an instruction and it was backed up by an act of parliament. Every white male who was a South Africa citizen or had permanent residence was required to register with the South African Defence Force in the year that he turned sixteen.

Once you had completed your schooling or decided to leave school, the South African De-

fence Force required your services. The particular act went something like this:

All white male South African citizens between the ages of 17 and 55 years are liable for military service in terms of the Defence Act (this would later include the Defence Act Amendment, 1982).

This includes immigrants under the age of 25 who, in terms of the Citizenship Act, automatically become South African citizens after five years permanent residence in South Africa unless they specifically choose not to do so and thus lose their permanent residence rights and work permit.

Initial full-time service: This lasts for a maximum of 12 months (in 1978 this was increased to 24 months) and must be performed by all medically fit white male citizens from the year in which they turn 18, subject to exemptions or deferments described below.

The intake dates for full-time service are at the beginning of

January and July every year, the January intake being the larger of the two.

The initial full-time service is followed by:

- Twelve years service in the citizen force, divided into six two-year cycles.
- In each cycle a maximum of 120 days service is performed, of which no more than 90 days may be imposed during one year. A total, therefore, of 720 days.
- After completion of service in the citizen force, there follows a further five years in the active citizen force reserve. During this period there is no formal service obligation, other than what may be imposed by the Minister of Defence in the light of SA Defence Force operational requirements.
- After five years in the active citizen force reserve, these members are liable for service in the commando force until their 55th year, with a maximum service obliga-

tion of 12 days a year. These days in the SANDF there is no more compulsory military service. There is also no longer a commando force.

There is also no longer a citizen force. Many of the citizen force units were disbanded. Others, however, we retained and became part of the SANDF Reserve Force.

Those that serve in the Reserve Force are either permanent force or volunteers.

Recently I came across an article from the SANDF on the

Reserve Force Seniority List. The article also stated, "The names of certain of the SA Army Reserve Force Units will be changed shortly in order to ensure that they represent a balance view of South Africa's rich military heritage."

Now you need to take into account that 18 of these units are more than 100 years old. Two of them are in fact 164 years old.

Personally, I see no reason to change the names of these units as they already have a very rich

military history. But that is just my personal view and, after all, the SANDF has the right to change things as they see fit. Now please remember, this is the list as given by the SANDF. So please don't have a go at me and point out that your old unit is older than that unit, because your unit fought with Joshua at the Battle of Jericho.

All I am doing is giving you the list as published by the SANDF.

SA Army

Reserve Force Unit	Date of Establishment	Age
Natal Carbineers	15 January 1855	164 years
Cape Town Rifles (Dukes)	28 November 1855	163 years
Cape Field Artillery	26 August 1857	161 years
Natal Mounted Rifles	25 September 1862	156 years
Umvoti Mounted Rifles	18 October 1864	154 years
Durban Light Infantry	2 April 1873	145 years
First City	7 October 1875	143 years
Kimberley Regiment	14 August 1876	142 years
Prince Alfred's Guard	8 January 1877	142 years
The Buffalo Volunteer Rifles	20 December 1883	135 years
Cape Town Highlanders	24 April 1885	133 years
Natal Field Artillery	4 May 1902	116 years
Light Horse Regiment	12 December 1902	116 years
Transvaal Scottish	12 December 1902	116 years
Witwatersrand Rifles	1 May 1903	115 years
Transvaal Horse Artillery	17 March 1905	114 years



Cape Town Rifles (Dukes)



South African Irish Regiment



2 Parachute Battalion

Rand Light Infantry	1 October 1905	113 years
Pretoria Regiment	1 July 1913	105 years
3 Field Engineer Regiment	1 July 1926	92 years
Vrystaat Artillerie Regiment	1 July 1926	92 years
Regiment Botha	1 April 1934	84 years
Regiment De La Rey	1 April 1934	84 years
Regiment De Wet	1 April 1934	84 years
Regiment Louw Wepener (Dormant)	1 April 1934	84 years
Regiment President Steyn	1 April 1934	84 years
Regiment Westlike Provincie	1 April 1934	84 years
South African Irish Regiment	1 November 1939	79 years
Regiment Christiaan Beyers	1 May 1946	72 years
54 Signals Unit	1 May 1946	72 years
71 Signals Unit	1 May 1946	72 years
15 Maintenance Unit	1 May 1946	72 years
Regiment Potchefstroomse Universiteit (Dormant)	1 August 1946	72 years
Cape Garrison Artillery	1 August 1946	72 years
Regiment Oranjerivier	1 July 1952	66 years
Transvaalse Staatsartillerie	1 January 1954	65 years
Regiment Mooirivier	1 January 1954	65 years
Regiment Piet Retief	1 January 1954	65 years
Regiment President Kruger	1 January 1954	65 years
Regiment Oos Rand	1 January 1960	59 years
Regiment Vaalrivier	1 January 1960	59 years
Johannesburg Regiment	1 January 1960	59 years
Durban Regiment	1 January 1960	59 years
4 Maintenance Unit	22 August 1961	57 years
30 Field Workshop	22 August 1961	57 years

31 Field Workshop	22 August 1961	57 years
32 Field Workshop	22 August 1961	57 years
Regiment Bloemspuit	1 January 1963	56 years
Regiment Noord Transvaal	1 January 1963	56 years
11 Maintenance Unit	1 January 1963	56 years
Regiment Oos Transvaal	1 October 1964	55 years
11 Field Postal Unit	1 October 1964	55 years
6 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment	1 April 1965	54 years
71 Field Workshop	1 April 1965	54 years
37 Field Workshop	1 June 1967	51 years
Tshwane Regiment	26 September 1968	50 years
19 Field Engineer Regiment	1 December 1970	48 years
2 Parachute Battalion	1 June 1971	47 years
6 Signals Regiment	1 September 1971	47 years
18 Light Regiment	1 August 1975	43 years
3 Parachute Battalion	1 August 1975	43 years
7 Signals Group	1 August 1975	43 years
84 Signal Unit	1 August 1975	43 years
19 Transit Maintenance Unit	1 August 1975	43 years
44 Signal Unit	1 January 1979	40 years
44 Parachute Engineer Regiment	20 April 1979	39 years
44 Anti-Aircraft Regiment	1 January 1985	34 years
44 Maintenance Unit	13 December 1975	33 years
7 Field Workshop	14 January 1986	33 years
Regiment Umzimbuvu	9 February 2016	2 years
2 Tactical Intelligence Regiment	Being formed	N/A

A thousand words...

It has been said that a picture paints a thousand words. Yet while this may be true, there is often a story behind the photograph that many are unaware of.

When one thinks of equipment and technology that has changed the face of war, one immediately thinks of military hardware.

And while there is little doubt that military hardware and technology has changed the way wars are fought, there is another device that we seldom think about. And it is a device that has really changed the way that war is viewed.

It's a device that most of us know how to use, and many of us have one of our own. It's called a camera.

The first known photograph ever taken was by Joseph Nicéphore Niépce in 1826 or 1827, showing a view from a window of his home in France's Burgundy region.

In 1839, the first known photograph of a person was taken in Paris, showing a shoe shiner working on the Boulevard du Temple.

It was Mathew Brady, known as the father of photojournalism, and his employee, Andrew Gardner, that really changed the way people saw war.

Brady began shooting pictures of dead American soldiers on Civil War battlefields.

Prior to the appearance of the camera on the battlefield the only images of war seen by the general public was through the medium of paintings.

Paintings more often than not glorified war. They showed that

when soldiers did die in battle they did so with a shout of patriotism and a smile on their face. The camera changed all that.

The public were exposed to the true horrors of war and it began to dawn on them that maybe war was not as glorious as the generals and politicians claimed it was.

From the American Civil War onwards, the camera was present at nearly every major conflict.

Certain photojournalist made both their living and their reputation on their conflict coverage. And from World War I onwards it was not just the still camera that was capturing images. The movie camera also started coming into its own.

During World War II most of the major protagonists had their own film and media units that produced stories, took photographs, and shot film. The majority was for propaganda purposes.

Yet there were also independent journalists, photojournalists and cameramen. Often they would put their lives at risk to get their stories and capture images.

These independents did not always please the military though. All too often their stories and images contradicted what the military was telling the public.

For example the military might release a statement telling of how they had launched a

successful bombing raid on an enemy industrial complex and put a severe dent in enemy production.

What the statement did not mention was that the industrial complex was in the middle of a major city.

The public would then be exposed to photographs of the damage caused to the city, and of the civilian casualties - men, women and children.

It was probably during the Vietnam War that the television camera came into its own. Within hours of an event happening, the major networks were broadcasting footage of the event. And often it was very graphic.

Many people have claimed that it was this footage that turned American public opinion against the war in Vietnam.

These days the camera is everywhere and, with modern digital technology, nothing tends to escape the lens.

Cameras have become smaller while the quality of the photos and video they shoot has become exceptional.

Many troops now have small cameras mounted on their helmets that are capable of filming and transmitting live real-time footage.

Just about everyone in a combat zone, both military and civilians, will have a smart phone capable of taking high resolution photographs and video. And within minutes the photo-

graphs or video is available for the world to see on websites such as YouTube and Facebook.

All you need to do is a search on sites such as YouTube and you will find hundreds and hun-

dreds of hours of footage to watch.

Many of the new cameras, including those on smart phones, are capable of live-streaming. That means you can watch foot-

age as it is happening.

This article looks at some of the most iconic photographs of war and, where possible, gives a bit of background to the photograph.

The Battle of Antietam was perhaps one of the bloodiest of the American Civil War.

Andrew (Alexander) Gardner took 70 photographs of the dead lying in the fields.

This was the first time that dead soldiers had been photographed on a battlefield.

He later put them on display in New York City and the public was horrified. It was the first time that the true horrors of war had been brought home to them.



Robert Capa was probably one of the most famous conflict photojournalists of the mid-20th century.

This photograph, taken during the Spanish Civil War, was titled 'The Falling Soldier'.

Since the 1970s, doubt has been cast on the authenticity of the image, with many suggesting that the photograph was staged. Either way, it remains one of history's most famous war photographs.



This photograph, taken in 1943, shows the Jewish people of the Warsaw Ghetto in Poland surrendering to the Nazis. It was likely taken by a Nazi photographer named Franz Konrad.

The nine-year old boy in the photograph may have been Tsvi Nussbaum, who later became a doctor in New York. The claim was, however, never proved.

What made the photograph so heart-wrenching was that most of those shown in the photographs would die in Auschwitz.



Probably one of the most reproduced photographs ever. Five Marines and a Navy corpsman plant a US flag on top of Mount Suribachi after the bloody battle for Iwo Jima in 1945.

The photograph was taken by Joe Rosenthal, who also faced suspicions that he staged the patriotic scene. Yet the event did happen.

What many don't realise is that this photograph shows the second raising of the flag that day.

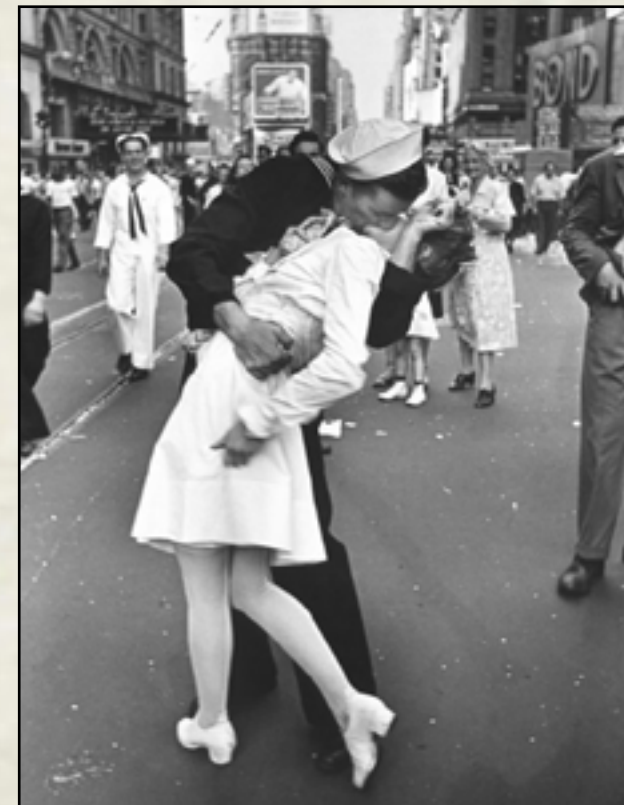
The first flag, raised hours earlier, was deemed to be too small to be seen from the base of the mountain.



Soviet soldiers plant the Russian flag atop the Reichstag to conclude the Battle of Berlin and, in effect, the end of the war in Europe and their victory over Nazi Germany.

The photo was shot by Soviet photographer Yevgeny Khaldei and shows Alyosha Kovalyov and Abdulkhakim Ismailov raising the hammer and sickle.

But the truth behind the photo, who was in the photo, and who actually raised the Soviet victory banner, was muddled by the Russian propaganda machine for decades.



World War II was officially over, and people were celebrating the fact. This iconic photograph of an American sailor kissing a woman in Times Square became a symbol of the joy and excitement at the end of the war.

Alfred Eisenstaedt from *Life* took the photograph, but didn't get the names of the two people. Over the years several people have claimed to be the kissers.

A book released in 2015 identifies the pair as George Mendonsa and Greta Zimmer Friedman.



South Vietnamese General Nguyen Ngoc Loan, chief of the National Police, summarily executes a man on a Saigon street during the 1968 Tet Offensive. The photo was taken by Eddie Adams and was shown around the world and displayed at anti-war demonstrations in the US.

What was perhaps not common knowledge was that the person shot was Nguyen Van Lem (also known as Bay Lop), a Viet Cong intelligence officer. Spies, or soldiers operating in civilian dress, are not covered by the Geneva Convention and can be summarily executed.

Taken by Nick Ut, this photo shows terrified Vietnamese children running down Route 1 near Trang Bang after an aerial napalm attack on suspected Viet Cong hiding places on 8 June 1972.

It was also shown around the world and used in anti-war demonstrations to show the atrocities committed by the Americans in Vietnam.

But it was not the Americans that carried out the raid. A South Vietnamese plane accidentally dropped napalm on its own soldiers and civilians.

The naked girl is nine-year old Kim Phuc. She survived and is now a Canadian citizen, running a foundation that assists children injured and traumatized by war.



Following a crackdown that resulted in the deaths of hundreds of student demonstrators in Beijing, a lone Chinese protester steps in front of People's Liberation Army tanks in Tiananmen Square in 1989.

The event was captured by at least five photographers. The identity and fate of the man in the photograph is unknown. It is, however, claimed that he wasn't even one of the student demonstrators, merely someone that wanted to show his disapproval at the government's reaction to the situation.



President Barack Obama and members of his national security team watch anxiously as they monitor the raid by US Navy's SEAL Team 6 that killed Osama bin Laden in 2011.

White House photographer Pete Souza captured the tension of the moment.

The things we do for love

Even those serving in the military are not immune to the power of love.

As this month is Valentine's Day I pondered doing an article with a romantic twist to it. The only problem was that romance and the military are generally not mentioned in the same sentence.

Still, I did manage to come up with something and trust that you will enjoy it.

The first thing to look at is something that most readers that did National Service or any form of military service will be aware of. The 'Dear John' letter.

A Dear John letter is a letter written to a man by his wife or romantic partner to inform him their relationship is over.

While the exact origins of the phrase are unknown, it is commonly believed to have been coined by Americans during World War II. "John" was the most popular and common baby name for boys in America every single year from 1880 through 1923, making it a reasonable 'placeholder' name when denoting those of age for military service.

Large numbers of American troops were stationed overseas for many months or years, and as time passed many of their wives or girlfriends decided to begin a relationship with a new man rather than to wait for the original one to return.

Most of those that served in the South African Defence Force were aware of 'Dear

John' letters, and more than a few conscripts were unfortunate enough to receive one.

It was usually in the third week of basic training when the 'Dear John' letters began to arrive. Let's go into a bit more detail regarding the 'Dear John' type of letter.

It must be remembered that the vast majority of the conscripts were still in their late teens with the average age being 18. The age when first love normally starts to blossom and high school romances abound.

When called up for national service many of the conscripts had girlfriends and sweethearts. It was his greatest fear that his girlfriend would dump him or play the field while he was away.

On the other hand it was unreasonable to expect a young girl of 16 or 17 to remain true to a boyfriend whom she could only expect to see at very infrequent intervals for the next year.

From 1978 it became even more difficult because now her boyfriend would be away for two years.

A 'Dear John' letter was usually sent to a conscript from his girlfriend and basically said, "you've been dumped".

Naturally this was often very traumatic for someone who was already trying to cope with the trauma of national service. It is a sad fact that more than one national serviceman committed

suicide after receiving a 'Dear John' letter.

James (18) was a corporal that took conscripts for basic training and he explains further.

"We were warned to keep an eye on troops that had received a Dear John letter. Some of them took it very hard and would not accept the fact that they had been dumped.

"It was not uncommon for them to try and go AWOL. They reasoned that if they could just get back home and speak to their girlfriend everything would be sorted out. While we may have sympathised with them, there was no ways that troops could just come and go as they liked. The SADF took a dim view on this.

"This sometimes caused animosity towards the SADF. A guy's girlfriend would dump him and he would deduce that the reason he had been dumped was because he had been called up for his national service. Score one point against the SADF.

"Now the SADF wouldn't allow him to go home and sort the matter out. The guy would now have a very negative attitude towards the SADF and his military training.

"Those guys were easy enough to handle though. What used to worry me were the guys who became depressed on being dumped. Some of them became suicidal and this used to scare me. I had a troop that tried to



GOOD NEWS, OR NOT: One of the things that any soldier appreciates are letters from back home. Unless, of course, they contain bad news such as a 'Dear John'.

kill himself because of a 'Dear John' letter.

"He went into the showers at about three in the morning and tried to hang himself with his toggle rope. Luckily one of the other troops went to the toilet and found him.

"The poor guy was sent to One Military Hospital for observation. I don't know what happened to him, but he never returned to our unit."

Most of the troops took 'Dear John' letters in their stride and some went even one step better. Vernon (18) underwent basic training at One Parachute Battalion in Tempe. He remembers how one particular young man dealt with his 'Dear John' letter.

"We had a guy by the name of Ian in our section and he was a total hooligan. In about the third week of basics Ian's girlfriend sent him a 'Dear John' letter.

"She told him that their relationship was over and that he must send her photograph back to her. Ian was a bit miffed with her and decided to get her back.

"He went around to every-

one in our company and asked if they could give him a spare photograph of their girlfriend, sister, mother, aunt, any photograph as long as it was female.

"Ian collected about 40 photographs. He posted his girlfriend's photograph, along with the other 40-odd photos, to her with the following note.

"Dear K....., I'm not sure which photograph in this pile is yours. Please take your photograph and send the remainder back to me. Thanks, Ian."

"Needless to say he never heard from her again. I wonder what she must have thought. It sure gave us a damn good laugh though."

Yet there was more to it than just 'Dear John' letters. Take Harry for example. He did his National Service in 1976 and did his basic training at the Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg.

"After about four weeks of basics we were informed that there was going to be a visitors day. This meant that parents and family could come and spend a

day with you.

"My parents lived in Durban and they said that they couldn't travel nearly 600 km just to spend a few hours with me. I fully understood.

"I had become really good mates with Dave. He was in the same section as me and his parents lived in Johannesburg, which was only about 45 km away. He asked me if I wanted to spend the day with them and I was more than happy.

"Dave's family, consisted of his father, mother, brother, and sister, arrived and we went down to a spot next to the lake. They had brought a picnic basket along and it was the first time since I had arrived in the army that I actually ate a good meal.

"The best thing about visitor's day was my friend's sister. She was really cute and we got on very well that day. Afterwards she wrote to me and we continued our correspondence for the rest of my national service.

"We've now been married for 39 years and have a 37 year old daughter, a 35 year old son and three grandchildren.

"If it wasn't for national service I never would have met Dave and, naturally, would never have met the girl that became my wife."

Clive was 18 when he did national service and will never forget a train trip that he undertook.

"I was stationed at Ondangwa and was returning from my seven day pass. Two of my mates, Brian and Mike, were with me. When we arrived at Waterkloof Airbase we found that we were not booked on the flight back

to Grootfontein. This was often the case. People would arrive and then be told that they were not booked on the flight. Even though the arrangements and bookings had been done weeks or sometimes months before.

"We managed to phone through to our company in Ondangwa and spoke to the company adjutant. We told him what had happened and informed him that there was space on a flight in two weeks time. So we would book on that and return then.

"Nice try," he told me.

"We were then booked on a train and told to go through to Pretoria to collect our tickets and meal and bedding vouchers. The train would leave from Johannesburg station the following morning at 10.00 am.

"The three of us returned to our respective homes and met at 9.30 the following morning. All of us had stocked up on booze for the trip. We were booked into a 2nd class compartment and we had the entire compartment to ourselves. Normally a compartment could sleep six people with two top bunks, two middle bunks and two bottom bunks.

"The train we were on was the Trans-Karoo that ran between Johannesburg and Cape Town. It was a normal civvie train and we were the only army guys on it. It was actually quite cool because the train had a dining saloon and a lounge car with a bar.

"When you travelled by train you were given meal vouchers and bedding vouchers. This meant that you would get a properly made bed to sleep in

each night and all your meals were paid for. I must say that the service on the trains back then was great. Lunch was a five course meal and supper a seven course one.

"We went through to lunch and at about seven that evening we had supper in the dining car. After that we went to the lounge car and had a few drinks. We met two girls that were out from Germany and we spent the time chatting them up.

"Just before 10.00 pm we pulled in to De Aar station and we had to return to our coach. Our coach was then detached from the train and shunted off to a siding. The Trans-Karoo, with our two hot little German girls, then proceeded on its journey to Cape Town.

"On our return to the compartment we found that our beds had been made up and we went to sleep. Our coach would remain in De Aar until 5.00 pm the following evening when it would then be connected to the Windhoek train.

"We were up bright and early the next morning but couldn't get breakfast.

"At about 8.00 am we decided to climb off the train and take a walk about. We used a pair of thin nosed pliers to lock our compartment door but we did take our rifles with us.

"I'm not sure what De Aar looks like these days. But back then it was a one-horse town and the horse had died years before. There was nothing, and I mean nothing, to do in De Aar. We did find a small hall where the *Dankie Tanies* had set up a place for you to get a free cup of coffee or tea and a piece of

cake. Other than that there was bugger all to do.

"We bought some lunch at a small cafe. I think I had a Russian sausage and chips. It took less than half an hour to walk around the entire town. There was a hotel with a bar but it was off limits to troops.

"We went back to the train at about 3.00 pm and just sat and waited. Eventually we were hooked up to the Windhoek train and set off. There was no lounge car on the train but thankfully there was a dining saloon. We went through to supper and I met the most beautiful girl who was sitting alone at a table. I asked her if we could join her and she said yes.

"If I remember correctly the trip took three days and three nights. She would be on the train for two nights and two days before she climbed off.

"She was a nurse at some small place in South West Africa. The two of us hit it off and I invited her back to our compartment. Each compartment had a two-prong socket where you could plug in an electric razor. Naturally you could also plug in a radio and Mike had a boom box with a cassette tape, so we were able to listen to music.

"We broke out our booze and had a hell of a party. She went back to her compartment at about 1.00 am.

"The next morning we met at breakfast and afterwards she came back to the compartment with me. We had a great day chatting and listening to music. By the time supper arrived I had fallen head over heels in love with her. And she said she felt the same way about me. It



ROMANCE ON THE RAILS: Clive met the girl of his dreams on a train trip to Windhoek. But it was not meant to be.

was our last night together and we stayed up the whole night. It was all very innocent mind you. All we did was kiss and touch. It was actually quite romantic.

"We arrived at her station just before 4.00 pm. Before she left she gave me a photograph of her. On the back she had written her name, address and telephone number. I was almost in tears when she climbed off. I told her that I would write to her as soon as I arrived back at camp and that I would make a plan to see her as soon as possible.

"That night, our last night on the train, Brian, Mike and I really got trashed.

"We ended up having a party in the dining saloon with some of the railway staff that worked in the kitchen and dining saloon.

"The next morning we arrived in Windhoek and from there we would travel by railway bus through to Grootfontein. I had the photograph she had given me in my left hand shirt pocket, close to my heart. I turned the

photograph over and nearly had a heart attack.

"She had written her name and address on the back with a black marker pen. It was early November and as anyone knows that has even been there, South West Africa gets hot. I had been sweating and it had caused the ink to run. I couldn't make out a single thing that had been written on the back. I was almost in tears.

"As hard as I tried I couldn't remember her surname, the hospital where she worked, or even the name of the town where she was.

"It gutted me to think that she must have sat there waiting for a letter or to hear from me, and never did. She must have thought I was an utter bastard. But it wasn't my fault and I don't think she will ever realise how hurt I was about the whole thing. It was without doubt the worst experience of my army days."

The last story is from Gary, who did national service in 1977.

"I did basics at 5 SAI in Ladysmith. I lived in Durban, so it wasn't so bad.

"We spent five months on the border and in the first month that I was there I received a letter from a young schoolgirl.

"Back then some schools would have an entire class write letters to troops on the border. These would then be distributed and they were basically letters from the kids telling how much they appreciated what we were doing.

"I got a letter from a 13-year old girl and there was a return address. I wrote back and thanked her for the letter.

"She wrote back to me and we ended up corresponding for the entire time I was on the border.

"When I finished my national service we continued to correspond. About a year later she wrote and told me that she would be coming down to Durban on holiday with her family. We arranged to meet.

"I had spoken to her on the phone numerous times and I really liked her. When we met she was 15 and I was 19. She was the most beautiful girl I had ever seen.

"Four years later we got engaged and a year later we were married. We're still happily married and best of all, we both kept all our letters. We often sit and look through some of them.

"How many of your readers can beat that?"

So I guess that at the end of the day romance can still be found in the strangest of places.

General Botha Old Boy's Association awards Lawhill Bursary

SATS General Botha Old Boy's Association once again show their commitment to the South African youth.

By: Lt Cdr Glenn von Zeil, SA Naval Reserves

Photographs: Regine Lord

For the second year running the S.A.T.S. General Botha Old Boy's Association, under the chairmanship of Capt Tony Nicholas, have awarded a Lawhill bursary to TS Woltemade Sea Cadet to further their maritime studies at Lawhill Maritime Centre in Simon's Town.

This action demonstrates the long term association which S.A.T.S. General Botha Old Boy's have established with the Sea Cadets Corps to provide suitable maritime training for scholars.

The S.A.T.S. General Botha was a decommissioned British Cruiser which was purchased by Capt TB Davis, a Master Mariner, entrepreneur, yachtsman and philanthropist as a training platform for the Cape Town Naval Cadet Corps in 1920. It was sailed to Simon's Town by Naval Cadets under the guidance of experienced officers. As a result there is a strong bond between the Sea Cadets and the S.A.T.S. General Botha Old Boy's.

TS Woltemade is one of several Sea Cadet units throughout South Africa who provide nautical and maritime training to the youth between

13 to 18 years. These units are staffed by qualified volunteer adult instructors drawn from the SA Navy, maritime occupations, ex Sea Cadets and parents.

This bursary was awarded to Able Seaman Jody Terri Muleshi who is an active member of the TS Woltemade ship's company living in Table View where she is at high school. She is the eldest of two children and has a younger 9 year old brother. On Saturdays she attends TS Woltemade activities where she has grown to enjoy the mar-

itime and nautical opportunities offered.

Able Seaman Muleshi is active in the Beconridge Methodist Church, enjoys netball, hockey and hiking to balance the other aspects of her life in her spare time.

Initially Able Seaman Muleshi researched career options and wanted to become a urologist as she was studying maths and science and had learnt that the nation needed urologists. As her high school and sea cadet activities provided more insight and opportunities she changed and focussed her mind on seamanship, sailing and boating opportunities at TS Woltemade. This convinced her that she wanted to be a ship's Captain. Not just any ship's Captain, but the best she could be.

She recited the Sea Cadets code of conduct flawlessly with confidence at the annual prize giving parade.

The Sea Cadet Code of Conduct reads:

"Through Honour and Skill, I shall diligently strive to uphold the core Values of Integrity, Excellence and Service of the South

African sea Cadets, all of which embody Honesty, Morality, Loyalty, Responsibility, Accountability, Self-Respect, Discipline and Obedience.

Thus by my actions and words will I strive to encourage valuable personal attributes and high standards of conduct both within myself and in my fellow Officers, Instructors and Cadets and any other persons with whom I interact."

Able Seaman Muleshi's advice to the South African youth is "to grab every opportunity" in order to develop the nation and to "never be scared to achieve what you want."

Thank you to the S.A.T.S. General Botha Old Boy's Association group of "old salts" who have again proven that they are committed in assisting the South African youth with their seafaring dreams whilst keeping the values of their old training ship alive.

Should you wish to assist the S.A.T.S. General Botha Old Boy's Association please contact:

Captain Tony Nicholas – cptchairman@generalbotha.co.za / www.generalbotha.co.za

For more information or assistance to the South African Sea Cadets please contact:

Captain (SCC) Ian Loubser – sosc@seacadets.org.za

For information or assistance to Lawhill Maritime Centre contact:

www.lawhill.org



THANK YOU: TS Woltemade Sea Cadet is awarded prestigious S.A.T.S. General Botha Old Boy's Association bursary for Lawhill Academy, Simon's Town High School.

Left to Right: Mr H. James, Capt Tony Nicholas, Chairman S.A.T.S. General Botha Old Boy's Association, Lt Cdr (SCC) Paul Jacobs, Officer Commanding TS Woltemade, Able Seaman Jody Muleshi, Mr Peter Coetzee Vice Chairman S.A.T.S. General Botha Old Boy's Association, Capt K. Cox.



MAKING A CHOICE: Able Seaman Jody Muleshi with, Nelson and Abrahams, from TS Woltemade Sea Cadets choosing Answer Series study guides from the ship's library.



**Able Seaman
Jody Muleshi**

Valentine's - the real story



Forget what you've heard about St. Valentine's Day. Here is the real story, straight from the horses mouth.
By St. Valentine.

Hey there, let me kick off by introducing myself. My name is Valentine, but my mates call me Val. So I guess you can as well.

My crib was in Rome. You know, the big place in Italy with the Coliseum and people that drive like lunatics. But I lived there a long, long time ago. During the third century to be exact. I think Moses was still playing goalkeeper for Israel back in those days.

Anyway, the main dude back in Rome in those days was a guy by the name of Claudius. Or Emperor Claudius as he liked to call himself, ruler of Rome. Now I didn't dig Claudius one little bit. Neither did anyone for that matter. He was a bit of a nut job if you ask me and he was about as popular as a nest of ants at a Sunday School picnic.

Although Claudius was emperor of Rome, this was not enough. No, this basket case wanted to rule the world. To do this he needed a big army, didn't he? After all, he couldn't just go out by himself and pick fights with other countries. He would have had the crap knocked out of him.

Claudius was like so many dictators, If they can't get what

they want, then the raise a massive army and go out and take what they want.

And I'm sure that, like most dictators, Claudius wouldn't be at the front of his army leading it. No, he would be sitting safely back in Rome telling them to capture this, pillage that and generally kill and maim all before them.

I'm sure that Claudius thought that everyone else was as mad as he was. He expected all the men to volunteer to join the army. Can you credit it? This yo-yo really expects men to sign on the dotted line, get shoved in a uniform, and go out and get killed. What was Claudius smoking?

Of course not many men were stupid enough to join the army. Most of them were married and let's be honest, who wants to leave some hot chick to go off and play soldiers? Naturally old Claudie baby was not happy with this. He threw his toys out of the cot. Big time!

So what did he do? You won't believe the crazy idea he came up with. He must have been up all night smoking his dope again. Claudius decides that if the men were not married there would be no hot chicks for them to go home to, and therefore no

reason not to volunteer for the army. Hello!

So Claudius passes a law which basically says: "Thou shalt not get married and have legal nooky". The people went ballistic. Especially the young guys. How could Claudius be harsh enough to pass a law like that?

Now something that I may not have mentioned up until now is the fact that I was a priest. Yeah, I know it's hard to believe, but I was a man of the cloth. Good old Val was a devil dodger, a soul mechanic, a sky pilot. One of my favourite activities was marrying people. Back in those days they really knew how to throw a wedding reception. Not like these days where you're lucky if you get a plate of snacks. Back then they would really go all out. A couple of sheep on the spit and enough barrels of beer and wine to float a navy.

There was nothing that I liked more than a good wedding reception. Now even though Emperor Claudius had passed his mad law, I was not about to stop performing marriage ceremonies. Hey, I never could listen to authority. That's how I ended up in the priesthood in the first place. But that's another story.



I thought; "Up thoust Claudius thou dickhead". If people still wanted to get shackled, I would perform the ceremony. Naturally this had to be done in secret. Claudius wasn't known for his sense of humour and I have no doubt that he would have been a bit miffed if he found out I was breaking his law.

It was kind of exciting though. Imagine the scene: a small candlelit room with just the bride, the groom, and myself. I would whisper the words of the ceremony, listening at all times for the footsteps of soldiers.

It was all rather stimulating, although I must confess that I did miss the big receptions.

One night I'm busy marrying this cute little couple when I do hear footsteps.

As a man of the cloth I was expected to be cool, calm and collected.

Forget that my pal. I wet my cloth. Thankfully the couple I was marrying took off like a couple of cats with a pit bull after them. I was not so lucky and I was busted. I was not quite as

light on my feet as I used to be.

Okay, okay, too many good wedding receptions, I know. Don't rub it in.

So I get dragged off and thrown into the slammer. As expected, Claudius was not in the least amused. He sentenced me to death. Look, I knew that he would be a bit upset with me, but I hadn't seen that one coming. Death! This guy was madder than I thought.

Now back in those days, a death sentence in Rome was no laughing matter. They had some pretty cruel ways of carrying out the sentence. One of their favourites was to throw you to the lions. And I was not looking forward to providing lunch to a pack of mangy lions.

I tried to look on the bright side of things. As if there was a bright side of things. But I must admit that it wasn't all doom and gloom. While sitting in my cell waiting for sentence to be carried out, many young people came and visited me.

They threw flowers and notes up to my window. They wanted

me to know that they also believed in love. All very sweet, but I wish they could have thrown up a roast chicken or two. The food in prison was crap.

One of the youngsters that came to visit me often was the daughter of the chief prison guard. Her old man allowed her to visit me in the cell.

She was a cute little thing and made me seriously regret the vows of chastity I had taken. We would often sit and talk for hours and she kept my spirits up. She said that I did the right thing by ignoring the emperor and by going ahead with the secret marriages. All very well for her. She wasn't going to feature as the main event at the Colosseum. Still, she was very sweet and touching.

On the day I was to die, I left her a note thanking her for her friendship and loyalty. I signed it: "Love from your Valentine."

I believe that note started the custom of exchanging love messages. It was written on the day I died. February 14, 269 AD.

Now this day is called Valentine's Day - named after me of course. Now every year on this day people remember me. They all give Claudius the finger and let him know that love can never be beaten.

**With humble apologies to St. Valentine. The above story is based on fact. But it's probably not quite the way St. Valentine would have told it. Still, who knows?*

Sea Cadets appreciate Bosun's Call. By Lt Cdr Glenn von Zeil, SA Naval Reserves.

The Bosun's Call or Bosun's Pipe was used in days of sail to communicate commands on board ships, especially to those men in the rigging who were adjusting the sails.

In modern navies it fulfils a functional ceremonial purpose used to announce daily evolutions, including sunset, colours, call the hands at “wakey wakey”, summons the officer of the day, announce meals, rounds and pipe down.

It is also the symbol of office of a Master a Arms or Cox'n and is displayed on a silver chair worn around the neck.

As in the SA Navy the Sea Cadets use Bosun's Calls for the same purposes and you Cadets are taught the art of "piping" early on in their cadet experience.

There is nothing like the piercing sound of a Bosuns Call piping “Wakey Wakey, rise and shine, heavo, heavo, lash up and stow” or other humorous variations at 0500 to rouse the hands.

As Bosun's Calls are not manufactured in South Africa these are valued items in both the SA Navy and Sea Cadet Corps.

The ACME Whistle Company in London, England and benefactors, Michael Pinner in London with another mystery benefactor, purchased and donated two Bosun's Calls to each South African Sea Cadet Unit.

Two were also procured and are available to the Zimbabwe



ROMANCE ON THE RAILS: Sea Cadets from TS Woltemade, lakeside Cape Town, practice piping as part of their formative training under instruction of their Officer Commanding, Lt Cdr (SCC) Paul Jacobs.

Unit, TS Matebele, based in Bulawayo.

The Officers Commanding and Sea Cadets from the South African Units are appreciative of this kind gesture as it ensures that Sea Cadets will have Bosun's Calls to practice their piping as well as fulfil the ceremonial functions within the units.

This will ensure that Naval and Nautical traditions are maintained and that South African Sea Cadets can participate equally with other Sea Cadets on an international platform.

Thank you to ACME whistle Company and Michael Pinner, in London, and the mystery South African benefactor for making this possible.

Photographs: Lt Cdr Glenn von Zeil, S/Lt Denis Gouws.



PIPE OFF: Sea Cadets from TS Tiburon, Durban, hold a “pipe off” in order to establish who is the best qualified to use a Bosun’s Call.



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”

Rank Structure Indian Army

Over the next few months we will be running a series of articles looking at the rank structure of various armed forces. This month we look at the Indian Army.

The Indian Army is the third largest standing army in the world, with over 1,325,000 active troops and 2,143,000 reserve troops.

Their ranks structure is based on that of the British Army.



Sepoy

The Sepoys identify themselves according to the Corps that they serve in. For example, a sepoy from Signals will identify him as Signaller, from Infantry as Rifleman and from the Armoured Corps as Gunner.

Non-Commissioned Officers

Lance Naik (Infantry) Acting Lance Daffadar (Cavalry and Armoured Regiments)

Promotion is by selection.

Retirement – After 22 years service or at the age of 48, whichever is earlier.



Naik (Infantry) Lance Daffadar (Cavalry and Armoured Regiments)

Retirement – After 24 years service or at the age of 49, whichever is earlier.

Havildar (Infantry) Daffadar (Cavalry and Armoured Regiments)

Promotion is by selection.

Retirement – After 26 years service or at the age of 49, whichever is earlier.



Quarter Master Havildar (Infantry) Quarter Master Daffadar (Cavalry and Armoured Regiments)

Promotion is by selection.

Retirement – After 26 years service or at the age of 49, whichever is earlier.

Junior Commissioned Officers

Naib Subedar (Infantry) Naib Risaldar (Cavalry and Armoured Regiments)

Promotion by selection.

Retirement – After 28 years service or at the age of 52, whichever is earlier.



Subedar (Infantry) Risaldar (Cavalry and Armoured Regiments)

Promotion by selection.

Retirement – After 30 years service or at the age of 52, whichever is earlier.

Subedar Major (Infantry) Risaldar Major (Cavalry and Armoured Regiments)

Promotion by selection.

Retirement – After 34 years service or at the age of 54, whichever is earlier



Commissioned Officers

Lieutenant

Rank achieved on commissioning into Indian Army as an Officer.



Captain

Timebound promotion on completion of two years commissioned service.



Major

Timebound promotion on completion of six years commissioned service.



Lieutenant Colonel

Timebound promotion on completion of 13 years commissioned service.



Colonel

Colonels may be promoted by selection (after 15 years of commissioned service) or may be promoted (time-scale) after 26 years of commissioned service. Time-scale Colonels may, however, only hold the portfolio of a Lt. Colonel.

Retirement – At the age of 54.



Brigadier

Brigadiers are promoted by selection (after 25 years of commissioned service).

Retirement – At the age of 56.



Major General

Major Generals are promoted by selection (after 32 years of commissioned service).

Retirement – At the age of 58.



Lieutenant General

Lieutenant generals are appointed only by selection (after 36 years of commissioned service) and may hold the position of a Vice Chief of Army Staff or Army Commanders.

Retirement – At the age of 60.



General

Apart from the honorary rank of Field Marshal, this is the highest rank held by an Army officer. It is only the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) who holds this rank.

Retirement – After three years as COAS or at the age of 62, whichever is earlier.



Field Marshal

The Field Marshal rank is the highest rank in the Indian Army. It is a ceremonial or wartime rank and Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw and Field Marshal KM Cariappa have been the only two officers to be elevated to the rank of Field Marshal.



A matter of survival - Finding Food IV

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 birds, reptiles and insects as a source of food.

The dictionary defines survival as “the state or fact of continuing to live or exist, typically in spite of an accident, ordeal, or difficult circumstances.”

One of the important factors in survival is finding a source of food. And by food we are often talking about the kind of thing that will not be included in your monthly grocery list.

Birds, reptiles and insects are a good source of food. Normally they are readily available. But there are certain factors that need to be taken into consideration.

Birds

The good news is that all birds are edible, but some taste a damn side better than others.

While most of us would enjoy a good chicken curry or some fried chicken, not many of us would be than keen on eating boiled crow.

Birds occur everywhere - open sea, deserts, high in mountains and even in polar regions. They thing is that they are not always that easy to catch.

Game birds make the best eating: pheasants, grouse, partridge, ducks, geese and guinea fowl are delicious if you can find them. Many of them are wary and not easy to catch.

Birds of prey need to be thoroughly boiled to both tenderise them and destroy parasites. Sea birds can be oily and fishy-tasting.

Traps: The easiest birds to trap are birds of prey, such as eagles and hawks, carrion eaters such as vultures, and inquisitive scavengers such as crows and gulls.

Cage traps, deadfalls and spring snares can be used for birds that take bait. Nooses on branches may catch roosting birds. You can bait traps with meat, fruit or berries.

You can also use pole-nooses, lines with baited hooks and gullet jammers.

Small birds are easy to lime and can be attracted by bait.

Tracks and signs: Most tracks are broadly similar and indicate only the size of the bird, except for those with webbed feet.

Nesting birds: Eggs are easily available from ground nesters, and many nest in colonies.

Approach carefully, crawling and not walking. You may even get close enough to throw a stone or club a bird on the nest.

Just remember that some birds, such as gulls, guard their nests tenaciously. If you enter a colony be prepared to be attacked.

Flightless

birds: A good example of this in Africa is the Ostrich. They are large and flightless. Their eggs will feed a large group and they make useful containers.

Treat them with caution. An ostrich can deliver bone-breaking kicks and they can become very aggressive.

Reptiles

These actually make pretty good eating. Just remember that some can be extremely dangerous.

Crocodiles

They can be found in most subtropical and tropical regions. Those under 1.3 metres are potential food.

Large crocs should be avoided. They are virtually armour-plated and some are cunning and aggressive. In areas where they are known to live, always assume that they are about.

They have excellent camouflage and can lie underwater for hours waiting for a meal to step within range. Make sure that you're not on their menu.

Their tails can inflict a scything blow that is almost as damaging as their teeth.

Talking about tails, the best meat is from the tail which is firm and very tasty.

Traps: Set by water for small

crocs or catch them on a line with a stick wedged in the bait to lodge in the gullet. Kill with a sharp blow between the eyes.

Lizards

All lizards can be eaten. Most are timid and not easy to catch. Some of them, such as iguanas and monitors can inflict a bad bite and have powerful claws.

Try to catch lizards by the tail, but small ones can move really fast. They can sometimes be trapped in a pit, so look out for them in a solar still. You can set traps for larger ones.

Turtles and tortoises

These make good eating. Turtles spend their lives mostly in salt or fresh water, emerging to lay eggs, but a few are terrestrial.

Use a stick to turn them onto their backs. This makes them defenceless. Just watch out for their jaws.

Kill with a sharp blow to the back of the head. Cut through the belly and discard the guts and remove the head and neck. The best method of cooking is to boil it.

The meat is very rich, so eat in small amounts. The blood is even richer. Eggs found inside females can be eaten.

Tortoises can retract

their heads, so you will probably have to stab into it with a stick. Roast ungutted in embers, when the shell splits they are ready to eat.

Tracks: Females coming ashore to lay eggs leave a tractor-like trail on the sand. They will lead you to where the eggs are buried, but you're probably going to have to dig deep to uncover them. Boil the eggs and they will keep for a couple of days.

Amphibians

Frogs are all edible, from tiny tree frogs to African giants, with legs as large as a chicken.

Some frogs have poisons under the skin, so remove the skin before cooking.

Frogs are usually found near water and they are active at night. Their croaking will help you locate them. Dazzle them with light, such as a torch or even a firebrand will do, then club them.

During the day hunt them with a hook and line and an insect-like lure. The legs of large frogs are delicious and taste like chicken.

Warning: Do not eat toads.

They have warty skins and may be found far from water. Most have highly toxic skin secretions.

Snakes

A snake is a stake. Overcome your fear of them and learn their habits.

Listen, no matter how hungry you are, do not try and catch one if you know it is highly poisonous, that is too large, or if you're ill equipped.

The African python can grow up to 10 metres in length. They are easy to catch, but do not tackle large ones. While they are not poisonous, their back-raked teeth can give a serious bite.

Snakes have excellent camouflage and often only movement will give them away.

Use a forked stick just behind the snake's head to pin it down. Use another stick to club it behind the head.

Never pick a snake up, or even go close to it, until you are sure that it is dead. A few, including poisonous ones, can feign death convincingly.



Welcome to your most reliable source of animal food. Although the are usually very small you can find them almost anywhere and there are almost always enough of them to quickly gather a meal.

Weight for weight they give more food value than vegetables. Rich in fat, protein and carbohydrates, they are lifesavers.

Gathering

The most useful are termites, ants, beetles, grasshoppers, locusts, crickets, honey bees, caterpillars and various aquatic insects.

Look for insects in nooks and crannies of trees and behind their bark, in the tissues and seed pods of plants, in any moist shady spots, and on the bed of pools and streams. Ant and termite nests are often immediately recognisable mounds.

Take care when foraging for insects. Their hiding places may also harbour unwelcome visitors such as scorpions and spiders or, in larger crannies, snakes.

Collect only living insects. Avoid any that look sick or dead, have a bad smell or pro-

duce skin irritation when handled.

Brightly coloured insects - including their caterpillars - are usually poisonous. Their bright colours are the warning sign.

Do not eat insects feeding on refuse, carrion, or dung. They are likely to carry infection.

Avoid grubs found on the underside of leaves. They often secrete poisonous fluids. Bad smelling and slimy to the touch, they can be used as fish bait.

Beware of large beetles. They often have powerful jaws and can give a nasty bite.

Preparation

Most insects are edible raw and they're usually more nutritious that way. But they are more palatable cooked.

Boiling is the safest method as it destroys harmful bacteria and parasites. Roasting is easier if you don't have the proper containers to boil. Just place your dinner on hot stones or in the embers of a fire and you're good to go.

Remove legs and wings from larger insects such as locusts, grasshoppers and crickets. Fine hairs can irritate or even block

the digestive tract.

Fine hairs on caterpillars can cause a rash. If you want to eat a hairy caterpillar, squeeze it to extract the innards. Don't eat the skin. Take the armoured casing off beetles.

Smaller insects such as ants and termites can be mashed to a paste and then either cooked or dried to a powder.

Use this powder to thicken other foods or for storage - it will keep for some time.

People who cannot abide the idea of insects in their food will find a powder easier to eat, especially in soups or mixed with other food.

Bees, wasps and hornets

All are edible - pupae, larvae and adult - but the honeybee also provides honey. This is the finest of all natural foods, easily digestible and highly nutritious - but not easy to collect, as bees guard their nest tenaciously.

During the day worker bees venture far from the nest, but all gather there at night. This is the best time to strike. Make a torch from a bundle of grass and hold it very close to the entrance so that the next fills with smoke. Then seal the hole. This kills the bees, providing an immediate meal, and making their honey safely available.

Remove the wings, legs and sting from bees, wasps and hornets before eating.

Be careful as all can sting and the hornet in particular can deliver a really painful sting.

Next month we will looking at making traps and trapping food.



Modern Assault Rifles

These are the new boys on the block, modern assault rifles that are currently being used by Armed Forces around the world. We show you 15 of them, you tell us what they are. You'll find the answers to the quiz on page 84.

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Infantry Fighting Vehicles

This month ten of the best infantry fighting vehicles go head-to-head. This analysis is based on the combined score of protection, firepower, mobility and passenger capacity.

Since war was first waged you will normally always find the infantry in the thick of the action.

One of the problems faced by commanders was how to get the infantry to the battlefield. Long route marches with heavy kit could see the infantry arrived on the battlefield exhausted.

During World War I trucks

were often used to transport infantry close enough to the battle. The term 'motorised infantry' began to be used.

During World War II half-tracks were a popular method of moving troops. They soon became known as 'mechanised infantry'.

Armoured Personnel Carriers (APC) became popular. They

provided armoured protection to the infantry. The main problem with APCs is that they lacked firepower.

Then came the Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV). Not only did they provide protection to the infantry, they were more than capable of defending themselves.



10. Freccia (Italy)

The Freccia (Italian: Arrow) is an Italian 8x8 wheeled Infantry fighting vehicle in use with the Italian Army.

The Freccia is an up-armoured and revised variant of the wheeled Centauro tank destroyer fitted with the Hitfist Plus turret (an evolution of that used on the Dardo), which is armed with an Oerlikon KBA 25mm automatic cannon and carries 200 rounds of 25mm ammunition. Two 7.62mm NATO machine guns are also fitted.

Additionally, a pair of Spike MR/LR anti-tank missiles can be fitted on the turret.

Specifications

- **Weight:** 28 t
- **Length:** 7.6 metres
- **Width:** 2.9 metres



- **Height:** 3.0 metres
- **Crew:** 3 crew (commander, gunner, driver) + 8 passengers
- **Main armament:** KBA 25mm automatic cannon (200 rounds)
- **Secondary armament:** 7.62mm co-axial machine gun (4,000 cartridges), optional 7.62mm anti-air machine gun, 8 smoke generators
- **Engine:** IVECO Diesel 5HP-1500 V6 405 kW
- **Operational range:** 1,000 km
- **Speed:** 105 km/h



9. Warrior (United Kingdom)

The Warrior entered service with the British Army in 1988.

The Warrior IFV has an all-welded aluminium armour hull and laminated steel armour turret. It provides all-round protection against 14.5 mm After-piercing rounds. Front arc is likely to withstand 25 mm armour-piercing rounds. During military conflicts vehicles are fitted with extra passive armour panels for protection against RPG rounds.

Specifications

- **Weight:** 15 t
- **Length:** 5.25 metres



- **Width:** 2.8 metres
- **Height:** 2.28 metres
- **Crew:** 2 + 8 passengers
- **Main armament:** 30 mm cannon
- **Secondary armament:** 7.62mm co-axial machine gun
- **Engine:** Perkins V-8 Con-dor Diesel; 550 hp (410 kW)
- **Operational range:** 660 km
- **Speed:** 75 km/h



8. Piranha V (Switzerland)

The Piranha V Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV) is one variant of the fifth generation of the Mowag Piranha family of vehicles. It was designed by General Dynamics European Land Systems - Mowag GmbH.

Specifications

- **Weight:** 33 t
- **Length:** 8 metres
- **Width:** 2.99 metres
- **Height:** 2.34 metres
- **Crew:** 3 + 8 passengers
- **Main armament:** 30mm chain gun
- **Secondary armament:** 7.62mm co-axial machine



- **Engine:** MTU 6V199 TE21 or Scania DC13
- **Operational range:** 1,000 km
- **Speed:** 100 km/h



7. BMP-3 (Russia)

The BMP-3 is a Soviet and Russian infantry fighting vehicle, successor to the BMP-1 and BMP-2. It went into service in 1987.

Originally designed as a light tank. The BMP-3 is among the few modern IFVs that are fully amphibious. The abbreviation BMP stands for *Boevaya Mashina Pehoty*.

Specifications

- **Weight:** 18.7 t
- **Length:** 7.14 metres
- **Width:** 3.2 metres
- **Height:** 2.4 metres
- **Crew:** 3 + 7 passengers
- **Main armament:** 100 mm gun/launcher 2A70
- **Secondary armament:** 2 × 7.62 mm PKT machine guns
- **Engine:** UTD-29M diesel 500 hp (375 kW)
- **Operational range:** 600 km
- **Speed:** 72 km/h (road), 10 km/h (water)



6. ZBD-04 (China)

The ZBD-04 or Type 04 is a Chinese infantry fighting vehicle. It bears some external resemblance to the BMP-3, particularly with regards to its turret and main armament; however, the chassis and internal subsystems possesses a different layout.

The ZBD-04 is believed to be fitted with a collective NBC protection system, with its air filter located behind the turret to the right. Like the BMP-3 it is also amphibious.

Specifications

- **Weight:** 24 t
- **Length:** 7.2 metres
- **Width:** 3.2 metres
- **Height:** 2.5 metres
- **Crew:** 3 + 7 passengers
- **Main armament:** 100 mm rifled gun
- **Secondary armament:** 7.62 mm coaxial machine gun and 4 x HJ-8 anti-tank missiles
- **Engine:** 670 hp diesel
- **Operational range:** 500 km
- **Speed:** 75 km/h (road), 4.3 km/h (water)



5. Kurganets-25 (Russia)

Developed as a successor to the BMP-3, the Kurganets-25 was still being tested in 2018.

It is better protected than the older BMP-3 and is fully amphibious.

Specifications

- **Weight:** 28 t
- **Length:** Unknown
- **Width:** Unknown
- **Height:** Unknown
- **Crew:** 3 + 8 passengers
- **Main armament:** Bumerang-BM remote weapon station turret with 30 mm automatic cannon, 4 x Kornet-EM anti-tank guided missiles
- **Secondary armament:** 12.7 mm machine gun remote turret,
- **Engine:** 800 hp
- **Operational range:** Unknown
- **Speed:** 80 km/h (road), 10 km/h (water)



4. M2 Bradley (United States)

The M2 Bradley is designed for reconnaissance and to transport a squad of infantry, providing them protection from small arms fire, while also providing firepower to both suppress and eliminate most threats to friendly infantry.

It is designed to be highly manoeuvrable and to be fast enough to keep up with heavy armour during an advance. The Bradley entered service with the US Army in 1981.

Specifications

- **Weight:** 27.6 t
- **Length:** 6.55 metres
- **Width:** 3.6 metres
- **Height:** 2.98 metres
- **Crew:** 3 + 6 passengers
- **Main armament:** 25 mm M242 Bushmaster Chain Gun (900 rounds), 2 × TOW Anti-Tank Missile (7 missiles)
- **Secondary armament:** 7.62 mm coaxial M240C machine gun (2,200 rounds)
- **Engine:** Cummins VTA-903T 8-cylinder diesel 600 hp (447 kW)
- **Operational range:** 483 km
- **Speed:** 56 km/h





3. CV90 (Sweden)

The Swedish version of the Combat Vehicle 90 (CV90) is fitted with a turret from Bofors that is equipped with a 40 mm Bofors autocannon. Export versions are fitted with Hägglunds E-series turrets, armed with either a 30 mm or a 35 mm Bushmaster auto-cannon.



Specifications

- **Weight:** 35 t
- **Length:** 6.55 metres
- **Width:** 3.1 metres
- **Height:** 2.7 metres
- **Crew:** 3 + 8 passengers
- **Main armament:** 40mm
- **Bofors L/70 auto cannon**
- **Secondary armament:** 7.62 mm Ksp m/39 machine gun, 6 × 76 mm grenade launchers
- **Engine:** Scania DS14 14 litres diesel I6 or DC16 16 litres diesel V8 engine
- **Operational range:** 320 km
- **Speed:** 70 km/h



2. K21 (South Korea)

The K21 entered service with the South Korean Army in 1991.

With the Battle Management System (BMS), the vehicle crew and passengers inside the vehicle can be instantly notified about the environment around them, improving their situational awareness.

A 38 cm screen is installed inside the passenger compartment, which provides various data from the BMS. The vehicle is mounted with an external CCD camera, and the passengers inside can survey the environment using the same screen.

The K21 is fully amphibious.



Specifications

- **Weight:** 25.6 t
- **Length:** 6.9 metres
- **Width:** 3.4 metres
- **Height:** 2.6 metres
- **Crew:** 3 + 9 passengers
- **Main armament:** K40 40 mm auto-cannon, 2 x Hyun-gung ATGM launchers
- **Secondary armament:** 7.62 mm M60 GPMG
- **Engine:** Doosan D2840 LXE diesel 740 hp
- **Operational range:** 500 km
- **Speed:** 70 km/h (road), 7 km/h (water)



1. Puma (Germany)

The Puma went into service with the German army in 2010.

It is currently the most protected production IFV in the world.

With maximum level of protection the Puma is even heavier than a T-72 main battle tank.



Specifications

- **Weight:** 31.45 t
- **Length:** 7.6 metres
- **Width:** 3.9 metres
- **Height:** 3.6 metres
- **Crew:** 3 + 6 passengers
- **Main armament:** 30 mm MK30-2/ABM auto-cannon
- **Secondary armament:** 5.56 mm HK MG4 machine gun
- **Engine:** MTU V10 892 diesel 800 kilowatts (1,100 hp)
- **Operational range:** 460 km
- **Speed:** 70 km/h

Shall we remember what war is?

Submitted by Rev Ralph Thornley, this moving poem asks the simple, yet complex, question - What is war?

Shall we remember what war is?

What is war?

In the human psyche

It is the fatal flaw,

A perversion of the human mind, using our greatest brains to create outrageous threats to all mankind.

War is the profoundest disrespect for the sanctity of human life, the ultimate in racism, the collapse of morality.

War is

The ultimate in criminality,

The ultimate obscenity,

The ultimate crime against humanity.

So shall we honour war?

and shall we

now praise

troubled men?

Or shall we re-

member what

war is

and give true

meaning

to "Never

again"?



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Author and Editor www.warpoetry.co.uk

www.rememberingwar.com

Candles are lit on crosses among graves of Americans, who died during the Liberation of Sicily in 1943 and campaigns leading to the Liberation of Rome in 1944, on 22 January.

Adolf Galland

A World War II German Luftwaffe general and flying ace, Adolf Galland flew 705 combat missions and was credited with 104 aerial victories. He was respected by both friend and foe alike.

A commercial pilot, a fighter ace, holder of the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords, the youngest general in the German armed forces, and a legend - Adolf Galland was all of these and more.

Early life

Adolf Josef Ferdinand Galland was born on 19 March 1912 in Westerholt (now Herten), Westphalia.

He was the second of four sons of Adolf Galland (senior) and his French wife Anna, née Schipper.

Galland developed a lifelong interest in flying which began in 1927 when a group of aviation enthusiasts brought a glider club to Borkenberge.

It was here that the *Gelsenkirchen Luftsportverein* (Air Sports Club of Gelsenkirchen) created an interest in flying among young Germans. Galland travelled by foot or horse-drawn wagon 30 kilometres until his father bought him a motorcycle to help prepare the gliders for flight.

Galland became an outstanding glider pilot; he became an instructor at the age of 19.

His father promised to buy him his own glider if he also passed his matriculations examinations, which he succeeded in doing.

Under the Treaty of Versailles, Germany was denied an air force. They were however allowed gliders and it became the way for fledgling pilots to begin their flying career. The sport became so popular that the

Reichswehr set up ten schools, at least one in each of the seven military districts of Germany.

Pilot training

In February 1932, Galland graduated from Hindenburg Gymnasium (high school) in Buer and was among 20 personnel who were accepted to the aviation school of Germany's national airline, Luft Hansa.

During the final years of the Weimar Republic, jobs were scarce and life was hard for the Galland family economically. Adolf had some experience of flying gliders so he applied to the *Deutsche Verkehrsfliegerschule* or DVS (German Commercial Flying School) which was heavily subsidised by Luft Hansa.

He was one of 100 successful applicants out of 4,000. After ten days of evaluations, he was among just 18 selected for flight training. Adolf

was then assessed on performance. Those that did not reach the standard were sent home.

His early career went badly. So badly he was convinced he would soon be

sent home, and he applied to join the German Army. In the meantime, he carried on with his flight training. Galland did not receive a reply from the Army and settled down to continue his training. By Christmas 1932, he had logged 150 hours flying and had obtained a B2 certificate.

Early in 1933, along with several other pilots, he was ordered to attend an interview at the *Zentrale der Verkehrsflieger Schule* (ZVS—Central Airline Pilot School).

Here the group were interviewed by military personnel in civilian clothing. After being informed of a secret military training program being built that involved piloting high performance aircraft, all the pilots accepted an invitation to join the organisation.

In May 1933, Galland was ordered to a meeting in Berlin as one of 12 civilian pilots among 70 airmen who came from clandestine programmes, meeting Hermann Göring for the first time. Galland was impressed by and believed Göring to be a competent leader.

In July 1933, Galland travelled to Italy to train with the *Regia Aeronautica* (Italian Air Force). Initially the Germans were treated as inferior by the Italians, but after Galland had flown some daring and impressive low-level manoeuvres, the German contingent won their hosts' respect.

As a part of his training, beginning in October 1933, Galland flew Lufthansa airliners. Flying the Junkers G24 from

Stuttgart to Barcelona in Spain, via Geneva and Marseilles. In December 1933, Galland was recalled to the ZVS headquarters and offered the chance to join the new Luftwaffe.

Galland found the choice hard as he wanted the adventure of a military flying career, but as an airline pilot, Galland had enjoyed the life style of flying and visiting exotic places and was reluctant to give it up. Nevertheless, he decided to officially join the Luftwaffe.

After basic training in the Army, he was discharged from his barracks in Dresden in October 1934. In February 1935 Galland was posted to *Jagdgeschwader 2* (Fighter Wing 2).

In October 1935, during aerobatic manoeuvre training, he crashed a Focke-Wulf Fw 44 biplane and was in a coma for three days, other injuries were a damaged eye, fractured skull and broken nose.

When Galland recovered, he was declared unfit for flying by the doctors. A friend, Major Rheital, kept the doctors report secret to allow Adolf to continue flying. The expansion of the Luftwaffe and his own *Geschwader* (wing) flooded the administration officers and Galland's medical report was overlooked. Within a year, Galland showed no signs of injury from his crash.

In October 1936 he crashed an Arado Ar 68 and was hospitalised again, aggravating his injured eye. It was at this point his previous medical report came to light again and Galland's un-

fit certificate was discovered. Major Rheital was rumoured to have undergone a court-martial, but the investigators dropped the charges. Galland, however, was grounded.

He admitted having fragments of glass in his eye, but convinced the doctors he was fit for flying duty. Galland was ordered to undergo eye tests to validate his claims. Before the testing could begin, one of his brothers managed to acquire the charts. Adolf memorised the charts passing the test and was permitted to fly again.

Condor Legion

During the Spanish Civil War, Galland was appointed Staffelfelkapitän of a Condor Legion unit, 3. Staffel of Jagdgruppe 88 (J/88—88th Fighter Group), which was sent to support the Nationalist side under Franco at Ferrol from mid-1937. Galland flew ground attack missions in Heinkel He 51s.

In Spain, Galland first displayed his unique style: flying in swimming trunks with a cigar between his teeth in an aircraft decorated with a Mickey Mouse figure. When asked why he developed this style, he gave a simple answer:

"I like Mickey Mouse. I always have. And I like cigars, but I had to give them up after the war."

Galland flew his first of 300 combat missions in Spain. Following the Nationalist victory was awarded the 'Spanish Cross in Gold with Swords and Diamonds' for his contributions.



Before leaving he made ten flights in the Bf 109; deeply impressed with the performance of the aircraft, it persuaded him to change from a strike pilot to a fighter pilot.

Invasion of Poland

Just before the outbreak of war, Galland was promoted to *Hauptmann* (Captain).

During the invasion of Poland from 1 September 1939 onward, he flew with 4 Staffel, II./Lehrgeschwader 2. Equipped with the Henschel Hs 123, nicknamed the “biplane Stuka,” supporting the German Tenth Army.

Galland ceased combat operations on 19 September 1939, having flown 87 missions. After flying nearly 360 missions in two wars and averaging two missions per day, on 13 September 1939, Galland was awarded the Iron Cross Second Class.

ond Class.

Western Europe

On 10 May 1940, the Wehrmacht invaded the Low Countries and France under the codename *Fall Gelb*. JG 27 supported German forces in the Battle for Belgium. On the third day of the offensive, 12 May 1940, Galland claimed his first aerial victories, over two Royal Air Force (RAF) Hawker Hurricanes. Galland claimed his third Hurricane later that same day over Tienen.

On 19 May, Galland shot down a French Potez aircraft. He continued flying and the next day, claimed another three more aircraft, making a total of seven. For this he was awarded the Iron Cross First Class from Erhard Milch on 22 May.

With the effective defeat of Belgium JG 27 was moved into forward airfields to support the invasion of

France. During the Battle of Dunkirk, after encountering the Supermarine Spitfire for the first time, Galland was impressed with these aircraft and their pilots.

As Galland noted, the nature and style of the air battles over the beaches should have provided a warning as to the inherent weaknesses of the Luftwaffe’s force structure.

By the end of the campaign Galland has 12 victories to his credit. On 6 June 1940, Galland took over the command of III./Jagdgeschwader 26 “Schlageter” (III./JG 26—3rd group of the 26th Fighter Wing) with the position of Gruppenkommandeur.

Battle of Britain

From June 1940 on, Galland flew as the Gruppenkommandeur of III./JG 26 (JG 26), fighting in the Battle of Britain with Messer-

schmitt Bf 109Es. On 19 July 1940, he was promoted to Major and JG 26 moved to the Pas de Calais, where they were to remain for the next 18 months with III./JG 26 based at Caffiers.

As the battles over the Channel continued, Galland shot down Spitfires on 25 and 28 July, bringing his total to 17. On 1 August 1940, Galland was awarded the Knight’s Cross of the Iron Cross. By 15 August, in two weeks’ fighting over Britain, Galland had increased his own tally to 21.

Galland was summoned to Karinhall, Herman Göring’s country residence, on 18 August 1940, and missed the intense air battle that day, known as The Hardest Day. During the meeting, Göring insisted that, in combat, Bf 109 fighters escort Bf 110s, which could not survive against single-engine fighters.

As high-scoring aces, both Galland and Werner Mölders shared their concerns that close escort of Bf 110s and bombers robbed fighter pilots of their freedom to roam and engage the enemy on their own terms. They also pointed to the fact that German bombers flew at medium altitudes and low speed, the best height area and speed for the manoeuvrability of the Spitfire. Galland resented his pilots having to carry out a task unsuited to their equipment but Göring would not move from his position.

During the battle, the fighter pilots were criticised by Göring

for the growing bomber losses. In a front line General Officer briefing on Luftwaffe tactics, Göring asked what his fighter pilots needed to win the battle.

Werner Mölders replied that he would like the Bf 109 to be fitted with more powerful engines.

Galland replied: “I should like an outfit of Spitfires for my squadron.” which left Göring speechless with rage. Galland still preferred the Bf 109 for offensive sweeps, but he regarded the Spitfire as a better defensive fighter, owing to its manoeuvrability.

During the Battle of Britain, the question of killing enemy pilots while in their parachutes was raised. In another conversation with Göring, Galland recalled:

Göring wanted to know if we had ever thought about this. “Jawohl, Herr Reichsmarschall!”

He looked me straight in the eyes and said, “What would you think of an order to shoot down pilots who were bailing out? “I should regard it as murder, Herr Reichsmarschall”, I told him, “I should do everything in my power to disobey such an order”. “That is just the reply I had expected from you, Galland”.

On 23 September, Galland became the third member of the Wehrmacht to receive the Knight’s Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves for achieving his 39th and 40th aerial victories. On 25 September, he was summoned to Berlin to receive

the award from Adolf Hitler.

On 9 August 1941, RAF ace Douglas Bader bailed out over St Omer, France. Bader was well known to the Luftwaffe and at the time of his capture had been credited with 22 aerial victories.

Galland and JG 26 entertained Bader over the next few days. Owing to the significant stature of the prisoner, Galland permitted Bader, under escort, to sit in the cockpit of a Bf 109. Apparently, despite losing one of his tin legs in the aircraft, Bader, in a semi-serious way, asked if they wouldn’t mind if he took it on a test flight around the airfield. Galland replied that he feared Douglas would attempt to escape and they would have to give chase and shoot at each other again, and declined the request.

High Command

In November 1941, he was chosen by Göring to command Germany’s fighter force as *General der Jagdflieger*, succeeding Werner Mölders who had just been killed in an air crash en route to attend the funeral of Ernst Udet. Galland was not enthusiastic about his promotion, seeing himself as a combat leader and not wanting to be “tied to a desk job”. He was the youngest General in the armed forces.

Galland was outspoken, something that was not often tolerated by Göring. Yet, by earning and cultivating the support of other powerful personalities in the Luftwaffe, like Er-



hard Milch and Günther Korten, and personalities in the industrial sector such as Albert Speer and even Adolf Hitler, Galland was able to survive in his position for three years.

Galland's position as General der Jagdflieger brought him into gradual conflict with Göring as the war continued. Galland was often with odds with Göring and Hitler on how to prosecute the air war.

Göring's influence was in decline by late 1944 and he had fallen out of favour with Hitler. Göring became increasingly hostile to Galland, blaming him and the fighter pilots for the situation.

On 17 January, a group of senior pilots took part in a "Fighter Pilots Revolt". Galland's high standing with his fighter pilot peers led to a group of the most decorated Luftwaffe combat leaders loyal to Galland (including Johannes Steinhoff and Günther Lützow) confronting Göring with a list of demands for the survival of their service.

Göring initially suspected Galland had instigated the unrest. Heinrich Himmler had wanted to put Galland on trial for treason himself; the SS and Gestapo had already begun investigations into who he associated with. The *Oberkommando der Luftwaffe* (OKL) appointed the more politically acceptable Gordon Gollob, a National Socialist supporter, to succeed him as *General der Jagdflieger* on 23 January.

Although professional contemporaries, Gollob and Gal-

land had a mutual dislike, and after Galland had removed the Austrian from his personal staff in September 1944, Gollob started to gather evidence to use against Galland, detailing false accusations of his gambling, womanising, and alleged private use of Luftwaffe transport aircraft.

The official reason for his being relieved of command was his ill health. Göring suspected Galland of organising the rebellion, and wanted all the ring-leaders to face Court-martial.

For his own safety, Galland went to a retreat in the Harz Mountains, where he was effectively under house arrest. Hitler, who liked Galland, had not heard of the events.

However, when he learned of them he ordered that "all this nonsense" [the treatment of Galland], was to stop immediately.

Hitler had been informed by Albert Speer, who in turn had been informed of events by one of Galland's close friends.

In the end, Göring contacted Galland and invited him to Karinhall. In light of his service to the fighter arm, he promised no further action would be taken against him and offered command of a unit of Me 262 jets. Galland accepted on the understanding that Gollob had no jurisdiction over him or his unit.

Surrender

By late April, the war was effectively over. On 1 May 1945, Galland attempted to make con-

tact with United States Army forces to negotiate the surrender of his unit. The act itself was dangerous. SS forces roamed the countryside and towns executing anyone who was considering capitulation.

The Americans requested that Galland fly his unit and Me 262s to a USAAF controlled airfield. Galland declined citing poor weather and technical problems. In reality, Galland was not going to hand over Me 262 jets to the Americans. Galland had harboured the belief that the Western Alliance would soon be at war with the Soviet Union, and he wanted to join American forces and to use his unit in the coming war to free Germany from Communist occupation. Galland replied, making his whereabouts known to the Americans, and offering his surrender once they arrived at the Tegernsee hospital where he was being treated.

Galland then ordered his unit, which had then moved to Salzburg and Innsbruck, to destroy their Me 262s. At the time of his surrender, Galland had filed claims for 104 Allied aircraft shot down. His claims included seven with the Me 262.

On 14 May 1945, Galland was flown to England and interrogated by RAF personnel about the Luftwaffe, its organisation, his role in it and technical questions. Galland returned to Germany on 24 August and was imprisoned at Hohenpeissenberg. On 7 October, Galland was returned to England for further interrogation. Galland was

eventually released on 28 April 1947.

Post-war

After his release, he travelled to Schleswig-Holstein to join Baroness Gisela von Donner, an earlier acquaintance, on her estate and lived with her three children. During this time, Galland found work as a forestry worker. There he convalesced and came to terms with his career and Nazi war crimes.

Galland began to hunt for the family and traded the kills in the local markets to supplement meagre meat rations. Soon Galland rediscovered his love of flying. Kurt Tank, the designer of the Fw 190, requested that he go to his home in Minden to discuss a proposal. Tank had been asked to work for the British and Soviets, and had narrowly avoided being forcibly kidnapped by the latter.

Tank, through a contact in Denmark, informed Galland about the possibility of the Argentinian Government employing him as a test pilot for Tank's new generation of fighters. Galland accepted and flew to Argentina. He settled with Gisela in El Palomar, Buenos Aires.

For his services to Argentina, Galland was awarded a pilot's wings badge and the title of the Honorary Argentine Military Pilot. Later that year[when?] Galland left South America. By that time, he had begun writing his autobiography, *The First and the Last (Die Ersten und die Letzten)*, that was published in 1954 by Franz Schneekluth. It

was a best-seller in 14 languages and sold three million copies. It was well received by the RAF and USAF.

Galland returned to Germany and was approached by Amt Blank, a commissioner for Chancellor Konrad Adenauer for the purpose of joining the new Bundeswehr now that West Germany was to join NATO as a military power.

In 1955, General Nathan Twining, the chief of staff of the USAF, sent a secret telegram to General William H. Tunner, commander of United States Air Forces in Europe. Claiming Galland's alleged "strong neo-Nazi leanings", association with prominent neo-Nazis such as Hans-Ulrich Rudel, and his known service to the Perón dictatorship, which was not on good terms with the United States, Twining asked that Tunner communicate to the German government that although the United States made it clear the appointment was entirely the choice of the Germans, they disapproved of Galland for the position of Inspektor (chief of staff) to the German Air Force.

In 1969, he served as technical adviser for the film *Battle of Britain*, in which the character Major Falke is based on Galland. He became good friends with ex-RAF pilots such as Robert Stanford Tuck and Douglas Bader.

Galland took part in many engagements throughout the 1960s and 1970s. In 1974, he was part of the remaining German General Staff that took part in the

Operation Sea Lion wargame at Sandhurst in the United Kingdom, replicating the planned German invasion of Britain in 1940 (which the German side lost). In 1975, he was a guest at the RAF Museum Hendon, during the unveiling of the Battle of Britain Hall, where he was entertained by Prince Charles.

In 1980, Galland's eyesight became too poor for him to fly and he retired as a pilot. However, he continued to attend numerous aviation events, to include being a periodic guest of the U.S. Air Force for their annual "Gathering of Eagles" program at the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, USA.

By the 1980s, Galland was regularly attending the funerals of friends like Tuck, and also Douglas Bader, who had died on 5 September 1982 after speaking at a dinner for Arthur Harris. In June 1983 he attended the funeral of Gerhard Barkhorn (Germany's second highest ace after Erich Hartmann) and his wife Christl, who had died in a traffic accident.

In early February 1996, Galland was taken seriously ill. He had wanted to die at home and so was released from hospital and returned to his own house. With his wife Heidi, son and daughter present, he was given the last rites. Adolf Galland died at 01:15 in the morning of Tuesday, 9 February 1996 at the age of 83. His body was buried at St Laurentius Church, Oberwinter on 21 February. A memorial service was held on 31 March.

E-yih-sih yil-tas

The Code Talkers

Using a language that few could speak, Native Americans developed their own code words as a means of secret communication during wartime.

Communication has always been an integral part of human life. Communication is also vital during times of war. Orders, reports and messages need to be both transmitted and received. The problem is that communications can often be intercepted by the enemy. This is why the military goes to great lengths to transmit secret and important communications in some form of code.

During World War II the Germans used Engima machines to code and decode communication. The machine used

electro-mechanical rotor ciphers, and the Germans believed the code to be unbreakable. Unfortunately for them, the British did finally manage to break the code. This was unknown to the Germans and the information gleaned was vital to the Allied war effort.

The problem with codes is that most of them can eventually be broken. Another problem is

that messages often have to be sent and responded to quickly. There is not enough time to first encode them.

What was needed was for messages to be sent in plain language. Naturally, these messages could be intercepted by the enemy.

But what if the messages were in a language that the enemy could not understand. And, even if the enemy did manage to find someone

that could recognise and speak the language, it was in code.

It was during World War I that the Americans came up with a solution. Most Native Americans had their own language and dialects that few people could speak.

The first known use of Native Americans in the United States military to transmit messages under fire was a group of Cherokee troops used by the American 30th Infantry Division serving alongside the British during the Second Battle of the Somme in World War I. According to the Division Signal Officer, this took place in September 1918. Their unit was under British command at the time.

During World War I, company commander Captain Lawrence of the U.S. Army overheard Solomon Louis and Mitchell Bobb conversing in the

Choctaw language.

Upon further investigation, he found eight Choctaw men serving in the battalion. Eventually, 14 Choctaw men in the Army's 36th Infantry Division trained to use their language in code. They helped the American Expeditionary Forces in several key battles in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in France, during the final large German push of the war.

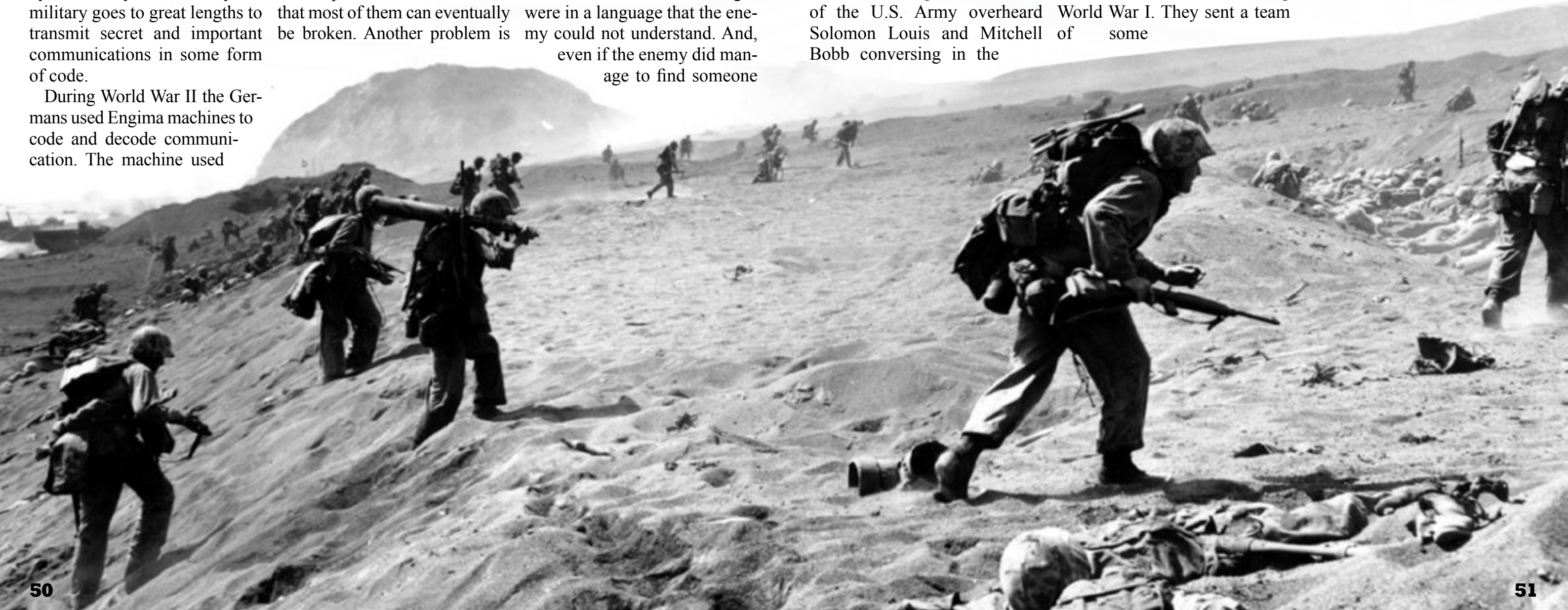
Within 24 hours of the Choctaw language being pressed into service, the tide of the battle had turned. In less than 72 hours, the Germans were retreating and the Allies were in full attack.

Before the outbreak of World War II the Germans knew about the use of code talkers during World War I. They sent a team of some

thirty anthropologists to the United States to learn Native American languages.

However, the task proved too difficult because of the array of languages and dialects. Nonetheless, the U.S. Army, learning of the Nazi effort, opted not to implement a large-scale code talker program in the European Theater.

14 Comanche code talkers did take part in the Invasion of Normandy, and continued to serve in the 4th Infantry Division in Europe. Comanche soldiers of the 4th Signal Company compiled a vocabulary of over 100 code terms using words or phrases in their own language. Using a substitution method similar to the Navajo, the Comanche code word for



tank was “turtle,” bomber was “pregnant airplane,” machine gun was “sewing machine,” and Adolf Hitler was referred to as “crazy white man.”

Two Comanche code talkers were assigned to each regiment while the rest were assigned to 4th Infantry Division headquarters. Shortly after landing on Utah Beach on 6 June 1944, the Comanche began transmitting messages. Some were wounded but none killed.

There were only 168 Meskwaki in Iowa and in January 1941, 27 of them enlisted together in the US Army. They used their language against the Germans during fighting in North Africa.

In World War II, native Cree speakers were used as code talkers for the Canadian Armed Forces. Due to oaths of secrecy, and official classification through 1963, the role of Cree speakers has gone unacknowledged by the Canadian government.

Navajo

Perhaps the most well known code talkers of all time were the Navajo Native Americans.

The US Marine Corps recruited between 400 and 500 hundred Navajo to serve in standard communications units in the Pacific Theatre.

Their primary job was to transmit secret tactical messages. Code talkers transmitted these messages over military telephone or radio communications nets using formal or informally developed codes built upon their native languages. Their service improved the speed of encryption of communications at both ends in front



CRYPTIC COMMS: A Navajo code talker in action somewhere in the Pacific during World War II.

line operations during World War II.

Philip Johnston, a civil engineer for the city of Los Angeles, proposed the use of Navajo to the United States Marine Corps at the beginning of World War II.

Johnston, a World War I veteran, was raised on the Navajo reservation as the son of a missionary to the Navajo and was one of the few non-Navajo who spoke the language fluently.

Some in authority wondered whether the Navajo, who had been treated poorly by the US government, would want to fight for the U.S., but many Navajo enlisted shortly after Pearl Harbour and eagerly contributed to the war effort.

“What happened to the Navajo were social conflicts”, said Navajo code talker Albert Smith. “But this conflict involved Mother Earth being dominated by foreign coun-

tries. It was our responsibility to defend her.”

Because Navajo has a complex grammar, it is not mutually intelligible enough with even its closest relatives within the Na-Dene family to provide meaningful information.

At the time, it was still an unwritten language, and Johnston believed Navajo could satisfy the military requirement for an undecipherable code due to it only being spoken on the Navajo lands of the American Southwest. Its syntax and tonal qualities, not to mention dialects, made it unintelligible to anyone without extensive exposure and training.

One estimate indicates that at the outbreak of World War II, fewer than 30 non-Navajo could understand the language.

Early in 1942, Johnston met with Major General Clayton B. Vogel, the commanding general of Amphibious Corps,

Pacific Fleet, and his staff. Johnston staged tests under simulated combat conditions which demonstrated that Navajo men could encode, transmit, and decode a three-line English message in 20 seconds, versus the 30 minutes required by machines at that time.

The idea was accepted, with Vogel recommending that the Marines recruit 200 Navajo. The first 29 Navajo recruits attended boot camp in May 1942. This first group created the Navajo code at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, California.

Talking the code

The Navajo code was formally developed and modelled on the Joint Army/Navy Phonetic Alphabet that uses agreed-upon English words to represent letters.

As it was determined that phonetically spelling out all military terms letter by letter into words – while in combat – would be too time-consuming, some terms, concepts, tactics, and instruments of modern warfare were given uniquely formal descriptive nomenclatures in Navajo.

For example, the word for “shark” referred to a destroyer, while “silver oak leaf” indicated the rank of lieutenant colonel.

A codebook was developed to teach the many relevant words and concepts to new initiates. The text was for classroom purposes only and was never to be taken into the field. The code talkers memorized all these variations and practiced their rapid use under stressful conditions during training.

Each letter of the alphabet had as many as three code words. For example be-la-sana was the word for apple, or the letter A.

Various organisations had their own code words. Din-neh-ih was the Navajo word for ‘clan’. This was also the code word for the Marine Corps. Has-clish-nij translated as ‘mud’, the code for ‘platoon’.

There were also code words for various officer ranks, countries, months of the year, aircraft, and ships.

There were also individual codes for 551 words that ranged from abandon to zone. This meant that the code talkers had to have exceptional powers of recall to memorise all 551 words.

Uninitiated Navajo speakers would have no idea what the code talkers’ messages meant; they would hear only truncated and disjointed strings of individual, unrelated nouns and verbs.

Non-speakers would find it extremely difficult to accurately distinguish unfamiliar sounds used in these languages. Additionally, a speaker who has acquired a language during their childhood sounds distinctly different from a person who acquired the same language in later life, thus reducing the chance of successful impostors sending false messages.

Navajo was an attractive choice for code use because few people outside the Navajo had learned to speak the language. Almost no books in Navajo had been published. Outside of the language, the Navajo spoken code was not very complex by cryptographic standards. It

would likely have been broken if a native speaker and trained cryptographers could have worked together effectively.

The Japanese had an opportunity to attempt this when they captured Joe Kieyoomia in the Philippines in 1942 during the Bataan Death March.

Kieyoomia, a Navajo sergeant in the US Army, but not a code talker, was ordered to interpret the radio messages later in the war. However, since Kieyoomia had not participated in the code training, the messages made no sense to him. When he reported that he could not understand the messages, his captors tortured him.

The Japanese Imperial Army and Navy never cracked the spoken code. In fact the Navajo code is the only spoken military code never to have been deciphered.

The Navajo code talkers were commended for the skill, speed, and accuracy they demonstrated throughout the war. At the Battle of Iwo Jima, Major Howard Connor, 5th Marine Division signal officer, had six Navajo code talkers working around the clock during the first two days of the battle. These six sent and received over 800 messages, all without error. Connor later stated, “Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima.”

To ensure a consistent use of code terminologies throughout the Pacific Theatre, representative code talkers of each of the U.S. Marine divisions met in Hawaii to discuss shortcomings in the code, incorporate new terms into the system, and update their codebooks.

These representatives, in turn, trained other code talkers who could not attend the meeting. As the war progressed, additional code words were added and incorporated program-wide. In other instances, informal short-cut code words were devised for a particular campaign and not disseminated beyond the area of operation.

Many code talkers would be accompanied by a Marine that acted as a body guard. The rumour that the body guard's job was to shoot and kill the code talker if there was a danger of them being captured was not true.

“With their skin tone and facial features, many Native Americans looked Japanese,” said an unofficial source. “The bodyguards were there to protect them from being shot by our own troops.”

The last of the original 29 Navajo code talkers who developed the code, Chester Nez, died on 4 June 2014.

According to CNN, one of the last of the Navajo code talkers used in the military, Alfred K. Newman, died on 13 January 2019, at the age of 94.

The deployment of the Navajo code talkers continued through the Korean War and after, until it was ended early in the Vietnam War.

Post- War Recognition

The Navajo code talkers received no recognition until the declassification of the operation in 1968.

In 1982, the code talkers were given a Certificate of Recognition by U.S. President Ronald Reagan, who also named 14



PAYING TRIBUTE: US President Donald Trump pays tribute to three Navajo code talkers at a ceremony in the Oval Office of the White House.

August 1982, as “Navajo Code Talkers Day”.

On 21 December 2000, President Bill Clinton signed Public Law 106-554, 114 Statute 2763, which awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the original 29 World War II Navajo code talkers and Silver Medals to each person who qualified as a Navajo code talker (approximately 300).

In July 2001, U.S. President George W. Bush personally presented the medals to four surviving original code talkers (the fifth living original code talker was unable to attend) at a ceremony held in the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, D.C. Gold medals were presented to the families of the deceased 24 original code talkers.

On 17 September 2007, 18 Choctaw code talkers were posthumously awarded the Texas Medal of Valour from the Adjutant General of the State of Texas for their World War II service.

On 15 November 2008, The Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-420), was signed into law by Presi-

dent George W. Bush, recognizing every Native American code talker who served in the United States military during World War I or World War II (with the exception of the already-awarded Navajo) with a Congressional Gold Medal. The act was designed to be distinct for each tribe, with silver duplicates awarded to the individual code talkers or their next-of-kin. As of 2013, 33 tribes have been identified and been honoured at a ceremony at Emancipation Hall at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Centre. One surviving code talker, Edmond Harjo, was present, .

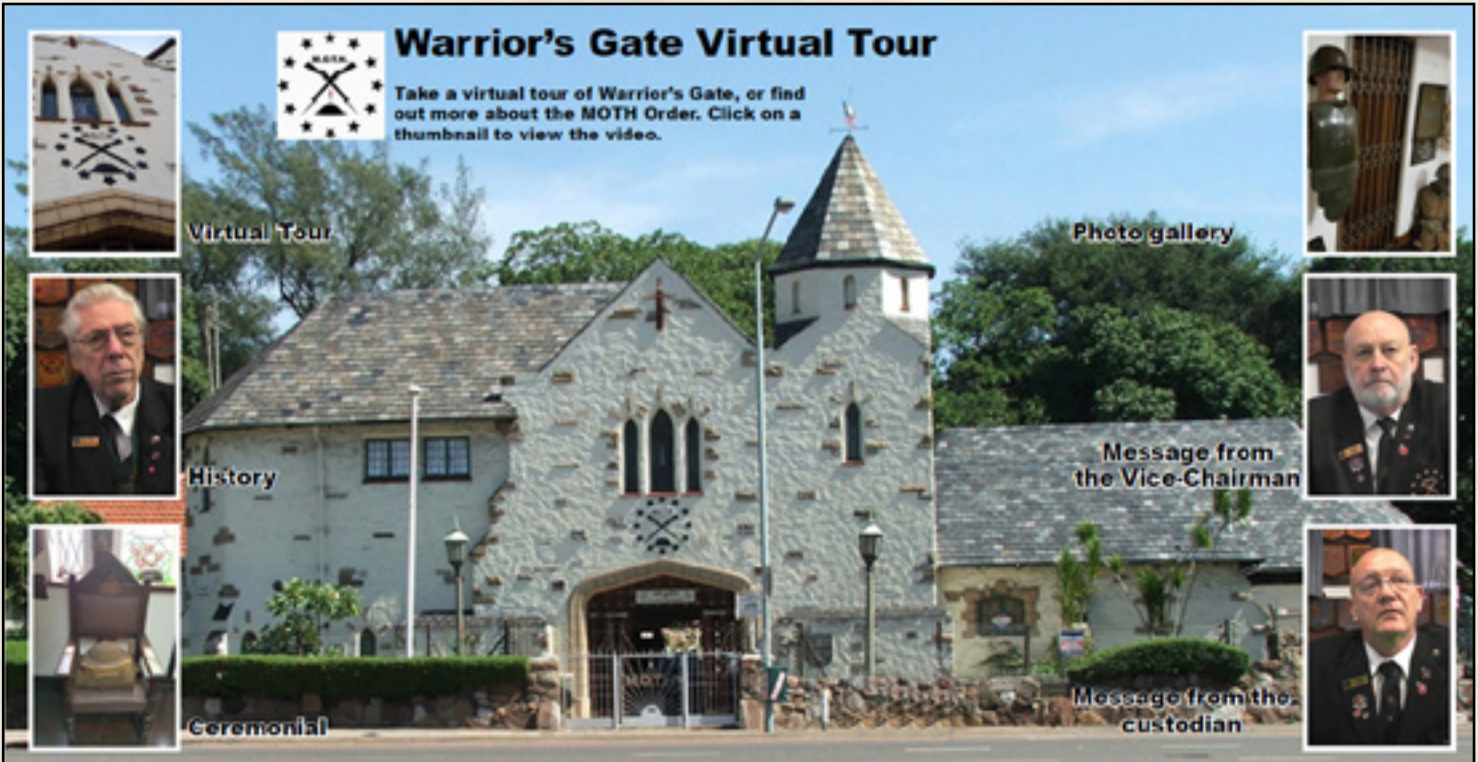
On 27 November 2017, three Navajo code talkers, along with the president of the Navajo Nation, Russell Begaye, appeared with President Donald Trump in the Oval Office in an official White House ceremony. They were there to “...pay tribute to the contributions of the young Native Americans recruited by the United States military to create top-secret coded messages used to communicate during [World War II] battles.”

Navajo Code

Here are some of the code words used by the Navajo during World War II. The actual word is given first, then the Navajo code word, followed by the literal translation.

- **Alternative** : Na-kee-gone-nan-dey-he : Second Position.
- **Amphibious** : Chal : Frog.
- **Armour** : Besh-ye-ha-da-di-teh : Iron protector.
- **Artillery** : Be-al-doh-tso-lani - Many big guns.
- **Bomb** : A-ye-shi : Eggs.
- **Bunker** : Tsas-ka : Sandy hollow.
- **Cable** : Besh-lkoh - Wire Rope.
- **Casualty** : Bih-din-ne-dey : Put out of action.
- **Cemetery** : Jish-cha : Among devils.
- **Code** : Yil-tas : Peck.
- **Communication** : Ha-neh-al-enji : Making talk.
- **Condition** : Ah-ho-tai : How it is.
- **Demolition** : Ah-deel-tahi : Blow up.
- **Desperate** : Ah-dah-dah-ho-szah - Down to last.
- **Dispatch** : La-chai-en-seis-be-jay : Dog is patch.
- **Flare** : Wo-chi : Light streak.
- **Fragmentation** - Besh-yazzie : Small metal.
- **Grenade** : Ni-ma-si : Pota-toes.
- **Hospital** : A-zey-al-ih : Place of medicine.
- **Intelligence** : Ho-ya : Smart.
- **Machine gun** : A-knah-as-donih : Rapid fire gun.
- **Minute** : Ah-khay-el-kit-yazzie.
- **Mortar** : Be-al-doh-cid-ha-hi : Sitting gun.
- **Negative** : Do-ya-sho-da : No good.
- **Number** : Beh-bih-ke-as-chinigh : What's written.
- **Pontoon** : Tkosh-jah-da-na-elt : Floating barrel.
- **Problem** : Na-nish-tsoh : Big job.
- **Pyrotechnic** : Coh-na-chanh : Fancy Fire.
- **Reconnaissance** : Ha-a-cidi : Inspector.
- **River** : Toh-yil-kal : Much water.
- **Rocket** : Lesz-yil-beshi : Sand boil.
- **Sailor** : Cha-le-gai : White caps.
- **Scout** : Ha-a-sid-al-sizi-gih : Short raccoon.
- **Sniper** : Oh-behi : Pick 'em off.
- **Tank** : Chay-da-gahi - Tortoise.

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



The Americans called it 'The Mog' - Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia. In October a raid planned to capture key members of Mohamed Farrah Aidid militia went horribly wrong. The subsequent battle become known as 'Black Hawk Down'.

The Battle of Mogadishu took place on 3 and 4 October 1993 in Mogadishu, Somalia. It was fought between forces of the United States - supported by UNOSOM II (United Nations Operation in Somalia II) - and Somali militiamen loyal to the self-proclaimed president-to-be Mohamed Farrah Aidid, who had support from armed fighters.

The battle was part of Operation Gothic Serpent and is also referred to as the First Battle of Mogadishu, to distinguish it amongst the nine major Battles of Mogadishu during the decades-long Somali Civil War.

The battle resulted in the loss of 21 US/UN troops, including 19 American, 82 wounded, and one captured. The Somali's lost between 2,000 and 4,000 militia and volunteers.

Background

Task Force Ranger was created in August 1993, and deployed to Somalia. It consisted of various elite special operations units from Army, Air Force and Navy special services: U.S. Army Rangers from Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment; C Squadron, 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta (1st SFOD-D), better known as "Delta Force"; helicopters flown by 1st Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment; Air Force Combat Controllers; Air Force Pararescuemen; and Navy SEALs.

As a multi-disciplinary joint special forces operation, Task Force Ranger reported to Joint Special Operations Command, led by Major General William F. Garrison.

On 3 October 1993, Task Force Ranger began an operation that involved traveling from their compound on the city's outskirts to the center with the aim of capturing the leaders of the Habr Gidr clan, led by Mohamed Farrah Aidid. The assault force consisted of nineteen aircraft, twelve vehicles (including nine Humvees), and 160 men. The operation was intended to last no

longer than one hour.

The plan

On Sunday 3 October 1993, Task Force Ranger, U.S. special operations forces composed mainly of Bravo Company 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta (better known as "Delta Force") operators, and the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) ("The Night Stalkers"), attempted to capture Aidid's foreign minister Omar Salad Elmi and his top political advisor, Mohamed Hassan Awale.

The plan was that Delta operators would assault the target building (using MH-6 Little Bird helicopters) and secure the targets inside the building while four Ranger chinks (sticks or sections) would fast rope down from hovering MH-60L Black Hawk helicopters.

The Rangers would then create a four-corner defensive perimeter around the target building to isolate it and ensure that no enemy could get in or out, while a column of nine HM-MWVs and three M939 five-ton trucks would arrive at the building to take the entire assault team and their prisoners back to base. The entire operation was estimated to take no longer than 30 minutes.

The ground-extraction convoy was supposed to reach the

captive targets a few minutes after the operation's beginning, but it ran into delays.

Somali citizens and local militia formed barricades along Mogadishu's streets with rocks, wreckage, rubbish and burning tires, blocking the convoy from reaching the Rangers and their captives.

Aidid militiamen with megaphones were shouting, "*Kasoo-baxa guryaha oo iska celsa cadowga!*" ("Come out and defend your homes!").

The raid

At 15:42, the MH-6 assault Little Birds carrying the Delta operators hit the target, the wave of dust becoming so bad that one was forced to go around again and land out of position.

Next, the two Black Hawks carrying the second Delta assault team led by DELTA officer Capt Austin "Scott" Miller came into position and dropped their teams as the four Ranger chinks prepared to rope onto the four corners surrounding the target building.

Chalk Four being carried by Black Hawk callsign Super 67, piloted by CW3 Jeff Niklaus, was accidentally put a block north of their intended point. Declining the pilot's offer to move them back down due to

the time it would take to do so, leaving the helicopter too exposed, Chalk Four intended to move down to the planned position, but intense ground fire prevented them from doing so.

The ground convoy arrived ten minutes later near the Olympic Hotel and waited for Delta and Rangers to complete their mission (target building).

During the operation's first moments, Ranger PFC Todd Blackburn, from Chalk Four, fell while fast-roping from his Black Hawk Super 67 while it was hovering 21 metres above the streets. Blackburn suffered an injury to his head and back of his neck and required evacuation by Sgt Jeff Struecker's column of three Humvees.

While taking PFC Todd Blackburn back to base, Sgt Dominick Pilla, assigned to Sgt Struecker's Humvee, was killed instantly when a bullet struck his head.

When Sgt Struecker's Humvee column reached the base and safety, all three vehicles were riddled with bullet holes and were smoking.

Black Hawk down

At about 16:20, one of the Black Hawk helicopters, callsign Super 61 piloted by CW3

Cliff "Elvis" Wolcott and CW3 Donovan "Bull" Briley, was shot down by an RPG. Both pilots were killed in the resulting crash and two of the crew chiefs were severely wounded. S/Sgt Daniel Busch and Sgt Jim Smith, both Delta snipers, survived the crash and began defending the site.

An MH-6, callsign Star 41 and piloted by CW3 Karl Maier and CW5 Keith Jones, landed nearby and Jones left the helicopter and carried Busch to the safety of the helicopter while Maier provided cover fire from the Little Bird's cockpit, repeatedly denying orders to lift off while his co-pilot was not in the Bird. He nearly hit Chalk One's Lt DiTomaso arriving with Rangers and Delta operators to secure the site. Jones and Maier evacuated S/Sgt Busch and Sgt Smith, though SSG Busch later died of his injuries, having been shot four times while defending the crash site.

A Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) team, led by Delta Operator Capt Bill J. Coultrup and Air Force Pararescueman Master Sgt Scott C. Fales, were able to fast rope down to Super 61's crash site despite an RPG hit that crippled their helicopter, Super 68, piloted by CW3



Dan Jollota.

Despite the damage, Super 68 did make it back to base. The CSAR team found both the pilots dead and two wounded inside the crashed helicopter. Under intense fire, the team moved the wounded men to a nearby collection point, where they built a makeshift shelter using Kevlar armour plates salvaged from Super 61's wreckage.

There was confusion between the ground convoy and the assault team. The assault team and the ground convoy waited for 20 minutes to receive their orders to move out. Both units were under the mistaken impression that they were to be first contacted by the other.

Another Black Hawk down

During the wait, a second Black Hawk helicopter, callsign Super 64 and piloted by CW3 Michael Durant, was shot down by an RPG-7 at around 16:40.

Most of the assault team went to the first crash site for a rescue operation. Upon reaching the site, about 90 Rangers and Delta Force operators found themselves under heavy fire. Despite air support, the assault team was effectively trapped for the night. With a growing number of wounded needing shelter, they occupied several nearby houses and confined the occupants for the battle's duration. Outside, a stiff breeze stirred up blinding, brown clouds of dust.

At the second crash site, two Delta snipers, Master Sgt Gary Gordon and SFC Randy Shughart, were inserted by Black Hawk Super 62 - piloted by CW3 Mike Goffena.

Their first two requests to be



TECHNICAL: One of the challenges faced by the Americans in Mogadishu was the Somali 'Technical'. These are Toyota pickups armed with anything from a 106 recoilless rifle to 12,7 mm heavy machine guns.

inserted were denied, but they were finally granted permission upon their third request. They inflicted heavy casualties on the approaching Somali mob.

Super 62 had kept up their fire support for Master Sgt Gordon and SFC Shughart, but an RPG struck Super 62. Despite the damage, Super 62 managed to land at New Port safely. When Master Sgt Gordon was eventually killed, SFC Shughart picked up Gordon's CAR-15 and gave it to Super 64 pilot CW3 Michael Durant.

SFC Shughart went back around the helicopter's nose and held off the mob for about 10 more minutes before he was killed.

The Somalis then overran the crash site and killed all but Durant. He was nearly beaten to death, but was saved when members of Aidid's militia came to take him prisoner. For their actions, Master Sgt Gordon and SFC Shughart were posthu-

mously awarded the Medal of Honour, the first awarded since the Vietnam War.

Repeated attempts by the Somalis to mass forces and overrun the American positions in a series of firefights near the first crash site were neutralized by aggressive small arms fire and by strafing runs and rocket attacks from AH-6J Little Bird helicopter gunships of the Nightstalkers, the only air unit equipped and trained for night fighting.

Relief column

A relief convoy with elements from the Task Force 2-14 Infantry, 10th Mountain Division, accompanied by Malaysian and Pakistani U.N. forces, arrived at the first crash site at around 02:00. No contingency planning or coordination with U.N. forces had been arranged prior to the operation; consequently, the recovery of the surrounded American troops was signifi-



Mohamed Farrah Aidid

cantly complicated and delayed.

Determined to protect all of the rescue convoy's members, General Garrison made sure that the convoy would roll out in force. When the convoy finally pushed into the city, it consisted of more than 100 U.N. vehicles including Malaysian forces' German-made Condor APCs, four Pakistani tanks (M48s), American Humvees and several M939 five-ton flatbed trucks.

This two-mile-long column was supported by several other Black Hawks and Cobra assault helicopters stationed with the 10th Mountain Division. Meanwhile, Task Force Ranger's "Little Birds" continued their defense of Super 61's downed crew and rescuers.

The American assault force sustained heavy casualties, including several killed, and a Malaysian soldier died when an RPG hit his Condor vehicle. Seven Malaysians and two Pakistanis were wounded. The battle was over by 06:30 on Monday, 4 October. U.S. forces were finally evacuated to the U.N. base by the armored convoy.

While leaving the crash site, a group of Rangers and Delta operators led by S/Sgt John R.

Dycus realised that there was no room left in the vehicles for them and were forced to depart the city on foot to a rendezvous point on National Street. This has been commonly referred to as the "Mogadishu Mile".

In all, 19 U.S. soldiers were killed in action during the battle or shortly after, and another 73 were wounded in action. The Malaysian forces lost one soldier and had seven injured, while the Pakistanis also lost one soldier and suffered two injured. Somali casualties were heavy, with estimates of fatalities ranging from 315 to over 2,000 combatants. The Somali casualties were a mixture of militiamen and local civilians. Somali civilians suffered heavy casualties due to the dense urban character of that portion of Mogadishu.

On 6 October, a mortar round fell on the U.S. compound, making Delta Operator SFC Matthew L. Rierison the 19th U.S. soldier killed in the battle while injuring another twelve. That same day, a team on special mission to Durant's Super 64 helicopter had two wounded.

Two weeks after the battle, General Garrison officially accepted responsibility.

In a handwritten letter to President Clinton, Garrison took full responsibility for the battle's outcome. He wrote that Task Force Ranger had adequate intelligence for the mission and that their objective (capturing targets from the Olympic Hotel) was met.

Aftermath

After the battle, the bodies

of several of the conflict's US casualties (Black Hawk Super 64's crewmembers and their defenders, Delta Force soldiers Master Sgt Gordon and SFC Shughart) were dragged through Mogadishu's streets by crowds of local civilians and SNA forces.

Through negotiation and threats to the Habr Gidr clan leaders by Special Envoy for Somalia, Robert B. Oakley, all the bodies were eventually recovered. The bodies were returned in poor condition, one with a severed head.

Michael Durant was released after 11 days of captivity. On the beach near the base, a memorial was held for those who were killed in combat.

A total of two Medals of Honour, seven Silver Stars, and 11 Bronze Stars were awarded to those that took part in the battle.

At the time the battle was the bloodiest involving U.S. troops since the Vietnam War, and it remained so until the Second Battle of Fallujah in 2004.

On 25 March 1994 the United States withdrew all of their troops from Somalia. Just over a year later, on 28 March 1995, the United Nations also withdrew from Somalia.

On 24 July 1996, Mohamed Farrah Aidid was wounded during a firefight between his militia and forces loyal to former Aidid allies, Ali Mahdi Muhammad and Osman Ali Atto.

He suffered a fatal heart attack on 1 August 1996, either during or after surgery to treat his wounds. The following day, General Garrison retired.



Matt O' Brien is off to Bolivia to sort out a drug cartel. They're not sure who should be more afraid - the drug cartel or his own Special Forces squad.

As I've mentioned in the past, we don't normally review First Person Shooter games in this magazine. In fact we've only done three FPS reviews since the magazine started.

That being said, Tom Clancey's Ghost Recon Wildlands is just so much fun to play. Anyway, it's not a classic FPS but more of a tactical shooter.

The game is set in 2019 in Bolivia. The country has become increasingly unstable as a Mexican drug cartel known as the Santa Blanca Cartel gains more power and influence within the country and turns Bolivia into the world's largest producer of cocaine.

The United States government is compelled to act when a bomb targets the American embassy in La Paz and undercover DEA agent Ricardo "Ricky" Sandoval is executed by the cartel.

You play the role of 'Nomad' a member of the 5th Special Forces Group. You are the team leader of a combined task force made up of CIA, DEA and JSOC (Joint Special Operations Command) known as the 'Ghosts'. With you are vehicle and assault specialist "Midas", hacker and tactical engineer "Holt", and sniper "Weaver".

The Ghosts enter Bolivia

with their CIA contact, Karen Bowman, who was also a close friend to Sandoval. They meet Pac Katari, leader of the Kataris 26, the only resistance against Santa Blanca. Pac Katari requests they rescue Amaru, whose ideologies inspired the Kataris 26, from Santa Blanca.

Once this mission is completed you are free to tackle the cartel as you see fit.

The game is open world, meaning you can go anywhere you want. It is large, 400 kilometres square to be exact. The map consists of nine different types of terrain, such as: mountains, forests, desert, salt flats, and also introduces a dynamic weather system as well as a day-night cycle.

You can get around the map using cars, trucks, dirt bikes, boats, light aircraft and helicopters.

At the start of the game you create and name your character. You determine their look and then kit them out with everything from clothing to head gear, backpacks to assault vests. You can change your gear at any time during the game.

You are able to carry three weapons - two main weapons and a side arm.

As you progress through the game you can discover additional weapons and weapon ac-

cessories. This could be larger magazines, different barrels, sights, silencers, and items such as an under-barrel grenade launcher.

Weapons include assault rifles, sniper rifles, shotguns, light machine guns, sub-machine guns and pistols.

One of the cool gadgets at your disposal is the drone. This small drone can be used to check out an area and spot and mark targets.

At the start your drone has a very short range and even shorter battery life. It can, however, be upgraded. You earn skill points and these are then used for upgrades. It can be equipped with night vision and even thermal vision.

Better upgrades can give your drone an EMP capacity that is able to knock out alarms and vehicles. It can also be fitted with an explosive or a noise-maker that will attract enemy to the area.

Talking about skills, you can also upgrade various skills such as weapon skills, physical skills, squad skills and item skills.

The Santa Blanca Cartel is headed by El Sueño and your ultimate goal is to kill or capture him.

The cartel is divided up into four branches - security, influence, production and smug-



gling.

Each branch has a head as well as an underboss.

Each of the 21 provinces on the map is controlled by a buchon, who is also associated with one of four divisions of the cartel's operations: Influence, Security, Production and Smuggling. Clearing missions in an area and collecting key intel unlocks missions where players can target a buchon and eliminate him or her by killing or capturing the target (with some exceptions).

Eliminating enough buchones in an operations division allows players to target that division's underboss, and eliminating that underboss and all of the buchones in an operations division leaves the division head vulnerable. Capturing this division head cripples and destabilizes the division and makes the cartel boss more vulnerable.

You can tackle missions in whichever way you choose. You can use stealth and try to

sneak into areas, using silenced weapons to take out any guards. Or you can go in guns blazing.

Some bases have alarm systems and if you are detected the alarm will summon reinforcements. Other large bases may even have a drone jammer, making your drone useless. To counter this you will have to take out the base's generator. This will also have the advantage of plunging the base into darkness at night.

Another factor you have to take into consideration is Unidad. This is the official Bolivian Army. They are well trained, well armed, and very aggressive. Getting into a punch-up with them will normally see you on the losing side.

One of the good things is that you can mark up to three targets via the drone or by using your binoculars. Your three squad members will then get into position and report when they have the target in sight. Order them to fire, and down go the

targets.

Ghost Recon Wildlands is a really challenging and enjoyable game. You can also play co-op online with up to three other human players in your team.



Publisher - Ubisoft

Genre - Tactical Shooter

Score - 8/10

Price - R399 (on Steam)



Black Hawk Down

Released: 2001

Running time: 144 minutes

Directed by: Ridley Scott

Black Hawk Down is a 2001 war film produced and directed by Ridley Scott from a screenplay by Ken Nolan. It is based on the 1999 non-fiction book of the same name by journalist Mark Bowden.

As an embedded journalist, he covered the 1993 raid in Mogadishu by the U.S. military, aimed at capturing faction leader Mohamed Farrah Aidid. The ensuing firefight became known as the Battle of Mogadishu.

Following the ousting of the central government in 1993 amid a civil war that had started in 1991, the United Nations Security Council authorized a military operation in Somalia with a peacekeeping mandate. After the bulk of the peacekeepers were withdrawn, the Mogadishu-based militia loyal to Mohamed Farrah Aidid declared war on the remaining UN personnel. In response, the U.S. Army deployed three of its special operations forces – 75th Rangers, Delta Force counter-terrorist operators, and 160th SOAR - Night Stalkers aviators – to Mogadishu to capture Aidid, who has proclaimed himself president of the country.

To consolidate his power and subdue the population in the south, Aidid and his militia seize Red Cross food ship-

ments, while the UN forces are powerless to intervene directly. Outside Mogadishu, Rangers and Delta Force capture Osman Ali Atto, a faction leader selling arms to Aidid's militia. While in custody, Atto attempts to convince Major General William Garrison that the Somali Civil War is a Somali matter, not one of international importance to the United Nations and the United States, but Garrison tells him off, reminding him of the genocide of 300,000 plus civilian casualties that have resulted from the civil war. The US plans a mission to capture Omar Salad Elmi and Abdi Hassan Awale Qeybdiid, two of Aidid's top advisers.

The operation begins and Delta Force operators capture Aidid's advisers inside the target building, while the Rangers and helicopters escorting the ground-extraction convoy take heavy fire. Blackburn is severely injured when he falls from one of the Black Hawk helicopters, so three Humvees led by Staff Sergeant Jeff Struecker are detached from the convoy to return Blackburn to the UN-held Mogadishu Airport.

Things begin to go wrong when a Black Hawk helicopter is shot down by a Somali RPG rocket. Later a second Black Hawk is shot down.

The ground forces are rerouted to converge on the crash site.

The Somali militia erects roadblocks and a vicious firefight erupts.

The column relinquish their attempt to reach Six-One's crash site and return to base with their prisoners and the casualties. The men prepare to go back to extract the Rangers and the fallen pilots.

As night falls, Aidid's militia launch a sustained assault on the trapped Americans at Super Six-One's crash site.

The film stars Josh Hartnett, Ewan McGregor, Tom Sizemore, Orlando Bloom and Sam Shepard.

Although not 100% accurate, it's still a decent movie.



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

Eagle Strike!

This is the story of an audacious, airborne assault, on 4 May 1978, on a SWAPO fortified base containing its military headquarters, logistical support, reserves and training facilities.

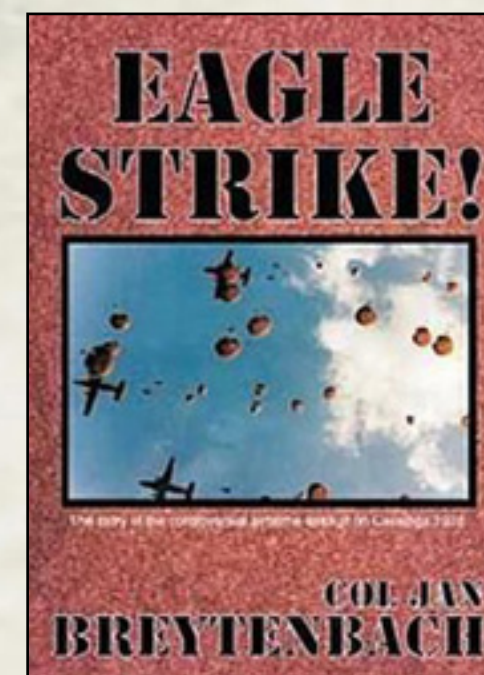
The assault was supported by a very strong air strike by bombers and fighters as well as by air transport to drop the paratroopers into battle in one of the major, post World War paratroops, 250kms deep behind enemy lines, swarm of helicopters to extract the paratroopers back to safety, this execution of the whole intricate operation through a joint HQ deployed in the field. Unfortunately the subsequent uproar in the international media, based on alle-

gations that this assault was a brutal attack on a refugee camp, did much to detract from the incredible victory the SADF had claimed.

Was it a refugee camp, a SWAPO HQ and strategic military establishment, or a mixture of both.

This is the only personal account ever written by somebody on the SADF side who 'was actually there' and who was the commander of the paratroopers.

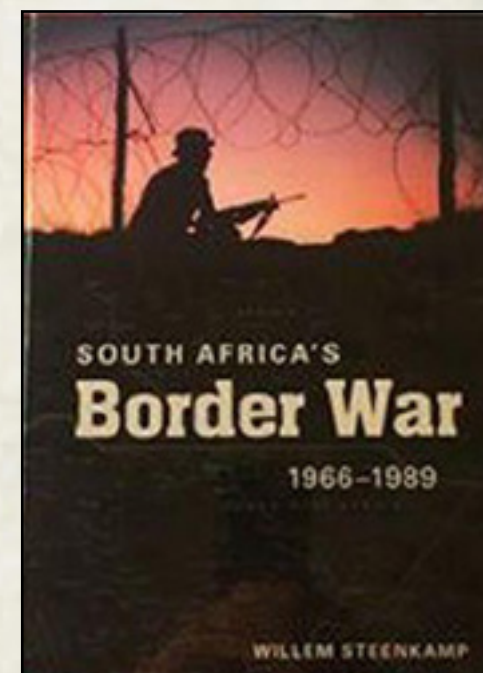
It also brings to light much more than this brief outline, especially the dangerous nature of the whole enterprise through personal experiences, by paratroopers and air crews, and how and why it nearly became the most disastrous undertaking of



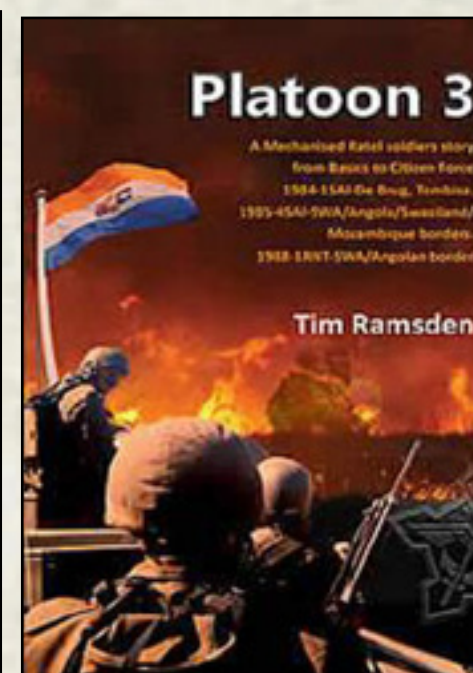
the whole 'bush war' era through uncalled for meddling by an outsider who should not have been there.

Softcover, 640 pages

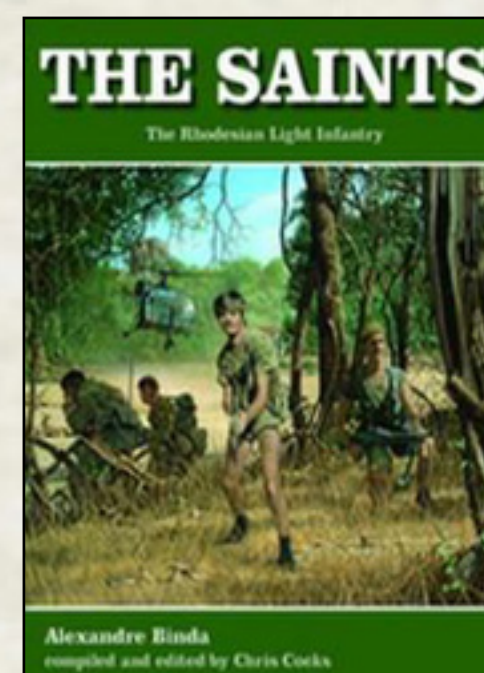
Cost: R800



Border War 1966 - 1989
R425



Platoon 3
R330



The Saints
R480

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

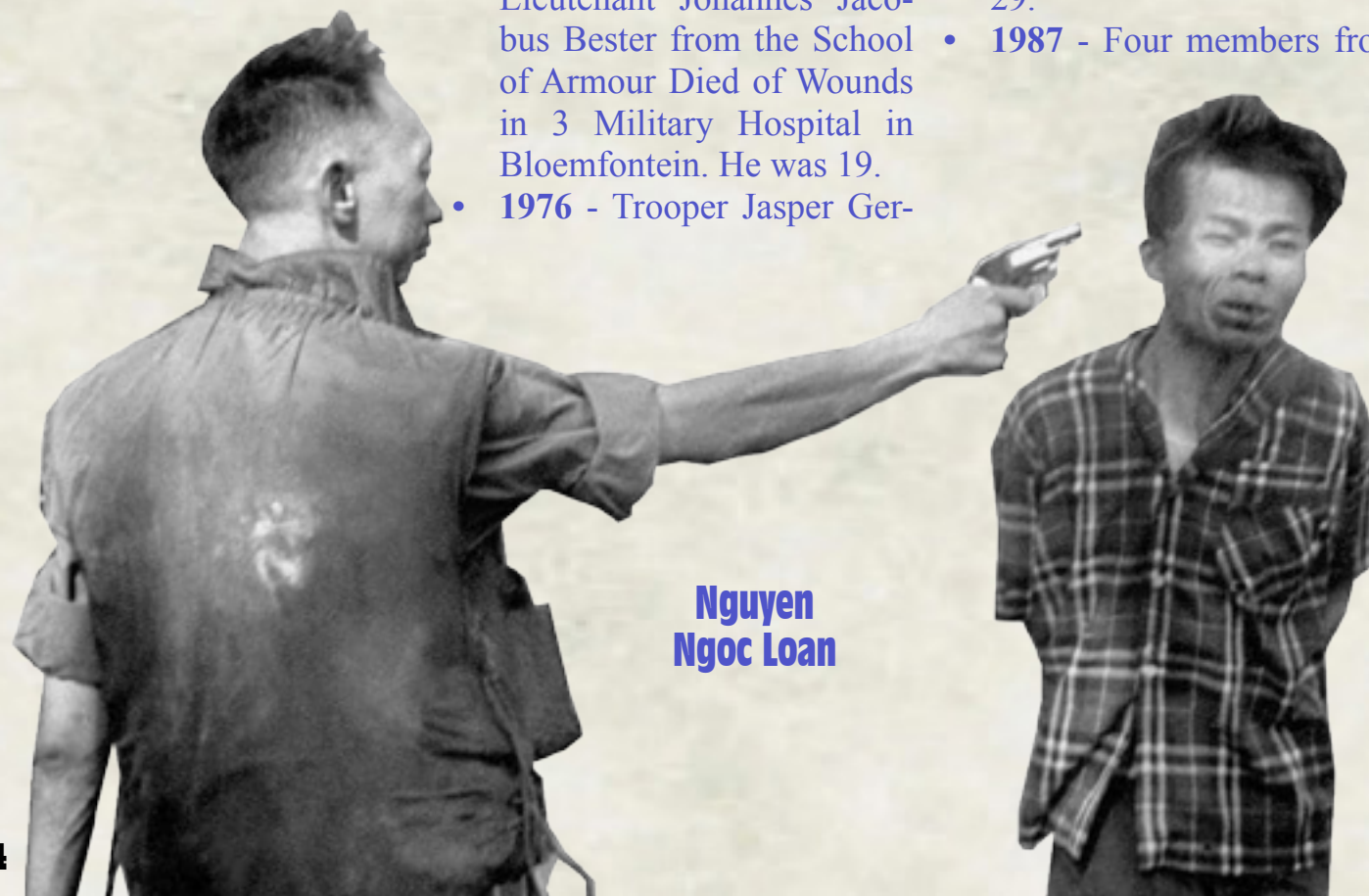
Some of the significant military events that happened in February. From this month we will also be publishing the Roll of Honour of members of the SADF that lost their lives. These will be highlighted in blue.

1 February

- **1862** - Julia Ward Howe's "Battle Hymn of Republic" is published.
- **1920** - The South African Air Force is established, the first of the Commonwealth air forces. Lt-Col. Pierre van Ryneveld is appointed as Director of Air Services.
- **1943** - Marshal Paulus surrenders the German Sixth Army at Stalingrad.
- **1944** - Japanese learn Australia has formed a war crimes commission.
- **1951** - Alfred Krupp & 28 other German war criminals are freed.
- **1957** - Field Marshal Friedrich Paulus, dies at the age of 66.
- **1960** - Extreme right-wing rebels in Algiers surrender.
- **1961** - Minuteman ICBM is successful in its first full scale test.
- **1968** - Saigon: Nguyen Ngoc Loan summarily executes a Viet Cong murderer.
- **1968** - The Canadian Forces are formed, through the merger of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, an "experiment" that is ended in 2011.
- **1971** - Two members from the Armoured Corps were accidentally Killed or Died of Wounds when a 90mm High Explosive Anti-Tank round exploded in the gun breech of their armoured car during live firing exercises at De Brug, Bloemfontein. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant Johannes Jacobus Bester from the School of Armour Died of Wounds in 3 Military Hospital in Bloemfontein. He was 19.
- **1976** - Trooper Jasper Ger-

hardus Johannes Visser from 1 SSB was killed instantly in the explosion. He was 19.

- **1976** - Rifleman Nicolaas Pretorius from Regiment Springs was critically wounded by an accidental weapon discharge in Southern Angola on 31 Jan 1976. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria where he succumbed to his wounds the following day on 1 February 1976. He was 29.
- **1981** - France sells 60 Mirage fighters to Iraq.
- **1986** - Sergeant Gerhardus Frederick Nortje from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 29.
- **1987** - Four members from



Nguyen
Ngoc Loan

32 Battalion were Killed in Action during a first light attack on a PLAN camp in the Cassumbi area east of Cassinga during Operation Kakebeen. Lance Corporal Joao and Rifleman Tolosi the MAG Gunner were killed instantly when a Soviet 82mm Mortar Bomb landed and exploded between them while the other two suffered fatal gunshot wounds during the fire-fight. The casualties were: Lance Corporal Evaristo Joao (32). Rifleman Gonsalves Antonio (22). Rifleman Kambala Tolosi (22). Rifleman Domingoes Zua (31).

- **1988** - Gunner Stephanus Petrus Stoop of 14 Artillery Regiment, attached to "P" Battery, 32 Battalion accidentally drowned while swimming somewhere in the Operational Area. He was 20.
- **1991** - Rifleman Joao Andrade from 201 Battalion SWATF died of natural causes in Hospital. He was 42.

2 February

- **1848** - The war between the U.S. and Mexico ended with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.
- **1901** - The U.S. Army Nurse Corps was formed on this day.
- **1942** - US ceases production of private cars to convert to war production.
- **1945** - Mass escape attempt

at Mauthausen concentration camp.

- **1957** - The United Nations (UN) adopts a resolution calling for Israeli troops to leave Egypt.
- **1971** - Idi Amin assumes power in Uganda following a coup that ousted President Milton Obote.
- **1972** - Irate Dubliners torch the British Embassy to protest 'Bloody Sunday' in Derry.
- **1973** - Captain Leslie John Marshall from Flying Training School Langebaanweg was Killed when his Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I, Serial No 485 crashed near Darling while he was practicing low level aerobatics. He was 26.
- **1975** - Rebels begin an offensive in Eritrea, Ethiopia. Ethiopia's military government orders bombers, armoured units and troops into operations against them in Eritrea Province.
- **1978** - Chief Matanzima announces that all South Africans seconded to the Transkei Army will leave Transkei by 31 March 1978.
- **1980** - Rifleman Willem Johannes Gerhardus Uys Olivier from 7 SAI was killed when the Buffel Troop Carrier in which he was a passenger, overturned at Ondangwa. He was 19.
- **1982** - Lance Corporal Johnny Atilla Nemith from 7 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident at Ha-

zyview. He was 19.

- **1984** - Rifleman Joshua Sitarara from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN Insurgents. He was 24.
- **1986** - Leading Seaman Cavan Rennie Boyd from SAS President Pretorius accidentally drowned whilst restrained in an overturned paddle ski off Bloubergstrand. He was 25.
- **1989** - Rifleman Christian Le Wack from Group 39 was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident, at Bloemfontein. He was 29.
- **1989** - Soviet troops leave Afghanistan, ending nine years of war.
- **1992** - Rifleman Benjamin Boorman from 3 SAI was accidentally shot and killed by a fellow Unit member during riot control operations at Mpophweni Township. He was 23.
- **2004** - Max Schmeling, former world heavyweight boxing champion and WW II Fallschirmjaeger, dies at the age of 99.

3 February

- **1838** - Piet Retief, seventy burghers and thirty mounted servants arrive at Dingaan's kraal Ungungundlovu (Home of the Elephant) for the signing of the Retief-Dingane treaty.
- **1903** - Britain conquers Kano from Nigerian rebel forces.

- **1915** - Battle of the Suez Canal: a Turkish attempt to cross the canal is defeated.
 - **1922** - General Christiaan Rudolph de Wet, well-known leader of Boer forces in the Second Anglo-Boer War, dies on his farm at the age of 67.
 - **1933** - Hitler informs his generals to prepare for war to secure *Lebensraum*.
 - **1943** - An extraordinary act of heroism occurred in the icy waters off Greenland after the U.S. Army transport ship *Dorchester* was hit by a German torpedo and began to sink rapidly. When it became apparent there were not enough life jackets, four U.S. Army chaplains on board removed theirs, handed them to frightened young soldiers, and chose to go down with the ship while praying.
 - **1943** - Troop transport 'Dorchester' torpedoed & sunk off Greenland with great loss of life.
 - **1977** - General Tafari Banti (Teferi Benti), Ethiopia's chief of state, is killed in gun battle that breaks out around Addis Ababa headquarters of the nation's feuding military leaders. Lieutenant-Colonel Haile Mariam Mengistu replaces him.
 - **1978** - Rifleman Afonso Da Silva from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with the enemy forces at Mamuandi during Operation Seiljag. He was 22.
 - **1983** - Lance Corporal Carl Leopold Albert Craemer from 8 SAI was Killed in Action when the Buffel Troop Carrier he was driving, detonated three boosted Yugoslavian TMA-3 Anti-Tank cheese mines that were triggered by a Soviet PMN "Black Widow" Anti-Personnel Mine on the road between Oshigambo and Ondangwa. He was 20.
 - **1988** - Lance Corporal Marius John Lecuona from 2 SSB attached to 61 Mech Battalion was killed during Operation Hooper in Southern Angola.
- #### 4 February
- **1861** - Apache Chief Cochise was arrested in Arizona by the U.S. Army for raiding a ranch. Cochise then escaped and declared war, beginning the period known as the Apache Wars, which lasted 25 years.
 - **1874** - British forces under Garnet Wolseley burn Kumasi, Ghana, ending Ashanti War.
 - **1899** - The Philippine-American War (Philippine Insurrection) begins with heavy fighting at Manila.
 - **1904** - Herero Revolt in German South West Africa: Omaruru is relieved after a fierce battle between Franke and the Ovaherero.
 - **1911** - Pieter Arnoldus Cronjé, Boer general during the Second Anglo-Boer War, dies in Potchefstroom.
 - **1938** - Hitler assumes direct control of the German Army.

- **1939** - The "Ossewabrandwag" (OB) is founded as an Afrikaans cultural and political organisation in Bloemfontein, under leadership of Col. J. Laas.
- **1944** - Japanese launch major offensive against British in the Arakan, Burma.
- **1961** - Civil war erupts in Angola.
- **1964** - The number of men required for military training in 1964 is to increase by 60%, i.e. from 10,368 to 16,537.
- **1967** - Crew of the US carrier *FDR* are refused leave in South Africa because of the apartheid laws.
- **1980** - Three members from 6 SAI were Killed in Action when their patrol was ambushed around mid-morning near Nkongo by PLAN Insurgents using heavy calibre weapons, mortars and RPG-7 Anti-Tank Rockets. The casualties were: Rifleman Michael Derek Loubser (20). Rifleman Jacobus Johannes Maritz (20). Rifleman Jacobus Johannes van der Star (20).
- **1980** - Rifleman Anthony Michael Scholtz from 41 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN Insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 17.
- **1981** - Corporal Daniel Johannes van Wyk from Sector 20 Headquarters was killed in a military vehicle accident near Rundu. He was 19.
- **1982** - 2nd Lieutenant Douglas Raymond Fincham from 82 Mechanised Brigade accidentally drowned in the Vaal River at Barkley West. He was 24.
- **1983** - Private Jan Gabriel Johannes van der Berg from 201 Battalion SWATF was accidentally killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned during follow-up operations in Southern Angola. He was 20.
- **1986** - Private Ronnie Marx from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed instantly when he was struck by lightning during a thunderstorm. He was 18.
- **1987** - Sapper Shawn Engelbrecht from 25 Field Squadron was Killed in Action when his Buffel Troop Carrier detonated a landmine in Northern Owamboland. He was 20.
- **1988** - Two members of 101 Battalion Romeo Mike were Killed in Action near Mupa in Southern Angola when their Casspir drove into an ambush and was struck by a Czechoslovakian RPG-75 Anti-Tank Rocket. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant Michael Sean McCann (21). Sapper Michael Colin Suter (20) from 25 Field Engineer Squadron attached to 101 Battalion Romeo Mike.
- **1988** - Two members of the South West Africa Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K (Koevoet) were Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. They

- **1989** - The Citizen reveals that Miss Olivia Forsyth who arrived at the British Embassy in Luanda, Angola, seeking sanctuary from the ANC, which, she alleged, has kept her in confinement for months and severely tortured her, was indeed a South African spy. Her claim to be a SA agent was formerly rejected by SA authorities.
 - **1990** - Nine Israeli tourists and two Egyptian guards are killed and twenty tourists wounded when masked assailants open fire on a bus en route to Cairo.
- #### 5 February
- **1840** - Hiram Stevens Maxim, inventor of the first practical machine gun, is born on this day.
 - **1900** - General Redvers Buller conquers Vaalkrans at the Tugela river, but shelling from both sides continues and the British forces have to evacuate their positions two days later.
 - **1915** - General Louis Botha leaves for South West Africa to take control of the Union troops who would conquer the area from Germany.
 - **1918** - Stephen W Thompson becomes the first US pilot to down an enemy airplane.
 - **1935** - Johannes Jacobus Geldenhuys (Jannie), former Chief of the South African Defence Force, is born in Kroonstad.
 - **1943** - Germans deport 12,000 Jews from Bialystok to death camps.
 - **1958** - A B-47 & F-86 collide at 36,000 feet off the Georgia coast, causing the loss of an H-Bomb, which is still missing.
 - **1970** - Captain Johannes Jacobus Lombard from 4 SAI was deliberately shot dead by a disgruntled soldier in the mess at Katima Mulilo. He was 29.
 - **1973** - Funeral for Lt Col William Nolde, last US soldier killed in Vietnam.
 - **1976** - The Defence Amendment Bill, making provision for the employment of South African conscripted troops anywhere outside South Africa, is approved.
 - **1976** - Sapper Jonathan Aschman from 21 Field Engineer Squadron, South African Engineer Corps was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Central Angola during Operation Savannah. He was 19.
 - **1976** - Trooper Willem Johannes Cronje from Regiment Oranje Rivier was Killed in Action in Central Angola during Operation Savannah. He was 26.
 - **1980** - Two members from 6 SAI were Killed in Action when their Temporary Base at Nkongo was attacked by PLAN insurgents. The casualties were: Rifleman Chris-

- **1989** - The Citizen reveals that Miss Olivia Forsyth who arrived at the British Embassy in Luanda, Angola, seeking sanctuary from the ANC, which, she alleged, has kept her in confinement for months and severely tortured her, was indeed a South African spy. Her claim to be a SA agent was formerly rejected by SA authorities.
- **1990** - Nine Israeli tourists and two Egyptian guards are killed and twenty tourists wounded when masked assailants open fire on a bus en route to Cairo.

- to Swanepoel (19). Rifleman Bruce Edward Schultz (20).
 - **1981** - Police announce the arrest of a number of Whites in connection with sabotage acts for which the Wit Kommando has claimed responsibility on 15 August 1980 and on 12 December 1980.
 - **1981** - Rifleman Bernard Jacobus Leach from 1 SAI was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents while on patrol near the Cut-line. He was 21.
 - **1982** - Two members from 4 SAI were killed at their Base at Ohiki, 18km North of Omauni when they tried to make a skyrocket by using a tent pole. They were: Rifleman Evert Phillipus Du Toit (20). Rifleman Robert Glenn Dunn (19).
 - **1983** - Former Gestapo official Klaus Barbie brought to trial in Lyon, France.
 - **1985** - Rifleman Paul Ismael from 101 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces. He was 24.
 - **1987** - Rifleman Peter Benz Reynolds from 5 Recce Regiment was killed when the Kwêvoel vehicle he was driving, overturned when he tried to avoid cattle in the road between Ondangwa and Tsumeb. He was 22.
 - **1991** - Lieutenant Johannes Francois Neuhoff from 85 Combat Flying School was killed when his Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I, Serial No. 604 crashed near Pietersburg. He was 25.
 - **1992** - Rifleman Daniel Stephanus Hendrik Du Toit from the Regiment Botha was killed when he accidentally slipped at a waterfall and fell 30 metres to his death, while on Patrol at the Table Mountain in Natal. He was 33.
 - **1993** - Up to 200 Somali youths hurl rocks at US forces and set tyre barricades ablaze in the belief that American troops shot to death a Somali man.
- 6 February**
- **1838** - At the farewell function following the signing of Retief's treaty, Piet Retief, seventy of his men and thirty mounted servants are killed on the orders of Zulu King Dingane at Ungungundlovu. The Trekkers are bound and taken from the enclosure to a spot where they are spiked and clubbed to death.
 - **1899** - Spanish-American War officially ends.
 - **1901** - The battle of Chrissiesmeer (Lake Chrissie) takes place during the Second Anglo-Boer War.
 - **1941** - Battle of Beda Fomm: British complete destruction of Italian Tenth Army.
 - **1941** - British troops capture Bengazi, Libya.
 - **1945** - Battle for Manila begins.
 - **1945** - Over 4,000 American POWs are freed from prison camps on Luzon.
 - **1970** - Israelis sink a 700-ton Egyptian minelayer in the Gulf of Suez in reprisal

for the sinking of two Israeli ships at Elath.

- **1977** - Rhodesian security forces launch a full-scale search for a gang, which massacred seven White Roman Catholic missionaries three Jesuits and four Dominican nuns at St Paul's Mission at Musami, near Mrewa.
- **1978** - Chad breaks links to Libya in protest to their support of Muslim guerrillas currently fighting in northern Chad.
- **1981** - Rifleman L Kavari from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1982** - Rifleman Hirite Vilho from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 20.
- **1982** - Rifleman Ningileymo Kondjeni Meulemo from 101 Battalion SWATF was killed during operations in Southern Angola. He was 22.
- **1984** - Rifleman Xavier Arico from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 24.
- **1984** - Special Constable M. Kaibotya from Koevoet was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in North-

- ern Owamboland. He was 34.
- **1985** - Rifleman Immanuel Gabriel from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 28.
- **1985** - Trooper Hermanus Christoffel Helm from 2 Special Service Battalion collapsed and died after suffering a fatal heart attack during a physical training session at Walvis Bay. He was 18.
- **1985** - Corporal Noel Mbumba Marcel from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 30.

- **1994** - National Peacekeeping Force (NPKF), Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana, says that the NPKF will probably not be ready to keep the peace during the elections in April.
 - **2004** - Chechen terrorists bomb the Moscow subway, 49 die, scores injured.
- 7 February**
- **1900** - British forces, under Buller, are defeated by the Boers under Botha at the end of the three-day battle of Vaalkrans.
 - **1900** - The British fail for the third time to relieve the Boer siege of Ladysmith.
 - **1901** - Britain sends 30 000 additional troops to South Africa.
 - **1942** - The 2nd SA Division moves into Tobruk.

- **1943** - Guadalcanal: U.S. troops advance on both coasts, as the Japanese complete the evacuation of their troops from the island.
- **1944** - Germans launch counteroffensive at Anzio.
- **1945** - General Douglas MacArthur returns to Manila.
- **1948** - Omar Bradley succeeds Dwight Eisenhower as Army Chief of Staff.
- **1964** - Somali troops invade Ethiopia to assert claim to Ogaden desert area.
- **1965** - US begins sustained air operations against North Vietnam.
- **1968** - Air Mechanic Philip Johannes Joubert from 24 Squadron was shot dead while on guard duty when he was struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 19.



Douglas MacArthur

- **1969** - Nigerian planes bomb and strafe a crowded market in a village in rebellious Biafra, killing more than 200 people.
 - **1973** - Two members from the Infantry School Instructor Staff were killed instantly in Oudtshoorn when a stockpile of old unstable explosives that they were preparing for demolition, accidentally detonated. The casualties were: WO Lukas Petrus Jacobus Steenkamp (45). Staff Sergeant Pieter Paul van Jaarsveld (30).
 - **1978** - Gunner Abraham Hattingh from 4 Artillery Regiment was killed instantly at Potchefstroom during a violent storm when the electric floor polisher he was using to polish the barracks floor, was struck by lightning. He was 17.
 - **1979** - Nazi war criminal Josef Mengele drowns in Brazil at the age of 67.
 - **1987** - Trooper Johann Labuschagne from 61 Mechanised Battalion died during a two week Infantry training exercise at Oshivello.
 - **1989** - Sapper Ian Steward Hanslo from the School of Engineers was killed while on guard duty at the Unit's main gate when he was accidentally run over by a 10-ton truck. He was 19.
- Heights, near Schuinshoogte (also called the Battle of Skuinshoogte) is fought in the Anglo-Transvaal War. Eight Boer and 100 British soldiers are killed. In this battle the Boer force of 100 men defeats the English force of 600 who are assisted by cavalry and four cannons.
- **1943** - Burma: Orde Wingate's Chindits begin raid against the Japanese.
 - **1943** - Red Army liberates Kursk.
 - **1978** - Three members of 32 Battalion were Killed in Action during in a fierce fire fight with superior enemy force at Mamuandi in Southern Angola during Operation Seiljag. They were: Rifleman Lucindo Laurindo (20). Rifleman Rodrigues Augusto (19). Rifleman Antonio Mussungu (20).
 - **1978** - Rifleman N. Bernade from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during in a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola between Onhunda and Oshipala during Operation Seiljag. He was 19.
 - **1979** - Gunner Pieter Du Toit from 10 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment received serious burns on 7 February while escorting a patient in an ambulance to 2 Military Hospital at Wynberg. He passed away on 8 February. He was 20.
 - **1981** - Rifleman Morgan John Williams from 5 SAI was Killed when he was

8 February

- **1865** - Martin Delany becomes first black major in the US Army.
- **1881** - The Battle of Ingogo

struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle in Northern Owamboland. He was 20.

- **1984** - Captain Sarel Jacobus Kruger from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was killed in a parachute training accident at Hoedspruit. He was 26.
- **1984** - Rifleman Hendrik Francois Taljaard from the Equestrian Centre was killed instantly when he was accidentally run over by a Samil 100 truck near Potchefstroom while on his way to stand guard at the North West Command Ammunition Dump. He was 19.
- **1984** - 2nd Lieutenant Johannes Petrus Verhoef from 8 SAI died from gunshot wounds accidentally sustained near AFB Ondangwa in Northern Owamboland. He was 21.
- **1988** - Rifleman Thomas Andries Dreyer from 5 SAI accidentally drowned while swimming in the Klip River. He was 24.

9 February

- **1900** - George Frederick Labram, mechanical engineer who built 'Long Cecil' for the defence of Kimberley during the siege by the Boers, is killed by a shell from a Boer 'Long Tom' only a few days before the siege was raised.
- **1904** - A predawn Japanese torpedo boat attack on the Russian Fleet outside Port

Arthur, initiates the Russo-Japanese War.

- **1916** - General Jan Christian Smuts is appointed commander of UK and South African troops in the East African campaign of World War I.
- **1916** - Britain adopts conscription for World War I.
- **1916** - The Cape Corps, consisting of thirty-two officers and 1022 soldiers, leaves for East Africa during the First World War.
- **1918** - U.S. Army Chaplains' School is established on this day.
- **1941** - The German troops of General Erwin Rommel move from Italy to North Africa.
- **1943** - During World War II in the Pacific, U.S. troops captured Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands after six months of battle, with 9,000 Japanese and 2,000 Americans killed.
- **1945** - Germans blow up dams on the Ruhr.
- **1977** - Rifleman Frederick Francois Oosthuizen from Meyerton Commando died from a gunshot wound resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while his patrol was busy preparing an ambush position north of Oshakati. He was 20.
- **1978** - South Africa is to make its own missiles. Kentron (Pty) Ltd, a newly formed subsidiary of ARMSCOR (the South African Armaments Corporation)

will produce these.

- **1987** - Corporal Marius Viljoen from 2 Special Service Battalion was killed at the Rooisloot Training Terrain at Zeerust when his Eland armoured car overturned during training exercises. He was 19.
- **1990** - Rifleman Gerhard Paul Heine from 5 SAI was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Umhlanga Rocks. He was 19.
- **1991** - Oupa Gqozo, head of the Ciskei, claims to have put down the second coup attempt in the space of two weeks, with the assistance of South African forces.
- **1992** - After two days of fighting between Islamic fundamentalists and security forces in Algeria, a state of emergency is declared.
- **1996** - WW II Luftwaffe ace Adolf Galland dies at the age of 83. He was the youngest man in Europe to become a general since Napoleon.
- **1999** - An Ethiopian plane bombs an Eritrean village full of homeless people, killing at least five civilians and escalating a border dispute.

Adolf Galland

10 February

- **1840** - Commandant-General M.W. Pretorius installs Mpande as King of the Zulus after the power of Mpande's brother, Dingane, is broken at a final battle at Magongo on the Umkuzi River.
- **1901** - General Christiaan de Wet invades the Cape Colony for the second time at Zanddrif, near Philippolis.
- **1906** - HMS 'Dreadnought' is launched, initiating a naval arms race.
- **1916** - Geneneral Jan Smuts is appointed commander of the Allied forces in East Africa.
- **1942** - The first Medal of Honor during World War II was awarded to 2nd Lt. Al-



exander Nininger (posthumously) for heroism during the Battle of Bataan.

- **1943** - Britain's Eighth Army reaches Tunisian border.
- **1943** - Battle of Krasny Bor: The Soviets attempt to break the siege of Leningrad, but defending German and Spanish troops hold.
- **1962** - USSR swaps U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for spy Rudolph Abel.
- **1964** - Australian carrier 'Melbourne' collides with the destroyer 'Voyager', which sinks, 82 die.
- **1972** - Lance Corporal James Charles Warren from 2 Squadron was killed in a aircraft ground mishap at the Squadron. He was in the process of removing an aircraft ejection seat when the drogue gun on the seat accidentally fired and he was fa-

tally injured. He was 23.

- **1983** - Rifleman Adao Salvador from 32 Battalion was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident, at Mosese. He was 22.
- **1988** - South Africa sends troops to Bophuthatswana to reinstate Lucas Mangope who was ousted by local defence force members on charge of corruption.
- **1989** - The Citizen reports that an alleged member of the SADF, Isaiah Moyo, was convicted in Lusaka, Zambia, on three counts of espionage and sentenced to fifty years' hard labour. The SADF denied any knowledge of Mr Moyo. The sentence was later reduced to thirty years.
- **1994** - Lieutenant Garth Harold Esterhuizen from 42 Squadron was killed when his Cessna 185A, Serial No. 720 crashed at Carletonville after flying into power lines during a low level cross country training flight. He was 23.

- **2017** - Lt. General Harold Gregory "Hal" Moore, Jr, hero of the Ia Drang Valley in Vietnam, dies at the age of 84.

11 February

- **1900** - The second British offensive begins with a British invasion of the Orange Free State when almost 50,000 men and 170 guns cross the border from Modder River and Graspan to a water-rich farm at Ramdam.
- **1935** - League of Nations debates the border dispute between Italy and Ethiopia, whilst Mussolini prepares to ship out 35,000 troops to East Africa.
- **1941** - Erwin Rommel lands in Tripoli to assume command of the Afrika Korps.
- **1963** - The defence minister, J.J. Fouché, announces in the House of Assembly that he intends to increase the strength of the permanent army by fifty per cent.
- **1971** - US, UK, USSR, others sign a treaty banning nuclear weapons on the seabed.
- **1975** - A Rhodesian government spokesman announces that elements of the South African police are withdrawing from certain forward positions on the Zambezi River, after undertakings from the Zambian government about guerrilla infiltrations there.
- **1978** - Lieutenant Johannes Hendrik Du Toit from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces during an ambush while operating in Zambia. He was 23.
- **1980** - Private Gert Petrus

Gerber from Central Flying School Dunnottar attached to 95 Tactical Airfield Unit, suffered critical head injuries when his fuel tanker vehicle overturned near Oluno in Northern Owamboland on 5 February 1980. He succumbed to his injuries in 1 Military Hospital on 11 February 1980. He was 19.

- **1981** - Rifleman Archie Ronnie Williams from the South African Cape Corps died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while on patrol in Northern Owamboland. He was 26.
- **1982** - Sapper Phillipus Johannes De Bruin from 5 Engineer Regiment was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 23.
- **1985** - Eight members of 32 Battalion were Killed in Action and five more Died of Wounds when Charlie Company Patrol was operating in the vicinity of the Bale River in Southern Angola during Ops Forte. The eight casualties that were killed in the initial contact were: Lieutenant David Gordon Light (26). Rifleman Jakob Eduardo Jamba (31). Lance Corporal Jose Alfredo Sachilombo (27). Rifleman Petrus Kalitoko Kahete (31). Rifleman Alberto de Almeida (19). Rifleman Paulo Jose (27). Rifleman Kausanga Galonga (27). Rifleman Jose Chihamba (30). After sunset while the casualties were being evacuated

to a temporary emergency base, another four of the wounded men, all suffering from massive chest wounds as a result of Rifle Grenades and RPG-7 Rockets, succumbed to their injuries. They were: Riflemen Joao Fernando (29). Rifleman Mateus Joaquim (26). Rifleman Zeferino Chipoya (22). Rifleman, Mateus Antonio Kinguelele (32). Rifleman Musose Muema (32) succumbed to his injuries the following day.

- **1990** - The South African Defence Force (SADF) admits the existence of a secret unit called the Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB), which was also allegedly involved in hit-squad actions against activists. President De Klerk said in March 1990 that he had been informed about the CCB only in January 1990.

12 February

- **1942** - The "Channel Dash": German battleships 'Scharnhorst' & 'Gneisenau', & heavy cruiser 'Prinz Eugen' escape from Brest to Germany.
- **1955** - Pres Eisenhower sends US advisors to South Vietnam.
- **1976** - Rifleman Johannes Jacobus Bruwer from 6 SAI Died in 1 Military Hospital from gunshot wounds accidentally sustained while in Northern Owamboland. He was 21.
- **1979** - The State Security Council (SSC) approves

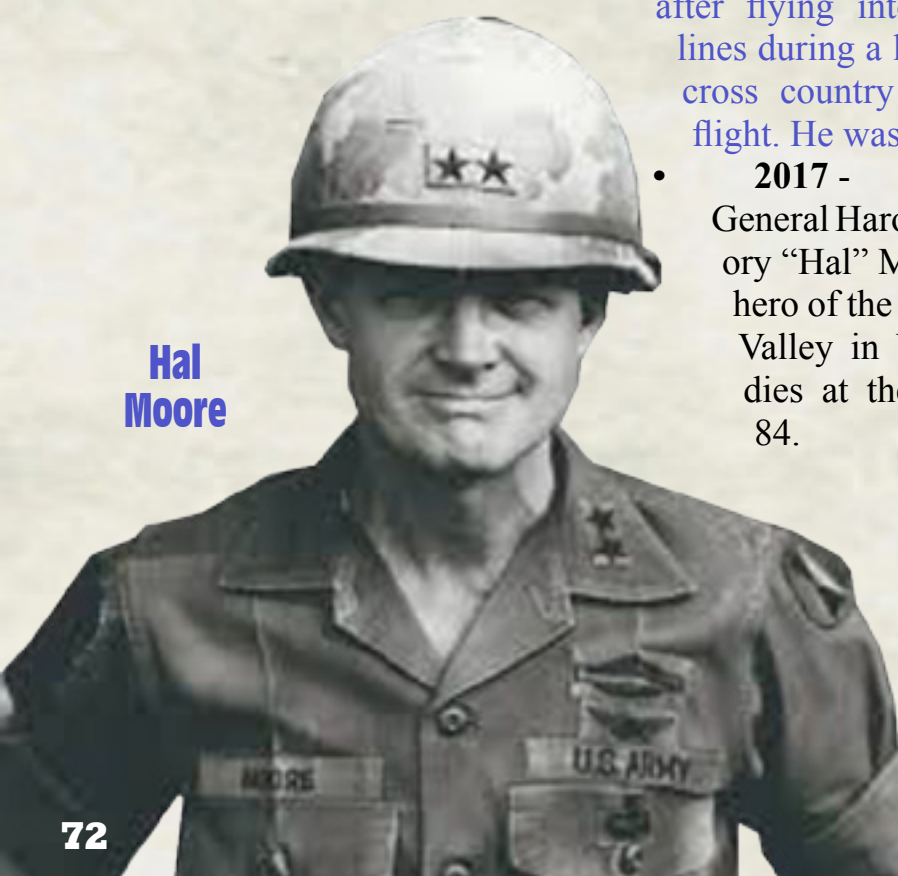
guidelines for the conducting of military operations against liberation movements in foreign countries.

- **1979** - Nationalist guerrillas in Rhodesia shoot down an Air Rhodesia airliner with a missile, killing fifty-nine people.
- **1985** - Captain Robert Raymond Rodel from 4 Squadron was Killed in Action in Northern Owamboland in Atlas MB326KC Impala Mk II, Serial No.1096. He was 26.
- **1985** - Five members from 102 Battalion SWATF and 1 SWA Engineer Regiment SWATF (attached) were Killed in Action in Western Koakoland when their Buffel Troop Carrier convoy was ambushed by a numerically superior force of approximately 40 heavily armed SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. The casualties were: Corporal Mannie Maheue (22). Sapper Willem Vallien (18). Sapper Gerhard van Wyk (19). Sapper Bartholomeus Kapindi (22). Sapper Niklaas Johannes Ferris (24).

13 February

- **1901** - Lord Kitchener meets with Gen. Louis Botha in an effort to end the Anglo-Boer War, but Botha finds the British conditions unacceptable. The battle of Wolwekuil is fought the same day.
- **1924** - Japanese Admiral Kenji Ide and his aide, Capt. Isoroku Yamamoto, visit the

Hal Moore



- U.S. Naval War College
 - **1941** - WW2: The 12th African Division, with 1st SA Infantry Brigade in command, captures Kismayu in Somaliland.
 - **1942** - Hitler finally cancels "Operation Seelöwe", the invasion of Britain.
 - **1945** - During World War II in Europe, British and American planes began massive bombing raids on Dresden, Germany. A four-day firestorm erupted that was visible for 200 miles and engulfed the historic old city, killing an estimated 135,000 German civilians.
 - **1960** - The first French atom bomb is tested in the Sahara desert.
 - **1961** - UN security council urges use of force to prevent civil war in the Congo.
 - **1972** - Patrol Officer Michael Fenton Hill, a South African National serving in the British South Africa Police stationed at Wedza, was killed in a motor vehicle accident while travelling on the Salisbury to Umtali Road. He was 20.
 - **1976** - General Murtula Ramat Muhammed, Nigerian head of state since a bloodless coup in 1975, is assassinated during a failed military coup.
 - **1980** - 2nd Lieutenant Ignatius Petrus Du Preez from 201 Battalion SWATF Died of Wounds during an operation in Southern Zambia when he accidentally triggered a booby trap while clearing a SWAPO/PLAN base. He was 21.
 - **1981** - Rifleman Jaco Marais from the South African Army was killed in a private motor vehicle accident in Pretoria He was 18.
 - **1993** - Angolan government troops break into Unita rebel-held highlands in an attempt to open a supply corridor to the embattled city of Huambo.
 - **1994** - Rifleman Mbhonono Johnson Myeni from 111 Infantry Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident at Alexandra. He was 27.
 - **1994** - Somali gunmen kidnap two Italian aid workers and an Egyptian UN peacekeeper is killed.
 - **1997** - Rebels under Laurent Kabila take Zairian town of Faradje while advancing on country's third largest city, Kisangani.
 - **1999** - Osama bin Laden, the Saudi millionaire suspected of being behind the bombings of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, is reported to have disappeared from his base in Afghanistan.
- ### 14 February
- **1900** - General Buller starts his fourth attempt to relieve Ladysmith, Natal. The British withdraw from their positions around Colesberg and regroup at Arundel Sid-ing nearby.
 - **1940** - British merchant ships are armed against Ger-

- man submarines and raiders.
- **1941** - German 5th Light Division, Rommel's Afrika Corps, arrive at Tripoli.
- **1943** - The Soviets liberate Rostov from the Germans.
- **1973** - An Israeli fighter pilot shoots down a Libyan aircraft over the Sinai Desert. Seventy-four passengers and crew members die.
- **1981** - Eight Army officers are paraded by President Samora Machel at a mass rally in Maputo and are accused of treason and complicity with South Africa in the raid on the military base at Matola, where two of them were in command.
- **1987** - Three members from South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. They were: Lieutenant Colonel G.L. Steyn (48). Sergeant Christoffel Lodewikus Fourie (28). Constable Ryk Ludolph Erasmus (20).
- **1988** - Four Members from B Company 1 SAI including two Cousins acting as the MAG Light Machine Gunner team, were Killed in Action in South Eastern Angola during a contact with elements of the 59th FAP-LA Brigade during Operation Hooper. The casualties were: Corporal Jan Hendrik Kleynhans (19). Rifleman Andre Schalk Groenewald (18). Rifleman Pieter Hen-

- rich Groenewald (19). Rifleman Vincent Vernon Nieuwenhuizen (19).
- **1990** - Corporal Pieter Gabriel Jacobus Haasbroek from 4 Reconnaissance Regiment was accidentally killed when his parachute failed during a practice jump at the Saldanha Airfield near Vredenburg. He was 21.
- **1991** - Lance Corporal Deon Schutte from Group 33 shot dead in a shooting incident near the Mozambique border. He was 20.

15 February

- **1898** - In Havana, the U.S. Battleship Maine was blown up while at anchor and quickly sank with 260 crew members lost. The incident inflamed public opinion in the U.S., resulting in a declaration of war against Spain on April 25, 1898, amid cries of "Remember the Maine!"
- **1900** - General French relieves Kimberley after a siege of 123 days. The town has suffered only 134 casualties among armed defenders and twenty-one civilians, but some 1,500 people, mostly Coloureds and Blacks, have died of famine and disease. The British lost at least 2,237 men of the relieving force.
- **1900** - The British threaten to use natives in the Boer War fight.
- **1915** - "Sepoy Mutiny" at Singapore: About 800 Indian troops run amok until subdued by loyal troops and police.
- **1942** - Singapore surrenders to the Japanese; greatest disaster in British military history.
- **1944** - The Allies commence bombing & shelling the Monastery of Monte Cassino.
- **1970** - Air Chief Marshal Hugh Caswall Tremenheere Dowding, who led "The Few" during the Battle of Britain, dies at the age of 87.
- **1970** - Corporal Stephanus Abraham Johannes Latsky from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident on the Old Pretoria / JHB Road, near Valhalla when his Kombi skidded on the wet road and overturned. He was 19.
- **1979** - Major Frederick Wilhelm Christiaan Brits from 3 Squadron was killed when his Mirage F1CZ Serial No.200, crashed near Cullinan during a training flight. He was 32.
- **1989** - Soviet Russia completed its military withdrawal from Afghanistan after nine years of unsuccessful involvement in the civil war between Muslim rebel groups and the Russian-backed Afghan government. Over 15,000 Russian soldiers had been killed in the fighting.
- **1990** - Captain Cecil de Jong from 17 Squadron was killed when his Alouette III, Serial 637 crashed at Murrayhill near Hammanskraal during a confined space landing/

take-off. He was 29.

- **1992** - Two members from the School of Armour were killed when the military vehicle in which they were traveling as passengers, burst a rear tyre near Verkeerdevlei and overturned. They were: Trooper Grant James Koekemoer (18). Trooper Gert Johannes Grobler (18).

16 February

- **1940** - 'Altmark' Incident: HMS 'Cossack' violates Norwegian territoriality to free British prisoners held aboard a German tanker.
- **1941** - Remaining Italian forces are expelled from the Sudan.
- **1945** - Venezuela declares war on Nazi Germany.
- **1959** - Fidel Castro becomes premier of Cuba after the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista. Cuban intervention in the Angolan war started during his office.
- **1982** - Rifleman Daniel Cloete from 911 Battalion SWATF accidentally drowned in a flooded shona/river bed. He was 18.
- **1983** - Rifleman L.K. Kam-bathi from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 21.
- **1986** - Two members from 101 Battalion Romeo Mike SWATF were Killed in Action when their Casspir was hit by an RPG-7 Anti-Tank Rocket during a contact with

enemy forces in Southern Angola. They were: Corporal Nandago Thomas (22). Rifleman R. Boas (19).

- **1986** - Special Constable Abel Uteuga from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 27.
- **1986** - French warplanes bomb Libyan airfield in northern Chad used as support centre for rebels in their offensive against President Hissene Habre's government.
- **1988** - An attempted coup by the Bophuthatswana Defence Force is crushed by the S.A. Defence Force.

17 February

- **1900** - General Piet Cronje is trapped against the Modder River on the farm Wolwekraal in the Paardeberg vicinity, and the next day the battle of Paardeberg, which was to last ten days, starts.
- **1909** - Apache Chief Geronimo died while in captivity at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He had led a small group of warriors on raids throughout Arizona and New Mexico. Caught once, he escaped. The U.S. Army then sent 5,000 men to recapture him.
- **1916** - British and French forces complete capture of Germany's African colony of Cameroon during World

War I.

- **1980** - Staff Sergeant Michael Johannes van der Linde from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 39.
- **1981** - Signaler Walter James Griffin from 2 Signal Regiment attached to 237 Troop (BRUSH) in Grootfontein, was accidentally killed while returning to Grootfontein when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Otjovasandu in Sector 30. He was 19.
- **1984** - Rifleman Hendrik Jacobus Smith from 1 Parachute Battalion was Reported Missing near the Epupa Falls in Kaokoland. The Cunene River was flowing strongly and making whirlpools between the rocks. One of his boots fell into the river and he jumped in to retrieve it. He never re-surfaced and despite an intensive search by the members of the patrol, he was never located and remains unaccounted for. He was 20.
- **1987** - Two members from 202 Battalion SWATF were Killed in Action when their Buffel Troop Carrier detonated a landmine in Southern Angola. The casualties were: Lance Corporal L. Aukhumb (22). Rifleman G.H. Edwards (19).
- **1987** - Rifleman K.S. Kambonde from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with

SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 23.

- **1988** - Staff Sergeant Aubrey Nelson Borchers from 101 Battalion SWATF died in 1 Military Hospital after suffering a fatal heart attack. He was 49.
- **1988** - Lance Corporal William Arthur Frederick Price from 1 SAI, attached to 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was Killed in Action in Southern Angola during Operation Hooper. He was 19.
- **2017** - Three members of the South African Navy died while trying to rescue three members from the Department of Public Works who were working in a sewage pit repairing the valve. The casualties were: Leading Seaman Amrithlall Tothara Ramdin (41). Able Seaman Francois William Mundell (26). Seaman Henro Ter Borg from the Maritime Reaction Squadron (21).

18 February

- **1884** - British forces under General Charles Gordon reach Khartoum in Sudan.
- **1900** - The Battle of Paardeberg, which was to last up to 27 February, starts with an attack by the British under Maj General Lord Kitchener on the Boers under General Cronje.
- **1915** - Germany proclaims a blockade of England.
- **1941** - Mega, the Italian headquarters in southern

Abyssinia, falls to SA forces.

- **1977** - Rifleman Willem Andries Haarhoff from 3 SAI was accidentally killed when a pole fell on him. He was 18.
- **1980** - Gunner Samuel Deon van Aswegen from the Potchefstroom University Regiment was Killed in Action when his Buffel Troop Carrier was hit by an RPG-7 Anti-Tank Rocket during an enemy night ambush at Omindamba in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
- **1982** - Rifleman Mark Mason from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed in a friendly fire incident when their patrol was engaged by SWATF forces near the Cut-Line. He was 18.
- **1982** - Tragedy struck the South African Navy when the Frigate SAS President Kruger was involved in a collision with the fleet replenishment ship SAS Tafelberg during exercises in the South Atlantic Ocean. The force of the collision buckled the plates and crushed Mess 12 on the President Kruger where the Petty Officers sleeping quarters were located, killing or trapping those inside. After the order to abandon ship was given, the following 16 ratings were Reported Missing and remain unaccounted for: Chief Petty Officer Johannes Petrus Booysen. Chief Petty Officer Hartmut Wilfried Smit. Chief Pet-

ty Officer Willem Marthinus Gerhardus Van Tonder. Chief Petty Officer Donald Webb. Petty Officer Stephanus Petrus Bothma. Petty Officer Graham Alexander Frank Brind. Petty Officer Robin Centlivre Bulterman. Petty Officer Granville Williams De Villiers. Petty Officer Evert Koen. Petty Officer Hjalmar Lotter. Petty Officer Roy Anthony McMaster. Petty Officer Roy Frederick Skeates. Petty Officer William Russel Smith. Petty Officer Michael Richard Bruce Whiteley. Petty Officer Coenraad Johannes Wium. Able Seaman Gilbert Timothy Benjamin.

- **1982** - Private Daniel Johannes Jakobus Rossouw from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident at Asab. He was 19.
- **1983** - Constable Anton Delpont from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was mortally wounded during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
- **1983** - Sergeant Paul Petrus van Zyl from Western Air Command, Windhoek, was killed in a private motor vehicle accident at Olifantshoek while travelling back to Pretoria to take up his new posting at Air Force Headquarters. He was 23.
- **1983** - Sergeant Tema Kanheto from 201 Battalion

SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents at Elundu in Northern Owamboland. He was 23.

- **1984** - Rifleman Kim Inglis from Hotel Company, Infantry School was accidentally killed after being struck in the heart by a small piece of mortar bomb shrapnel during a live ammunition fire and movement attack training exercise at Omutiya. He was 19.
- **1985** - Corporal Leon van Buisbergen from 6 SAI was accidentally killed in Southern Angola by friendly fire from another South African Infantry Unit. He was 20.
- **1987** - Rifleman C.V. Kavita from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.

19 February

- **1937** - Italian troops commence with raids into Addis Abeba, capital of Ethiopia.
- **1942** - Japanese Vice-Adm Nagumo's aircraft raid Darwin, NW Australia, inflicting heavy casualties.
- **1945** - US Marines land on Iwo Jima.
- **1963** - The minister of defence announces the re-establishment, as of 1 April 1963, of the 'Cape Corps' of Coloured to be employed in non-combatant roles.
- **1976** - The MPLA government in Angola is recognised

by most countries of the world. Foreign intervention is condemned, and the withdrawal of Cuban and South African troops demanded.

- **1978** - Two members from the South African Air Force and one civilian passenger were Killed in Action while returning from Katima Mulilo to Air Force Base M'pacha after attending a Sunday Church Service. The casualties were: Commandant Liam Myles Poole (44). Major Andries Petrus Els (54). Mr David Jacobus De Lange (47).
- **1978** - Rifleman Raymond O'Brien Hunter from 2 SAI was Killed in Action at Elundu. He was 20.
- **1978** - Rifleman Johan Lemmer Caparus Ferreira from 2 SAI was captured along with Sapper Johan Van der Mescht just before sunrise on 19 February 1978 during a surprise attack by a group of approximately 47 SWAPO/PLAN insurgents on their TB at Elundu. Unlike Van der Mescht, Ferreira refused to go along with his captors and was subsequently murdered. He was 20.
- **1979** - Sapper Rudolf Francois van Heerden from 52 Battalion was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion at Mahanene in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1980** - The South African Defence Force has taken over from the police the security of Northern Natal since the area is becoming a

third front in Security Force action against guerrilla infiltration.

- **1981** - Rifleman Shaun Reginald Jessop from 1 SAI was killed when his Ratel Infantry Fighting Vehicle overturned during military exercises at Kimberley. He was 21.
- **1985** - Rifleman Jan Petrus van Niekerk from Infantry School died from an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head while in Sunnyside, Pretoria. He was 22.
- **1987** - Rifleman Nicholas Andrew Stubbs from the Equestrian Centre was killed in a military vehicle accident at the Reitz Show Grounds. He was 19.
- **1987** - Detective Sergeant Pieter Johannes Collen from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 29.
- **1988** - Rifleman Lambert Hendrik Fick from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed in a private motor cycle accident while on his way to Potchefstroom. He was 22.

20 February

- **1902** - Colonel C.W. Park, commanding three columns and accompanied by about 300 National Scouts and a commando of armed Blacks, surprise General Chris H. Muller in the Bothasberg,

about 60 km north-east of Middelburg and captures 153 burghers of Colonel Trichardt's commando while two burghers are killed.

- **1942** - Combined Japanese amphibious and airborne attack on Timor.
- **1943** - German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel broke through American lines at Kasserine Pass in North Africa as inexperienced U.S. Troops lost their first major battle of World War II in Europe, with 1,000 Americans killed.
- **1944** - Allied bombers begin five days of intensive air attacks on German aircraft production facilities and air bases, while their fighter escorts devastate defending Luftwaffe squadrons.
- 1966 - American Fleet Admiral Chester W Nimitz, at 80.
- **1977** - Rifleman H.M. Dos Santos from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 31.
- **1981** - Rifleman Sarel Philippus Piek from 2 Field Engineer Regiment died in the Sick Bay at M'pacha after contracting cerebral meningitis. He was 21.
- **1983** - Special Constable Johannes Joseph from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in North-

ern Owamboland. He was 23.

- **1986** - Rifleman I Tjisemo from 102 Battalion SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 24.
- **1988** - Major Edward Richard Every from 1 Squadron was Reported Missing during an Operational sortie over Southern Angola after his Mirage F1AZ 245 was shot down by a Soviet SA-13 Gopher Surface-to-Air Missile at Cuatir near Menongue. He was 31.

21 February

- **1916** - Battle of Verdun in France begins with a massive German artillery bombardment. It is the longest and bloodiest battle of World War 1, with more than one million killed.
- **1917** - The troopship SS Mendi collides with the Darro near the Isle of Wright. It sinks with a contingent of Black SA troops, on their way to France to fight on the British side. "Be quiet and calm, my countrymen. What is happening now is what you came to do ... you are going to die, but that is what you came to do. Brothers, we are drilling the death drill. I, a Xhosa, say you are my brothers ... Swazis, Pondos, Basotho ... so let us die like brothers. We are the sons of Africa. Raise your war-cries, brothers, for though they made us leave

our assegais in the kraal, our voices are left with our bodies" reputed to be the last words of Rev Wauchope Dyobha on the sinking ship SS Mendi.

- **1918** - Australians capture Jericho from the Turks.
- 1919 - Mary Edwards Walker, feminist and physician, Civil War Army contract surgeon, the only woman ever awarded a Medal of Honor, dies at the age of 86.
- **1944** - Prime Minister Tojo takes over direct control of the Japanese Army as Chief of Staff.
- **1978** - Lieutenant Phillip Joseph Castle from Regiment Windhoek, SWATF was Killed in Action in Northern Owamboland during a close-quarter battle with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents at Olusjandja Dam after his Patrol was ambushed just before sunrise. He was 20.
- **1979** - Rifleman Francis William John Snyman from 7 SAI was Killed in Action when the Bedford he was driving, detonated a land mine outside Oshakati. He was 19.
- **1980** - South Africa warns Mozambique it will not hesitate to strike back if Mozambique continues to shelter guerrillas conducting murderous operations and acts of sabotage against South Africa.
- **1981** - Commandant Pieter Gouws from 1 SWA Squadron SWATF was Reported Missing when his Civilian

aircraft, a Cherokee 6 PA32-300, Registration ZS-EXG, disappeared without trace while flying an aerial reconnaissance sortie up the South West African Coastline. He was 49.

- **1983** - Corporal Kallie Vermeulen from the Northern Logistical Command was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 21.
- **1984** - Rifleman Rinho Jepau from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 27.
- **1985** - Special Constable Johannes Tobias from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
- 1988 - Two members from 5 Signals Regiment and one member from Infantry School were Killed in Action in Southern Angola during Operation Hooper when their position was attacked by Angolan Air Force MiG Fighter Bombers. The casualties were: Sergeant Gerhardus Marthinus Maritz (25). Corporal Van Zyl Venter (20). Signaler Jacques de Lange (19).

22 February

- **1915** - Germany begins "restricted" submarine warfare.
- **1940** - A Stuka of Kamp-

ffgeschwader 30 sinks two destroyers in a single attack in the North Sea off Bor-kum. Unfortunately for him the two ships, the 'Lebrecht Maas' and 'Max Schultz', are both German.

- **1967** - The Minister of Defence, P.W. Botha, discloses that South Africa's northern borders are protected by a radar complex constituting an early warning system and that her coasts will be covered by the Decca navigational system costing R6m.
- **1975** - The Military government of Ethiopia announces that 2,300 guerrillas have been killed in fighting in Eritrea.
- **1977** - Lieutenant Neil Bradley Liddell from 17 Squadron was Killed in Action when his Alouette III, Serial No. 76 was shot down by concentrated small arms fire during anti-insurgent operations in Southern Zambia. He was 28.
- **1978** - Rifleman Andre Bosch from 2 SAI Died of Wounds in 1 Military Hospital after being shot while standing guard at Elundu when their position was overrun by SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 18.
- **1980** - Sapper Phillipus Jurie Wynand Swane-

poel from 25 Field Squadron, South African Engineer Corps was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.

- **1984** - Special Constable Patisiu Tobias from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 24.
- **1985** - Private Philip Nat Gould from 61 Base Workshops was critically injured when he accidentally fell off a moving vehicle. He was admitted to 1 Military Hospital where he later succumbed to his injuries. He was 18.
- **1988** - Sapper Steven Eric Lelong from 1 Parachute Battalion Combat Engineering Unit was accidentally shot dead when his team of Combat Engineers were mistakenly ambushed by a 102 Battalion SWATF Reac-

tion Force Unit in Southern Angola. He was 19.

- **1988** - Corporal Petrus Jacobus Louw from 102 Battalion SWATF accidentally drowned in the Officers/NCO's swimming pool at the Headquarters. He was 19.
- **1991** - Major Richard John Miller from 85 Combat Flying School was killed when his Atlas MB326KM Impala Mk II, Serial No. 1008 crashed while carrying out an aerobatics display at Air Force Base Pietersburg. He was 33.

23 February

- **1917** - Caporale Benito Mussolini, 11th Bersaglieri, is seriously wounded in a mortar accident.
- **1942** - During World War II, the first attack on the U.S. mainland occurred as a Japanese submarine shelled an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing minor damage.
- **1945** - Iwo Jima: the 28th Marines raise the flag on Mount Suribachi.
- **1978** - Captain Andries Johannes van Ellewee from 41 Battalion was critically wounded at Narubis near Keetmanshoop during a live fire exercise. He was 26.
- **1980** - Staff Sergeant Am-

Iwo Jima

erindo Maurao Da Costa PMM from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action when he detonated a booby trap after his team had walked into an enemy ambush. He was 35.

- **1981** - The Prime Minister declares that Soviet threats will not prevent South Africa from attacking ANC bases in Mozambique.
- **1983** - Private Ronald Richard Erasmus from 5 Maintenance Unit died in hospital from natural causes. He was 19.
- **1983** - Rifleman Simon Hamutenya from 101 Battalion SWATF Killed in Action during a contact with insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 23.
- **1983** - Lance Corporal William Francis Moag from 7 SAI died from gunshot wounds accidentally sustained in the Operational Area. He was 20.
- **1984** - Special Warrant Officer Lukus Likuis from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 31.
- **1986** - Special Sergeant Abel Matiesta from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 36.

• **1987** - Three members from 101 Battalion Romeo Mike Team SWATF were Killed in Action close to Vinticet in Southern Angola after their Casspir was hit by Soviet RPG-7 Anti-Tank Rockets when they drove into a SWAPO/PLAN Battalion ambush. They were: Corporal Hector Lucas Strydom (24). Rifleman Tom Job (23). Rifleman Esau Simon (24).

- **1987** - Two members from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) were Killed in Action and one wounded during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. They were: Special Sergeant Mwainbange Mwanengange (23). Special Sergeant Johannes Naffral (35). Sergeant Christiaan Petrus Momberg. (Wounded and evacuated but died in 1 Military Hospital on 25 February 1987).
- **1989** - Rifleman Mhluteki Absalon Makatini from 111 Battalion died from gunshot wounds sustained in a shooting incident in Swaziland. He was 20.
- **1991** - In Desert Storm, the Allied ground offensive began after a devastating month-long air campaign targeting Iraqi troops in both Iraq and Kuwait.

24 February

- **1966** - A military coup in Ghana deposes President

Kwame Nkrumah while he is out of the country on his way to China.

- **1984** - Special Warrant Officer Herman Hosea from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 28.
- **1987** - Airman Nicolaas Wilhelmus Jacobus van Rheede van Oudtshoorn from Air Force Base Grootfontein died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while serving at the Base. He was 19.

25 February

- **1885** - Germany annexes Tanganyika and Zanzibar.
- **1902** - At least fifty-three British soldiers die, 130 are wounded and 500 captured in a surprise attack by Boer troops at Ysterspruit in the Klerksdorp vicinity.
- **1916** - Verdun: The Germans capture Fort Douaumont.
- **1954** - Military coup ousts Pres Adib el-Shishakli of Syria.
- **1981** - Hansard reports that on this date 289 servicemen of the SADF are in detention, of which 137 are being punished for reasons of conscientious objection.
- **1981** - Private Cornelius Tobias van Schalkwyk from the Dog Training Centre died in hospital at Oshakati after contracting Malaria in

Southern Angola while attached to an Infantry Unit as a dog handler. He was 19.

- **1986** - Captain Brian Du Preez from 116 Battalion was killed in a military motorcycle accident at Messina. He was 27.
- **1987** - Sergeant Christiaan Petrus Momberg from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was wounded in the head during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland on 23 February 1987. He was evacuated to Eenhana where he later lapsed into a coma prior to being evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria. He remained on life support until declared brain dead on 25 February 1987. He was 23.
- **1988** - Bombardier Clinton Hendricks from 10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment, was Killed in Action in Southern Angola near Cuito during Operation Hooper while operating with a 61 Mechanised Battalion Group SAM-7 Anti-Aircraft team. He was 19.
- **1988** - Lance Corporal Leon Francis van Wyk from Regiment Molopo was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola when his Olifant Tank was knocked out by a Soviet 130mm field gun. He was 30.
- **1993** - US marines and Nigerian soldiers blast at snipers in central Mogadishu,

Somalia, in a five-hour battle that kills one Somali.

- **2005** - Militiamen kill nine United Nations Bangladeshi peacekeepers in Ituri, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, in the worst attack against the UN force in the country. Ituri is one of the DRC's worst trouble spots, where ethnic militias have killed 50 000 civilians since 1999.

26 February

- 1852 - An English troop carrier, the Birkenhead with Robert Salmond as captain, carrying reinforcements for the 8th Frontier War, runs aground at Danger Point. Of the 638 passengers, only 184 could be rescued, as there were insufficient lifeboats. The women and children were sent ashore first, while the men remained standing on deck until they perished under the waves.
- **1916** - German U-Boat sinks the French liner 'Provence', 930 die.
- **1935** - Germany announces the existence of the Luftwaffe under Herman Göring.
- **1942** - German battleship 'Gneisenau' disabled by a British bomb.
- **1952** - Winston Churchill announces that Britain has produced its own atomic bomb.
- **1974** - Ethiopian army units seize Asmara, second largest city in Ethiopia, and demand better pay and living conditions.

- **1976** - Corporal Jan Andries Swanepoel from 8 Signal Regiment was Killed when the Unimog vehicle he was a passenger overturned at Chitado, Southern Angola. He was 25.
- **1980** - Rifleman Jakobus Andries Petrus Bosman from Witwatersrand Rifles was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 27.
- **1982** - Lieutenant Commander Robert Desmond Kohne from SAS Drakensberg was killed when he accidentally fell into lift shaft on the SAS Drakensberg during construction and maintenance work on the Ship at the Shipyards in Durban.. He was 29.
- **1984** - Scout Adrian Bruce Berend from the Intelligence School in Kimberley was killed in a civilian motor vehicle accident while on weekend pass. He was 19.
- **1990** - Defence Minister General Magnus Malan says all activities of the clandestine Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB) have been suspended pending the outcome of a judicial investigation.
- **1990** - Moscow begins pulling 73,000 troops out of Czechoslovakia.
- **1999** - Ethiopian troops breach Eritrean lines in a disputed border area, and Eritrea soon says it will accept an African peace plan for the ten-month war.

27 February

- **1881** - Boers defeat the British force at Majuba Hill, in the Anglo-Transvaal War. More than 200 British soldiers and two Boers are killed.
- **1900** - British troops under Gen. Redvers Buller break through the Boer lines during the Battle of Pietersburg.
- **1900** - The Boer general Piet Cronje surrenders with 3 919 men (nearly 10% of the total republican fighting strength) to the British at Paardeberg on the 10th day of the battle.
- **1902** - On the same day both the oldest and the youngest prisoners of war to be deported, are captured at Dwaalspruit. They are Gideon J. van Zyl of Vrede seventy-eight years old, and Johannes van Heerden of Heidelberg, only seven years old.
- **1973** - Candidate Officer Cornelis Ferreira Oosthuysen from 1 SSB was killed in a military vehicle accident in Bloemfontein. He was 19.
- **1974** - Ethiopia's cabinet resigns as military mutiny spreads from the captured city of Asmara.
- **1980** - Rifleman Leon Grobler from 2 Parachute Battalion died from wounds sustained on 20 February. He was 19.
- **1982** - Rifleman Peter Williams Hayfeni Naikaku from 32 Battalion was killed in action. He was 29.

- **1984** - Lance Corporal George Diederick Vorster from North West Command Provost Unit was killed on the Klerksdorp-Potchefstroom Road while carrying out convoy escort duty. He was 19
- **1986** - Special Constable Thomas Amunyongi from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
- **1987** - Sapper Norman Cecil van der Leeuw from 5 Military Works Unit, M'pacha, was accidentally killed after falling off the back of a moving truck at Katima. He was 20.
- **1988** - Rifleman Antonio Luis Cambinda from 32 Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident at Rundu. He was 22.
- **1988** - Special Warrant Officer Felix Creneus from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 29.
- **1991** - In Desert Storm, the 100-hour ground war ended as Allied troops entered Kuwait just four days after launching their offensive against Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces.

28 February

- **1844** - During a demonstration of naval fire power, one of the guns aboard the USS Princeton exploded, killing several top U.S. government officials on the steamer ship, and narrowly missed killing President John Tyler.
- **1900** - The British relieves Ladysmith after a siege of four months when reinforcements under Buller arrive.
- **1944** - Marshal of the Soviet Union Nikolai Fyodorovich Vatutin, is mortally wounded in an ambush by Ukrainian partisans and dies 15 April.
- **1977** - Private Craig Murray Irvine from 32 Field Workshop Squadron was killed in a military vehicle accident on the Bagani-Rundu Road. He was 22.
- **1979** - Sergeant Bernhard Fritz Wilhelm Kirchner from 41 Battalion was Killed in Action during a Contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 21.
- **1988** - South African commandos raid Gaborone, Botswana, in search of ANC members.
- 1994 - NATO conducted its first combat action in its 45 year history as four Bosnian Serb jets were shot down by American fighters in a no-fly zone.



Modern Assault Rifles

1. XM8 rifle

5.56×45mm NATO rifle produced in 2003 by Heckler & Koch of Germany.

2. IWI ACE

5.56×45mm NATO rifle produced in 2008 by Israel Weapons Industries.

3. Beretta ARX160

5.56×45mm NATO rifle produced in 2008 by Fabbrica d'Armi Pietro Beretta of Italy.

4. Special Operations Assault Rifle

5.56×45mm NATO rifle produced in 2004 by Ferfrans Specialties of the Philippines.

5. SIG MCX

5.56×45mm NATO rifle produced in 2010 by SIG Sauer of

Switzerland.

6. Multi Caliber Individual Weapon System

5.56×45mm NATO rifle produced in 2012 by Ordnance Factory Tiruchirappalli of India.

7. CZ 805 BREN

5.56×45mm NATO rifle produced in 2009 by Česká zbrojovka Uherský Brod of Czechoslovakia.

8. Pindad SS2

5.56×45mm NATO rifle produced in 2005 by PT Pindad of Indonesia.

9. FN SCAR

5.56×45mm NATO rifle produced in 2004 by Fabrique Nationale d'Herstal of Belgium.

10. Remington GPC

5.56×45mm NATO rifle produced in 2010 by Remington Arms of

America.

11. ADS amphibious rifle

5.45×39mm rifle produced in 2007 by KBP Instrument Design Bureau of Russia.

12. QBZ-03

5.56×45mm NATO rifle produced in 2003 by Norinco of China.

13. LR-300

5.56×45mm NATO rifle produced in 2000 by Z-M Weapons of America.

14. S&T Daewoo K11

5.56×45mm NATO rifle produced in 2006 by S&T Motiv of South Korea.

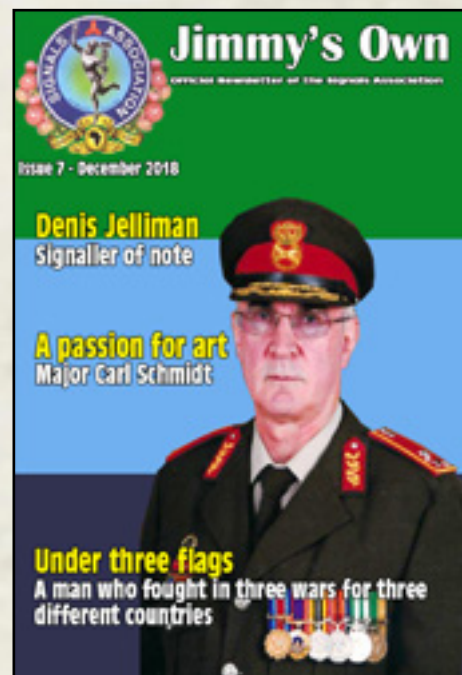
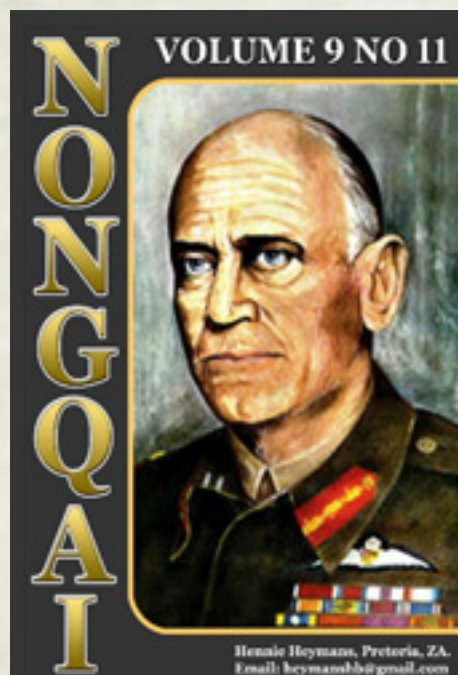
15. IWI X95

5.56×45mm NATO rifle produced in 2003 by Israel Weapon Industries.

Useful links

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

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



Military Despatches Social Club



From February the Military Despatches Social Club will be getting together in Cape Town on a monthly basis. And the emphasis will be on social. We'll have guest speakers (they get 20 minutes to talk), watch old classic movies (free popcorn), braai, have quiz nights and generally have a good time.

Our first get-together will be on Friday 22 February where we will be launching the social club. It's open to everyone (including friends and family). If you're interested in attending the launch, or finding out more, drop us an e-mail at editor@hipeco.za and we will be in touch.

In March we will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day in the true Irish spirit.

Hipe!

media

E-mail
editor@hipe.co.za



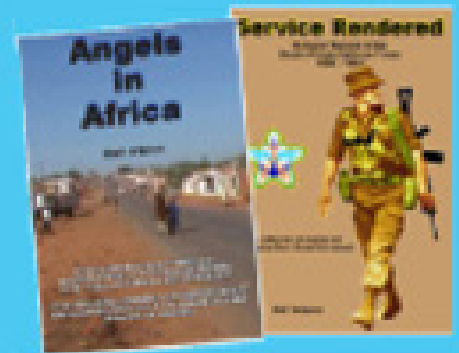
Online Magazines

Flip book magazines with pages that can be turned.



E-books

Produced in any electronic format required.



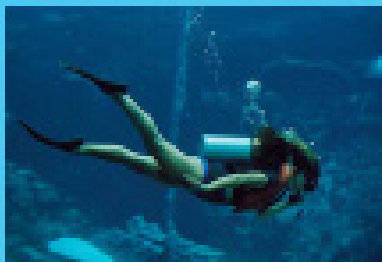
2D & 3D Animation

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.