



Military Despatches

Vol 21 March 2019

Up, two, three, down

The origins of saluting

Forged in battle

The Avro Lancaster

Mad Jack

One of the
most unconventional
officers ever

Paddy Mayne

International rugby player,
founding member of the SAS,
and a legend

Banned!

Weapons so terrible, even the
military banned them



For the military enthusiast

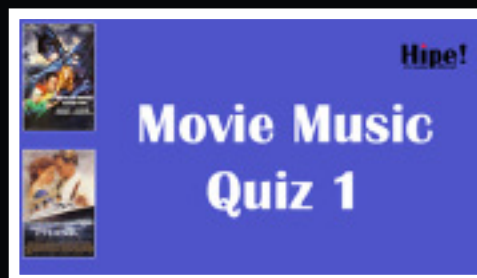


Click on any video below to view



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.



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.

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

Check out Hipe TV and remember to like, comment, share and subscribe.



Unsinkable The USS Gerald R. Ford

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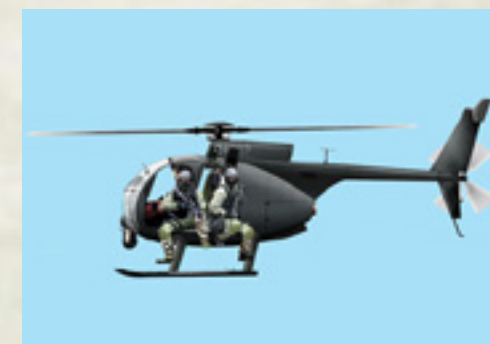
How does a man not officially allowed to carry firearms go on to win the Military Medal for gallantry?

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Helicopters

Whether used to transport troops and supplies or as attack platforms, helicopters changed the face of war. We show you 15, you tell us what they are.





Editor's Sitrep

I had to put four magazines together by 1 March, as well as edit 10 videos. All of which, as you may imagine, takes time.

Then you also need to take into account that February is a short month - only 28 days. And then just to add to my woes, Eskom are having a laugh by turning off the power whenever they feel like it. Sometimes twice a day. And people still have the cheek to ask me why I drink.

Talking about drinking, at least it's Saint Patrick's Day this month. On Friday 15 March we will be throwing a Saint Patrick's Day party and I really hope to see some of you there. Just make sure you get there early because after about an hour I'm normally not able to see much.

As this month is Saint Paddy's Day, I will once again give you an Irish blessing.

Seosláinteantséitéara, an ghadaí, an trodaí, agus an óltóra!

Mádhéanantuséitéireacht, go ndéanatuséitéireachtar an mbás, Mághoideanntú, go ngoi-detúcroímná; Máthroidéanntú,

go dtroidetú i leith do bhráthar, Agusmáólanntú, go n-ólatúli-omféin.

That, by the way, was in Irish Gaelic. It means, "If you cheat, may you cheat death. If you steal, may you steal a woman's heart. If you fight, may you fight for a brother. And if you drink, may you drink with me."

How many of you attended any of the Armed Forces events in February? I did and, without trying to knock anything, I was not all that impressed.

I found the story of John 'Mad Jack' Churchill really interesting. What a character! It must have been really interesting to serve under him

Well that's about it for this month. I'm going to get the magazine ready so that I can send it out later tonight. Then I'm going to change my name to Rip van Tennyson and sleep for a couple of days before I get up and get in some serious practice for Saint Patrick's Day.

Until next month.

Matt

Hipe!

media

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March

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Front Cover

A member of the Danish Royal Army demonstrates the way they salute.



Top Ten banned military weapons

These are ten weapons that even the military decided to ban.

In war there is only one rule – win. Actually that's not true, well at least not true anymore.

In the aftermath of World War II 196 nations ratified, in whole or with some reservations, two additional treaties to the Geneva Conventions detailing the basic rights of war-time prisoners, establishing protections for the wounded and sick, and protecting civilians caught in a war zone. The conventions also laid down the frame work for the international banning of certain weapons of war.

War is dirty business and in the aftermath of World War I the nations of the world moved to limit the scope of its destructive impact. Horrified by the mass casualties inflicted by chemical gas attacks, in 1925 at the initiative of the United States, France and Poland the League of Nations drafted the protocol for the prohibition of the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and of bacteriological methods of warfare. In essence, international law forbade the use of chemical or biological weapons in war.

Since then other weapons have been added to that list, all with the intent purpose of limiting human suffering or damage to the earth itself. Here are the

Top Ten weapons that even the military has banned.

10. Mustard Gas

Mustard agent was first used effectively in World War I by the German army against British and Canadian soldiers near Ypres, Belgium, in 1917 and later also against the French Second Army.

The Allies did not use mustard agent until November 1917 at Cambrai, France, after the armies had captured a stockpile of German mustard shells.

Mustard agent was dispersed as an aerosol in a mixture with other chemicals, giving it a yellow-brown colour and a distinctive odour. Mustard agent has also been dispersed in such munitions as aerial bombs, land mines, mortar rounds, artillery shells, and rockets.

Exposure to mustard agent was lethal in about 1% of cases. Its effectiveness was as an incapacitating agent. Even if a soldier was wearing a gas mask he would not be protected against absorbing it through his skin.

It would cause the skin to blister and these blisters would more often than not become septic.

Mustard agent is a persistent weapon that remains on the ground for days and weeks, and

it continues to cause ill effects. If mustard agent contaminates a soldier's clothing and equipment, then the other soldiers that he comes into contact with are also poisoned. Towards the end of World War I, mustard agent was used in high concentrations as an area-denial weapon that forced troops to abandon heavily contaminated areas.

Since World War I, mustard agent has been used in several wars or other conflicts, usually against people who cannot retaliate in kind.

The Italians used it in Abyssinia from 1935 to 1940. Iraq used it against Iran during the 1983-1988 war. Iraq also used it against Kurds in the town of Halabja during the Halabja chemical attack.

According to Syrian State media, by ISIS against Syrian Army during the battle in Deir ez-Zor in 2016.

It is also interesting to note that after WWII, stockpiled mustard agent was dumped by the British in the sea near Port Elizabeth, South Africa, resulting in burn cases among trawler crews.

9. Chlorine Gas

Chlorine gas, also known as bertholite, was first used as a weapon in World War I by Ger-

many on April 22, 1915 in the Second Battle of Ypres.

French soldiers reported seeing yellow-green clouds drifting slowly towards the Allied trenches. As described by the soldiers, it had the distinctive smell of a mixture of pepper and pineapple.

It also tasted metallic and stung the back of the throat and chest. Chlorine reacts with water in the mucosa of the lungs to form hydrochloric acid, destructive to living tissue and potentially lethal. Human respiratory systems can be protected from chlorine gas by gas masks with activated charcoal or other filters, which makes chlorine gas much less lethal than other chemical weapons.

After its first use, both sides in the conflict used chlorine as a chemical weapon, but it was soon replaced by the more deadly phosgene gas.

8. Phosgene Gas

It's estimated that as many as 85% of the 91,000 deaths attributed to gas in World War I were a result of phosgene or the similar agent diphosgene.

A colourless gas, in low concentrations its odour resembles freshly cut hay or grass. Its immediate effects are coughing, and irritation to the eyes and respiratory tract. Subsequently, it can cause the build-up of fluid in the lungs, leading to death. It was first used by the German at Ypres in December 1915.

7. Nerve Gas

Poisoning by a nerve agent leads to constriction of pupils, profuse salivation, convulsions, and involuntary urination and defecation, with the first symptoms appearing in seconds after exposure. Death by asphyxiation or cardiac arrest may follow in minutes due to the loss of the body's control over respiratory and other muscles.

Some nerve agents are readily vaporized or aerosolized, and the primary portal of entry

In 1940 the German Army Weapons Office ordered the mass production of sarin for wartime use. A number of pilot plants were built and a high-production facility was under construction (but was not finished) by the end of World War II. Estimates for total sarin production by Nazi Germany range from 500 kg to 10 tons.

During that time, German intelligence believed that the Allies also knew of these compounds, assuming that because these compounds were not dis-

cussed in the Allies' scientific journals information about them was being suppressed.

Though sarin, tabun and soman were incorporated into artillery shells, the German government ultimately decided not to use nerve agents against Allied targets. The Allies did not learn of these agents until shells filled with them were captured towards the end of the war.

Since World War II, Iraq's use of mustard gas against Iranian troops and Kurds (Iran-Iraq War of 1980-1988) has been the only large-scale use of any chemical weapons. On the scale of the single Kurdish village of Halabja within its own territory, Iraqi forces did expose the populace to some kind of chemical weapons, possibly mustard gas and most likely nerve agents.

6. Plastic land mines

Explosive land mines were



used in 1277 by the Chinese during the Song dynasty against an assault of the Mongols, who were besieging a city in southern China.

Militaries are no longer allowed to set up land mines that can't be detected by x-ray. Under Protocol I of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, there is a requirement that all weapons must use metallic fragments that can be seen via x-ray.

In addition, mines placed outside of fenced and cordoned areas are required to use self-destruct mechanisms set to go off after a certain period of time. There is also an ongoing campaign to ban the use of land mines internationally through the Ottawa Treaty; however, it has not yet passed. China, Russia, and the United States have yet to sign it.

Land mines continue to kill or injure at least 4,300 people every year, even decades after the ends of the conflicts for which they were placed.

5. Biological weapons

Biological warfare (BW), also known as germ warfare, is the use of biological toxins or infectious agents such as bacteria, viruses, and fungi with the intent to kill or incapacitate humans, animals or plants as an act of war.

Biological weapons may be employed in various ways to gain a strategic or tactical advantage over the enemy, either by threats or by actual deployments. Like some chemical

weapons, biological weapons may also be useful as area denial weapons. These agents may be lethal or non-lethal, and may be targeted against a single individual, a group of people, or even an entire population.

The use of biological weapons is prohibited under customary international humanitarian law, as well as a variety of international treaties. The use of biological agents in armed conflict is a war crime.

Rudimentary forms of biological warfare have been practiced since antiquity. During the 6th century BC, the Assyrians poisoned enemy wells with a fungus that would render the enemy delirious. In 1346, the bodies of Mongol warriors of the Golden Horde who had died of plague were thrown over the walls of the besieged Crimean city of Caffa.

4. Flamethrower

A flamethrower is a mechanical incendiary device designed to project a long, controllable stream of fire. They were first used by the Greeks in the 1st century AD. In modern times, they were used during World War I, and more widely in World War II and during the Vietnam War. They were ideal for attacking troops in bunkers or fortified tunnels.

Flamethrowers have not been in the U.S. arsenal since 1978, when the Department of Defense unilaterally stopped using them: the last American infantry flamethrower was the Vietnam-era M9-7. They have been

deemed of questionable effectiveness in modern combat.

Despite some assertions, they are not generally banned, but as incendiary weapons they are subject to the usage prohibitions described under Protocol III of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

3. Napalm

Napalm was originally developed in 1942 in a secret laboratory at Harvard University, by a team led by chemist Louis Fieser under the United States Chemical Warfare Service.

Of immediate first interest was its viability as an incendiary device to be used in fire bombing campaigns during World War II, but its ability to be coherently projected into a solid stream that would carry for distance (instead of the fireball of pure gasoline) resulted in widespread adoption in infantry/combat engineer flamethrowers as well.

It has been widely used in both the air and ground role, with the largest used to date being via air-dropped bombs in WW2 (most notably in the gruesomely effective incendiary attacks on Japanese cities in 1945), and later close air support roles in Korea and Vietnam.

Napalm also has fuelled most of the flamethrowers (tank, ship and infantry-based) used since World War I, giving them much greater range, and was used in this role as a common (and feared) weapon of urban combat by both the Axis and Allies in World War II.

A variant of napalm was produced in Rhodesia for a type of ordnance known as Frantan between 1968 and 1978 and was deployed extensively by the Rhodesian Air Force during that country's bush war.

International law does not specifically prohibit the use of napalm or other incendiaries against military targets, but use against civilian populations was banned by the United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) in 1980. Protocol III of the CCW restricts the use of all incendiary weapons, but a number of countries have not acceded to all of the protocols of the CCW.

2. Poisoned bullets

Early bullets weren't very accurate or powerful. So militaries all around the world would spike them with poison or faecal matter.

A poisoned bullet could deliver toxic compounds deep into the body and could result in serious infection that

could take effect long after a battle had taken place.

Modern bullets are already devastatingly powerful and adding poison to them would be superfluous.

In a firefight, a wounded enemy is often still capable of firing back. So wounding them with a poisoned bullet so that they can die later is not a good idea.

This is one of the reasons why poisoned bullets have been banned for many years.

1. Dirty bombs

A dirty bomb or radiological dispersal device (RDD) is a speculative radiological weapon that combines radioactive material with conventional explosives. The purpose of the weapon is to contaminate the area around the dispersal agent/conventional explosion with radioactive material, serving primarily as an area denial device against civilians.

It is, however, not to be confused with a nuclear explosion, such as a fission bomb, which by releasing nuclear energy produces blast effects far in excess of what is achievable by the use of conventional explosives.

Since a dirty

bomb is unlikely to cause many deaths by radiation exposure, many do not consider this to be a weapon of mass destruction.

Its purpose would presumably be to create psychological, not physical, harm through ignorance, mass panic, and terror. For this reason dirty bombs are sometimes called "weapons of mass disruption".

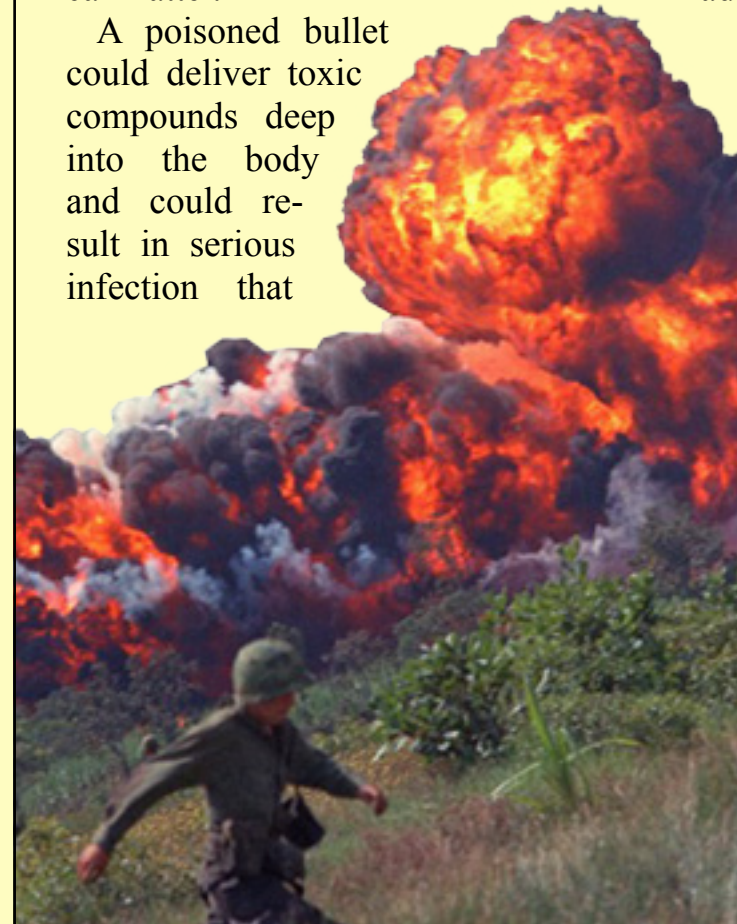
Additionally, containment and decontamination of thousands of victims, as well as decontamination of the affected area might require considerable time and expense, rendering areas partly unusable and causing economic damage.

When dealing with the implications of a dirty bomb attack, there are two main areas to be addressed: (i) the civilian impact, not only dealing with immediate casualties and long term health issues, but also the psychological effect and then (ii) the economic impact. With no prior event of a dirty bomb detonation, it is considered difficult to predict the impact. Several analyses have predicted that RDDs will neither sicken nor kill many people.

Footnote

While it is well and good to ban certain weapons, this does not mean that they are not currently being used, or while be used in the future.

Terrorist organisations are not protected by the Geneva Convention. Therefore they believe that they do not have to follow any of the protocols or rules.



Special Forces - Argentina

Part One of a series that takes a look at Special Forces units around the world. This month we begin with Argentina.

Mention the word 'Special Forces' and most people immediately think of the British SAS, the American Navy SEALs, or the Russian Spetsnaz.

Yet most countries around the world will have a special force unit or component. In this series we will be looking at special forces units around the world. This month we look at Argentina.

Brigada Especial Operativa Halcón

Argentina's principal anti-terrorist unit is *Brigada Especial Operativa Halcón* (Special Operations Brigade - Falcon).

Argentina did not possess a viable counter-terrorist capability until 1978, when it hosted the football World Cup. At that time, the military dictatorship ruling Argentina accepted the possibility that such a widely televised event was a likely forum for a terrorist incident.

The result was the formation of a special counter-terrorist team, the *Brigada Halcón*.

Today, the unit is made up of seventy-five commandos, subdivided into fifteen-man tactical teams.

Each team has two snipers, one medic, one negotiator, an explosive ordnance disposal expert, a communications spe-

cialist, an intelligence specialist, and eight tactical assaulters.

Initial training is divided into three two-month stages. Skills such as combat shooting, heli-borne insertion, HALO/HAHO parachuting, explosives, sniping, intelligence gathering, martial arts, and offensive driving are covered in this period.

The unit also handles VIP protection and is also responsible for hijacked aircraft throughout the nation.

While many current members are veterans of the Argentine Army, the *Brigada Halcón* is under the operational control of the federal police, under the direct command of the Buenos Aires Police Department.

Brigada Halcón members use foreign weapons and gear, as well as locally man-



ufactured protective gear and uniforms. Weapons include: Bersa Thunder 9, Glock 17, Heckler & Koch MP5, Steyr AUG, Heckler & Koch HK33, and the Mossberg 500 shotgun. For sniping purposes the Heckler & Koch PSG1 is commonly used.

This special operations group was involved in the "Ramallo massacre", when operatives from the *Brigada Halcón* shot dead one alleged bank robber and his two hostages.

Grupo Especial de Operaciones Federales

The *Grupo Especial de Operaciones Federales* (Federal Operations Special Group, GEOF) is a police tactical unit of the *Policía Federal Argentina* trained to strategically perform counterterrorist and counternarcotics missions. It is also used for VIP protection and hostage rescue situations.

The GEOF is a specialized police unit of the General Directorate of International Terrorism and Complex Crimes.

Although the existence of special forces in Argentina begins in 1930, the unit was officially created after the 1994 AMIA bombing. In 1994 its first section was established in

Tucumán and in 1997 a second division was constituted in Rosario. In the next year the Buenos Aires group was formed.

The unit's main training course lasts for 20 weeks and is divided in two periods, with only 15% common approvals. Topics include sniping, HALO/HAHO parachuting, martial arts, offensive driving, and explosives.

The GEOF constantly trains with special units of other countries like the FBI Hostage Rescue Team, the US Army Green Berets, the Israeli *Yamam* and numerous SWAT groups. The GEOF, nicknamed 4T (*todo tiempo-todo terreno*, all weather-all terrain), has full powers in all jurisdictions of the country.

Grupo de Operaciones Especiales (GOE)

The *Grupo de Operaciones Especiales* (GOE - Special Operations Group) is a compa-

ny-sized counter-terrorist unit of the Argentine Air Force.

The majority of the volunteers come from the Air Force Police and the unit's primary mission is to deal with aircraft hijackings.

GOE's origins lie in the air force parachute school which was formed in 1947. This led to a unit designated 13th Parachute Regiment, which was manned by the air force but controlled by the army.

Later the army formed, first its own parachute unit, and subsequently, its own special forces, as a result of which the 13th Parachute Regiment gradually contracted until today, where it is some 100 strong.

All unit members are qualified HALO parachutists and specialise in anti-hijacking operations and LRRP (Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol) missions.



Mossberg 500



Heckler & Koch
MP5



Steyr
AUG

Agrupación de Fuerzas de Operaciones Especiales

The *Agrupación de Fuerzas de Operaciones Especiales* (Special Operations Forces Group) is a special operations unit of the Argentine Army.

It was created on 6 December 2005 as the first operational element of the Proyecto Ejército Argentino 2025.

The service is mainly composite of air assault, airborne, light infantry, reconnaissance and commando troops, and light helicopters; also artillery, engineers, air transport, and communications companies are constantly ready to assist and support the group.

The Special Operations Forces Group consists of:

- *Compañía de Comandos 601* (601 Commando Company).
- *Compañía de Comandos 602* (602 Commando Company).
- *Regimiento de Asalto Aéreo 601* (601 Air Assault Regi-

ment).

601 Commando Company

The unit was created on 5 January 1982. It was based on the original “*Equipo Especial Halcón 8*” created by Lt. Colonel Mohamed Alí Seineldín in 1978.

The unit took part in the Falklands War or, as it was known to the Argentinians, *Guerra de las Malvinas* (Malvinas War) in 1982. They were under the command of 34 year old Major Mario Castagneto.

The company is based on Campo de Mayo, Buenos Aires Province and is under the command of the Rapid Deployment Force as part of the Special Operations Forces Group.

The members of the unit wear green berets with unit badges.

602 Commando Company

The unit was created on 21

May 1982 and had their baptism of fire during the Falklands War.

The commander at the time was 39 year-old Major Aldo Rico.

The company is based in Córdoba Province and is under the command of the Rapid Deployment Force as part of the Special Operations Forces Group.

The members of the unit wear green berets with unit badges.

601 Air Assault Regiment

The unit was created in January 2003. The regiment is divided up into three assault companies: A, B, and C.

They are based at Campo de Mayo and work closely with *Batallón de Helicópteros de Asalto 601* (601 Assault Helicopter Battalion).

The motto of the unit is *Sapientia et Labore* (Wisdom and Labour).



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

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



'Mad Jack' Churchill

Armed with bagpipes, a longbow, and a claymore sword John 'Mad Jack' Churchill became a legend during World War II.

Picture the scene. It's a morning parade on a rainy day in the mid-1930s. A young officer marches onto the parade and snaps to attention in front of his platoon with full military precision.

Unlike the rest of his platoon, however, this particular officer was carrying an umbrella which he had opened above his head.

Red in the face and dripping wet with rain the parade commander immediately stormed over and demanded to know what in the hell the officer was thinking, carrying an umbrella to parade. Without missing a beat the young officer responded, "Because it's raining sir."

John Malcolm Thorpe Fleming Churchill, or as he would later be known "Mad Jack", was immediately reprimanded for his insubordination. But such reprimands were nothing new to the very bored officer.

Amidst the brief interlude of peace between World War I and World War II Churchill found his military service rather dull.

A rare breed of man, born to lead others on the battlefield, Churchill itched for excitement and chaos. When life failed to provide it, he sorted it out himself.

At a time when roads were virtually non-existent in India he rode his motorcycle over 2,400 kilometres of the South East Asian countryside. He would often cross rivers and canyons by pushing his bike

along the railroad tracks.

To ease his peacetime boredom Churchill also taught himself how to play the bagpipes which, at the time, was not a particularly popular pastime for proper British men. Not one to do anything by half-measures Churchill not only learnt to play the bagpipes he took second place in the 1938 military piping competition at the Aldershot Tattoo. Not a bad accomplishment when you consider he was the only Englishman among the 70 or so competitors.

With the bagpipes mastered Churchill took up a keen interest in archery. He became so good at it that in 1939 he represented Great Britain at the World Archery Championships in Oslo.

Churchill may have been a daredevil and an adrenaline junkie but that didn't mean that he disliked comfort - quite the opposite. Not only would Churchill earn a reprimand for bringing an umbrella onto a military parade, he was also chastised for using a hot water bottle to keep warm at night, something that was against standing orders. To bypass this minor military technicality Churchill used a length of rubber tubing which he filled with hot water. Standing orders forbade the use of a hot water bottle, but said nothing about rubber tubes.

While most military men measure their toughness by their ability to suffer hardship,

Churchill saw no need for such displays of masochism. Or, as many sources state, perhaps he was bored out of his mind by peace and entertained himself by annoying his senior leadership. Whatever the truth, if anyone thought Churchill was a soft man because he preferred to stay dry in the rain and sleep in warm comfort they would be sorely mistaken. As the world would discover with the outbreak of World War II.

When Germany invaded Poland on 1 September 1939, Britain and France declared war on Germany. With Churchill's long stretch of peacetime boredom was about to come to an end.

"I was back in my red coat. The country having got into a jam in my absence." Churchill commented at the time.

He had left the army in 1936 and worked as a newspaper editor in Nairobi, Kenya and as a model. He also used his bagpipe and archery skills to play minor roles in films such as *The Thief of Baghdad* and *A Yank at Oxford*.

He resumed his commission in the army and was assigned to the Manchester Regiment, which was sent to France with the British Expeditionary Force.

He was frustrated because although Britain and France were now at war with Germany, both sides took up positions along the French Maginot Line and basically did nothing. Troops



LOOKING FOR ANOTHER WAR: John "Mad Jack" Churchill was a man born to lead others on the battlefield, often sporting bagpipes, a longbow and his trusty claymore sword.

held their line and did nothing for weeks upon weeks.

Britain and France were not prepared for war and lacked the means to go on the offensive. The period became known as The Phoney War. Whatever the case, Churchill found himself a victim of the Allies lack of planning. It was a situation that did not suit him at all.

When the Soviets invaded Finland Churchill joined a detachment of British volunteers sent to aid Finn forces. While he may not have been fighting the Germans, at that stage Churchill was prepared to fight anyone. Before the detachment could reach Finland it was cancelled because the Germans had finally launched an offensive in France. At last the proper war was on. The Finns would have

to fend for themselves.

Re-joining his unit, Churchill was immediately displeased at the British inability to hold its ground against the overwhelming German blitzkrieg. Churchill and his unit were given orders to retreat, making for Dunkirk where rescue awaited the overwhelmed British and French forces. If that rescue failed the war could come to a very sudden and unpleasant end for the Allies.

More than a little annoyed at having to retreat Churchill decided to creatively reinterpret his order and rather than just fall back he engaged in a series of aggressive guerrilla raids and counter-attacks against the advancing Germans.

Leading a small team of hand-picked men Churchill

would rush into battle holding aloft a basket-hilted Scottish broadsword. Like some ancient Highland warrior Churchill waded into enemy fire and on more than one occasion spat a German soldier on his claymore. At other times Churchill would discard his rifle in favour of his longbow, sinking arrows into the chests of Germans up to 90 metres away.

Rumour has it that during one battle a German officer asked for a list of casualties and injuries, only to be told that several of the casualties had been shot with arrows. The confused and irate officer warned his junior officer not to joke around with him, only to be shown the bodies with arrows still protruding from their chests. Professional soldiers always expect the unexpected in battle. But nobody expected a mad Englishman shooting arrows in the greatest industrial war in human history.

During a lull in the fighting, Mad Jack Churchill as he was now known, was spotted by a fellow officer riding his signature motorcycle with his longbow on his back and a German officer's cap on the headlamp. As Mad Jack dismounted the officer noticed a streak of blood across the back of his neck and asked about the fresh injury.

Asking for a stiff drink in return, Churchill responded that he and his men had run into a German machine gun and his men had screamed at him to run. But he had been simply too tired to run. Churchill thought that it would be easier to destroy the machine gun nest, even after having been shot through the neck.

Successfully evacuated across the Channel back to England, Churchill got wind of a new military organisation being formed. It was called the ‘Commandos’ are while the request for volunteers was secretive, it promised aggressive military service. Churchill volunteered in a flash.

The forerunner of Britain’s modern special forces, commando service included weeks of training in demolitions, firearms, infiltration and other topics which Churchill absolutely adored. During commando training Churchill also met a woman whom he would immediately marry. They would remain happily married for 55 years.

On 27 December 1941 Churchill had his chance to re-join the war as the newly-formed commandos assault the German garrison at Vågsøy, Norway. It was called Operation Archery and Churchill was second in command of No. 3 Commando. Their mission was to destroy the German artillery positions in preparation for a full-scale raid.

As the ramps fell on the first landing craft, Churchill leapt forward from his position playing *March of the Cameron Men* on his bagpipes, before throwing a grenade and charging into battle with his claymore above his head and, as one soldier put it, uttering warlike cries.

Half an hour later Churchill sent back a brief signal to headquarters reading, “Maaloy battery and island captured. Casualties slight. Demolitions in progress.”

Churchill would go on to win



HITTING THE BEACH: John “Mad Jack” Churchill can be seen on the right, wielding his claymore broad sword.

several military honours as well as more than a few battle scars. But his greatest feats of valour would not come until the autumn of 1943 during the Allied landings at Salerno, Italy.

Leading No. 2 Commando, Churchill was ordered to capture a German observation post outside the town of Molina, controlling a pass leading down to the Salerno beachhead.

With the help of a corporal, he infiltrated the town and captured the post, taking 42 prisoners including a mortar squad. Churchill led the men and prisoners back down the pass, with the wounded being carried on carts pushed by German prisoners. He commented that it was “an image from the Napoleonic Wars.” He received the Distinguished Service Order for leading this action at Salerno.

Churchill later walked back to the town to retrieve his sword, which he had lost in hand-to-hand combat with the German

regiment. On his way there, he encountered a disoriented American patrol mistakenly walking towards enemy lines. When the NCO in command of the patrol refused to turn around, Churchill told them that he was going his own way and that he wouldn’t come back for a “bloody third time”.

A few months later Churchill himself would be taken prisoner. Surrounded on all sides and with just six men and himself alive, armed only with revolvers and a single American carbine, Churchill fought on until the ammunition ran out. A mortar killed three of his remaining men and wounded another. With nothing left to fight with Churchill pulled out his bagpipes and began playing *Will Ye No Come Back Again* until a German grenade knocked him unconscious.

Churchill was sent to a German POW camp but quickly became bored of not killing

Germans. He made an escape was recaptured. He was sent to an even more well-guarded POW camp.

In late April 1945, Churchill and about 140 other prominent concentration camp inmates were transferred to Tyrol, guarded by SS troops. A delegation of prisoners told senior German army officers they feared they would be executed.

A German army unit commanded by Captain Wichard von Alvensleben moved in to protect the prisoners. Outnumbered, the SS guards moved out, leaving the prisoners behind. The prisoners were released and, after the departure of the Germans, Churchill walked 150 kilometres to Verona, Italy, where he met an American armoured unit.

When he returned to his unit he was appalled to hear that the war was almost over.

“There are still nips aren’t there,” he said, and volunteered to serve in the Far East and fight the Japanese. Just after Churchill arrived the Americans dropped the second atomic bomb on Nagasaki and the Japanese surrendered shortly afterwards.

A heartbroken Churchill would go on to say to a friend “If it wasn’t for those damn Yanks, we could have kept the war going another 10 years!”

After the Second World War ended, Churchill qualified as a parachutist and transferred to the Seaforth Highlanders. He was soon posted to Mandatory Palestine as executive officer of the 1st Battalion, the Highland Light Infantry.

In the spring of 1948, just be-

fore the end of the British mandate in the region, he became involved in another conflict.

Along with twelve of his soldiers, he attempted to assist the Hadassah medical convoy that came under attack by Arab forces. He had just come from a parade and was still in full dress uniform.

Churchill was one of the first men on the scene and banged on a bus, offering to evacuate members of the convoy in an APC, in contradiction to the British military orders to keep out of the fight. His offer was refused in the belief that the Jewish Haganah would come to their aid in an organised rescue.

When no relief arrived, Churchill and his twelve men provided cover fire against the Arab forces. Two of the convoy trucks were caught on fire, and 77 of the 79 people inside of them were killed. The event is known today as the Hadassah medical convoy massacre.

Of the experience he said: “About one hundred and fifty insurgents, armed with weapons varying from blunder-buses and old flintlocks to modern Sten and Bren guns, took cover behind a cactus patch in the grounds of the American Colony ... I went out and faced them.” “About 250 rifle-men were on the edge of our property shooting at the convoy.... I begged them to desist from using the grounds of the American Colony for such a dastardly purpose.”

After the massacre, he co-ordinated the evacuation of 700 Jewish doctors, students and patients from the Hadassah hospital on the Hebrew Univer-

sity campus on Mount Scopus in Jerusalem, where the convoy had been headed.

In his honour, the street leading to the hospital was named Churchill Boulevard.

In later years, Churchill served as an instructor at the land-air warfare school in Australia, where he became a passionate devotee of surfing.

Back in Britain, he was the first man to ride the River Severn’s five-foot tidal bore and designed his own board.

During this time back in Britain, he worked at a desk job in the army.

He retired from the army in 1959, with two awards of the Distinguished Service Order. In retirement, his eccentricity continued. He startled train conductors and passengers by throwing his briefcase out of the train window each day on the ride home. He later explained that he was tossing his case into his own back garden so he would not have to carry it from the station. He also enjoyed sailing coal-fired ships on the Thames and playing with radio-controlled model warships.

Churchill died on 8 March 1996 at 89 years old, in the county of Surrey.

Honours and Awards

- Distinguished Service Order with bar.
- Military Cross with bar.
- 1939–45 Star.
- Italy Star.
- Burma Star.
- War Medal 1939–1945

Action Stations

Sea Cadets give a lesson in integrity. By Able Seaman Clayton Cornelius, TS Woltemade.

Annually the world celebrates international world clean-up day and the South African Sea Cadets at TS Woltemade always participate in making their difference in repairing the damage done by uncaring planet inhabitants.

On the day the Sea Cadets reported to the unit as per normal, unaware of the special occasion that was being celebrated all over the world. The Officer Commanding, Lt Cdr (SCC) Paul Jacobs, informed the Sea Cadets that this day would be special and that all training would be suspended.

The Sea Cadets were detailed off and walked in groups from

the unit in Lakeside to Muizenberg with instructions to pick up every piece of litter and bag it. The area covered the vlei as well as Muizenberg beach and occupied the Sea Cadets for the full day.

During the “chicken parade” two Sea Cadets, Sea Arend and Sea Nkcitha, located an iPhone cell phone. As one would expect with youngsters they first argued over who had found it until the older one recalled the Sea Cadets Code of Conduct and an inspiring lecture they had received from Charissa Bloomberg, clinical and celebrity psychologist, on Integrity.

Sea Nkcitha challenged Sea

Arend by asking him “do you remember what integrity is ?” Arend’s at that stage had a lapse of memory and was reminded that integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching. Both then agreed to do what was expected of each Sea Cadet in keeping with their Code of Conduct.

Earlier in the year two TS Woltemade Sea Cadets had been invited by the Honourable Speaker of the Western Cape Parliament, Sharna Fernandez, and Charissa Bloomberg, celebrity psychologist and integrity leadership training specialist, to attend an Integrity and Ethics Dialogue.



INTEGRITY: Charissa Bloomberg, celebrity psychologist and integrity leadership specialist, with the ship’s company of TS Woltemade after a discussion on Integrity, including the practical applications.

This formed part of a commemorating a centenary of Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu. In attendance was Prof / Adv Thuli Madonsela, Social Justice Chair at University of Stellenbosch and others who made an impact on them.

As a result Charissa Bloomberg was invited to address the ship’s company on integrity and how this could be applied in their daily lives. It is the “hidden dimension”, doing what is right while no one is watching and being one’s own conscience.

Another aspect covered was to recognise bullying when it occurred and to call out the behaviour. At the end of the discussion the ship’s company recited the Sea Cadets Code of Conduct under the direction of the Officer Commanding, Lt Cdr (SCC) Paul Jacobs.

“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 are 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.”

When arriving back at the Unit they handed the iPhone to the OC who tracked down the owner, Rene Jan, who was abroad on holiday. She collected her iPhone upon return and promised to “make good” with



BRAVO ZULU: Officer Commanding TS Woltemade, Lt Cdr (SCC) Paul Jacobs, congratulates Sea Arend on receiving a Good Conduct Stripe. Unfortunately Sea Nkcitha was not on-board when the photograph was taken.

the two Sea Cadets.

As a result of putting the Sea Cadets Code of Conduct, reinforced by Charissa Bloomberg’s Integrity discussion, into practice both Sea Nkcitha and Sea Arend were awarded with good conduct badges.

These were awarded on a parade in front of the Unit to ensure that their good deeds were

recognised and that all members of the ship’s company follow in their example.

I hope that these Sea Cadets will act as an example to others in society to do what is right while no one is watching.

For more information on Integrity Leadership Training visit: www.hiddendimensions.co.za.

Up, two, three, down

Most of you that served in the military will remember the above as the count for saluting. Yet where did it come from, and why do some forces salute differently?

There is still some debate as to where the salute originated. Some say that it was from the Romans, while others claim it was from medieval knights.

Whichever theory you follow one thing is for certain. The salute has been a part of the military for a long time.

We do know that the Roman Legion did have a salute. It was known as *saluto romano* (Figure 1), a gesture in which the arm was fully extended, facing forward, with palm down and fingers touching.

It was a gesture to show that you were unarmed. A Roman Legionnaire would hold his *scutum* (shield) in his left hand and his *gladius* (sword) in his right.

Yet the Roman Legion also used another salute (Figure 2) where the hand was made into a fist and raised to the chest with a straight arm.



Figure 1

The modern day salute as we know it probably originated from medieval knights.

When they weren't busy fighting each other it was popular to hold tournaments and one of the most popular events at these tournaments was jousting.

Before a joust began the two knights would slowly ride towards each other and, as they passed, would raise the visor of their helmet (Figure 3).

It was viewed as a greeting, a mark of respect, and to show their opponent exactly who it was they were competing against.

In the British Army a troop or non-commissioned officer would use his right hand to remove his hat as a mark of respect for an officer.

As headgear became larger and more cumbersome, as well as to save on wear and tear, the hat was not removed. The person would merely raise his right hand to his headgear. This would later go on to become the British Army salute that we know today.

British Army

Since 1917, the British Army's salute (Figure 4) has been given with the right hand palm facing forwards with the fingers almost touching the cap or beret.

Before 1917, for Other Ranks (i.e. not officers) the salute was given with whichever hand was furthest from the person being



Figure 2

saluted, whether that was the right or the left. Officers always saluted with the right hand (as the left, in theory, would always be required to hold the scabbard of their sword).

The salute is given to acknowledge the Queen's commission. A salute may not be given unless a soldier is wearing his regimental headdress, for example a beret, caubeen, Tam o' Shanter, Glengarry, field service cap or peaked cap.

This does not apply to members of The Blues and Royals (RHG/1stD) The Household Cavalry who, after The Battle of Warburg were allowed to salute without headdress. If a soldier or officer is not wearing headdress then he or she must come to attention instead of giving/returning the salute. The



Figure 3

subordinate salutes first and maintains the salute until the superior has responded in kind.

Royal Air Force / Royal Marines

Both the Royal Air Force and the Royal Marines follow the British Army and salute with the right hand palm facing forward.

Royal Navy

The Naval salute (Figure 5) differs in that the palm of the hand faces down towards the shoulder. This dates back to the days of sailing ships, when tar and pitch were used to seal a ship's timbers from seawater. To protect their hands, officers wore white gloves and it was considered most undignified to present a dirty palm in the salute, so the hand was turned through 90 degrees.

A common story is that Queen Victoria, having been saluted by an individual with a dirty palm, decreed that in future sailors of the fleet would salute palm down, with the palm facing the ground.

American Military

Within United States' military, the salute (Figure 6) is a courteous exchange of greetings, with the junior member always saluting first. When returning or rendering an individual salute, the head and eyes are turned toward the Colours or person saluted. Military personnel in uniform are required to salute when they meet and recognize persons entitled to a salute, except when it is inappropriate or impractical (in public conveyances such as planes and buses, in public places such as inside theaters, or when driving a vehicle).

It is believed that the U.S. military salute was influenced by British military, although differs slightly, in that the palm



Figure 4

of the hand faces down towards the shoulder. This difference may date back to the days of sailing ships, when tar and pitch were used to seal the timber from seawater. During such times, it was considered undignified to present a dirty palm in the salute, so the hand was turned through 90 degrees.

The United States Army and United States Air Force give salutes both covered and uncovered, but saluting indoors is forbidden except when formally reporting to a superior officer or during an indoor ceremony. It should be noted that when outdoors, headgear is to be worn at all times when wearing Battle Dress Uniforms/Army Combat Uniforms, but is not required when wearing physical training (PT) gear.

Italian Military

In 1919 the Italian Fascist Party adopted a military salute that was the same as that used by the Roman Legion (*saluto romano*).

These days the Italian Army (*Esercito Italiano*), Italian Air Force (*Aeronautica Militare*), and Italian Navy (*Marina Militare*) use the same salute as that of the American military.

German Military

From 1935 to 1945 the Nazi salute (Figure 7) was used by all civilians and also by the members of the Nazi Party and the *Schutzstaffel* (SS). Hitler himself admitted that the salute was based on the Italian fascist salute.

It was, however, optional for members of the *Wehr-*



Figure 5

Danish Military

In the Danish military, there are two types of military salutes. The first type is employed by the Royal Danish Navy, Royal Danish Air Force, and Guard Hussar Regiment Mounted Squadron, and is the same as the one used by the U.S.

The second is employed by the Royal Danish Army (Figure 8), and goes as follows: Raise the right arm forward, as to have upper arm 90 degrees from the body. Move the right hand to the temple, and have it parallel to the ground.

Israel Defence Force

The Israeli salute is similar to that of the American military. Saluting is normally reserved for special ceremonies.

Unlike most countries, the Israelis do not salute on a day-to-day basis.

Russian Military

The Russian military salute is similar to that used by the American military.

Indian Military

In India, the three forces have different salutes with the Indian



Figure 6

macht (Defence Force). Most members of the *Heer* (Army), *Luftwaffe* (Air Force), *Kriegsmarine* (Navy), and even the *Waffen-SS* (Armed SS) used the traditional military salute, similar to that of the British Army.

After the failed assassination attempt on Hitler on 20 July 1944 it became compulsory for everyone to use the Nazi salute.

In the modern German *Bundeswehr*, the salute is performed with a flat hand, with the thumb resting on the index finger. The hand is slightly tilted to the front so that the thumb can not be seen. The upper arm is horizontal and the fingers point to the temple but do not touch it or the headgear.

Every soldier saluting another uniformed soldier is entitled to be saluted in return. Soldiers below the rank of *Feldwebel* are not permitted to speak while saluting. Since the creation of the *Bundeswehr*, soldiers are required to salute with and without headgear.

French Military

The French salute is similar to that of the British Army. Salutes are not performed if a member is not wearing a headdress or if he is holding a weapon.



Figure 7

Army and the Indian Navy following the British tradition.

In the Indian army, the salute is performed by keeping the open palm forward, with fingers and thumb together and middle finger almost touching the hatband or right eyebrow.

This is often accompanied by the regimental salutation, e.g.: "Sat Sri Akal" in the Sikh Regiment. The Navy salute has the palm facing towards the ground at a 90-degree angle.

The Indian Air Force salute involves the right arm being sharply raised from the front by the shortest possible way, with the plane of the palm at 45-degree angle to the forehead.

Polish Military

In Polish military forces, military men use two fingers to salute (Figure 9). These fingers are pointing to the Polish Eagle on the headgear.

During World War II, when the Poles were fighting alongside the British, they were obliged to use the British salute.

The Brits thought the salute disrespectful and that it was too similar to that of the Cub Scouts.

Indonesia

In Indonesia, the salute is sim-



Figure 8

ilar to the British Royal Navy.

The salute is a gesture that every person must know and is commonly used for the flag raising ceremony.

It is a very common gesture amongst every part of the country, starting from school to military, police, firefighters, and even scouts (using five fingers, contrary to other countries).

In the military, this gesture is known as Present Arms or in

Indonesian: *Hormat Senjata*, *Gerak* (with weapons) or *Hormat*, *Gerak* (without weapons).

SADF

The South African Defence Force used a salute that was based on that of the British Army.

At first the arm would take the longest way up and the longest way down. This was later changed to longest way up, shortest way down.

Eventually it was shortest way up, shortest way down.

The South African Navy, however, used the same salute as that of the Royal Navy.

SANDEF

The South African National Defence force now use a salute that is similar to that of the American military.

The arm travels the short-



Figure 9

est way up and the shortest way down.

Others

Many non-military organisations have their own salutes. These include police forces, paramilitary forces, and military veteran's organisations.

So I guess it's safe to say that the salute is here to stay.

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



The USS Gerald Ford is the largest and most advanced aircraft carrier, a ground-breaking ship the likes of which has never been seen in human history. Over 337 metres in length, 76 metres high and displacing 100,000 tons, it is the largest warship ever built by man.

There are those that claim that it is unsinkable. But is it really? And, if not, what would it take to sink the USS Gerald Ford?

On the morning of 7 April 1945 the Japanese battleship Yamato steamed towards the American task force invading Okinawa. The largest battleship ever built, the Yamato was the most feared ship in the world at

that time. With 46 cm guns that could launch shells up to a distance of 42 kilometres, Japan had spared no expense in its construction. It was armed with nine 46 cm Type 94 guns, each capable of firing high explosive and armour-piercing shells. It also had six 15.5 cm 3rd Year Type guns, 24 x 127 mm Type 89 guns, 162 x 25 mm Type 96 anti-aircraft guns, and four 13.2 mm Type 93 guns. In short the Yamato packed enough firepower to engage two or three American battleships at the same time.

Yet once spotted by American reconnaissance aircraft on that April morning its fate was sealed.

By the end of the day the Yamato lay at the bottom of the sea, the victim of an attack by 280 American bomber and torpedo bomber aircraft.

From the first attack at 12:37 to the time she exploded at 14:23, Yamato was hit by at least 11 torpedoes and six bombs. There may have been two more torpedo and bomb hits, but this is not confirmed.

Yamato never even got close enough to the American task force to fire at them.

The USS Gerald Ford has drawn many comparisons to the Yamato from sceptical defence experts. Battleships were powerful and feared weapons of war and none more so that the

Yamato. But they were already being made obsolete by the time the Yamato was in full operation. So to the sceptics fear that the aircraft carrier is even now close to becoming obsolete.

And with a further ten Ford-class carriers being planned, and at US\$13 billion price tag, if the sceptics are right the USS Gerald Ford and her sister ships could end up being a costly mistake for the United States.

But why do people fear that the aircraft carrier is nearly obsolete? The first answer to that question comes from the evolution of the long-range missile. In World War II aircraft carriers reigned supreme. They had the ability to project firepower

out of range of even the biggest battleship's guns, rendering them all but obsolete. A lesson the Yamato learnt the hard way.

Nowadays missiles threaten to out-range the aircraft carrier, with modern missiles boasting the ability to travel hundreds or even thousands of kilometres while moving at hypersonic speeds.

The second threat to the modern aircraft carrier comes from co-ordinated attacks by smaller surface vessels or drones. Imagine 20 or 30 small craft or drones

attacking at once. An aircraft carrier is a big and bulky ship. It is feared that it could fall prey to masses of unmanned small craft loaded with explosives. Or aerial drones on a kamikaze mission to sink the carrier. ISIS have already employed remote-controlled aircraft loaded with explosives against the Russians in Syria.

While well protected against traditional naval or aerial attack and aircraft carrier is not well equipped to defend itself against hordes of small attackers. So could either of these tactics work? Just what would it take to sink the USS Gerald Ford?

For a long time the prima-

Unsinkable?

The largest warship ever built by man, there are those that claim that she is unsinkable. But is it really? And, if not, what would it take to sink the USS Gerald Ford?

ry threat to a carrier has come from submarines which, by their nature, are extremely difficult to detect and target. Yet the USS Gerald Ford has a speed of about 30 knots (56 km per hour) with a classified top speed. This is already faster than most submarines. Any submarine trying to speed up to catch the Ford would generate a lot of noise and quickly be identified by the Ford's escort ships or numerous anti-submarine helicopters, each loaded with dipping sonar and depth charges.

Sceptics point back to 2006 when a single Chinese submarine surfaced in the middle of a carrier group while they were on an exercise, it's important to note that the carrier and her escort ships at the time were not actively looking for submarine threats. They had no reason too.

While this could have been a potential lethal vulnerability,

a Chinese submarine attacking an American carrier would have been tantamount to a declaration of war. And during war or the build-up to a possible confrontation, the carrier and her escorts would have been actively looking for subs. This would make it difficult, if not downright impossible, for the sub to penetrate the entire battle group.

The second threat the Ford would face would be from Cruise missile attacks. Launched from extreme distances, most Cruise missiles are designed to fly low to the ocean on a pre-programmed track before popping up to engage their internal targeting radars and alter course for a hit. By flying low the Cruise missile avoids radar detection. But as soon as it pops up to engage its radar and adjust its trajectory it would appear on every radar in

the Ford's battle group.

In that scenario the battle group's Aegis cruisers would co-ordinate the defence of the entire group by firing salvos of SM6 or RIM-116 RAM missiles to destroy incoming missiles. With two RIM-162 ESSM launchers installed on the Ford and dozens across the rest of the battle group, a Cruise missile would have to penetrate several layers of anti-missile defence, each extending out for kilometres.

Even if these defences somehow failed, each ship in the battle group is equipped with Phalanx CIWS chain guns capable of tracking incoming missiles and spitting out over 50 rounds per second. The Ford alone has three of these weapon turrets.

The best way to overcome the Ford's missile defences would be to launch a large volley of Cruise missiles.



USS Gerald R. Ford

But Cruise missiles have one fundamental weakness – they require a launch platform. Either a ship, submarine or aircraft.

With the Ford's 90 plus complement of aircraft and four E-2D Hawkeye early-warning radar planes the carrier can cast a protective bubble of surveillance hundreds of kilometres around the entire battle group.

Easily spotted, there simply exists no naval or air force in the world that could survive long enough to get within range of the Ford and its battle group.

Even during the Cold War Soviet military doctrine dictated the sacrifice of dozens of Tupolev Tu-22M Backfire bombers in kamikaze missions against American carrier battle groups.

Few, if any, were expected to survive the attempt to attack an American carrier and the US was so confident of their ability to defend their carriers that their own military doctrine dictated the wide spread use of carriers in a conflict against the Soviet Union.

Ballistic missiles prove a much bigger threat, however, as they can be launched from

thousands of kilometres away. This makes the launch platforms difficult, if not impossible, to neutralise early.

While typically used for delivering nuclear weapons to major cities, modern ballistic missiles such as those developed by China and Russia reportedly have the ability to alter their course on their decent trajectory. This means they could target a small moving target such as an aircraft carrier.

Yet while touting its arsenal of hundreds of Dong-Feng 26 Carrier-Killer missiles, these weapons require long and complex kill chains. They need to (a) spot a carrier, (b) identify the carrier, (c) track the carrier, and, (d) accurately target the carrier.

These links range from aerial platforms, tracking satellites, command and control centres down to the actual missile itself. China has, to date, not shown the capability of mastering every link in this long and complicated chain. Nor has it shown the ability to defend these assets from attack, which would then disrupt its entire capability.

Even so, Ford's battle group is well equipped to defend itself against ballistic missiles, as shown by recent tests of the SM-6 missiles carried by the groups Aegis cruisers. Though a saturation attack of dozens of missiles would have a good chance of overwhelming the carrier's defences, it is unlikely that China or Russia could protect the vital communications and tracking elements needed to guide those missiles in the first place, long enough to hit a

fast-moving Ford carrier.

The last threat to the American Ford-class carriers comes from swarms of drones and speedboats laden with explosives. Both of these attacks would require the carrier to be operating extremely close to hostile shores, something a Ford carrier would never do during war time.

A swarm of fast attack boats would probably not have to range to find and close with a carrier group on the open seas. Even if they did, they would have to face a gauntlet of helicopters and escort ships packed with 12.7 mm heavy machine guns.

Never ones to leave it up to chance however, American defence companies have already begun testing direct energy weapons and other similar systems to defend against just such threats.

The USS Gerald Ford is the first in the line of new Ford-class carriers. It was launched on 11 October 2013 and commissioned on 22 July 2017.

The next two Ford-class carriers, the USS John F. Kennedy and the USS Enterprise, will be commissioned in 2024 and 2027 respectively.

Is it possible to sink the USS Gerald Ford? Only time, and combat, will tell.

I just can't help thinking about another ship that they said was unsinkable. It was called the Titanic. You probably saw the movie.

Roomy

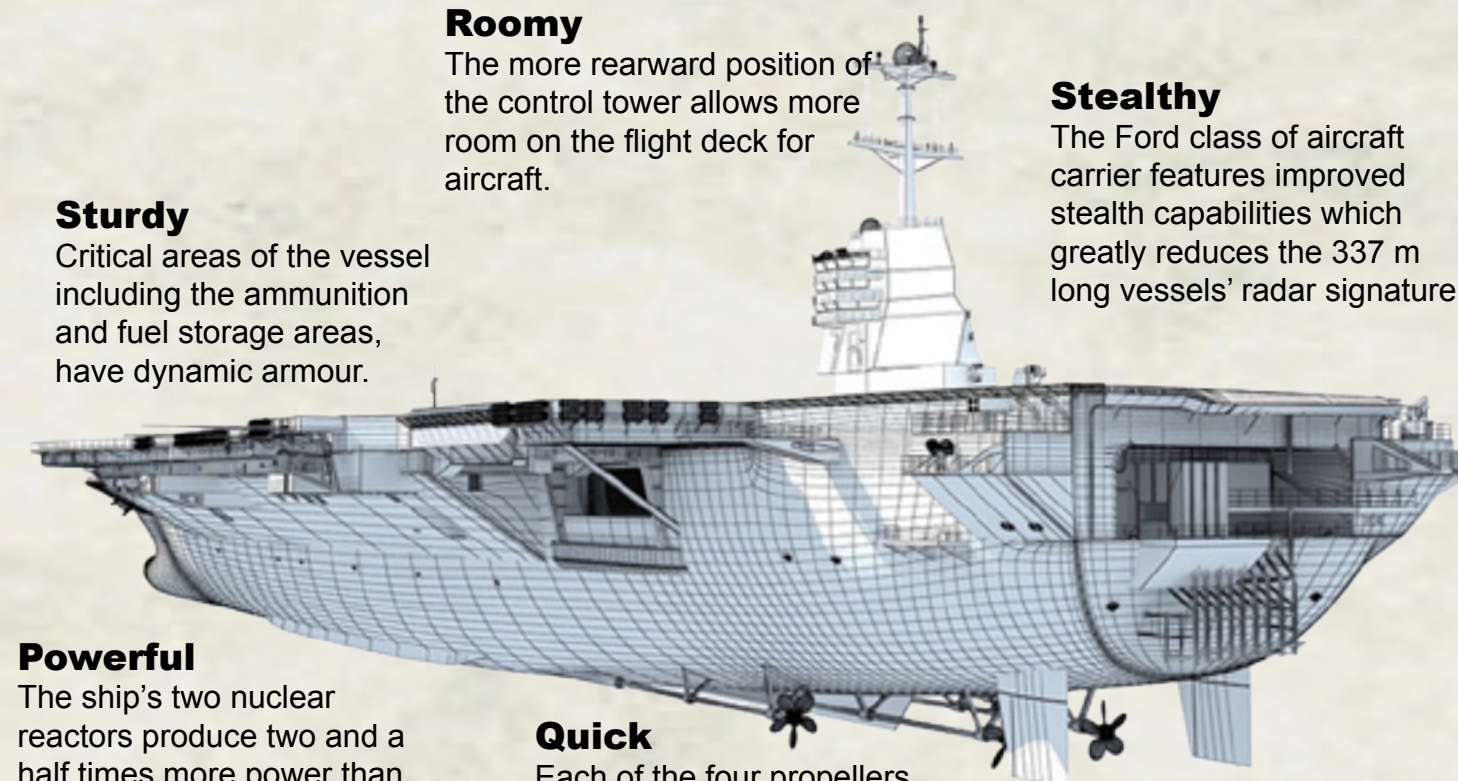
The more rearward position of the control tower allows more room on the flight deck for aircraft.

Stealthy

The Ford class of aircraft carrier features improved stealth capabilities which greatly reduces the 337 m long vessels' radar signature

Sturdy

Critical areas of the vessel including the ammunition and fuel storage areas, have dynamic armour.



Powerful

The ship's two nuclear reactors produce two and a half times more power than the previous Nimitz-class carriers.

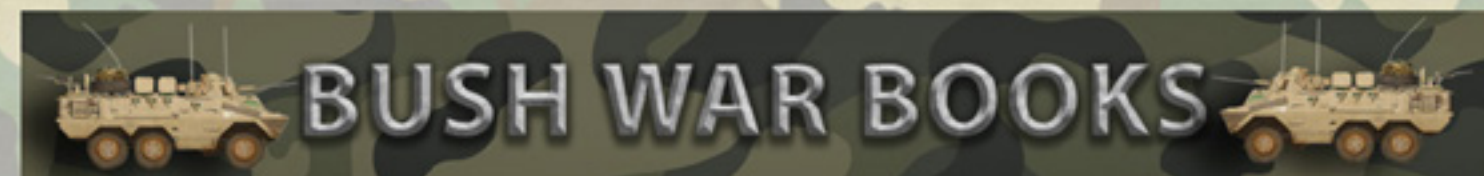
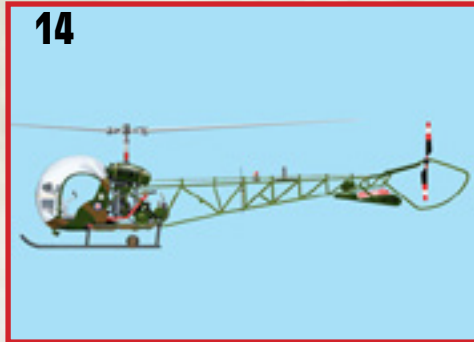
Quick

Each of the four propellers measure seven metres in diameter. They allow for a top speed of 30 knots.



Helicopters

Whether used to transport troops and supplies or as attack platforms, helicopters changed the face of war. We show you 15 of them, you tell us what they are. You'll find the answers to the quiz on page 84.



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

Polish 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 Polish Army.

The system of rank insignia is a direct descendant of various systems used throughout history by the Polish Army. Some of the grades trace their name back to the Middle Ages.

Names of Polish ranks are often of foreign origin, like the

ones introduced by the 17th-century mercenaries serving for the Polish Crown.

The Polish language requires the use of a prior honorific before stating the addressee's rank e.g. 'Panie Kapitanie...' (Sir Captain...)



Szeregowy



This rank is equal to a private, the lowest rank.

Abbreviation: szer.

NATO Code: None

Non-Commissioned Officers

Starszy szeregowy

Senior private

Abbreviation: st.szer.

NATO Code: OR-1



Kapral



Corporal

Abbreviation: kpr.

NATO Code: OR-2

Starszy kapral

Senior corporal

Abbreviation: st.kpr.

NATO Code: OR-3



Plutonowy

Platoon corporal

Abbreviation: plut.

NATO Code: OR-3



Sierżant

Sergeant

Abbreviation: sierż.

NATO Code: OR-4



Starszy Sierżant

Senior Sergeant

Abbreviation: st.sierż.

NATO Code: OR-5



Młodszy chorazy

Junior Ensign

Abbreviation: mł.chor.

NATO Code: OR-6



Chorazy

Ensign

Abbreviation: chor.

NATO Code: OR-8





Starszy Chorazy

Senior Ensign
Abbreviation: st.chor.
NATO Code: OR-9

Starszy Chorazy Sztabowy

Senior Staff Ensign
Abbreviation: st.chor.szt.
NATO Code: OR-9



Commissioned Officers



Podchorazy

Student Officer
Abbreviation: none.
NATO Code: none

Podporucznik

Second Lieutenant
Abbreviation: ppor.
NATO Code: OF-1



Porucznik

Lieutenant
Abbreviation: por.
NATO Code: OF-1

Kapitan

Captain
Abbreviation: kpt.
NATO Code: OF-2



Major

Major
Abbreviation: mjr.
NATO Code: OF-3

Podpułkownik

Lieutenant Colonel
Abbreviation: pplk.
NATO Code: OF-4



Pułkownik

Colonel
Abbreviation: plk.
NATO Code: OF-5



General dywizji

Major General
Abbreviation: gen.dyw.
NATO Code: OF-7



General

General
Abbreviation: gen.
NATO Code: OF-9



Generał brygady

Brigadier General
Abbreviation: gen.bryg.
NATO Code: OF-6



Generał broni

Lieutenant General
Abbreviation: gen.broni.
NATO Code: OF-8



Marszałek Polski

Marshal of Poland
Abbreviation: marsz.
NATO Code: OF-10



A matter of survival - Trapping I

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 traps and trapping.

In a survival situation you're going to find it far easier to trap small prey rather than try and hunt it.

Even if you spot a small animal it offers a small target and can easily seek cover. It's far easier to trap prey, and it leaves you free to forage for other food and resources.

There are many elaborate traps with complicated mechanisms. For most of them you will need a degree in engineering or, like Wiley E. Coyote, you will have to order it from Acme if you're planning on capturing Beep-Beep the Road Runner.

What you will need is a simple trap that is easy to construct. However, because each animal has different habits, a wide variety of traps is essential. If one type fails, an alternative can be set. It's a matter of trial and error.

Where to trap

Find the game trails or paths which lead from a animals lair to where it feeds or waters.

Look for any natural bottlenecks along the route where it will have to pass through a particular position - a dead-wood fall or a place where the track goes under an obstruction. These are ideal places to set a trap.

Do not place a trap close to an animals lair. That is where it sits and listens and sniffs the

air. Likewise don't place the trap close to its watering hole. This is another place where it is alert and more likely to notice anything unusual.

Trap construction

The most simple traps and snares are made of string or wire. It will be easier to keep a loop open in the air if you use wire and the wire in your survival tin is ideal for this.

Even the most sophisticated traps need nothing more than a knife to make them out of available wood.

The choice of materials is important. Don't use dead wood or wood found on the ground. You want something that is strong and retains its spring.

Types of traps

Trap mechanisms make use of one or more of the following principles.

Mangle - Strangle - Dangle - Tangle.

The dead-fall mangles. The snare strangles. Spring saplings can make a trap more efficient and takes the game up in the air - it dangles. The higher the sapling the more effectively it lifts the animal. A net tangles. Some traps combine two or more of these principles.

Rules for traps

When setting traps, follow these basic rules.

1. Avoid disturbing the envi-

ronment. Don't tread on the game trail. Do all your preparation off the trail and don't leave any sign that you have been there.

2. Hide the scent. When constructing or handling traps don't leave your scent on them. Handle as little as possible and wear gloves if you can. Do not make a trap from one type of wood and set it in a area with another type of wood. Each tree gives off its own scent - and the animals you are trying to trap have a very high sense of smell, many times sharper than yours. Although they fear fire they are familiar with the smell of smoke and exposing a snare to smoke from a camp fire will mask any human scent.

3. Camouflage. Hide freshly cut ends of wood with mud. Cover any snare on the ground to blend in as naturally as possible with its surroundings.

4. Make them strong. An ensnared animal is fighting for its life. It exerts a lot of energy in an attempt to escape. Any weakness in the traps will be exposed.

Snares

Snares are the simplest of traps and should be part of any survival kit. They are made from non-ferrous wire with a running eye at one end through which the other end of the wire passes before

being firmly anchored to a stake, rock or tree.

A snare is a free-running noose which can catch small game around the throat and larger game around the legs.

A snare can be improvised from string, rope, twine or wire. Consider the kind of animal you are trying to trap when you place the snare.

Snares under tension

Make a snare more effective by using a sapling under tension to lift the game clear of the ground when the trap is released.

This robs the animal of purchase in its struggle to free itself and also helps to keep it out of reach of predators.

Spring snare (Figure 1)

When game is caught the trigger bar disengages and the prey is lifted off the ground.

This is a good trap for smaller animals. It will trap the game coming in both directions and is ideally situated on the game trail by a natural bottleneck cause by a dead fall or rocky outcrop.

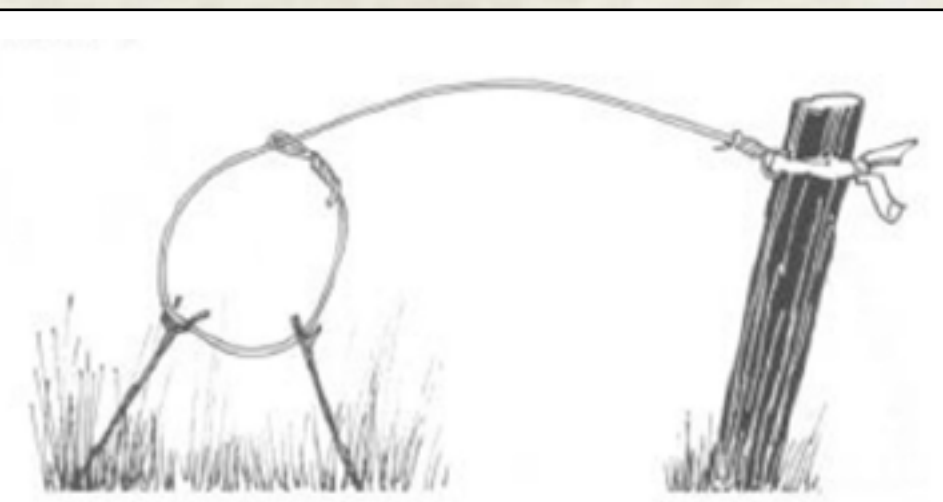
Baited spring snare (Figure 2)

The mechanism is the same as for the spring snare, but here the quarry is tempted with some bait.

The noose is laid on the ground with the bait strung above. As the game takes the bait the trigger is released.

This trap is suitable for medium-sized animals. It can be located in an open area because the bait will attract attention.

Small clearing in the wood or bush are good sites.

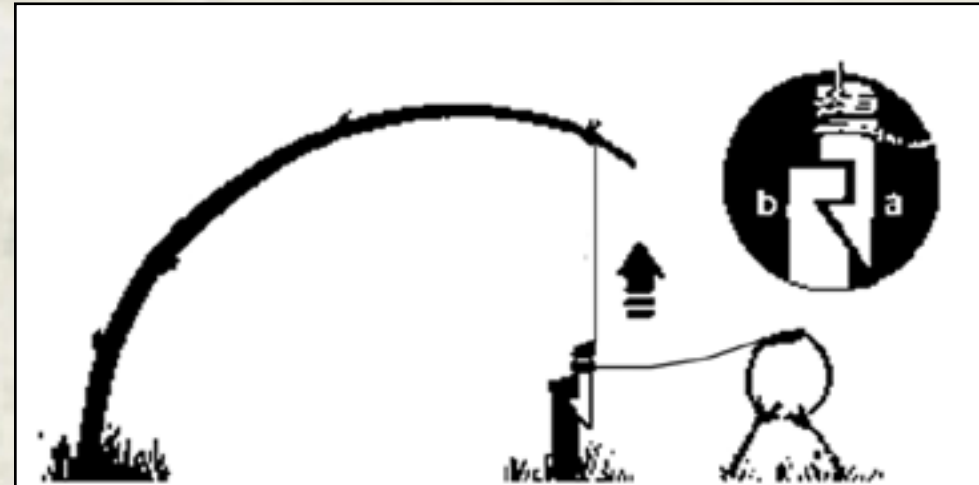


A wire snare can be supported off the ground on twigs, which can also be used to keep a suspended string noose open.

Using a simple snare

The above trap is suitable for small animals. Use your judgement to scale up these proportions for larger creatures.

- Make the loop a fist width size.
- Set it four fingers above the ground and one hand's width from an obstruction on the trail.
- Check that it is securely anchored, with twigs to support the loop in position if necessary.



Spring snare (Figure 1)

Cut notch in trigger bar (a) to fit notch in upright (b). Drive straight into the ground.

Attach a snare to trigger bar and use cord tied to sapling to keep tension. One the trap is trigger the animal is lifted from the ground. This will ensure that it doesn't become food for some predator.

Baited spring leg snare (Figure 3)

The prongs of a natural fork of wood, or two sticks tied together, are pushed firmly into the ground.

The line from a bent sapling is tied to a toggle end and to the snare and the toggle is then passed under the fork.

When the game takes the bait, which is on the end of a separate bar, the bar disengages and the toggle flies up carrying the snare (and hopefully the game).

This is a trap for larger game such as buck. For herbivorous game, bait with blood or scent glands, which will arouse the curiosity.

Spring tension snare (Figure 4)

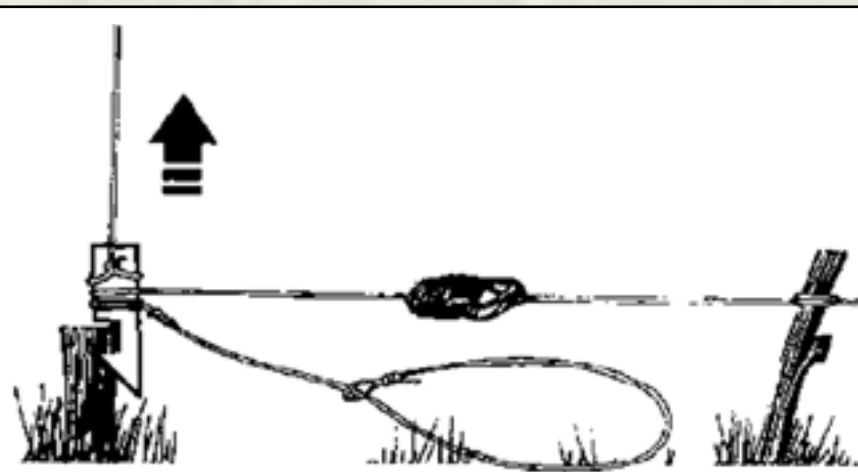
The upward counter thrust from the keeper stick (a) on which the snare arm (b) rests prevents the switch from pulling it up.

When the game becomes ensnared the snare arm is dislodged from the keeper stick and the switch line slips off the other end.

This is suitable for small animals. Site it on the game trail.

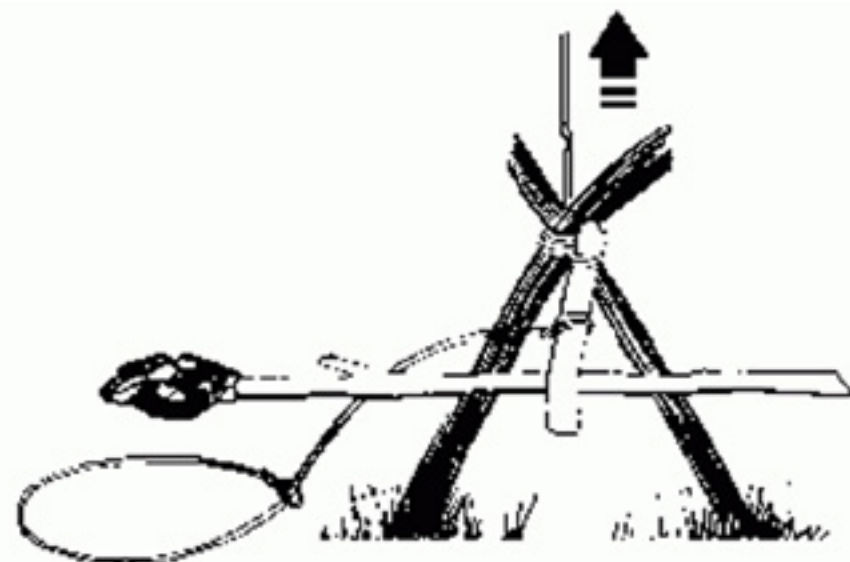
There are, of course, many other types snare traps and you can do a little research to discover them. Yet if you learn to construct the ones shown in this article, you should be good to go.

Next month we will look at constructing dead fall traps, as well as how and where to use them.



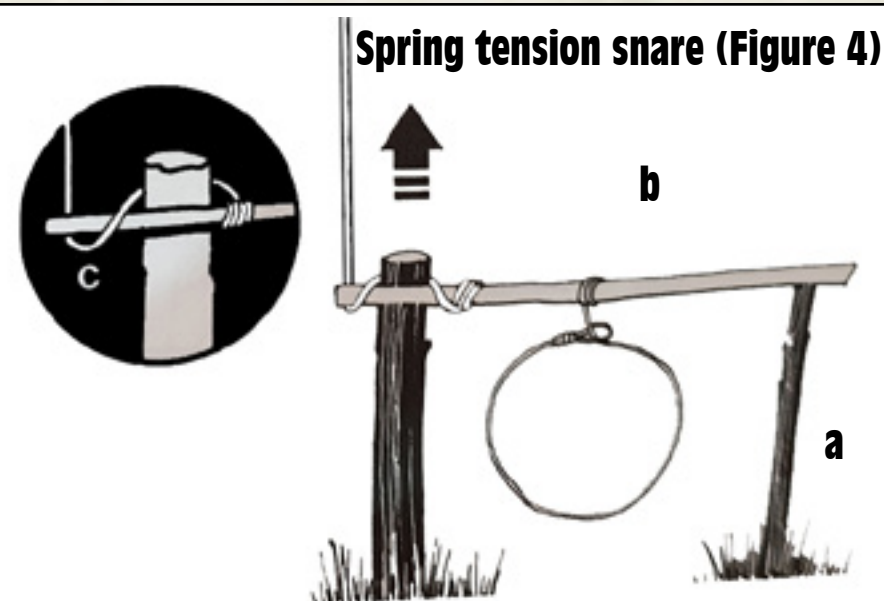
Baited spring snare (Figure 2)

The bait support stake should be only lightly driven into the ground as this must fly away with the noose.



Baited spring leg snare (Figure 3)

The upper end of the toggle presses against the fork and the lower end is prevented from pulling back through by a bait bar between it and the fork - the pressure of the toggle holding it in place.



Spring tension snare (Figure 4)



A RICH LIVING HISTORY
AIRCRAFT FROM THE 1930's TO MODERN DAY

**HISTORIC
COLLECTION**

SOUTH AFRICAN

AIR FORCE MUSEUM

PORT ELIZABETH

HISTORIC LOCATION

The museum is located on the grounds of the historic old WWII 42 Air School on the South side of the airport in the vintage Air Gunnery Training Centre & Bellman hangar.

RICH HISTORY

The valuable historic grounds, buildings and artifacts displayed in the museum reflect a richly diverse history of South African Air Force aircraft, the people, and the wars.

ART GALLERY

A collection of aviation and contemporary oil paintings and illustrations, including prints & postcards, are on display and available to purchase by artist Don Bell. The artist also accepts commissions for original works customised for the owner.

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Job Maseko - World War II Warrior

How does a man not officially allowed to carry firearms go on to win the Military Medal for gallantry? Job Maseko was one of those that achieved this feat.

It is a sad fact that we know very little about the early life of Job Maseko. I have no idea of when or even where he was born.

What we do know is that shortly before World War II he worked as a delivery man in Springs in what was then the Transvaal.

He volunteered for service with the South African Native Military Corps (NMC) and, after completing basic training, was sent to North Africa as part of the 2nd South African Infantry Division.

There was, however, a catch. Members of the NMC were only given non-combat roles. They were used as drivers, cooks, stretcher bearers and so on.

South African race laws at the time provided that serving 'black' men could not carry firearms, they were however issued spears as a 'traditional weapon' for guard and ceremonial duty.

Maseko was not alone. Nearly 40% of the standing army consisted of 'black' South African volunteers. About 128,000 of them in fact.

In June 1942 Tobruk, the port city on Libya's eastern Mediterranean coast, near the border of Egypt, was under siege. The Allied garrison at Tobruk, under the command of South African Major General Hendrik Klopper, had repulsed several attacks by Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps.

It was in this maelstrom that Job Maseko found himself. He was working as a stretcher bearer, rescuing wounded men, often while under enemy fire.

As the situation became more desperate the restrictions of black troops being given rifles went out of the window. Maseko and other black colleagues were given rifles and expected to fight on the front line with everyone else.

On 21 June 1942 General Klopper surrendered to Rommel and 32,000 Allied troops became prisoners of war. This included 10,722 South Africans of the 2nd Division, of whom 1,200 were members of the Native Military Corps. Job Maseko was one of them.

Maseko and many others were force marched across the desert to an Italian POW camp.

The Italian treatment of POWs was disgusting, especial-

ly the treatment reserved for members of the Native Military Corps. German and Italian forces displayed a complete disregard for the rights of coloured or black POWs as they did not view them as regular troops.

At the Tobruk camp black South African POWs were forced "under threat of death" to do war work, which was contrary to the Geneva Convention. More over their food was totally inadequate – they were only given one packet of biscuits per day and water rations were kept to a minimum.

Desperate for food, some of the black POWs would escape from the camp perimeter at night in an effort to scrounge for food in the town. They would sometimes return to the camp with 'acquired' sacks of mielie meal.

Maseko was none to pleased with the treatment of black POWs. He felt compelled to take action against his captors. To quote him, "because of our ill-treatment by the enemy, especially the Italians, and because I felt it a duty in this way to assist my own people".

Part of Maseko's duties was off-loading cargo from ships docked in the harbour.

With the help of fellow prisoners Andrew Mohudi, Sam Police and Koos Williams, Maseko assembled a bomb using a condensed milk tin, cordite taken from bullets and an extremely long fuse.

While off-loading cargo, he placed his home-made bomb deep inside the hold of a German freight ship (probably an 'F' Boat).

He placed the bomb next to fuel barrels, lit the fuse, and left the ship. As he waited and watched, the ship shuddered from a huge explosion and almost immediately sank into the harbour. If he had been discovered Maseko would have been shot, probably after first being tortured.

After the war Maseko was able to point out where the ship had been berthed. When divers went down to investigate the found the ship resting on the sea bed exactly where he said it would be.

Maseko later escaped from Tobruk and spent three weeks walking through the desert, much of the way through enemy lines.

While still a POW he had found and repaired an old German radio. He heard about General Montgomery's epic and tide turning victory at El Alamein. Maseko was heading for El Alamein, intent on joining the battle.

For his actions Job Maseko was later presented with the Military Medal (MM) by Major-General F H Theron. The citation reads:

The King has been graciously pleased to approve the following award in recognition of gallant and distinguished service in the Middle East.

Military Medal

No N 4448 L/Cpl Job Masego [sic] – Native Military Corps Citation

For meritorious and courageous action in that on or about the 21st July, while a Prisoner of War, he, Job Masego, sank a fully laden enemy steamer – probably an "F" boat – while moored in Tobruk Harbour.

This he did by placing a small tin filled with gunpowder in among drums of petrol in the hold, leading a fuse therefrom to the hatch and lighting the fuse upon closing the hatch.

In carrying out this deliberately planned action, Job Masego displayed ingenuity, determination and complete disregard of personal safety from punishment by the enemy or from the ensuing explosion which set the vessel alight.'

For his actions Job Maseko was initially recommended for a Victoria Cross but according to Neville Lewis, the first official war artist for South Africa during the Second World War, Job Maseko was awarded the Military Medal instead as he was 'only an African'.

After being released Lance Corporal Job Maseko returned to South Africa. Shortly after the war ended apartheid was implemented and his legacy slipped away from the general consciousness.

Job Maseko died in 1952 after being stuck by a train. At the time he was so poor that they had to borrow money to bury him.

Today this unassuming hero has a primary school in KwaThema township named after him. The main road of the township has also been named after him.

The South African Navy strike-craft SAS Kobie Coetzee was renamed the SAS Job Maseko.

Job Maseko was a warrior, a hero, and a South African. We will remember him.

INTO THE BAG: 32,000 Allied troops were taken prisoner after the fall of Tobruk.



Machine Guns of World War II

This month we take a look at light, medium and heavy machine guns of World War II.

During World War I the machine gun had proved to be deadly. They would prove just as deadly during World War II.

Many countries produced machine guns prior to and during World War II. This included countries such as France, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Belgium, Sweden and Switzerland.

In this article, however, we are looking at the Big Five - America, Britain, Germany, Japan and Russia.

Machine guns were normally divided up into three categories: light, medium and heavy.

A light machine gun (LMG) is a machine gun designed to be employed by an individual soldier, with or without an assistant, as an infantry support weapon. Light machine guns are often used as squad automatic weapons (SAW).

A medium machine gun (MMG) usually refers to a belt-fed automatic firearm firing a

full-power rifle cartridge.

Heavy machine guns (HMG) are large calibre (12.7x99mm, 12.7x108mm, 14.5x114mm, or larger) machine guns designed to provide increased range, penetration and destructive power against vehicles, buildings, aircraft and light fortifications beyond the standard rifle calibres used in medium or general-purpose machine guns, or the intermediate cartridges used in light machine guns.



America

M1917 Browning

The M1917 Browning machine gun is a heavy machine gun used by the United States armed forces in World War I, World War II, Korea; it has also been used by other nations. It was a crew served, belt-fed, water-cooled machine gun that served alongside the much lighter air-cooled Browning M1919. It was used at the battalion level, and often mounted on vehicles (such as a Jeep).

Specifications

- **Designed:** 1917
- **Type:** Heavy Machine Gun
- **Weight:** 47 kg
- **Length:** 980 mm
- **Barrel length:** 609 mm

- **Cartridge:** .30-06 Springfield
- **Action:** Recoil-operated automatic
- **Rate of fire:** 450 rounds/min
- **Muzzle velocity:** 853.6 m/s
- **Feed system:** 250 round fabric belt

American troops nicknamed the Browning M2 "Ma Deuce", in reference to its M2 nomenclature.

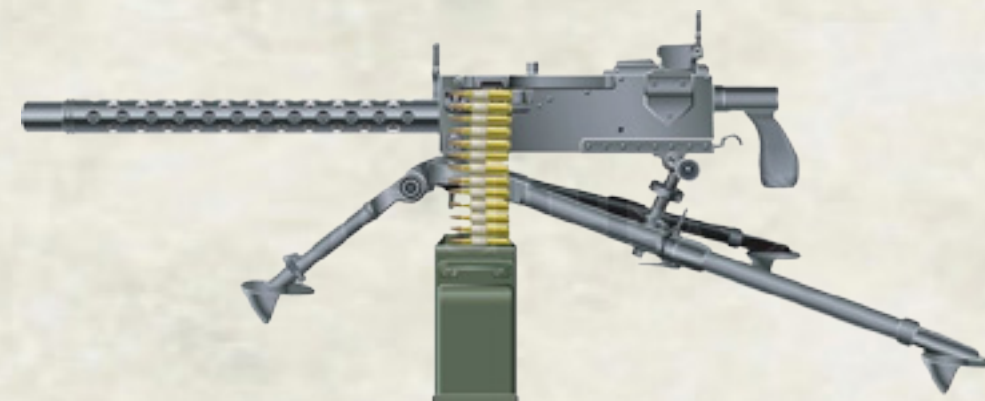


M1919 Browning

The M1919 Browning is a .30 calibre medium machine gun that was widely used during the 20th century, especially during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

The M1919 saw service as a light infantry, coaxial, mounted, aircraft, and anti-aircraft machine gun by the U.S. and many other countries.

Many M1919s were re-chambered for the new 7.62x51mm NATO round and remain in service to this day.



Specifications

- **Designed:** 1919
- **Type:** Medium Machine Gun
- **Weight:** 14 kg
- **Length:** 964 mm
- **Barrel length:** 610 mm
- **Cartridge:** .30-06 Springfield
- **Action:** Recoil-operated/short-recoil operation
- **Rate of fire:** 400–600 rounds/min
- **Muzzle velocity:** 850 m/s
- **Effective range:** 1,400 m
- **Feed system:** 250 round belt

The distinctive sound caused by the high cyclic firing rate of the German MG 42 gave rise to the nickname "Hitler's buzzsaw". It was sometimes called "Spandau" by British troops, a traditional generic term for all German machine guns, left over from the famous Allied nickname for the MG 08 Maxim-derivative used by German forces during World War I and derived from its manufacturer's plates noting the city of Spandau where some were produced.

Browning Automatic Rifle

The Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) is a family of American automatic rifles and machine guns used by the United States and numerous other countries during the 20th century.

The primary variant of the BAR series was the M1918, chambered for the .30-06 Springfield rifle cartridge and designed by John Browning in 1917 for the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe as a replacement for the French-made Chauchat and M1909



Benét-Mercié machine guns that US forces had previously been issued.

Specifications

- **Designed:** 1917
- **Type:** Light Machine Gun
- **Weight:** 7,25 kg
- **Length:** 1,215 mm
- **Barrel length:** 610 mm
- **Cartridge:** .30-06 Springfield
- **Action:** Gas-operated, rising bolt lock
- **Rate of fire:** 500–650 rounds/min
- **Muzzle velocity:** 860 m/s
- **Effective range:** 91–1,372 m
- **Feed system:** 20-round detachable box magazine

M2 Browning

The M2 Machine Gun or Browning .50 Calibre Machine Gun is a heavy machine gun designed toward the end of World War I by John Browning. Its design is similar to Browning's earlier M1919 Browning machine gun, which was chambered for the .30-06 cartridge.

The M2 uses the much larger and much more powerful .50 BMG cartridge, which was developed alongside and takes its name from the gun itself (BMG standing for Browning Machine Gun).



Specifications

- **Designed:** 1918
- **Type:** Heavy Machine Gun
- **Weight:** 38 kg
- **Length:** 1,654 mm
- **Barrel length:** 1,143 mm
- **Cartridge:** .50 BMG (12.7×99mm NATO)
- **Action:** Short recoil-operated
- **Rate of fire:** 450–600 rounds/min
- **Muzzle velocity:** 890 m/s
- **Effective range:** 1,800 m
- **Feed system:** Belt fed



British

Bren Gun

The Bren gun, usually called simply the Bren, are a series of light machine guns (LMG) made by Britain in the 1930s and used in various roles until 1992.

While best known for its role as the British and Commonwealth forces' primary infantry LMG in World War II, it was also used in the Korean War and saw service throughout the latter half of the 20th century, including the 1982 Falklands War.

Although fitted with a bipod, it could also be mounted on a tripod or vehicle-mounted.

In the 1950s, many Brens were re-barrelled to accept the



7.62×51mm NATO cartridge and modified to feed from the magazine for the L1 (Commonwealth version of the FN FAL) rifle as the L4 light machine gun.

Specifications

- **Designed:** 1935
- **Type:** Light Machine Gun
- **Weight:** 10,35 kg
- **Length:** 1,156 mm
- **Barrel length:** 635 mm
- **Crew:** Two, gunner and assistant.
- **Cartridge:** .303 British
- **Action:** Gas-operated, tilting bolt
- **Rate of fire:** 500–520 rounds/min
- **Muzzle velocity:** 743,7 m/s
- **Effective range:** 1,690 m
- **Feed system:** 30-round detachable box magazine

Lewis Gun

The Lewis gun (or Lewis automatic machine gun or Lewis automatic rifle) is a First World War-era light machine gun of US design that was perfected and mass-produced in the United Kingdom, and widely used by troops of the British Empire during the war.

It had a distinctive barrel cooling shroud (containing a finned, aluminium breech-to-muzzle heat sink to cool the gun barrel) and top-mounted pan magazine.

The Lewis served to the end of the Korean War. It was also widely used as an aircraft machine gun, almost always with the cooling shroud removed



(as air flow during flight offers sufficient cooling), during both World Wars.

Specifications

- **Designed:** 1911
- **Type:** Light Machine Gun
- **Weight:** 13 kg
- **Length:** 1,280 mm
- **Barrel length:** 670 mm
- **Cartridge:** .303 British
- **Action:** Gas-operated long stroke gas piston, rotating bolt
- **Rate of fire:** 500–600 rounds/min
- **Muzzle velocity:** 740 m/s
- **Effective range:** 800 m
- **Feed system:** 47 or 97-round pan magazine

Bren Gun

The Vickers machine gun or Vickers gun is a name primarily used to refer to the water-cooled .303 British machine gun produced by Vickers Limited, originally for the British Army.

The machine gun typically required a six to eight-man team to operate: one fired, one fed the ammunition, the rest helped to carry the weapon, its ammunition, and spare parts.

It was in service from before the First World War until the 1960s, with air-cooled versions of it on many Allied World War I fighter aircraft.

Specifications

- **Designed:** 1912
- **Type:** Medium Machine Gun
- **Weight:** 23 kg
- **Length:** 1.12 m
- **Barrel length:** 720 mm mm
- **Crew:** Three.
- **Cartridge:** .303 British
- **Action:** recoil with gas boost
- **Rate of fire:** 450–500 rounds/min
- **Muzzle velocity:** 744 m/s
- **Effective range:** 2,000 m
- **Feed system:** 250-round canvas belt





German

MG 34

The *Maschinengewehr 34*, or MG 34, is a German recoil-operated air-cooled machine gun, first tested in 1929, introduced in 1934, and issued to units in 1936.

It introduced an entirely new concept in automatic firepower – the *Einheitsmaschinengewehr* (Universal machine gun) – and is generally considered the world's first general-purpose machine gun (GPMG).

The MG 34 was envisaged and well developed to provide portable light and medium machine gun infantry cover, anti-aircraft coverage, and even sniping ability. Its combination of exceptional mobility – being



light enough to be carried by one man – and high rate of fire (of up to 900 rounds per minute) was unmatched.

Specifications

- **Designed:** 1934
- **Type:** General Purpose Machine Gun
- **Weight:** 12,1 kg
- **Length:** 1,219 mm
- **Barrel length:** 627 mm
- **Cartridge:** 7.92×57mm

Mauser

- **Action:** Open bolt, Recoil-operated, Rotating bolt
- **Rate of fire:** 800–900 rounds/min
- **Muzzle velocity:** 765 m/s
- **Effective range:** 200–2,000 m
- **Feed system:** 50/250-round belts, 50-round drum, or 75-round drum magazine with modification

MG 42

The MG 42 or *Maschinengewehr 42* is a 7.92×57mm Mauser general purpose machine gun designed in Nazi Germany and used extensively by the Wehrmacht and the Waffen-SS during the second half of World War II. It was intended to replace the earlier MG 34, which was more expensive and took much longer to produce, but both weapons were produced until the end of the war.

Specifications

- **Designed:** 1942



- **Type:** General Purpose Machine Gun
- **Weight:** 11,6 kg
- **Length:** 1,220 mm
- **Barrel length:** 530 mm
- **Cartridge:** 7.92×57mm Mauser
- **Action:** Recoil-operated, roller-locked
- **Rate of fire:** 900–1,500

rounds/min

- **Muzzle velocity:** 740 m/s
- **Effective range:** 200–2,000 m
- **Feed system:** 50 or 250-round Patronengurt 33, 34, or 34/41 model belt, 50-round belt drum



Japanese

Type 99

The Type 99 light machine gun (*Kyūkyū-shiki Kei-kikanjū*) was a light machine gun used by the Imperial Japanese Army in World War II.

The Type 96 had been introduced into combat service in 1936, and quickly proved to be a versatile weapon to provide covering fire for advancing infantry.

Specifications

- **Designed:** 1939
- **Type:** Light Machine Gun



- **Weight:** 10,4 kg
- **Length:** 1,181 mm
- **Barrel length:** 550 mm
- **Cartridge:** 7.7×58 mm Arisaka
- **Action:** Gas-operated
- **Rate of fire:** 800 rounds/min
- **Muzzle velocity:** 715 m/s
- **Effective range:** 800 m
- **Feed system:** 30 round detachable box magazine

A limited production version of the Type 99 was produced for paratroopers. It had a detachable stock and a forward-folding pistol grip. For deployment, the barrel and butt were detached from the gun, the pistol grip and bipod folded, and the entire set packed into a carrying bag.

Type 92

The Type 92 Heavy Machine Gun (*Kyūni-shiki jū-kikanjū*) was a Japanese heavy machine gun, related to the Hotchkiss machine gun series.

It entered service in 1932 and was the standard Japanese heavy machine gun used during World War II.

Known for its reliability, it was used after the war by various forces in East Asia. Designed by Kijiro Nambu and built by Hino Motors and Hitachi, its total production was about 45,000 guns.



Specifications

- **Designed:** 1932
- **Type:** Heavy Machine Gun
- **Weight:** 55,3 kg
- **Length:** 1,156 mm
- **Barrel length:** 721 mm
- **Cartridge:** 7.7×58 mm Type 92
- **Action:** Gas-operated
- **Rate of fire:** 450-500 rounds/min
- **Muzzle velocity:** 730 m/s
- **Effective range:** 800 m
- **Feed system:** 30 round Hotchkiss-type metal strip



Russian

DP 27

The Degtyaryov machine gun (Pulemyot Degtyaryova Pekhotny) or DP-27 is a light machine gun firing the 7.62×54mmR cartridge that was primarily used by the Soviet Union, with service trials starting in 1927 followed by general deployment in 1928.

Besides being the standard Soviet infantry light machine gun (LMG) during WWII, with various modifications it was used in aircraft as a flexible defensive weapon, and it equipped almost all Soviet tanks in WWII as either a flexible bow machine gun or a co-axial machine gun



controlled by the gunner.

Specifications

- **Designed:** 1927
- **Type:** Light Machine Gun
- **Weight:** 9,12 kg
- **Length:** 1,270 mm
- **Barrel length:** 604 mm
- **Cartridge:** 7.62×54 mmR

- **Action:** Gas-Operated, flap-per locking
- **Rate of fire:** 550 rounds/min
- **Muzzle velocity:** 840 m/s
- **Effective range:** 800 m
- **Feed system:** 47-round pan, 60-round pan

All variants of the DP machine gun were given or sold to Viet Minh in the First Indochina War by the USSR and Chinese Communists. Similarly, in the Vietnam war to the NVA and Vietcong.

SG-43

The SG-43 Goryunov (Stankovyy pulemet sistemi Goryunova) was a Soviet medium machine gun that was introduced during the Second World War.

It was chambered for the 7.62×54mmR cartridge, and was introduced in 1943 as a replacement for the older M1910 Maxim machine guns. It was mounted on wheeled mounts, tripods and armored vehicles.



- **Gun**
- **Weight:** 13,8 kg, 41 kg on wheeled mount
- **Length:** 1,150 mm
- **Barrel length:** 720 mm
- **Cartridge:** 7.62×54 mmR
- **Action:** Gas-Operated

- **Rate of fire:** 500-700 rounds/min
- **Muzzle velocity:** 800 m/s
- **Effective range:** 1,100 m
- **Feed system:** 200 or 250 round belts

Specifications

- **Designed:** 1940-43
- **Type:** Medium Machine

DShK

The DShK 1938 (Degtyaryova-Shpagina Krupnokaliberny) is a Soviet heavy machine gun with a V-shaped “butterfly” trigger, firing the 12.7×108 mm cartridge.

The weapon was also used as a heavy infantry machine gun, in which case it was frequently deployed with a two-wheeled mounting and a single-sheet armour-plate shield. It took its name from the weapons designers Vasily Degtyaryov, who designed the original weapon, and Georgi Shpagin, who improved the cartridge feed mechanism.

It is sometimes nicknamed *Dushka* (a dear or beloved per-



son) in Russian-speaking countries, from the abbreviation.

Specifications

- **Designed:** 1938
- **Type:** Heavy Machine Gun
- **Weight:** 34 kg, 157 kg on wheeled mount
- **Length:** 1,625 mm
- **Barrel length:** 1,070 mm

- **Cartridge:** 12.7×108 mm
- **Action:** Gas-Operated, flap-per locking
- **Rate of fire:** 600 rounds/min
- **Muzzle velocity:** 850 m/s
- **Effective range:** 2,000 m
- **Feed system:** 50 round belt

- 91 countries around the world used the DShK as part of their arsenal. It is still in use in many of these countries.
- No fewer than 60 countries used the RPD. It is still in use by many countries around the world.
- It is often claimed that the DShK could fire US/NATO .50 calibre ammunition, but the M2 Browning could not fire 12.7 mm ammunition. This is completely untrue. Neither round is interchangeable, with their case length and head (cartridge base) dimensions completely different and will not chamber or function in the other weapon.

RPD

The RPD (Ruchnoy Pulemyot Degtyaryova) is a 7.62mm light machine gun developed in the Soviet Union by Vasily Degtyaryov for the 7.62×39 mm M43 intermediate cartridge. It was created as a replacement for the DP machine gun chambered for the 7.62×54 mmR round.

It is a precursor of most squad automatic weapons. It was succeeded in Soviet service by the RPK.



Specifications

- **Designed:** 1943-44
- **Type:** Light Machine Gun
- **Weight:** 7,4 kg
- **Length:** 1,037 mm
- **Barrel length:** 520 mm
- **Cartridge:** 7.62×39 mm
- **Action:** Gas-Operated, flap-per locking

- **Rate of fire:** 650-750 rounds/min
- **Muzzle velocity:** 735 m/s
- **Effective range:** 100-1,000 m
- **Feed system:** Non-disintegrating 100-round segmented belt stored in a drum container

Paddy Mayne

Capped for Ireland and the British Lions at rugby union, a lawyer, amateur boxer and a founding member of the Special Air Service, Paddy Mayne was a legend.

Paddy Mayne was many things. An international rugby player, capped for Ireland and the British Lions at rugby union. An amateur boxer, a more than useful golfer, and a qualified lawyer.

During World War II he would rise to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, become a founding member of the Special Air Service, and would go on to command the unit.

He would also go on to become one of the British Army's most decorated soldiers, winning the Distinguished Service Order a remarkable four times. He was controversially denied a Victoria Cross.

Early life

Robert Blair "Paddy" Mayne was born in Newtownards, County Down, the sixth of seven children in a Protestant family.

The family was pretty well off. They were prominent landowners and owned several retail businesses in the town.

One of his paternal ancestors was Gordon Turnbull, who led the famous 'Scotland Forever Charge' at Waterloo.

He attended Regent House Grammar School where he soon displayed a talent for sports.

He played for the school 1st XV and, from the age of 16, for the local Ards RFC team. While at school he also played cricket and golf, and showed aptitude as a marksman in the rifle club.

On leaving school he studied law at Queen's University of Belfast, studying to become

a solicitor. While at university he took up boxing, becoming Irish Universities Heavyweight Champion in August 1936. He followed this by reaching the final of the British Universities Heavyweight Championship, but was beaten on points.

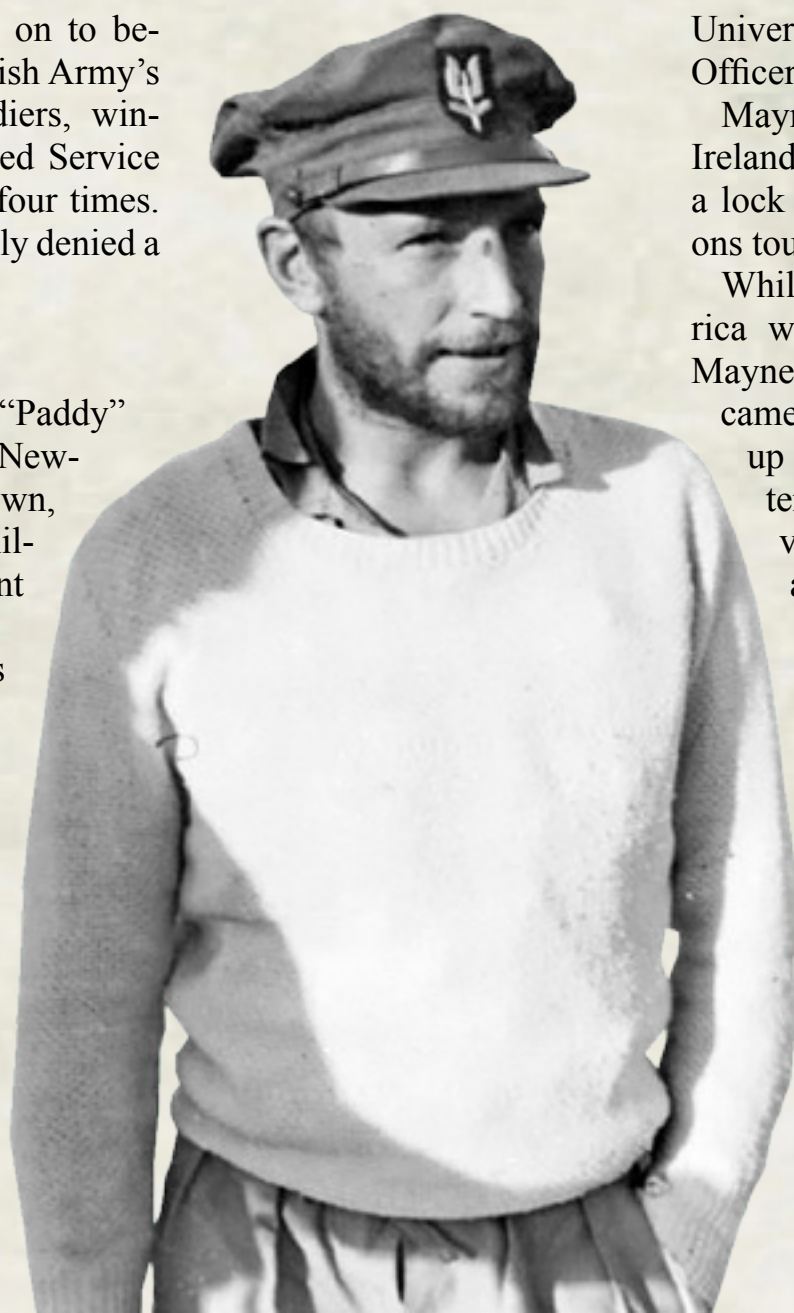
With a handicap of eight, he won the Scrabo Golf Club President's Cup the next year. While at university Mayne was an officer cadet with the Queen's University, Belfast Contingent, Officer Training Corps.

Mayne played five tests for Ireland before being selected as a lock for the 1938 British Lions tour of South Africa.

While on tour in South Africa with the Lions in 1938, Mayne's rather wild character came to the fore, smashing up colleagues' hotel rooms, temporarily freeing a convict he had befriended and who was working on the construction of the Ellis Park Stadium and also sneaking off from a formal dinner to go hunting.

In early 1939 he graduated from Queen's and joined George Maclaine & Co in Belfast, having been articled to TCG Mackintosh for the five previous years.

His legal and sporting careers were cut



short by the outbreak of World War II.

World War II

In March 1939, prior to the outbreak of World War II, Mayne had joined the Supplementary Reserve in Newtownards and received a commission in the Royal Artillery, being posted to 5 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, in 8th Anti-Aircraft Regiment, later 8th (Belfast) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment.

When the battery was assigned to 9th Anti-Aircraft Regiment (later 9th (London-derry) Heavy AA Regiment) for overseas service, Mayne was transferred out to 66th Light AA Regiment in Northern Ireland. Then, in April 1940, he was transferred again, this time to the Royal Ulster Rifles.

Following Churchill's call to form a "butcher and bolt" raiding force following the evacuation of Dunkirk, Mayne volunteered for the newly formed No. 11 (Scottish) Commando.

He first saw action in June 1941 as a second-lieutenant with 11 Commando during the Syria-Lebanon Campaign. Mayne successfully led a section of men during the Litani River operation in Lebanon against Vichy French Forces. The operation was commanded by Major Dick Pedder, Highland Light Infantry, who was killed in action. Mayne played a distinguished part in the raid, for which he was awarded a mention in dispatches.

Special Air Service

Lieutenant Eoin McGonigal was a friend of Mayne's and a fellow officer of No. 11 (Scottish) Commando. He was an early volunteer of the Special Air Service (SAS), and he recommended Mayne's name to Captain David Stirling.

Rumour has it that when Stirling interviewed Mayne, the latter was under arrest of hitting his commanding officer. This story, however, is untrue.

What is true is that Mayne was in trouble for assaulting Major Charles Napier, the second in command of his battalion.

Stirling obviously liked what he saw and Mayne was recruited into the SAS.

There is no proof that Mayne was under arrest or in prison when Stirling first met him, nor that Stirling obtained his release so that he could join the newly formed SAS.

From November 1941 through to the end of 1942, Mayne participated in many night raids deep behind enemy

lines in the deserts of Egypt and Libya, where the SAS wrought havoc by destroying many enemy aircraft on the ground.

Mayne pioneered the use of military jeeps to conduct surprise hit-and-run raids, particularly on Axis airfields. It was claimed that he had personally destroyed up to 100 aircraft.

The top scoring member of the Royal Air Force was James 'Johnnie' Johnson with 38 enemy kills. On one raid alone Mayne destroyed 47 enemy aircraft.

His first successful raid at Wadi Tamet on 14 December 1941, where aircraft and petrol dumps were destroyed, helped keep the SAS in existence, following the failure of the previous initial raid behind enemy lines.

For his part in the Tamet raid Mayne was awarded the DSO. He also received a mention in despatches on 24 February 1942.

Mayne took part in the most successful SAS raid of the Desert war when on the night of 26



PACKING A PUNCH: An SAS Jeep. Note the number of machine guns on it.

July 1942 with eighteen armed Jeeps, he along with Stirling raided the Sidi Haneish Airfield. They avoided detection, destroyed up to 40 German aircraft and escaped with the loss of only three Jeeps and two men killed. The regular Army wanted to disband the SAS but the success helped keep the critics at bay.

Following Stirling's capture in January 1943, 1st SAS Regiment was reorganised into two separate parts, the Special Raiding Squadron (SRS) and the Special Boat Section (the forerunner of the Special Boat Service). As a major, Mayne was appointed to command the Special Raiding Squadron and led the unit in Sicily and Italy until the end of 1943. In Sicily, Mayne was awarded a bar to his DSO.

In January 1944 he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and appointed commanding officer of the re-formed 1st SAS Regiment. He subsequently led the SAS with great distinction through the final campaigns of the war in France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Norway, often campaigning alongside local resistance fighters including the French Maquis.

In recognition of his leadership and personal disregard for danger while in France, in which he trained and worked closely with the French Resistance, Mayne received the second bar to his DSO.

During the course of the war he became one of the British



RUGBY INTERNATIONAL: In 1937 Paddy Mayne was selected to play for Ireland. He is in the back row, third from right.

Army's most highly decorated soldiers and received the Distinguished Service Order with three bars, one of only seven British servicemen to receive that award four times during World War II.

Additionally, the post-war French Government awarded him the *Legion d'honneur* and the *Croix de Guerre*.

Post war

After a period with the British Antarctic Survey in the Falkland Islands, cut short by a crippling back complaint that had begun during his army days, Mayne returned to Newtownards to work first as a solicitor and then as Secretary to the Law Society of Northern Ireland.

He suffered severe back pain which prevented him from even watching rugby as a spectator. He rarely talked about his war-time service.

On the night of Tuesday 13 December 1955, after attending a regular meeting of the Friendship Lodge, Mayne continued

drinking with a masonic friend in the nearby town of Bangor, before making his way home in the early hours.

At about 4am he was found dead in his Riley roadster in Mill Street, Newtownards, having reportedly collided with a farmer's vehicle.

At his funeral hundreds of mourners turned out to pay their respects and to see him interred in a family plot in the town's old Movilla Abbey graveyard.

After his death his masonic jewel was preserved for many years by an old school friend before it was presented to Newtownards Borough Council where it was displayed in the Mayoral Chamber of the Council Offices.

Reputation

To say that Paddy Mayne had a reputation would be putting it mildly. During the 1938 Lions tour it is said that Mayne relaxed by "wrecking hotels and fighting dockers".

During the war, his men ad-

mired him in battle but were very wary of him during quiet times once he had a few drinks under his belt.

Many urban legends of his post-war years exist in Belfast and Newtownards. These mostly tell of incidents in which, after drinking for several hours, Mayne would challenge every man in the bar to a fight, which he would invariably win. Other accounts describe him as a courageous leader of his men and a ferocious opponent.

Mayne is also described as growing increasingly withdrawn as the war progressed, preferring books to the company of friends.

After separating fact from myth, it is clear that Mayne was an extraordinary war hero, and some of the criticism comes from disbelief that one man could have achieved what Mayne achieved, without injury, although Mayne suffered from long-standing back pain sustained in the Western Desert.

Mayne was inclined to remonstrate with colleagues in the armed services who showed little or no understanding of the complex politics of Northern Ireland.

Controversy

The question of why Mayne was not awarded a Victoria Cross was raised by his contemporaries, and the matter came to a head when brought before British Parliament in January 2006 after a public campaign to re-open the case.

The British Government de-

clined to do so, though the Blair Mayne Association vowed to continue their campaign to have the Victoria Cross retroactively awarded. Mayne's actions were not in doubt and his citation for the VC, approved by Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery, commander of the Allied 21st Army Group, noted that he led two armoured jeep squadrons through the front lines toward Oldenburg.

However, in a standard practice of the time, the award was downgraded to a lesser award, and Mayne received instead a third bar to the DSO (in other words, a fourth award of the DSO).

An Early Day Motion put before the House of Commons in June 2005 and supported by more than 100 MPs also stated that:

"This House recognises the grave injustice meted out to Lt Col Paddy Mayne, of 1st SAS, who won the Victoria Cross at Oldenburg in North West Germany on 9th April 1945; notes that this was subsequently downgraded, some six months later, to a third bar DSO, that the citation had been clearly altered and that David Stirling, founder of the SAS has confirmed that there was considerable prejudice towards Mayne and that King George VI enquired why the Victoria Cross had 'so strangely eluded him'; further notes that on 14th December it will be 50 years since Col Mayne's untimely death, in a car accident, and this will be followed on 29th January 2006

by the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Royal Warrant to institute the Victoria Cross; and therefore calls upon the Government to mark these anniversaries by instructing the appropriate authorities to act without delay to reinstate the Victoria Cross given for exceptional personal courage and leadership of the highest order and to acknowledge that Mayne's actions on that day saved the lives of many men and greatly helped the allied advance on Berlin."

Honours and Awards



From top to bottom, left to right:

- Companion of the Distinguished Service Order and Three bars.
- 1939–45 Star.
- Africa Star (With 8th Army clasp).
- Italy Star.
- France and Germany Star.
- Defence Medal.
- War Medal 1939–1945 with bronze oak leaf for Mentioned in Despatches.
- Officer of the Legion of Honour (France).
- Croix de guerre 1939–1945 (France).

The Lanc

Avro Lancaster Bomber

It first saw service with RAF Bomber Command in 1942 and as the strategic bombing offensive over Europe gathered momentum, it was the main aircraft for the night-time bombing campaigns that followed. The Avro Lancaster heavy bomber was forged in battle.

World War I had shown that not only were bombers necessary, they were becoming vital.

In the 1930s, the Royal Air Force (RAF) was primarily interested in twin-engine bombers. These designs put limited demands on engine production and maintenance, both of which were already stretched with the introduction of so many new types into service.

Power limitations were so serious that the British invested heavily in the development of huge engines in the 2,000 horsepower (1,500 kW) class in order to improve performance.

During the late 1930s, none of these was ready for production.

Both the United States and the Soviet Union were pursuing the development of bombers powered by arrangements of four smaller engines, the results of these projects proved to possess favourable characteristics such as excellent range and fair lifting capacity.

Accordingly, in 1936, the RAF also decided to investigate the feasibility of the four-engined bomber.

The origins of the Lancaster stem from a twin-engined bomber design that had been submitted in response to Specification P.13/36, which had been formulated and released by the British Air Ministry during the mid 1930s.

This specification had sought a new generation of twin-engined medium bombers suitable for “worldwide use”.

Further requirements of the specification included the use of a mid-mounted cantilever monoplane wing, all-metal construction; the adoption of the in-development Rolls-Royce Vulture engine was also encouraged”.

Various candidates were submitted for the specification by such manufacturers as Fairey, Boulton Paul, Handley Page and Shorts; all submissions were designed around two-engine configurations, using the Rolls-Royce Vulture, Napier Sabre, Fairey P.24 or Bristol Hercules engines.

In response, British aviation company Avro decided to submit their own design, designat-

ed the Avro 679, to meet Specification P.13/36.

In February 1937, following consideration of the designs by the Air Ministry, Avro’s design submission was selected along with Handley Page’s bid being chosen as “second string”.

Accordingly, during April 1937, a pair of prototypes of both designs were ordered. The resulting aircraft, named the Manchester, entered RAF service in November 1940.

Although considered to be a capable aircraft in most areas, the Manchester proved to be underpowered and troubled by the unreliability of the Vulture engine. As a result, only 200 Manchesters were constructed and the type was quickly withdrawn from service in 1942.

Enter the Lancaster

As early as mid-1940, Avro’s chief design engineer, Roy Chadwick, had been working on an improved Manchester design.

This redesign was powered by four of the more reliable but less powerful Rolls-Royce Mer-

lin engines, specifically adopted the form of the Merlin “Power Plant” installations which had been developed by Rolls-Royce for the earlier Beaufighter II, installed on a larger wing.

Initially, the improved aircraft was designated as the Type 683 Manchester III, it was subsequently renamed as the Lancaster. The prototype aircraft, serial number BT308, was assembled by the Avro experimental flight department at Ringway Airport, Manchester; the prototype was constructed from a production Manchester airframe, which was combined with a new centre section designed to accommodate the additional engines.

On 9 January 1941, test pilot H. A. “Sam” Brown performed the prototype’s maiden flight at RAF Ringway, Cheshire.

Flight testing of the new aircraft quickly proved it to be a substantial improvement on its predecessor, aviation author Jim Winchester referred to the Lancaster as being “one of the few war-



planes in history to be 'right' from the start."

The first prototype was initially outfitted with a three-finned tail layout, a result of the design having been adapted from the Manchester I; this was quickly revised on the second prototype, DG595, and subsequent production Lancasters to the familiar larger elliptical twin-finned tail unit that had also been adopted for the later-built Manchesters, discarding the stubby central third tail fin.

The adoption of the enlarged twin fins not only increased stability but also provided for a greater field of fire from the dorsal gun turret position. The second prototype was also outfitted with more powerful Merlin XX engine.

Based upon its performance, a decision was taken early on to re-equip twin-engine bomber squadrons with the Lancaster as quickly as possible. In October 1941, the first production Lancaster, L7527, powered by Merlin XX engines, conducted its first flight.

Overview

The typical aircraft was powered by an arrangement of four wing-mounted Rolls-Royce Merlin piston engines, each of which drove a set of four metre diameter de Havilland Hydromatic three-bladed propellers.

While not optimal, the Lancaster was capable of flying the return journey home on only two operational engines, along with very limited distances on a single running engine.

It is claimed that experienced Lancaster pilots were often able



HOT SEAT: The cockpit of a Lancaster bomber. The pilot's seat is on the left.

to out-maneuver Luftwaffe fighters. It possessed largely favourable flying characteristics.

Aviation authors Brian Goulding and M. Garbett described the Lancaster as being: "a near-perfect flying machine, fast for its size and very smooth...such a delightfully easy aeroplane to fly...there are instances of Lancasters having been looped and barrel-rolled, both intentionally and otherwise".

The Lancaster benefited from a structure that possessed considerable strength and durability, which had been intentionally designed to maximise structural strength-per-weight; this resulted in the Lancaster being capable of withstanding some levels of damage resulting from attacks by hostile interceptor aircraft and ground-based anti-aircraft batteries.

Compared with other contemporary aircraft, the Lancaster was not an easy aircraft to escape from; in a Halifax, 25 per cent of downed aircrew bailed out successfully, and in Ameri-

can bombers (albeit in daylight raids) it was as high as a 50 per cent success rate while only 15 per cent of the Lancaster crew were able to bail out.

The Lancaster was equipped with a retractable main undercarriage and fixed tail wheel; the hydraulically-actuated main landing gear raised rearwards into recesses within the inner engine nacelles.

The distinctive tail unit of the aircraft was outfitted with a large twin elliptical fins and rudder arrangement.

Crew

The standard crew for a Lancaster consisted of seven men, stationed in various positions in the fuselage.

Starting at the nose, the bomb aimer had two positions to man. His primary location was lying prone on the floor of the nose of the aircraft, with access to the bombsight controls facing forward, with the bombsight computer on his left and bomb release selectors on the right. He also used his view out of the

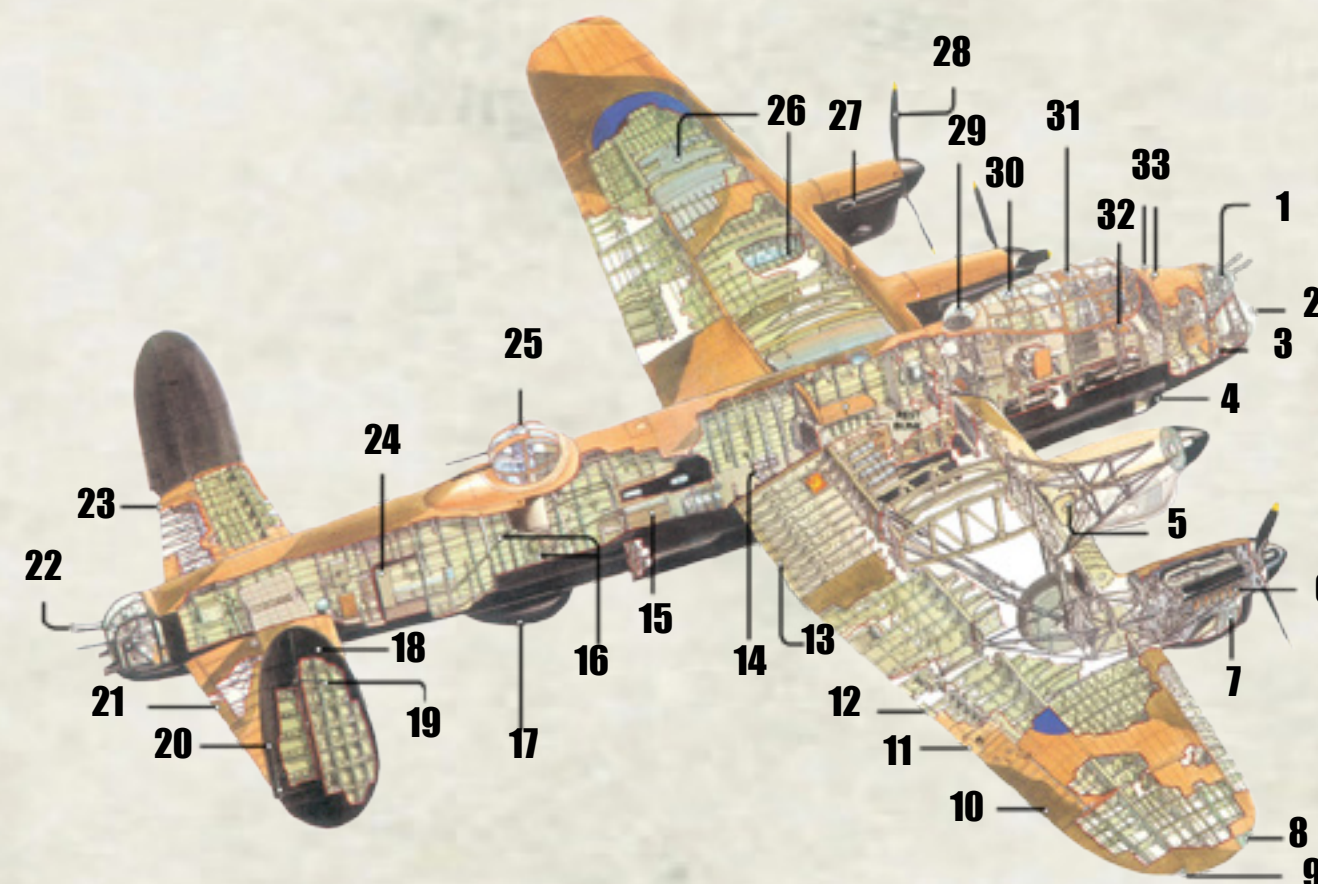
Avro Lancaster B Mk 1

1. FN5 turret with two .303 Vickers machine guns.
2. Nose blister.
3. Bomb aimer's chest support.
4. Front of bomb bay doors.
5. Oil tank.
6. Rolls-Royce Merlin XX engine.
7. Oil cooler radiator.
8. Right navigation light (green).
9. Right formation light (green).
10. Aileron.
11. Aileron balance tab.
12. Aileron trim tab.
13. Flap.
14. Flap operating hydraulic jack.
15. Ammunition boxes.
16. Cartridge belt to rear turret.
17. H25 (radar bombing) ventral antenna fairing.
18. Vertical stabilizer.
19. Rudder balance weight.
20. Rudder trim tab.
21. Elevator trim tab.
22. FN50 dorsal turret with four .303 machine guns.
23. Elevator.
24. Door and rear gunner's parachute exit.
25. FN20 turret with two .303 Vickers machine guns.
26. Wing fuel tanks.
27. Flame damper.
28. Three-bladed DeHavilland constant speed propeller.
29. Astrodome.
30. AD/F loop.
31. Cockpit canopy emergency escape hatch.
32. Pilot's seat.
33. Windscreen sprays.

large transparent perspex nose cupola to assist the navigator with map reading.

On the roof of the bomb bay the pilot and flight engineer sat side by side under the expansive canopy, with the pilot sitting on the left on a raised portion of the floor (almost all British bombers, and most German bombers, had only a single pilot seat as opposed to American practice of carrying two pilots, or at least having controls for two pilots installed).

The flight engineer sat on a collapsible seat (known as a "second dicky seat") to the pilot's right, with the fuel selectors and gauges on a panel behind him and to his right. The pilot and other crew members could use the panel above the cockpit as an auxiliary emergency exit while the mid-upper gunner was expected to use the rear entrance door to leave the aircraft.



The tail gunner escaped by rotating his turret to the rear, opening the door in the back of the turret, passing into the fuselage, and clipping on a parachute that was hung on the side wall. He could then exit through the rear entrance door.

Behind the pilot and flight engineer, and behind a curtain fitted to allow him to use light to work, sat the navigator. His position faced to port with a chart table in front of him. An instrument panel showing the airspeed, altitude, and other information required for navigation was mounted on the side of the fuselage above the chart table. The wireless operator's radios were mounted on the left-hand end of the chart table, facing the rear of the aircraft. Behind these and facing forwards the wireless operator sat on a seat at the front of the main spar. On his left was a window, and above him was the astrodome, used for visual signalling and by the navigator for celestial navigation.

Behind the wireless operator were the two spars for the wing, which created a major obstacle for crew members moving down the fuselage even on the ground. On reaching the end of the bomb bay the floor dropped down to the bottom of the fuselage, and the mid-upper gunner's turret was reached. His position allowed a 360° view over the top of the aircraft, with two Browning .303 Mark IIs to protect the aircraft from above and to the side. The mid-upper gunner sat on a rectangle of canvas that was slung beneath the turret and would stay in position throughout the flight.

Ammunition for the turret was 1,000 rounds per gun.

To the rear of the turret was the side crew door, on the starboard side of the fuselage. This was the main entrance to the aircraft, and also could be used as an emergency exit.

The Elsan chemical toilet, a type of aircraft lavatory, was located near the spars for the tailplane. At the extreme tail-end of the fuselage, the rear gunner sat in his exposed position in the tail turret, which was entered through a small hatch in the rear of the fuselage. Depending on the size of the rear gunner, the area was so cramped that the gunner would often hang his parachute on a hook inside the fuselage, near the turret doors. Neither the mid-upper nor the rear gunner's position was heated, and the gunners had to wear electrically heated suits to prevent hypothermia and frostbite.

Hard hitting

An important feature of the Lancaster was its unobstructed 10 metre long bomb bay. At first, the heaviest bomb carried was the 1,800 kg high capacity HC "Cookie". Bulged doors were added to 30 per cent of B Is to allow the aircraft to carry 3,600 kg and later 5,400 kg "Cookies".

The Lancaster also carried a variety of smaller weapons, including the Small Bomb Container (SBC) which held 236 x 1.8 kg or 24 x 14 kg incendiary and explosive incendiary bomblets; 500 x 230 kg and 450 kg General Purpose High Explosive (GP/HE) bombs (these came in a variety of designs); 840 kg parachute deployed

magnetic or acoustic mines, or 910 kg armour-piercing (AP) bombs; 110 kg Semi-Armour-Piercing (SAP) bombs, used up to 1942 against submarines; post 1942: 110 kg or 230 kg anti-submarine depth charges.

In 1943, 617 Squadron was created to carry out Operation Chastise, the raid against the Ruhr dams. This unit was equipped with B.III (Specials), officially designated the "Type 464 (Provisioning)", modified to carry the 9,250 lb (4,200 kg) "Upkeep" bouncing bomb.

Towards the end of the war, attacking special and hardened targets, other variants of B I Specials were modified to carry the 6.4 metre long 5,400 kg "Tallboy" or 7.8 metre long 10,000 kg "Grand Slam" "earthquake" bombs. Aircraft intended to carry the "Grand Slam" required extensive modifications.

Proud history

The Lancaster conducted a total of 156,000 sorties and dropped 618,378 tonnes of bombs between 1942 and 1945.

Only 35 Lancasters completed more than 100 successful operations each, and 3,249 were lost in action. The most successful survivor completed 139 operations, and was ultimately retired from service and scrapped in 1947.

From 1942 onwards, the Lancaster became the mainstay of the British heavy bomber fleet; by the end of the war in Europe, there were roughly 50 squadrons equipped with the Lancaster, the majority of these being the Lancaster B I model.

From its entry into service,

the original model of the Lancaster was operated in almost every major bombing raid of the European conflict.

Adolf Galland (commander of the Luftwaffe fighters) considered the Lancaster to be "the best night bomber of the war", as did his adversary, Arthur "Bomber" Harris, who referred to it as the RAF Bomber Command's "shining sword".

Goulding and Garbett wrote that: "The achievements of the Lancaster and the men who flew it have been widely acclaimed, and the aircraft has been described as the greatest single factor in winning WWII, an exaggeration but a pardonable one".

Throughout July 1943, large numbers of Lancasters participated in the devastating round-the-clock raids on the city of Hamburg during Air Chief Marshal Harris's "Operation Gomorrah".

A particularly famous mission performed by the Lancaster was the mission flown 16- 17 May 1943, codenamed Operation Chastise, to destroy the dams of the Ruhr Valley. The operation was carried out by 617 Squadron in modified Mk IIIs carrying special drum-shaped bouncing bombs, which had been designed by British engineer Barnes Wallis. The story of the operation was later made into a film, *The Dam Busters*.

During the latter half of 1944, a series of high-profile bombing missions were performed by the Lancaster against the German battleship Tirpitz.

Executed by Nos. 617 and 9 Sqs, a combination of Lancas-

ter B I and B III bombers were armed with 5,400 kg 'Tallboy' bombs and were adapted with enlarged bomb bay doors in order to accommodate their special payloads and additional fuel tanks to provide the necessary endurance.

A total of three attacks, individually codenamed Operation Paravane, Operation Obviate and Operation Catechism, were conducted against Tirpitz, which was anchored in a fjord in Occupied Norway.

The first of these attacks disabled the vessel while the third mission was responsible for sinking the ship. As a result of actions such as Operation Chastise and the sinking of Tirpitz, No. 617 Sq was perhaps the most famous of all Lancaster squadrons.

During early 1945, a total of 33 Lancaster B Is were modified so that they could deploy the 10,000 kg Grand Slam bomb; the Grand Slam, considered to be the ultimate conventional bomb to be used during the conflict, was so heavy that the bomb and the Lancaster itself weighed roughly the same.

On 13 March 1945, the first operational use of the Grand Slam was performed by a Lancaster of No. 617 Sqn against the Schildesche viaduct at Bielefeld, North Rhine-Westphalia. Amongst the final war-time operations performed by the Lancaster was the destruction of Eagle's Nest, the extensive holiday home complex used by German leader Adolf Hitler.

The Avro Lancaster bomber was an aircraft forged in battle.

Victoria Cross

Many Lancaster crew members were highly decorated for actions while flying the aircraft.

Ten Lancaster pilots or crew members were awarded the Victoria Cross.

These included Wing Commander Guy Gibson, Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, and Captain (acting Major) Edwin Swales.

Specifications

- **Crew:** Seven - pilot, flight engineer, navigator, bomb aimer/nose gunner, wireless operator, mid-upper and rear gunners
- **Length:** 21.11 m
- **Wingspan:** 31.09 m
- **Height:** 6.25 m
- **Empty weight:** 16,738 kg
- **Loaded weight:** 24,948 kg
- **Powerplant:** 4 × Rolls-Royce Merlin XX liquid-cooled V12 engines, 1,280 hp (954 kW) each
- **Maximum speed:** 454 km/h at 29,000 kg) and 4,000 m)altitude
- **Cruise speed:** 322 km/h
- **Range:** 4,073 km
- **Service ceiling:** 6,500 m at 29,000 kg
- **Guns:** Two 0.303 inch (7.62 mm) Browning Mark II machine guns in nose turret, two 0.303 inch Browning Mark II machine guns in upper turret, and four 0.303 inch Browning Mark II machine guns in the rear turret.
- **Bombs:** Maximum normal bomb load of 6,400 kg of bombs or single 10,000 kg Grand Slam (with modifications to bomb bay)

On 28 March 1942 British forces launched one of the most daring operations of World War II. Operation Chariot was a feat of cunning and daring that helped to shape the war at sea. Since then it has become known as "The Greatest Raid of All".

Situated on the north bank of the Loire, 400 km from the nearest British port, lay St. Nazaire. In 1942, it had a population of 50,000.

The St Nazaire port has an outer harbour known as the Avant Port, formed by two piers jutting out into the Atlantic Ocean. This leads to two lock gates before the *Bassin de St Nazaire*. These gates control the water level in the basin so that it is not affected by the tide.

Beyond the basin is the larger inner dock called the *Bassin de Penhoët*, which can accommodate ships up to 10,000 tons. There is also an old entrance to the *Bassin de St Nazaire* located southwest of the Normandie dry dock. Built to house the ocean liner SS Normandie, this dock was the largest dry dock in the world when it was completed in 1932.

Background to the operation

On 24 May 1941, the Battle of the Denmark Strait was fought between the German ships Bismarck and Prinz Eugen and the British ships HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Hood. Hood was sunk and the damaged Prince of Wales was forced to retire.

Bismarck, also damaged, ordered her consort to proceed independently while she headed for the French port of St Nazaire, which was the only port on the Atlantic coast with a dry dock able to accommodate a ship of her size. She was intercepted by the British and sunk en route.

Britain's Naval Intelligence Division first proposed a commando raid on the dock in late 1941. When the German battleship Tirpitz was declared operational in January 1942, the Royal Navy (RN) and Royal Air Force (RAF) were already drawing up plans to attack her.

Planners from Combined Operations Headquarters were looking at potential scenarios if Tirpitz escaped the naval blockade and reached the Atlantic. They decided the only port able to accommodate her was St Nazaire, especial-

ly if, like Bismarck, she was damaged en route and needed repairs.

They came to the conclusion that if the dock at St Nazaire were unavailable, the Germans were unlikely to risk sending Tirpitz into the Atlantic.

Combined Operations examined several options while planning the destruction of the dock. At this stage of the war the British government still tried to avoid civilian casualties. This ruled out a bombing attack by the RAF, which at the time did not possess the accuracy needed to destroy the dock without serious loss of civilian life.

Operation Chariot

The Special Operations Executive were approached to see if its agents could destroy the dock gates. They decided that the mission was beyond their capabilities because the weight of explosives required would have needed too many agents to carry them.

The Royal Navy was also unable to mount an operation, as St Nazaire is 8 km up the Loire estuary. Any naval ships large enough to cause sufficient damage would be detected well before they were within range.

The planners then examined whether a commando force could accomplish the task. An unusually high spring tide was due in March 1942 which would allow a light ship to pass



FLOATING TIME BOMB: HMS Campbeltown wedged in the dock gates.

over the sand banks in the estuary and approach the docks, bypassing the heavily defended dredged channel. The approach was too shallow for an infantry landing ship, but the planners believed if a destroyer could be lightened it might have a draft shallow enough to enable it to get through.

The purpose of the raid was to destroy the Normandie dock, the old gates into the Bassin de St Nazaire with the water pumping machinery and other installations and any U-boats or other shipping in the area.

The initial Combined Operations plan required one specially lightened destroyer to carry out the raid. It would be packed with explosives and rammed into the dock gates.

Commandos on board would then disembark and use demolition charges to destroy nearby dock installations, searchlights and gun emplacements.

The destroyer would then be blown up. At the same time the RAF would undertake diversionary air raids in the area.

When the plan was presented to the Admiralty they refused to

support it. The certain loss of one or both destroyers to eliminate the dry dock was out of the question. They suggested they could provide an old Free French destroyer, Ouragan, and a flotilla of small motor launches to transport the commandos and evacuate them afterwards.

Approval for the mission, codenamed Operation Chariot, was given on 3 March 1942. Using a French ship would involve using the Free French forces and increase the number of people aware of the raid. Consequently, it was decided the navy would have to provide a ship of their own. They chose HMS Campbeltown, a First World War-era destroyer that had been obtained from the American navy in 1940.

The RAF complained that the raid would draw heavily on their resources and the number of aircraft assigned by RAF Bomber Command dwindled during the planning of the raid.

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill further complicated matters when he ordered that bombing should only take place if targets were clearly

identified.

Combined Operations Headquarters worked closely with several intelligence organisations to plan the raid. The Naval Intelligence Division compiled information from a variety of sources.

A detailed plan of the town of St Nazaire was provided by the Secret Intelligence Service, and information on the coastal artillery nearby was sourced from the War Office's Military Intelligence branch. Intelligence about the dock itself came from pre-war technical journals.

The Naval Operational Intelligence Centre selected the route and timing for the raid based on intelligence about the location of minefields and German recognition signals sourced from Enigma decrypts and knowledge of Luftwaffe patrols compiled by the Air Ministry's Air Intelligence Branch.

When all the plans had been pulled together and the timing worked out, the crux of the raid was expected to last no longer than two hours. The commandos and crew from Campbeltown were to board the motor launches at the Old Mole jetty and then return to base.

The attackers

The forces for the attack consisted of 265 commandos and 346 Royal Navy personnel.

The man selected to lead the Commando force was Lieutenant Colonel Charles Newman; his No. 2 Commando would provide the largest Commandos contingent, 173 men, for the raid. The Special Service Brigade headquarters used the raid to provide experience for their

other units and 92 men were drawn from Nos 1, 3, 4, 5, 9, and 12 Commandos.

Central to the plan was HMS Campbeltown. She had been stripped of much of her equipment, fitted with extra armour at the bow, and was filled with 4.5 tons of high explosives.

The chimney stacks were cut to make it look more like a German destroyer during its approach. HMS Campbeltown was commanded by Lieutenant Commander Stephen Halden Beattie.

Accompanying the Campbeltown were two destroyers and a flotilla of motorboats, some to provide fire support and others to transport personnel out at the end of the raid.

German forces

The Germans had around 5,000 troops in the St Nazaire area. 28 guns, ranging in calibre from 75mm to 280mm, guarded the port against attacks from the sea, while 43 anti-aircraft guns could also be turned against naval targets.

A destroyer, an armed trawler, and a minesweeper were all

stationed permanently at the docks. 14 other surface vessels were there on the night of the raid. U-boats were stationed out of St Nazaire, but it is not known how many were present that night.

The attack

On the day before the raid, Herbert Sohler, commander of one of the U-boat flotillas, said that "an attack on the base would be hazardous and highly improbable".

On the night of 27 March 1942, the improbable happened.

At 23:30, British bombers began attacking the port, drawing German searchlights and anti-aircraft fire. Unusual behaviour by the bombers caused the Germans to suspect that something was amiss. At 00:00 on 28 March Kapitän zur See Mecke issued a warning that there might be a parachute landing in progress.

At 01:00 on 28th March, the guns ceased firing and spotlights were shut off, rather than help the British identify where the port was in the darkness.

At 00:30 hours on 28 March

the convoy crossed over the shoals at the mouth of the Loire estuary, with Campbeltown scraping the bottom twice. Each time she pulled free, and the group proceeded toward the harbour in darkness.

They had come within about eight minutes' passage from the dock gates when, at 01:22, the entire convoy was illuminated by searchlights on both banks of the estuary. A naval signal light demanded their identification.

MGB 314 replied in a coded response obtained from a German trawler boarded during the Vågsøy raid. A few bursts were fired from a shore battery and both Campbeltown and MGB 314 replied: "Ship being fired upon by friendly forces".

The deception gave them a little more time before every German gun in the bay opened fire. At 01:28, with the convoy 1.6 km from the dock gates, Beattie ordered the German flag lowered and the White Ensign raised.

The intensity of the German fire seemed to increase. The guard ship opened fire and was

quickly silenced when the ships in the convoy responded, shooting into her as they passed.

By now all the ships in the convoy were within range to engage targets ashore and were firing at the gun emplacements and searchlights. Campbeltown was hit several times and increased her speed to 35 km/h.

The helmsman on her bridge was killed, and his replacement was wounded and replaced as well. Blinded by the searchlights, Beattie knew they were close to their objective.

Still under heavy fire, the MGB turned into the estuary as Campbeltown cleared the end of the Old Mole, cut through anti-torpedo netting strung across the entrance and rammed the dock gates, striking home at 01:34, three minutes later than scheduled. The force of the impact drove the ship 10 metres onto the gates.

Commandos poured off the Campbeltown and spread out along the docks. Assault teams engaged in firefights with the German defenders, while demolition teams set about destroying important equipment with explosives. German defenders prevented them from hitting all their targets, but many facilities on the docks were destroyed.

Lt Col Newman had not needed to land as part of the attack, but he was one of the first ashore. Taking command of the troops, he organized a defence against growing German forces while the demolition teams did their work.

Meanwhile, fire was being exchanged between the flotilla and the German gun batteries. Many motor boats were de-

stroyed, and not all the evacuation boats were able to reach the docks. Having set the scuttling charges on the Campbeltown, many of its crew were evacuated. But with 100 commandos still on shore, Newman realized that they could no longer be rescued by sea.

Gathering the survivors, he gave them three orders:

- To do their best to get back to England;
- Not to surrender until all their ammunition was exhausted;
- Not to surrender at all if they could help it.

The stranded commandos charged across a bridge from St Nazaire's old town to its new town and tried to fight their way out through the narrow streets. But they were hugely outnumbered, running low on ammunition, and soon surrounded. At last, with all the ammunition gone, they surrendered.

Not all the commandos were captured. Five commandos made their way south with the help of French civilians. Eventually reaching neutral Spain, they returned from there to England.

The aftermath

Several tense hours followed the fighting. The explosives aboard the Campbeltown were meant to trigger at 04:30 but did not, possibly because of a problem with the fuses. A growing number of British soldiers held captive at German headquarters waited to see if their work would pay off.

Around noon, a group of senior German officers and civilians were inspecting the Camp-

beltown, unaware of the danger she contained.

Without warning, the bow exploded, killing them and 320 others. The dry dock was destroyed and remained out of action for the rest of the war.

Just before the Campbeltown exploded, Sam Beattie was being interrogated by a German naval officer who was saying that it wouldn't take very long to repair the damage the Campbeltown has caused. Just at that moment, she went up. Beattie smiled at the officer and said, 'We're not quite as foolish as you think!'

The raid had been a success, but at a huge cost. Of 622 men who took part, 169 were killed and 215 captured.

To recognise their achievement, 89 decorations were awarded for the raid, including Victoria Crosses awarded to Lieutenant Commander Beattie, Lieutenant Colonel Newman and Commander Ryder and posthumously to Sergeant Durrant and Able Seaman Savage.

Distinguished Service Orders were awarded to Major William Copland, Captain Donald Roy, Lieutenant T Boyd and Lieutenant T D L Platt. Other decorations awarded were four Conspicuous Gallantry Medals, five Distinguished Conduct Medals, 17 Distinguished Service Crosses, 11 Military Crosses, 24 Distinguished Service Medals and 15 Military Medals. Four men were awarded the *Croix de guerre* by France and another 51 were mentioned in despatches.



Commandos captured during the raid.



"Not tonight Josephine," says Napoleon O'Brien. "I've got a world to conquer and time is short."
"So are you," replies Josephine.

Over the past 20 issues of this magazine, I've reviewed four games in the Total War series.

They were Shogun 2, Rome Total War, Empire Total War, and Thrones of Britannia.

This month it's more of the same as we look at another game in the series. This time it's Napoleon Total War.

As with all other games in the Total War series, Napoleon consists of two gameplay types: a turn-based geopolitical campaign - which requires players to build structures in a faction's territories to produce units and create a source of income, research new technologies, deal with other in-game factions through diplomacy, trade and war, send agents on missions, create and command armies, and eventually become the world's dominant faction - and real-time tactical battles where players command huge armies to direct the course of any battles that take place.

Napoleon contains four campaigns, two of which follow Napoleon's early military career. The first career event is the Italian campaign of 1796, while the second is the French invasion of Egypt in 1798. Both feature smaller, optional missions that help drive the story forward. The major French cam-

paign, however, is the so-called "Mastery of Europe," which resembles the holistic modes of previous Total War games. Conversely, the "Campaigns of the Coalition" allows players to govern Great Britain, Russia, Prussia or the Austrian Empire and attempt to defeat Napoleonic France in Europe.

Each major campaign requires players to obtain a certain number of territories, although unlike Empire: Total War, one does not need to wait till the end of the campaign to be declared winner. Like in Empire, revolutions and revolts can affect the course of a player's campaign; France however in the Mastery of Europe campaign is all but immune to revolution. For the first time in the Total War franchise, attrition now plays a part on the campaign map. Depending on the location, armies will lose men due to heat or snow.

Unlike Empire, the losses an army has on campaign are automatically replenished when in friendly territory. Some of Napoleon's most famous battles such as Austerlitz, Battle of the Pyramids, and Waterloo are available as historical scenarios, separate from the campaign.

As with previous Total War games, battles can be fought manually or auto resolved when two hostile armies or na-

vies meet on the campaign map. Armies and navies consist of Napoleonic era land units and ships respectively. On the battle map, the attacker will win if he manages to rout the entire enemy army while the defender wins if he manages to rout the attacker or have at least one unit remaining when the time limit runs out. Similar somewhat to Empire, land units are armed with gunpowder weapons such as muskets and cannons and melee weapons like swords, sabers and bayonets. Units have morale that will fall if massive casualties are incurred, if they are flanked, the general is killed and several other factors. Once a unit's morale is broken, it will rout and attempt to escape the battlefield. Broken units may regain morale if the balance of power changes, so to ensure these units will not remain a threat, players ought to chase them down with light cavalry. Infantry units may engage in both firefights and melees, cavalry can generally only fight in a melee with the exception of mounted infantry and missile cavalry while artillery units are best used to hit targets from afar. The Creative Assembly also implemented a feature wherein while playing a campaign, several notable commanders, including Napoleon



himself, instead of being killed on the battlefield, are wounded and sent back to the faction's main capital.

A new physics system had been implemented for the real-time battles, so that when cannonballs hit the ground, for instance, they leave impact craters. Gunpowder smoke lingers and reduces visibility in protracted engagements.

There are a number of environmental factors that affect battlefield tactics: gunpowder backfires when it rains, and the elevation of landscape affects the range of munitions. Individuals within a unit now vary to a greater degree, and are no longer as generic as in previous titles in the series.

The campaign map is narrower in focus, but more detailed than Empire's campaign map. Turns in Napoleon: Total War represent two weeks, while previous titles sported turns that were the equivalent of at least six months. Additionally the

game's artificial intelligence system had been modified.

The good news is that the Definitive Edition of the game (which is the one available on Steam) comes with a number of DLC.

These include the Coalition Battle Pack, Heroes of the Napoleonic War, and Imperial Eagle Pack.

As with other Total War titles, I have found that there are three vital components to winning battles.

First is to have the correct composition of forces. There must be a balance between your ranged weapon units, mêlée troops and cavalry.

The second thing is if at all possible, choose your terrain well. Charging your troops up a steep incline will mean that they are normally to knackered to fight by the time they finally reach the enemy. Use terrain to your advantage.

The third thing, and probably most important, is to use the

correct strategy. Use cavalry to attack the flanks or rear of the enemy. Use muskets to thin out an advancing enemy, then unleash your mêlée troops.

Napoleon Total War is a pretty decent game that will give you your hours of fun.



Publisher - Sega

Genre - Strategy

Score - 7/10

Price - R289 (on Steam)



Hacksaw Ridge

Released: 2016
Running time: 139 minutes
Directed by: Mel Gibson

I always thought that Mel Gibson did a pretty decent job in directing *Braveheart*. So I was keen to see what he would do with this title.

Hacksaw Ridge is a 2016 biographical war drama film directed by Mel Gibson and written by Andrew Knight and Robert Schenkkan, based on the 2004 documentary *The Conscientious Objector*.

The film focuses on the World War II experiences of Desmond Doss, an American pacifist combat medic who, as a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, refused to carry or use a weapon or firearm of any kind.

Doss became the first conscientious objector to be awarded the Medal of Honour, for service above and beyond the call of duty during the Battle of Okinawa.

In rural 1920s Virginia, the young Desmond Doss (Andrew Garfield) nearly kills his little brother Hal while fighting. This event and his Seventh-day Adventist upbringing reinforce Desmond's belief in the commandment "Thou shalt not kill".

Years later, Doss takes an injured man to the hospital and meets a nurse, Dorothy Schutte (Teresa Palmer). The two strike a romance and Doss tells Dorothy of his interest in medical work.

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Doss enlists in

the Army to serve as a combat medic. His father Tom, a World War I veteran, is deeply upset by the decision.

Doss is placed under the command of Sergeant Howell (Vince Vaughn). He excels physically, but becomes an outcast among his fellow soldiers for refusing to handle a rifle and train on Saturdays. Howell and Captain Glover (Sam Worthington) attempt to discharge Doss for psychiatric reasons under Section 8 but are overruled, as Doss' religious beliefs do not constitute mental illness.

They subsequently torment Doss by putting him through gruelling labour, intending to get Doss to leave of his own accord. Despite being beaten one night by his fellow soldiers, he refuses to identify his attackers and continues training.

Doss' unit completes basic training and is released on leave, during which Doss intends to marry Dorothy, but his refusal to carry a firearm leads to an arrest for insubordination. Captain Glover and Dorothy visit Doss in jail and try to convince him to plead guilty so that he can be released without charge, but Doss refuses to compromise his beliefs. At his trial Doss pleads not guilty, but before he is sentenced, his father barges into the tribunal with a letter from his former commanding officer (now a brigadier gener-

al) stating that his son's pacifism is protected by an Act of Congress. The charges against Doss are dropped, and he and Dorothy are married.

During the Battle of Okinawa, Doss' unit is informed that they are to relieve the 96th Infantry Division, which was tasked with ascending and securing the Maeda Escarpment ("Hacksaw Ridge"). During the initial fight, with heavy losses on both sides, Doss saves the life of his squadmate Smitty, earning his respect.

Doss ends up rescuing 75 soldiers, most while under heavy fire. This is a really good movie, and well worth watching.



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

Journey without Boundaries

This is the extraordinary tale of an extraordinary man. An honestly told story of his military career, of a man who was twice decorated for valour, who pioneered and developed the concept of "small team reconnaissance" within the South African Special Forces.

He was a consummate warrior and gentleman and has told his story with humility and a disarming sense that what he did was simply the job he was given, when even the most cursory reading will show that it was anything but simple or easy.

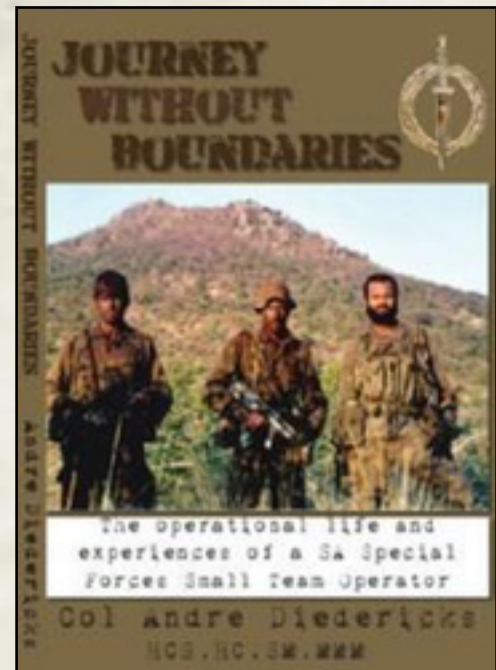
André (Diedies) Diedericks was born in Pretoria on 7 December 1955, the youngest of four children. He reported for compulsory National Military Service on

7 January 1974 and within a few weeks he volunteered for Special Forces selection, a course that he would successfully complete.

Andre would eventually serve in the Special Forces for two decades and would also pioneer the concept of small team operations. He rose to the rank of Colonel within the SADF and was also decorated twice for valour.

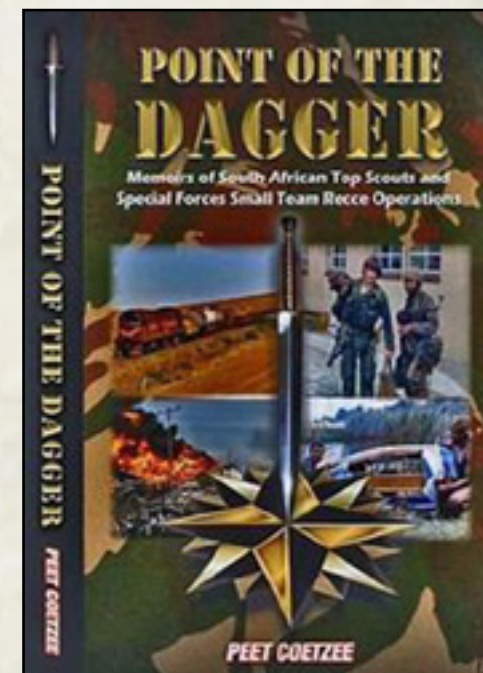
Suffering from terminal cancer, Diedies passed away on 7 May 2005.

During his service he was awarded with the Honoris Crux Silver (HCS); Honoris Crux (HC); Southern Cross Medal (SM); Military Merit Medal (MMM); Pro Patria Medal with Cunene clasp; Southern Africa Medal; General Service Medal;



Unitas Medal; Good Service Silver (20 years) & Good Service Bronze (10 years).

Softcover, 212 pages
Cost: R325



Point of the Dagger
R275



First In, Last Out
R400



Really inside BOSS
R280

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 March

- **1896** - Ethiopian forces defeat Italians at Adwa, northern Ethiopia, ending Italy's quest to create a substantial African colony.
- **1941** - German troops enter Bulgaria.
- **1951** - Pilots Doug McKellar and "Dizzy" Deans of the SA Air Force's No 2 (Flying Cheetah) Squadron, assisting the UN in the Korean War, locate seven trucks hidden in hilly terrain and strike target dive-bombing with napalm a procedure used for the first time by the squadron.
- **1954** - Bikini: US detonates 15 megaton hydrogen bomb.
- **1981** - Rifleman Peter Hall from 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was accidentally killed during anti-insurgent operations in the Eenhana Area. He was 19.
- **1988** - Special Constable Thomas Kanitus 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 23.
- **1990** - State President F.W. de Klerk announces plans to bring covert operations by government agents under Cabinet control.
- **1990** - Two members of the

SADF were killed while traveling as passengers in a military minibus vehicle when the vehicle was involved in a head-on collision with a truck on the Pretoria-Potchefstroom Road. They were: Private Gerhardus Stephanus De Bruin (22) from Danie Theron Combat School. Gunner Jaques Terblanche (19) from 10 Artillery Brigade.

2 March

- **1900** - A council of war at Poplar Grove, OFS, gives Danie Theron permission to form a Scout Corps consisting of about 100 men.
- **1938** - Stalin initiates the Purges.
- **1943** - During World War II in the Pacific, a Japanese convoy was attacked by 137 American bombers as the Battle of Bismarck Sea began.
- **1945** - Philippines: Japanese resistance on Corregidor ends.
- **1951** - Two pilots of the SA Air Force's Cheetah Squadron, Lieutenant D.A. Ruiter and Captain W.J.J. Badenhorst, are killed in action while assisting the United Nations in the Korean War.
- **1955** - Egypt and Syria sign a defensive alliance.
- **1962** - Coup in Burma initiates an ongoing military regime.

- **1982** - Rifleman Lewis Francesco from 31 Battalion (201 Battalion SWATF) Died of Wounds accidentally sustained in an explosion inside an ammunition bunker at Omega Base. He was 22.
- **1984** - Rifleman Hendrik Francois van der Merwe from the Vanderbijl Park Commando apparently drowned in unknown circumstances. He was officially declared dead by the State President in 1986. He has no known grave and remains unaccounted for. He was 25.
- **1985** - Rifleman Hilton Isaac Jacobs from the South African Cape Corps was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Kuils River. He was 20.
- **1986** - Sapper Daniel Wilhelmus van Schalkwyk from 11 Field Engineer Regiment was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Messina. He was 22.
- **1988** - Special Sergeant Hepute Wakumbilwa 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.
- **1999** - Eight foreigners die in a shoot-out in a Ugandan

game reserve as soldiers try to free fifteen tourists who were kidnapped by Rwandan rebels.

- **2005** - At least fifty Congolese militiamen are killed by South African and Pakistani United Nations peacekeeping troops in a bloody gunfight in the Congolese district of Ituri. Several South African soldiers of 12 SA Infantry Battalion (12 SAI) are slightly hurt in the action.

3 March

- **1901** - The Battle of Lichtenburg takes place. The British soldiers move their horses into the Dutch Reformed Church building to shelter them from the fire of General De la Rey's troops.
- **1918** - Russia withdraws from WW I, signs Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Germany.
- **1945** - RAF bombs The Hague in error, 511 die.
- **1964** - Rifleman Brian Ivan Dummer from the Tygerberg Commando was killed in a military vehicle accident at Bethlehem. He was 19.

- **1976** - President Samora Machel of Mozambique closes his frontier with Rhodesia, seizes all Rhodesian assets in the country and places Mozambique on a war footing as a result of a "hot pursuit" attack by Rhodesian security forces during the previous week in which twenty-four guerrillas were killed inside Mozambique.
- **1976** - US government under President Gerald Ford discloses that it has decided to sell weapons to Egypt.
- **1980** - Rifleman Manuel Yenga from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action when he triggered a Soviet POM-Z2 Anti-Personnel Picket Mine inside an enemy bunker near Naulila during Operation Makalani. He was 25.
- **1983** - Special Constable Sam Iyambo 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 26.
- **1988** - The South West Afri-

ca Territory Force claims to have killed sixty Swapo insurgents in various skirmishes in the previous month, bringing the total this year to eighty-six. According to the SWATF, the security forces suffered no losses.

- **1991** - Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) chief-of-staff Chris Hani says as long as the SADF continues recruitment and training, his organisation will continue recruiting members and building underground structures.
- **1993** - An American soldier is killed by a land mine in Somalia and a second dies in a truck crash, bringing to six the number of Americans killed in Operation Restore Hope.
- **2004** - Angered by the way President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was forced to flee his country, the 15-nation Caribbean Community says it will not provide troops for the UN peacekeeping force to Haiti. Aristide claimed that he was abducted at gunpoint by US Marines and sent into exile in South Africa.

4 March

- **1900** - Boers are defeated by Lord Roberts at Driefontein in the Free State.
- **1945** - US Army Air Force B-24s accidentally bomb Zurich.
- **1945** - Finland declares war on Nazi Germany.
- **1968** - Leading Air Mechanic James Ross Brum-



Chris Hani

- mer from Air Operations School Langebaanweg was accidentally killed while mounting a radio antenna on the roof of a hanger at AFB Langebaanweg. The asbestos roofing gave way and he fell to his death. He was 24.
- **1970** - French submarine 'Eurydice' explodes while submerged in the Mediterranean, 57 die.
 - **1981** - Rifleman Frans Karel Petrus Burger from the Cape Town Highlanders was Reported Missing while crossing a river when on a patrol near Ruacana. He disappeared under the water and despite an intensive search, his body was never located. He was 22.
 - **1982** - Two members of 31 Battalion (201 Battalion SWATF) were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-line. They were: Rifleman Mahorison Rodriques (21). Rifleman Llewellyn Verwey (20).
 - **1983** - Two members from 32 Battalion were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola during Operation Snoek. They were: Sergeant Augusto Mande (30). Rifleman Joao Daniel Kativa (26).
 - **1984** - Rifleman Patrick Kudumo from 902 Battalion SWATF was accidentally shot dead by a fellow soldier while on duty in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
 - **1986** - Private Petrus Dolf from the Army Catering Corps was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident, at Os-hakati. He was 24.
 - **1986** - Rifleman Benjamin Tjenda from 201 Battalion SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 19
 - **1990** - Ciskei's President Lennox Sebe is overthrown in a coup. The homeland's new military leader, Brigadier Oupa Gqozo, announces that his government's ultimate goal is reincorporating the territory into South Africa. Looting and burning continue for two days and about twenty-seven people die in violence.
- ### 5 March
- **1916** - SA troops led by General Jan Smuts invade East Africa in their confrontation with German forces in World War I.
 - **1936** - Maiden flight of the prototype Supermarine Spitfire.
 - **1942** - Burma: British appoint Sir Harold Alexander Commander-in-Chief.
 - **1942** - The US Navy Seabees are established.
 - **1945** - US VII Corps captures Cologne.
 - **1953** - Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin dies at the age of 73.
 - **1968** - Rifleman Cornelius Andre Grobler from 6 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident in Grahams-town. He was 20.

- **1974** - Rifleman Gerhardus Johannes Jacobus van Rhyne from 6 SAI died from gunshot wounds accidentally sustained at Bwabwata, Western Caprivi. He was 18.
- **1980** - Rifleman Johannes Jacobus Maass from Regiment Erongo was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 24.
- **1980** - Rifleman Eric Norman van Reenen from 52 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-line in Northern Owamboland. He was 29.
- **1990** - SA sends troops to Ciskei to suppress mob attacks on factories and shops after military coup under Brigadier Gqozo ousted authoritarian President Sebe.
- **1993** - Lance Corporal Sydwell Boer from 3 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident on the N3 at Keyridge. He was 25.

6 March

- **1836** - Fort Alamo fell to Mexican troops led by General Santa Anna. The Mexicans had begun the siege of the Texas fort on 23February, ending it with the killing of the last defender. "Remember the Alamo" became a rallying cry for Texans who went on to defeat Santa Anna in the Battle of San Jacinto in April.
- **1881** - Armistice negotiations are concluded during the First Anglo-Boer War.

- **1944** - USAF begins daylight bombing of Berlin.
 - **1971** - Private Francois Nel from the Army Service Corps was killed in a private motor vehicle accident in Pretoria. He was 16.
 - **1976** - Sergeant Trevor Walter August Booyesen from Regiment Westelike Provinsie was accidentally killed at Ruacana when he fell off the back of a moving vehicle. He was 29.
 - **1980** - Lance Bombardier Matthew Johannes Naus from 14 Artillery Regiment died from a gunshot wound that was apparently self-inflicted. He was 19.
 - **1983** - Two members from 1 Medium Battery, 4 Artillery Regiment that were attached to 61 Mech Battalion, were Killed in Action while on guard duty on a farm near Tsumeb that was located well below the "Red Line". A small group of SWAPO/PLAN insurgents attacked the farm and shot them both at point blank range. The casualties were: Gunner Christo Francois Bezuidenhout (20). Gunner Jameson Bosse (19).
 - **1984** - Martin Niemöller, WW I U-boat skipper, anti-Nazi clergyman, at 92.
 - **1985** - Special Constable Matheus Oukongo 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.
 - **1986** - Private Dawid Johannes Retief from 6 Maintenance Unit accidentally drowned in the operational area when his Military vehicle skidded off the road and landed in a river, leaving him trapped inside the vehicle. He was 19.
 - **1986** - Corporal Pieter Jeremias Smith from the Specialist Unit died in the Tygerberg Hospital from multiple shrapnel wounds sustained in an accidental mortar bomb explosion. He was 21.
 - **1993** - Unita rebels capture Angola's second largest city, Huambo, after a two-month battle with government troops.
- ### 7 March
- **1876** - During the second invasion of Abyssinia by Egypt, the Egyptian forces are defeated at Gura by the Ethiopians under King Yohannes.
 - **1900** - The Battle of Poplar Grove (or Modderivierspoort) takes place. President Paul Kruger escapes with the help of General De Wet.
 - **1902** - General De la Rey defeats and captures General Methuen in the Battle of Tweebosch (or De Klipdrift) in Western Transvaal, the last important battle won by the Boer forces. Methuen

- and more than 870 soldiers are captured.
- **1936** - Hitler breaks the Treaty of Versailles, sends troops into the Rhineland, and the Allies fail to act.
- **1941** - WWII: British troops invade Italian-occupied Abyssinia, now Ethiopia.
- **1941** - Gunther Prien, daring submarine captain of 'U-47', is killed in action at the age of 34.
- **1942** - First black cadets graduate from the USAAF flying school at Tuskegee.
- **1943** - Japanese refuse a German request to join war against Russia.
- **1945** - Troops of the US 9th Armored Div, commanded by German-born Lt. Karl Timmerman, capture the Ludendorff Bridge over the Rhine at Remagen.
- **1952** - Job Masego, WW2 veteran who sunk a German supply boat while a prisoner of war after the capture of Tobruk, dies in Springs, Tvl. A street and a school in Kwa Thema have been named after him and in 1997 the SAS Kobie Coetzee was renamed SAS Job Masego.
- **1977** - The Defence Amendment Bill, first published on 31 January 1977, becomes law. Under it the State President is empowered to invoke powers of censorship and of commandeering premises. Service in defence of the Republic now includes anti-terrorist operations as well as the prevention and suppression of internal dis-

order and there can be greater flexibility and speed in mobilisation.

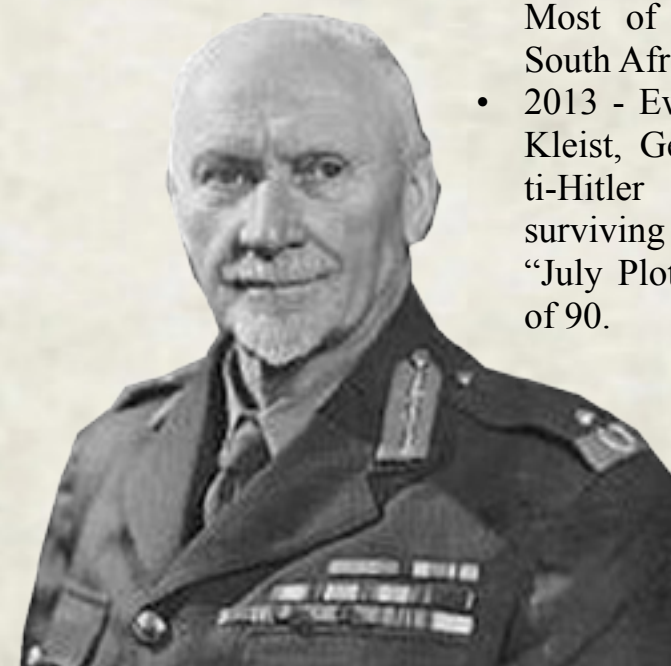
- **1980** - Three members from 13 Field Engineer Squadron were Killed in Action at the Chandelier near Elundu when a booby-trapped landmine coupled together with other improvised explosive devices, exploded while they were in the process of defusing it. The casualties were: Sergeant Deon van der Vyver (21). Corporal Antonie Oberholzer (22). Sapper Willem Johannes Steenkamp Prinsloo (22).
- **1982** - Six Front Line States meet in Maputo and decide to coordinate further their military and economic policies to counter South Africa's economic and military aggression.
- **1983** - Lance Corporal Owen Christopher Williams from 5 SAI, attached to 101 Battalion Romeo Mike was accidentally killed in a Rifle Grenade explosion while on operations in Southern Angola. He was 21.
- **1985** - Corporal Deon van Niekerk from the Northern Transvaal Command Provost Unit was Reported Missing in Clubview, Pretoria while on official traffic control duty during a military exercise. A large truck filled with tons of builders gravel jack-knifed on the Old Johannesburg Road and overturned in the area where he had been doing duty. His body was only discovered two days later when the builders gravel was removed. He was 20.
- **1986** - The State of Emergency imposed on 21 July 1985, is lifted.
- **1991** - 2nd Lieutenant Steven van Rooyen from the Dog Training Centre accidentally drowned in the Blyde River at Belvedere. He was 19.
- **1993** - Angola says its troops have withdrawn from Huambo after two months of fighting with rebels that left 10,000 dead.
- **1993** - The SADF's Battalion 31, composed primarily of the San (Bushmen) battalion who fought in the war in Namibia and has lately been deployed in South African townships, is disbanded at a public ceremony in the Cape province. The 1,000 soldiers will be transferred to other units in the northern Cape and will help patrol the border to Namibia.
- **1994** - Multinational African army installs new government in Liberia.
- **2004** - Zimbabwe seizes a US-registered cargo plane carrying sixty-four suspected mercenaries and military equipment. Simon Mann, of the mercenary outfit Executive Outcomes, is arrested along with five others on the tarmac, after the Zimbabwean authorities have been tipped off by the SA government.

8 March

- **1902** - General De la Rey releases General Lord Methuen after his wounds are treated.
- **1916** - Battle of Dujaila: The Turks beat off a British attempt to relieve the siege of Kut.
- **1942** - Netherlands Indies surrender to the Japanese.
- **1950** - USSR announces they have developed the atomic bomb.
- **1963** - Air Mechanic Pieter Jacobus Hattingh from 35 Squadron was killed in a Ferret Armoured car accident while carrying out in-lying Picket duty patrol of the Security Fence at Air Force Base Ysterplaat. He was 20.
- **1964** - General of Infantry Paul Emil von Lettow-Vorbeck, dies aged 83.
- **1965** - First US combat troops (3,500 Marines) arrive in Vietnam.
- **1972** - Trooper Hubert Terrance Caddy from 1 Special Service Battalion was killed at Zeerust when his Eland Armoured Car overturned during a training exercise. He was 20.
- **1973** - Maritime headquarters at Silvermine is opened.
- **1977** - Corporal Abraham Liebergh Pelser from 7 SAI saved the lives of his fellow soldiers on the afternoon of 08 March 1977. Some of the troops used to straighten the pins on the hand grenades, making them easier

to extract and then hook the grenades into their webbing via the grenade handle. Unfortunately, when Abraham took off his webbing after returning to Nkurukuru Base from a patrol, his thumb caught on the grenade pin and pulled it out. The armed M26 grenade fell onto the floor in the middle of the tent and without hesitation, he dived onto the grenade and absorbed the full force of the explosion that killed him instantly but saved the lives of all the others in the tent. He was 21.

- **1983** - Rifleman Adriaan Jacobus Booysen Thirion from the Boksburg Commando was accidentally killed in a mortar bomb explosion in Southern Angola. He was 24.
- **1987** - Two members from 54 Battalion were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents at Elundu. They were: Corporal Irvine Manuel Daniels (28). Rifleman Henry Johannes Metcalfe (27).
- **1987** - Private Allen Alberto Mariano from 101 Field Workshops was accidentally killed at Omauni in Owamboland while loading a damaged vehicle onto a low-bed. The crane lift chain broke and the vehicle fell onto him, killing him instantly. He was 19.
- **1988** - Trooper Mark Steven Bannell from 1 Special Service Battalion was killed whilst doing riot patrol on the outskirts of East London when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned. He was 19.
- **1994** - President Lucas Mangope calls out troops as unrest flares in Bophuthatswana.
- **1996** - Lt Col John "Mad Jack" or "Fighting Jack" Churchill, DSO, MC, who fought WW II with a longbow, claymore, & bagpipes, dies at the age of 89.
- **2004** - Fifteen suspected mercenaries are arrested in Equatorial Guinea, including the alleged leader of the advance party, Nick du Toit. Most of the suspects are South African.
- **2013** - Ewald-Heinrich von Kleist, German officer, anti-Hitler conspirator, last surviving veteran of the "July Plot", dies at the age of 90.



Jan Smuts

9 March

- **1831** - The French Foreign Legion is founded in Algeria to serve in the French colonies in Africa.
- **1864** - Ulysses S. Grant was commissioned as a Lieutenant General and became commander of the Union armies.
- **1916** - Germany declares war on Portugal.
- **1922** - General Jan Smuts declares martial law in the Transvaal after mobilising the active citizen force in a bid to quell the dispute of striking mineworkers.
- **1945** - US B-29s drop 1,665 tons of incendiaries on Tokyo, creating a firestorm; by dawn on the 10th between 80,000-120,000 have died, the highest toll in a single air raid, exceeding even the atomic bombs.
- **1969** - Lt General Moneim Riad, chief of staff of Egypt's armed forces, is killed during Israeli-Egyptian gun battle across Suez Canal.
- **1977** - Lieutenant Gerrit Keulder from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action whilst on patrol in Henombe area of Southern Angola. He was 21.
- **1977** - Rifleman P. Katanga from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a Contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 19.
- **1982** - Lance Corporal Errol Carl Moolman from the

Rand Light Infantry was accidentally drowned in a rowing boat accident while serving in the Operational Area. He was 20.

- **1982** - Rifleman John Verrooy from the South African Cape Corps attached to Wenela Base was accidentally drowned when he fell off a pont near Wenela Base in Eastern Caprivi. He was 21.
- **1984** - Rifleman W.K. Matende from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 20.
- **1985** - Two members from 6 SAI were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Grahamstown. The casualties were: Rifleman Shaun Patrick Atkins (21). Rifleman Orlando de Portugal Goncalves (19).
- **1985** - Rifleman Eduardo Jonas from 101 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents. He was 23.
- **1987** - Corporal Matthew William Wallace McGregor from 2 Field Engineer Regiment attached to 25 Field Squadron was critically wounded in Action during operations in South Western Angola.
- **1988** - Special Constable Fransiskus Lukas 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.

- **2007** - Chief of the SA Air Force (SAAF) Lieutenant-General Carlo Gagiano announces Waterkloof air force base the country's most prominent air force base is closing for all flying operations for eighteen months in order to upgrade the base's main runway. Work is to start in July and should last about eighteen months.

10 March

- **1880** - The Salvation Army was founded in the United States. The social service organization was first founded in England by William Booth and operates today in 90 countries.
- **1900** - The British under Lord Roberts defeats the Boers in the battle of Driefontein.
- **1922** - Angry White workers, on strike since 28 December, storm and occupy police stations, railway installations and mines on the Rand. They also attack the city's main post office and power station in a mass protest that has, in a few hours, turned into open rebellion against the state. Within four days the revolt is crushed. 153 people, including 72 of the state forces, lie dead, 534 are injured.
- **1944** - Severe restrictions

are imposed on all private travel in the UK, in preparation for D-Day.

- **1964** - US begins reconnaissance flights over East Germany.
- **1966** - North Vietnamese capture US Green Beret Camp in the Ashau Valley.
- **1970** - Corporal Hermanus Stephanus van der Merwe from Northern Air Defence Sector, Devon was killed while travelling in a military bus as part of a convoy en route to Devon. He was 18.
- **1982** - Rifleman Joao Baptista from 32 Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident near Rundu. He was 26.
- **1982** - The trial begins in the Natal Supreme Court of the mercenaries accused of hijacking an airliner to flee from the Seychelles after a failed coup on 25-26 November 1981.
- **1986** - Rifleman Pinecas Amupolo from 101 Battalion SWATF Died of Wounds received when his Samil 100 Kwevoel vehicle was hit by a Soviet RPG-7 anti-tank rocket. He was 25.
- **1988** - Rifleman Lodewikus Johannes Moolman from Regiment Bloemspruit was killed when he was attacked and trampled to death by an elephant during a patrol near the Nwamedzi Base in the Kruger National Park. He was 29.
- **1997** - South African arms manufacturer Denel an-

nounces that it will unveil six new products at a United Arab Emirates weapons exhibition to increase its sales, especially in the Middle East.

11 March

- **1779** - The US Army Corps of Engineers is established.
- **1941** - During World War II, the Lend-Lease program began allowing Britain to receive American weapons, machines, raw materials, training and repair services. Ships, planes, guns and shells, along with food, clothing and metals went to the embattled British while American warships began patrolling the North Atlantic and U.S troops were stationed in Greenland and Iceland.
- **1942** - Paris: First deportation train leaves for Auschwitz.
- **1945** - 1,000 Allied bombers drop over 4,000 tons of bombs on Essen.
- **1979** - Rifleman Paul William Ernest Carroll from 7 SAI was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 20.
- **1984** - Staff Sergeant David John Ward from 101 Battalion SWATF was critically wounded in the hip when his team was ambushed by SWAPO/PLAN and FAPLA forces in Southern Angola. He died from blood loss be-

fore he could be evacuated. He was 24.

- **1985** - Rifleman K. Iyango from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN and FAPLA forces in Southern Angola. He was 24.
- **1987** - Rifleman E. Nangula from 101 Battalion Romeo Mike Team 901 SSC-RM-3 SWATF was Killed in Action in Southern Angola after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds when he triggered a Soviet POM-Z2 Anti-Personal Picket Mine. He was 22.
- **1988** - Rifleman Pietter Leon Hendrik van Dyk from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned during anti-crime operations in Mamelodi Township. He was 18.
- **1994** - Three AWB members shot and killed during the invasion of Bophuthatswana.
- **1879** - A convoy of the British 80th Regt. is over-run at Ntombe River, northern Zululand by a force of 2 000 Zulus. Of the sixty men in the camp, only fifteen escape.
- **1918** - The British submarine 'D-3' is sunk off the French coast, by a French airship which mistook her for a U-boat.
- **1938** - Nazis invaded Austria, then absorbed the country into Hitler's Reich.

12 March

- **1945** - Anne Frank, dies in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp of typhus. She was 14.
- **1951** - North Korean/Red Chinese troops driven out of Seoul.
- **1962** - Defence Minister J.J. Fouché outlines the basic principles of South Africa's defence policy and gives details of measures being taken to build up the Defence Forces and to make South Africa self-supporting in military equipment.
- **1963** - Major Anthony Dennis Michael Lawrenson AFC from Air Force Base Waterkloof was killed when his Dornier Do-27A, Serial No. 5431 crashed near Belfast while on a training flight. He was 43.
- **1968** - P.W. Botha, the Minister of Defence, reports to the Senate on the progress of the Arms Industry and defines the main aims of South Africa's defence policy.
- **1975** - Lieutenant Christopher Stuart Franklin from 7 Squadron was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed near Oudtshoorn. He was 21.
- **1984** - Rifleman L. Dala from 31 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents. He was 22.
- **1987** - Rifleman J.W.L. Johannes from 5 Recce Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy

- forces. He was 24.
- **1987** - Rifleman Faustino Sikote from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with FAPLA forces near Evale in Southern Angola during Operation Kakebeen. He was 27.
 - **1987** - Special Constable Simon Venusiu 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.
 - **1988** - Rifleman Stephen Ebenezer Futchter from 32 Battalion was Reported Missing after he disappeared in the Okavango River one night while swimming behind the Pont near Buffalo Base. It is suspected that he was either taken by a crocodile or a hippo. His body was never located despite an intensive search. He remains unaccounted for. He was 20.
 - **1989** - Rifleman Thulani Maxwei Khuluse from 121 Battalion was killed in a shooting incident in the Community Hall at Verulam. He was 25.
 - **1999** - Poland, Hungary, & the Czech Republic join NATO.
- Goebbels Minister of Information.
- **1942** - Julia Flikke, of the Nurse Corps, becomes the first woman colonel in the US Army.
 - **1942** - The U.S. Army K9 Corps is established.
 - **1943** - A plot to kill Hitler by German army officers failed as a bomb planted aboard his plane failed to explode due to a faulty detonator.
 - **1954** - General Giap's Viet Minh attack That Bien Phu.
 - **1977** - Rifleman Jacobus Frederick Steyn from 5 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident at the Kongola Bridge. He was 19.
 - **1982** - Three members of 32 Battalion were Killed in Action during Operation Super in Southern Angola. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant Petrus Johannes Stephanus Nel (HC Posthumous) (19). Corporal Phillip Thomas Stewart (23). Corporal Yombi João (32).
 - **1983** - Rifleman Andrew Matthews Smit from 5 SAI was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion in Southern Angola. He was 18.
 - **1986** - Corporal Victor Rodrigues Pedro from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment accidentally drowned in Durban during a training exercise. He was 31.
 - **1988** - Private Carel Johannes Beneke from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed when his military vehicle

13 March

- **1900** - British forces under Lord Roberts take Bloemfontein.
- **1933** - Hitler makes Josef

- overtaken near Buffalo. He was 18.
- **1988** - Lieutenant (Doctor) Herman Jan Roelof Gerding from the SA Medical Corps Headquarters was killed while travelling as a passenger in a military ambulance. He was 35.
- **2002** - The Angolan government announces a unilateral ceasefire in its 27-year civil war against Unita, to begin the next day.

14 March

- **1915** - German cruiser 'Dresden' scuttled off Chile.
- **1933** - Winston Churchill calls for better air defensive of Britain.
- **1941** - German Air Raid on Clydbank: After two night of bombing nearly every building the town is damaged or destroyed, more than 500 are dead, and over 50,000 homeless.
- **1961** - Two members from Air Force Base Zwartkop were killed when their Ferret Scout Car overturned while on a night Base Perimeter Patrol. The casualties were: Air Sergeant James George McKelvey (30). Air Sergeant Nicolaas Jacobus Neveling (23).
- **1979** - Two members of 12 Squadron deployed to Grootfontein for Operation Rekstok and Safraan were killed in action. They were: Lieutenant (Pilot) Dewald Wally Marais (24). 2nd Lieutenant (Navigator)

- Owen John Doyle (21).
- **1980** - 2nd Lieutenant Phillipus Jacob Rudolph Oosthuizen from 5 SAI was Killed in Action after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds during an ambush on the Chandelier Road, about 10km from Nkongo Base when a Soviet 82mm High Explosive mortar bomb exploded next to him. He was 20.
- **1984** - Lieutenant Stanley Saillard Ponder from the South African Medical Corps, a Dental Practitioner attached to 2 Field Engineer Regiment, was killed at Grootfontein when his vehicle was involved in a head-on collision with a police vehicle while he was traveling to a nearby clinic. He was 25.
- **1985** - 2nd Lieutenant Guy Claude Udo Winsto Mogens De Beurges from 121 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy



- forces in Southern Angola. He was 20.
- **1985** - Special Constable Joans Andungi 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 23.
- **1987** - Special Constable Ndjendjela Vilho 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 26.
- **1988** - Rifleman Zwelithini Andrias Lukhelo from 121 Battalion was killed while on patrol in the Tembe Elephant Park when he was trampled to death by an enraged elephant. He was 32.
- **1992** - Rifleman Marius Gottfreidt Uitenweerde from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed in a private motor vehicle accident near Benoni. He was 26.

15 March

- **1900** - Lord Roberts issues his first proclamation, offering amnesty to burghers, except for the leaders.
- **1922** - The artillery bombards the strikers' strong-

Josef Goebbels

- hold at Fordsburg Square during the Rand Revolt and it falls to the government. Before presumably committing suicide in this building, the two communist leaders, Fisher and Spendiff, left a joint note: 'We died for what we believed in the Cause'.
- **1943** - Third Battle of Kharkov: Germans under Manstein retake the city from the Soviets.
- **1944** - The ancient Abbey of Monte Cassino is destroyed by Allied bombing and shelling.
- **1957** - Britain becomes the third nation to detonate a nuclear bomb.
- **1972** - Rifleman Werner Albrecht from the Technical Service Corps attached to 1 Field Ambulance Unit was accidentally killed when a steam pressure cooker exploded at Elandsfontein. He was 19.
- **1982** - Rifleman Johannes Jasva from Northern Transvaal Command was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 18.
- **1986** - Special Constable Ernesto Hishidivali 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.
- **1988** - Angola releases the bodies of two SA Defence Force commandos killed in

a raid on Cabinda oil depots in 1985, and the SADF repatriates twelve captured MPLA soldiers.

16 March

- **1802** - The U.S. Military Academy at West Point opens its doors on this day.
- **1916** - The new Dutch passenger liner 'Tubatina' is torpedoed off the Netherlands, Germany denies responsibility despite recovery of portions of the torpedo.
- **1935** - Hitler announces German rearmament, after years of covert efforts under the Weimar Republic, in violation of the Treaty of Versailles.
- **1968** - During the Vietnam War, the My Lai Massacre occurred as American soldiers of Charlie Company murdered 504 Vietnamese men, women, and children. Twenty-five U.S. Army officers were later charged with complicity in the massacre and subsequent cover-up, but only one was convicted, and later pardoned by President Richard Nixon.
- **1983** - Chief Petty Officer Nadiem Mooi from the South African Navy Provost Unit was accidentally killed while attached to 102 Battalion SWATF. He was 34.
- **1984** - Two members of the South African Cape Corps and one from the Army Catering Corps were killed after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in an accidental mortar bomb explosion at Ruacana. They were: Corporal Theo Christopeus Noel Maseti (Army Catering Corps) (21). Rifleman Charles Johannes Coram (19). Rifleman Willem Swartz (22).
- **1984** - Rifleman P. Hauptindi from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 20.
- **1984** - Prime Minister P.W. Botha and President Samora Machel of Mozambique sign the Nkomati Accord at the common border on the banks of the Komati River a step hailed as a major move towards peace, stability and international co-operation in Southern Africa.
- **1987** - Two members from 5 SAI were killed when their Samil 50 vehicle overturned 10km east of Colenso while ferrying troops from Durban Airport to the 5 SAI Base at Ladysmith. They were: Rifleman Gavin Gainsford (18). Rifleman John Adriaan Marlow (18).

17 March (St Patrick's Day)

- **1900** - President Kruger and President Steyn appoint Count Georges de Villebois-Mareuil as general in Kroonstad during the South African War. He is killed three weeks later in combat in Boshof, Free State.
- **1900** - A Great combined Republican Council of War is held at Kroonstad, attended by both presidents and com-

manders of the Boer forces, during which far-reaching tactical decisions are taken about the future conduct of the war.

- **1916** - The Imperial Japanese Naval Air Service is established.
- **1942** - Belzec Concentration Camp opens.
- **1966** - US mini-sub locates a missing H-bomb in the Mediterranean off Palomares, Spain.
- **1977** - Sapper Christo Kemp from 14 Field Regiment was Killed in Action during mine clearing operations. He was 23.
- **1977** - Angolan troops invading Zaire take important copper-mining centre of Kolwezi.
- **1981** - Rifleman Petrus Jacobus Viljoen from the Pietermaritzburg Commando was Killed in Action during a skirmish with FRELIMO troops near Ponta do Ouro. He was 23.
- **1984** - A Defence Force spokesman confirms in Cape Town that South Africa is to stop supplying the United States and Britain with intelligence reports on the movements of Soviet warships around the Cape by the end of the year.
- **1987** - Two members from 101 Battalion SWATF were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents in Southern Angola just north of the Cutline. The Casualties were: Rifleman Craig Douglas

Wetton (19). Rifleman M. Moses (20).

- **1997** - Denel says no deal has been reached over the sale of arms to Syria.

18 March

- **1915** - British & French lose six ships attempting to force the Dardanelles.
- **1917** - French battleship 'Danton' is sunk off Sardinia by a German u-boat, 296 die.
- **1922** - The strike by mine-workers on the Witwatersrand, also known as the Rand Revolt, ends. More than 200 people were killed during the strike, which put thousands out of work and caused a devastating loss in coal and gold production.
- **1940** - Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini hold a meeting at the Brenner Pass during which the Italian dictator agrees to join in Germany's war against France and Britain.
- **1944** - German troops seize control of Hungary.
- **1949** - The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is founded.
- **1952** - Communist offensive in Korea begins.
- **1963** - War of independence is launched against Portugal in Guinea-Bissau.
- **1969** - Minister of Defence, P.W. Botha, attends the launching in France of the first of three Daphne class submarines being built for the South African Navy.
- **1975** - Herbert Chitepo, 52,

ZANU leader, is killed in Lusaka when his car blows up in an explosion.

- **1986** - Warrant Officer Class 1 Frederick Petrus Johannes Cornelius from 5 Maintenance Unit was critically wounded in Northern Owamboland when his vehicle detonated a landmine. Evacuated back to the RSA, he succumbed to his wounds in 1 Military Hospital later that evening. He was 31.
- **1987** - Israel freezes military contracts and imposes cultural and tourism sanctions on South Africa.

19 March

- **1858** - War against the Basuto is declared in Bloemfontein.
- **1945** - Adolf Hitler orders total destruction of German infrastructure.
- **1979** - Private Louis Gerhard Nel was critically injured in an aircraft ejection seat accident on the Squadron and succumbed to his injuries in 1 Military Hospital. He was 20.
- **1981** - Gunner Cornelius Johannes Janse van Rensburg from 14 Field Regiment died in 1 Military Hospital after being diagnosed with a brain tumor. He was 19.
- **1988** - Major Jan Willem van Coppenhagen from 1 Squadron was Reported Missing in Action in Southern Angola when his Dassault Mirage F1AZ failed to return from a low level night diversion strike on enemy

installations at Baixa Longa in Angola with radio silence being enforced. After an intensive search, the wreckage of the aircraft together with the body of the pilot were located inside Angola, not far from the Cut Line. He was 33.

- **1989** - Maiden flight of the Boeing V-22 Osprey VTOL aircraft.
- **1994** - Rifleman Phethiso Simeon Makhatha from 115 Battalion was killed after suffering multiple head injuries when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned while on Township Patrol. He was 27.
- **2003** - The United States launched an attack against Iraq to topple dictator Saddam Hussein from power. The attack commenced with aerial strikes against military sites, followed the next day by an invasion of southern Iraq by U.S. and British ground troops.

20 March

- **1896** - The second Matabele war breaks out.
- **1902** - In the British House of Commons David Lloyd George suggests that there are as many as 30 000 armed Blacks in British military employ in South Africa.
- **1933** - The Nazis open their first concentration camp, at Dachau, near Munich.
- **1942** - General Douglas MacArthur vows "I shall return".
- **1981** - Seaman Derek Jerome Meyer of the 1st Ma-

- rine Brigade, South African Marine Corps, was killed instantly in a shooting incident while participating in military exercises being held near Vryburg. He was 19.
 - **1982** - Rifleman Dumba Katibelo from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action near the Cut-Line during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents. He was 23.
 - **1983** - Special Sergeant Atytale Amalua 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 32.
 - **1984** - Gunner Joachim Jacobus Badenhorst from 61 Mechanised Battalion was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned on a wet road at Tsumeb. He was 19.
 - **1985** - Rifleman Jan Andries Coetzee from 7 SAI was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident on the Witbank Highway. He was 20.
 - **1988** - Corporal Gregory MacKenzie Steward from 44 Parachute Pathfinder Company was called up for a three-month camp in March 1988. He was officially Reported Missing after participating in a Sunday night practice parachute jump at Murray Hill just north of Pretoria. An intensive search was launched and his body was located an hour later and recovered. He was 20.
 - **1989** - Lance Corporal Philip Swartz from 52 Battalion was killed in a motor cycle accident at Oshakati. He was 28.
 - **1999** - The African People's Liberation Army (APLA), armed section of the PAC, is disbanded in the Umtata stadium by Dr Stanley Mogoba.
- 21 March**
- **1918** - During World War I, the Second Battle of the Somme began as German General Erich von Ludendorff launched an all-out drive to win the war.
 - **1943** - A suicide/assassination plot by German Army officers against Hitler failed as the conspirators were unable to locate a short fuse for the bomb which was to be carried in the coat pocket of General von Gersdorff to ceremonies Hitler was attending.
 - **1945** - Okinawa: Japanese use Okha suicide planes for the first time.
 - **1946** - The US Strategic Air Command is established.
 - **1966** - Two members from Central Flying School Dunsfottar were killed when their AT-6 Harvard crashed near Eendrag during a routine training flight. They were: Lieutenant (Pilot Instructor) Johannes Nicolaas Taljaard (22). Candidate Officer (Pupil Pilot) Ian Ashton Fraser

- (19).
- **1975** - Two members from 17 Squadron were killed when their Alouette III, Serial Number 23 struck power lines 7km North of Windhoek and caught fire. The Crew and civilian passengers were killed during the subsequent emergency landing. The Crew were: Lieutenant (Pilot) Geoffrey Herbert Clark (28). Sergeant (Flight Engineer) Christiaan Hermanus Pretorius (29).
- **1976** - Warrant Officer Class II Keith Hugh Hamilton from 250 Air Defence Artillery Group, South African Air Force died in 1 Military Hospital after developing blood clots on the lungs. He was 30.
- **1979** - Lance Corporal Johannes Gerhardus Olivier from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in South Eastern Angola near the Kavangoland Border. He was 22.
- **1979** - Rifleman John Henry van Drutten from the Lydenburg Commando collapsed and died from heat exhaustion during a Route March at Phalaborwa. He was 23.
- **1980** - Rifleman Carlos Conceicao Da Trindade from 32 Battalion Died of Wounds in the Grootfontein Hospital after being critically wounded on 13 March 1980 during Operation Makalani in Southern Angola. He was 20.

- **1981** - Major Carel Arnold Briers from 101 Battalion Romeo Mike was accidentally electrocuted at the Miershoop training base just south of Okatope. He was 27.
- **1984** - Rifleman Eugene Cedric Terblanche from 6 SAI contracted malaria and was admitted to the Grahamstown Provincial Hospital where he died on 21 March 1984. He was 19.
- **1984** - Soviet sub collides with USS 'Kitty Hawk' (CV-63) off Japan.
- **1990** - Authorities ordered an inquiry into the funding of the Civil Co-operation Bureau, a secret military unit, accused of political assassinations.
- **1997** - South African mercenaries, hired by the Papua New Guinea government to help crush a separatist rebellion, arrive back in South Africa. Executive Outcomes say that the men should not be seen as mercenaries, but as consultants.

22 March

- **1900** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War the Portuguese government sanctions the passage of British troops and stores via Beira, Mozambique, thereby violating their previous policy of neutrality.
- **1945** - Patton's Third Army crosses the Rhine.



**George S
Patton**

23 March

- **1881** - During the First Anglo-Boer War a peace agreement between the Transvaal Republic and England is ratified and the final agreement is incorporated into the Pretoria Convention, which was signed on 3 August 1881.
- **1881** - The 3-months siege of British soldiers in the Old Fort in Potchefstroom ends amicably with Boer leader Piet Cronje inviting the British officers to dinner at the Royal Hotel. Twenty-five British soldiers and six Boer soldiers died during the siege.
- **1918** - Paris is shelled by German very-long range artillery.
- **1944** - RAF Flight Sergeant

Nicholas Alkemade survives a 5,500 m fall without a parachute after his Lancaster is hit near Berlin.

- **1962** - French government uses fighter planes and tanks in attempt to end insurrection by European rightists in Algeria.
- **1965** - Two SAAF members, one from 7 Squadron and one from 8 Squadron were killed when their AT-6 Harvard crashed near Bloemfontein during a night cross country exercise. It appears that the crew may have become disorientated as the aircraft flew vertically into the ground while still under full power. The crew were: 2nd Lieutenant (Pilot Instructor) Jacobus Johannes le Roux (22). Candidate Officer (Pupil Pilot) Robin Leslie Jarman (21).
- **1965** - Gunner Leonard Edward Parsons from Eastern Province Command was accidentally electrocuted. He was 18.
- **1980** - Corporal Renier Stephanus van Zyl from Regiment Namutoni SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 24.
- **1980** - Rifleman Robert Frederick McShane from the Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg was critically injured in a hit-and-run accident just outside Hoopstad on 18 November 1979 while hitch-hiking home to Cape

Town on weekend pass. He succumbed to his injuries in hospital on 23 March 1980. He was 19.

- **1982** - Rifleman Johannes Dimbo from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds from a Soviet 60mm mortar bomb explosion during a SWAPO/PLAN insurgent attack near Nkongo. He was 22.
- **1982** - South Africa is to expand its military call-up to include all White men aged between seventeen and sixty-five, almost doubling the size of its forces. Commando units are to be strengthened.
- **1985** - 2nd Lieutenant Delarey Matthee from 3 SAI was accidentally shot and killed by own forces in his own ambush at Kamanjab. He was 24.
- **1988** - Constable Jacobus Ignatius van Zyl from the SWA Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action when his Z4S Casspir was hit by a Soviet RPG-7 Anti-Tank Rocket during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1990** - Commandant Henry Walter Venter from 4 Vehicle Reserve Park was killed in a military vehicle accident on the Old Warmbaths Road near Pretoria. He was 40.
- **1997** - The first wave of a US military task force moves

cautiously into central Africa, preparing for a possible evacuation of Americans from Zaire.

- **2006** - Desmond Doss, conscientious objector who had earned a Medal of Honour as a medic on Okinawa, dies at the age of 87.

24 March

- **1900** - Newly appointed Combat General Count Georges de Villebois-Mareuil leaves Kroonstad with a 'flying column' consisting of fifty Dutchmen, twenty-five Frenchmen and eleven Afrikaners, aiming to blow up the railway line south of Kimberley to disrupt British lines of communications.
- **1941** - Donald Duck enlists in the US Army, for the first of six war cartoons.
- **1944** - The Great Escape: 76 Allied officers flee Stalag Luft 3.
- **1945** - Operation Varsity: Allied airborne crossing of the Rhine.
- **1951** - Two pilots of SA Air Force's No 2 (Flying Cheetah) Squadron, assisting the United Nations in the Korean War, blast a convoy of twelve stationary and camouflaged trucks with rocket-fire and destroy ten. In another operation, two "Flying Cheetahs" wipe out nine trucks.
- **1963** - Five members of the South African Defence Force were killed when the military vehicle in which

they were traveling as passengers, overturned at Voortrekkerhoogte. They were: Private Jacobus Gerhardus Roos Runkel (18). Signaller Ivan Leslie Taylor (19). Signaller Ulrich Andre Mulder from 2 Signal Regiment (18). Signaller Jacobus Johannes Helberg (17). Signaller Abraham Lodewicus Botha (20).

- **1972** - Private Leon George Muller from the Air Force Gymnasium died from heat exhaustion in 1 Military Hospital. He was 19.
- **1974** - Uganda crushes a coup attempt against President Idi Amin.
- **1975** - Rifleman Peter John van der Walt from 4 SAI died from a gunshot wound as a result of the accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while stationed in the Caprivi Strip. He was 18.
- **1976** - Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, British field marshal during World War 2 and commander of the Eighth Army in North Africa, dies at the age of 88.
- **1982** - Rifleman Gringo Jose' Manuel from 32 Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident at Buffalo. He was 23.
- **1986** - Commandant Charles Vernon Hochapfel from the South West Africa Gymnasium attached to 101 Battalion SWATF, died in 1 Military Hospital from Wounds received during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 44.

25 March

- **1858** - The battle of Koranaberg takes place during the Orange Free State-Basuto War.
- **1915** - First USN submarine disaster: USS 'F-4' sinks off Hawaii, 21 die.
- **1945** - US First Army breaks out of the Remagen bridgehead.
- **1966** - Lieutenant Francois Theron Mentz from Central Flying School Dunnottar was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed after flying into rising ground during low level flying near Middelburg. He was 22.
- **1976** - Trooper Reginald Edward Smith from the Natal Mounted Rifles died in Northern Owamboland from a gunshot wound as a result of an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 23.
- **1976** - Lance Corporal Willem Christoffel Swanepoel from 2 Parachute Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents north of Oshikango. He was 30.
- **1977** - Five members from Regiment Westelike Provinsie were killed and 71 injured on when a goods train loaded with iron ore collided with their stationary troop train at the Keetmanshoop station. The Casualties were: Rifleman Gary Albert Bricknell (22). Rifleman Petrus Johannes Jacobus Holtzhausen (27). Rifleman Wilhelm Hugo (26). Rifleman Hermanus Johannes Uys (25). Rifleman Paul Kady Donovan van Zyl (24).
- **1978** - Rifleman R. Desenga from 31 Battalion was accidentally shot and killed by a fellow soldier in Northern Owamboland. He was 20.
- **1980** - Two members from 42 Squadron were killed when their AM-3C Bosbok, Serial No. 923 crashed near Potchefstroom while carrying out low level flying. The crew were: Lieutenant Edwin Johannes le Roux (20). Lieutenant Pieter Frederick Smit (22).
- **1980** - Two crewmembers from 44 Squadron and a SAAF female Personnel Officer (passenger), were killed when their C-47 Dakota, based at Air Force Base Grootfontein, crashed between Tsumeb and Grootfontein while carrying out unauthorised low level flight. The casualties were: Lieutenant Johan Heinrich Leeuw (22). Lieutenant Cornelis Johannes Wessels (21). Candidate Officer (Miss) Elna Susan Swart (23).
- **1982** - Two members of Witwatersrand Command Headquarters were killed in a Military Vehicle Accident in Houghton. They were: Rifleman Johannes Theodorus Lombard (21). Rifleman Ivan John van Heerden (20).
- **1982** - In announcing the 1982 Defence Budget, Owen Horwood reaffirms

that the government's highest priority remains that of giving South Africa an effective defence capability and a self-sufficient arms industry.

- **1985** - Rifleman Colin Graham Dockerill from 6 SAI, detached to the Equestrian Centre, was killed instantly in Northern Owamboland while returning from a waterhole when he fell off his galloping horse and hit a tree trunk, breaking his neck. He was 20.
- **1988** - Rifleman Nicolaas Jacobus Vermeulen from 54 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 23.
- **1988** - Rifleman Simon Haindula from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 22.
- **1994** - Lance Corporal Phiti Joel Mokgolo from 7 SAI was killed in a motor vehicle accident near Rustenburg. He was 27.
- **1994** - American troops withdraw from Somalia after a 16-month humanitarian mission marred by fighting with the Somalis.

26 March

- **1917** - First Battle of Gaza: The Turks hold the British.
- **1945** - Seventh Army attacks Worms on the Rhine.
- **1957** - Two members from Central Flying School Dun-

nottar were killed when their Harvard flew into rising ground near Trichardt during a night cross country flight. The aircraft disintegrated on impact and burnt out. The crew were: Lieutenant Andre Dewald de Klerk (25). 2nd Lieutenant Neil Rhodes Edward Ken-nough (23).

- **1965** - Rifleman Andrew Mark Newton-Thompson from 1 SAI collapsed from heat exhaustion while on a cross country run and died in the Groote Schuur Hospital. He was 21.
- **1965** - Rifleman Johannes Rudolf Fourie from 5 SAI died from a gunshot wound resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle during a training exercise at Ladysmith. He was 18.
- **1976** - Rifleman Hermanus Stephanus Lombard Moss from the Kaffrarian Rifles was Killed in Action when his Unimog detonated a landmine just north of Ondangwa in Northern Owamboland. He was 23.
- **1977** - Rifleman Joao Antonio from 32 Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident at Buffalo while delivering supplies to the Base. He was 27.
- **1978** - Corporal Nicolaas Johannes Koekemoer from the Johannesburg Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Rhodesia. He was 24.
- **1979** - Camp David peace

treaty is signed, ending 30 years of war between Egypt and Israel.

- **1980** - Rifleman John Stephen Botha from 32 Battalion died at Buffalo Base from a gunshot wound apparently accidentally self-inflicted. No foul play was suspected. He was 19.
- **1984** - Lieutenant Hendrik Hans Jacob Maree from the South African Medical Corps attached to 202 Battalion SWATF was killed in a motor vehicle accident at Rundu. He was 23.
- **1991** - Soldiers overthrow Mali's military dictator after days of rioting and protests that leave dozens dead.

27 March

- **1881** - A Boer force of 150 men storms Majuba and drives out 400 British troops in the decisive battle of the Anglo-Transvaal War.
- **1900** - General Piet Joubert, commandant-general of the Boer forces and vice-president of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek, dies of gastritis in Pretoria.
- **1933** - Japan leaves the League of Nations.
- **1941** - Himmler orders building of the Auschwitz concentration camp.
- **1945** - The last German V-2 rocket attack on Britain: 134 people, many of them Jewish, are killed Whitechapel, London.
- **1964** - UN peacekeeping troops arrive on Cyprus.

• **1968** - Captain Andries Jacobus Mouton from Air Operations School was killed when his De Havilland Vampire T-55 Mk II was involved in a mid-air collision with a Canadair C13L Sabre piloted by Lt Liebenberg of 1 Squadron near Pietersburg. He was 29.

- **1975** - Minister of Defence P.W. Botha presents a White Paper outlining defence policy and justifying the increased expenditure which now accounts for one-fifth of the country's revenue budget.
- **1979** - Rifleman Dixon Njunge from 201 Battalion SWATF was accidentally shot dead by a fellow soldier during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1981** - Rifleman Daniel Johannes Louw from the South African Cape Corps killed at M'pacha after suffering a fatal gunshot wound as a result of an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 20.
- **1983** - Three members from the 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: Special Sergeant Edward Mutuku (29). Special Constable Matheus Funet (24). Special Constable Johannes Muyongo (25).

- **1987** - Rifleman Manuel Maundu from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 22.

28 March

- **1879** - Nearly one hundred officers and men of Wood's column are killed in a desperate fight against a Zulu impi on Hlobane Mountain during the Anglo-Zulu War.
- **1915** - German submarine 'U-28' torpedoes the British liner 'Falaba' in St. George's Channel, 104 die.
- **1942** - Operation Chariot: Nocturnal Royal Navy/Royal Marine commando raid blocks the 'Normandie' dock in Nazi-occupied St Nazaire. Five VCs are awarded as a result of the raid.
- **1945** - Last V-1 buzz bomb attack on London.
- **1969** - Dwight D. Eisenhower, US President, 5-star general and Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in Europe, dies at the age of 78.

• **1978** - Sapper Michael Andries Stephanus Nel from 101 Field Engineer Regiment was Reported Missing while swimming in the Okavango River after he was attacked by a crocodile. He has no known grave and remains unaccounted for. He was 19.

- **1979** - The World Campaign against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa is launched in London, with the support of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid. Several Heads of State and Government are its patrons and Abdul S. Minty its Director.
- **1979** - Sergeant Robert Daniel Burt from Sector 70 Headquarters SWATF was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 26.
- **1979** - Rifleman Dennis Colin Golden from 1 Parachute Battalion was accidentally killed by own forces near Otavi. He was 19.
- **1979** - Rifleman Nikos Pavlakis from Infantry School Died of Wounds when his patrol, while moving along the Cut-line, was ambushed by a numerically superior force of SWAPO/PLAN insurgents between Beacon 11 and Beacon 12. He was 20.
- **1980** - Trooper Leon Oosthuizen from 1 Special Service Battalion was killed after suffering multiple shrap-

nel wounds in an accidental hand grenade explosion at the General De Wet Training Area. He was 18.

- **1981** - Three members of 1 Parachute Battalion died of multiple shrapnel wounds at the Barracks in Bloemfontein. The casualties were: Rifleman Petrus Jacobus Pieterse (18). Rifleman Johannes Daniel van der Westhuizen (19). Rifleman Elias Jacobus Nicolaas Beukes (18).
- **1982** - ARMSCOR's Chairman announces that South Africa has produced a world-beating 155-millimetre artillery system the G5 gun.
- **1983** - Special Constable Ng-hiwaniva Nghiyayela 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 26.
- **1985** - Rifleman Kleopas Mbango from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut Line. He was 23.
- **1987** - Special Sergeant Martin Lukas 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 32.



V1
'Buzzbomb'

- **1988** - Special Constable Manuel Sevelenu 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.
- **1990** - Commandant John Orr, Officer Commanding 2 Squadron returned from a training sortie in his Mirage IICZ and while debriefing at the Squadron, he suddenly collapsed. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria where he succumbed. He was 37.
- **1977** - Staff Sergeant Gert Jacobus Voges from 29 Field Workshops died from injuries sustained in a military vehicle accident at the Otavi-Tsumeb crossroads. He was 39.
- **1988** - Gunner Hendrik Jacobus van der Westhuizen from Regiment Potchefstroom University was killed when he accidentally shot himself in Southern Angola during operations against FAPLA Forces near Cuito Cuanavale. He was 33.
- **1994** - Cease-fire ends Serbo-Croat War.

30 March

- **1879** - The battle of Kambula during the Anglo-Zulu War, takes place.
- **1911** - The U.S. Army adopts the M1911 .45 ACP pistol as its official sidearm.
- **1962** - The minister of defence, J.J. Fouché, discloses that South Africa is buying supersonic Mirage III jet fighters from France, and that South African forces are being equipped with French alouette helicopters.
- **1971** - 1st Lt William L Calley Jr found guilty in the My Lai massacre.
- **1973** - Private Johan Marthinus Kruger from 2 Mobilisation Centre was killed in a military vehicle accident at Petrusburg. He was 18.
- **1973** - Last US troops leave Vietnam, nine years after the Tonkin Gulf Resolution.
- **1945** - Soviet troops enter Austria.
- **1945** - The Red Army captures Danzig.
- **1972** - Private Sydney Eric Wienand from the Air Force Gymnasium was killed in a military vehicle accident in Pretoria. He was 19.
- **1973** - Private Andrew James MacPherson from Natal Command Headquarters was killed in a military vehicle accident in Durban. He was 18.



**M1911
.45 ACP
Pistol**

- **1977** - Sergeant Daniel Petrus Theron from the Military Headquarters, Grootfontein, died from injuries sustained in a military vehicle accident which occurred on 29 March at the Otavi-Tsumeb crossroads near Grootfontein. He was 35.
- **1979** - Private Douw Teuns Gerbrand De Beer from Western Province Command Headquarters was killed in a military motorcycle accident at Groote Schuur. He was 19.
- **1980** - Sergeant Barend Zacharias Gericke from 32 Battalion was Killed in action in Southern Angola. He was 21.
- **1980** - Rifleman Johannes Oarum from 41 Battalion SWATF was killed in Northern Owamboland when he was struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 18.

- **1984** - Four members from the Congella Regiment and one member from Group 10 attached to the Regiment were killed and one critically injured when their Military Landrover Vehicle was struck and flattened by an articulated vehicle loaded with logs that jack-knifed across the road approximately 9 km outside Richmond. The casualties were: Staff Sergeant Kevin Ernest Parker (37). Lance Corporal Roderrick William Bekker (28). Rifleman Winston Churchill (25). Rifleman Stefan Henry Conrad (27). Rifleman Grant Edward Brierley (27) died from his injuries on 31 March 1984.
- **1984** - Corporal Daniel Matsetse from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with

- SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 24.
- **1987** - Sergeant (Flight Engineer) Daniel Lan from 16 Squadron was Killed in Action after being hit by enemy small arms fire while acting as door gunner in Alouette III 624 during a close-air support operation against SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in the Oshivello area. He was 27.

31 March

- **1900** - General Christiaan de Wet and his men, in a battle that marks the first of the guerrilla phase of the Second Anglo-Boer War, clash with British forces under General R Broadwood and capture 421 men, seven guns and 83 wagons. The battle is fought at Sannaspost (Sannahs Post), east of Bloemfontein.
- **1921** - The Royal Australian Air Force is established.
- **1941** - Germans launch counteroffensive in North Africa in World War II.
- **1943** - USAAF accidentally bombs a residential area of Rotterdam, 326 die.
- **1954** - USSR offers to join NATO.
- **1960** - Four more regiments

- of the Citizens' Force are mobilised. Legal authorities in Johannesburg state the emergency regulations create a situation of virtual martial law.
- **1970** - Marshal of the Soviet Union Semion Timoshenko dies at the age of 75.
- **1977** - A Defence White Paper analyses South Africa's defence requirements in the context of the Soviet and Cuban intervention in Angola. South Africa is to be placed on a war footing.
- **1977** - Private Wilhelm Jacobus Johannes van Nieuwenhuizen from 32 Field Workshop Squadron was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 28.
- **1989** - Johan Papenfus, a SA Defence Force rifleman captured in Angola nearly a year previously, returns to South Africa from Cuba. His return is part of an exchange for prisoners held by Unita.
- **1992** - UN Security Council votes to ban flights and arms sales to Libya, branding it a terrorist state for shielding six men accused of blowing up Pan Am Flight 103 and a French airliner.
- **1994** - South African President F.W. de Klerk declares a state of emergency in Natal and orders army into the Zulu stronghold.



**Semion
Timoshenko**



Helicopters

1. Bell AH-1 Cobra
2. Aérospatiale SA 330 Puma
3. Piasecki H-21 Shawnee
4. Westland Lynx
5. Boeing AH-64D Apache Longbow
6. Aérospatiale SA 321 Super Frelon
7. Bell OH-58 Kiowa
8. Mil Mi-17
9. Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk
10. Boeing A/MH-6M Little Bird
11. Bell UH-1 Iroquois (nick-named "Huey")
12. Aérospatiale Alouette III
13. Sikorsky MH-60G/HH-60G Pave Hawk
14. Bell 47

15. SH-60B Seahawk

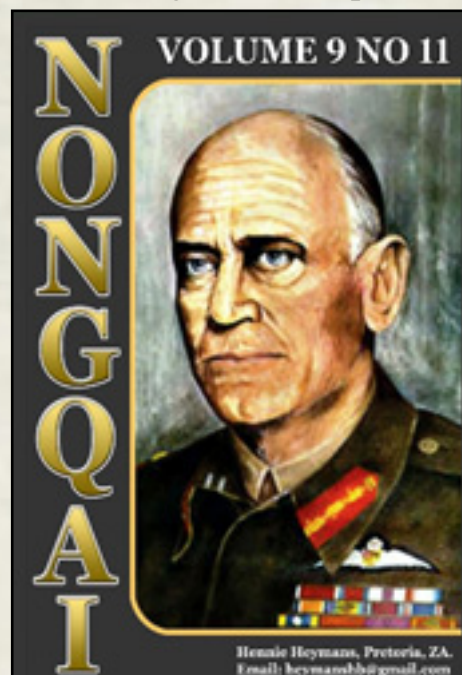


Aérospatiale Alouette III

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.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Come and celebrate Saint Patrick's Day with Military Despatches. There be good craic and plenty of Bushmills and Paddy's whiskey. Plus loads of Irish music.

WHERE

Pip Ack Moth Shellhole
under the Bridge, 164 Campground Road, Newlands

WHEN

Friday 15 March
From 19:00

There will be a cash bar and snacks available.



Hipe!

media

E-mail
editor@hipe.co.za



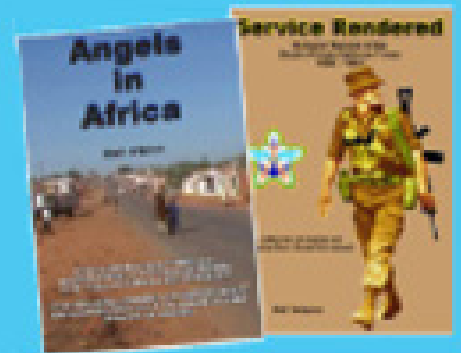
Online Magazines

Flip book magazines with pages that can be turned.



E-books

Produced in any electronic format required.



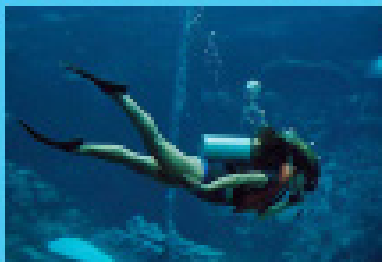
2D & 3D Animation

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.