



Operation Ivory Coast

US Special Forces raid on Son Tay

Talking about tradition

The origins of military traditions

Head-to-Head

Evolution of US Army weapons & equipment

Hal Moore

**Korean and Vietnam
war veteran**



Forged in Battle

The FN FAL assault rifle

For the military enthusiast

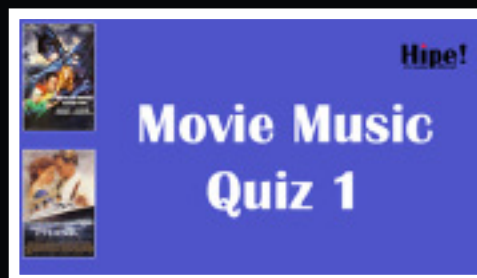


Click on any video below to view



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.

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This month we're looking at military acronyms. Do you know your HALO from your HAHO?





Editor's Sitrep

It's kind of hard to imagine that this is issue 23 of Military Despatches. That means that next month we will be two years old.

This month I took some time to slap the website into some sort of shape. At least it's now looking like a website. You can download all of the back issues from there and there is also a page with some useful links.

From this month you can also read most of the feature articles online.

In the December 2018 issue I mentioned that my cat, Kime, passed away in November. At one stage I had three cats. They were 20, 17 and 16 years old when they passed on.

So late last month I decided that it was time to get another cat. Well, I got two kittens - a brother and a sister - from the SPCA.

When I took them for their first inoculations the kind folk at the SPCA saw me coming. I took two cats in and left with three, my two kittens and a Maine Coon kitten.

Naturally I had forgotten what it was like to have kittens. They do fun things like run up

your legs and back. Currently I look like the poster child for abuse victims. I'm covered in scratches.

I found the article on armoured trains of the Boer War interesting. I travelled up to South West Africa three times via train, but never on a troop train. They were normal civvie trains - the good old SAR&H.

This month sees the anniversary of Operation Reindeer. It's hard to believe that it took place 41 years ago.

Talking about military operations, I found the article on Operation Ivory Coast interesting reading. It was a raid by US Special Forces in Vietnam to free American POW's. It was a text book operation and a great success. Except for one major flaw - the prison at Son Tay was empty. The prisoners had been moved almost four months before. Good planning, great execution, poor intelligence.

Until next month.

Matt

Hipe!

media

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Back Issues

To view any back issues of Military Despatches, go to www.militarydespatches.co.za or click [here](#).

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It earned the title 'The right arm of the Free World'.

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Front Cover

The FN Fal assault rifle in action. During the Cold War it was given the title of "The right arm of the Free World".



Top Ten WWII Fighter Aces

Seeing as how the Top Ten fighter aces of World War II were all German (as were the next 110 aces), we decided to look at the Top Ten Aces by country.

This month we decided to take a look at the Top Ten fighter aces of World War II. In other words, who achieved the most 'kills' during the war. An 'Ace' was anyone that shot down five or more enemy aircraft.

This, however, would have led to a very one-sided article. Mainly because the Top Ten fighter aces of World War II were all German.

In fact the top 120 fighter aces of World War II were all German. Between them they shot down 16,851 enemy aircraft.

No less than 448 German fighter pilots would go on to become aces during World War II.

A total of 116 German pilots achieved the incredible feat of shooting down more than 100 enemy aircraft. No other pilot from any country managed to get to triple figures in terms of number of kills.

Thirteen German pilots achieved more than 200 kills, and two of them more than 300.

The country that produced the most aces during World War II was the United States. They had a total of 834 aces from the US Army Air Forces, US Navy, and US Marine Corps. 600 of their aces had less than 10 kills.

So instead of looking at the Top Ten fighter pilots of World War II, we decided to look at

the Top Ten aces by country.

These then are our Top Ten Aces of World War II.

10. Pierre Clostermann France 33 kills



Joining the Free French Air Force in Britain in 1942, Clostermann scored 33 recorded victories, earning the accolade "France's First Fighter" from General Charles de Gaulle.

His many decorations included the *Grand-Croix* of the French *Légion d'Honneur*, the *Croix de Guerre*, and the DFC and bar. His wartime reminiscences *The Big Show (Le Grand Cirque)* became a notable best seller.

After the war, he worked as an engineer and became a *député*

(Member of Parliament).

He died on 22 March 2006 at the age of 85.

9. James Johnson Britain 38 kills



Nicknamed "Johnnie", Air Vice Marshal James Edgar Johnson, CB, CBE, DSO & Two Bars, DFC & Bar was a Royal Air Force (RAF) pilot.

Johnson was credited with 34 individual victories over enemy aircraft, as well as seven shared victories, three shared probable, 10 damaged, three shared damaged and one destroyed on the ground. Johnson flew 700 operational sorties and engaged enemy aircraft on 57 occasions.

Johnson continued his career in the RAF after the war, and served in the Korean War be-

fore retiring in 1966 with the rank of air vice marshal.

He died on 30 January 2001 at the age of 85.

8. Marmaduke Pattle South Africa 40 kills



South African born Marmaduke Thomas St John Pattle, DFC & Bar, was better known as Pat Pattle.

He applied to join the South African Air Force at 18, but was rejected. He travelled to the United Kingdom and joined the RAF in 1936 on a Short Service Commission.

Pattle is sometimes noted as being the highest-scoring British Commonwealth pilot of the war. If all claims made for him are correct, his total could have been more than 51. It can be stated that his final total was at least 40 and could exceed this number.

Log-books and semi-official records suggest this figure, while personnel attached to his

squadron suspect the figure to be closer to 60.

He is considered to be the highest-scoring ace on both Gladiator and Hurricane (35 victories) fighters.

On 20 April 1941 he took off against orders, while suffering from a high temperature, to engage German aircraft near Athens. He was last seen battling Messerschmitt Bf 110 heavy fighters. His Hurricane crashed into the sea during this dogfight and Pattle was killed. He was 26 years old.

8. Richard I. Bong United States 40 kills



Richard Ira Bong was a United States Army Air Forces major. He was one of the most decorated American fighter pilots and the country's top flying ace in the war.

Among his awards was the Medal of Honour, Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, and

Air Medal.

He is credited with shooting down 40 Japanese aircraft, all with the Lockheed P-38 Lightning fighter.

In January 1945 General Kenney, the Far East Air Force commander, sent America's ace of aces home for good.

On 6 August 1945, 26 days before World War II ended, Bong was testing a P-80 Shooting Star jet fighter at the Lockheed Air Terminal in Burbank, California.

The plane's primary fuel pump malfunctioned during take off. He ejected but was too low for his parachute to deploy. He was 24 when he was killed.

6. Mato Dukovac Croatia 44 kills



Croatian pilots flew for the *Zrakoplovstvo Nezavisne Države Hrvatske* (Air Force of the Independent State of Croatia) and fought on the side of the Germans.

Mato Dukovac joined the Air

Force of the Independent State of Croatia following the Axis invasion of Yugoslavia in April 1941, and then the Luftwaffe, with which he flew combat missions on the Eastern Front.

His tours of the Eastern Front spanned October and November 1942, February to June 1943, and October 1943 to March 1944. He defected to the Soviet Union on 20 September 1944, and was returned to Yugoslavia in November 1944.

He worked as a flight instructor for the Yugoslav Air Force in Pančevo and Zadar before defecting to Italy in April 1945.

He left in 1946 and became a captain in the Syrian Air Force. During the 1948 Arab-Israeli War he flew combat missions against Israel. Following the war, he emigrated to Canada.

He died on 6 June 1990 in Toronto at the age of 71.

5. Ivan Kozhedub Soviet Union 66 kills



Flying for the *Voyenno-Vozdushnye Sily* (Soviet Air Force), Russian pilots saw extensive action on the Eastern Front.

Ivan Nikitovich Kozhedub was the Allied “Ace of Aces” in World War II. He is one of the few pilots to have shot down a Messerschmitt Me 262 jet. He was made a Hero of the Soviet Union on three occasions (4 February 1944; 19 August 1944; 18 August 1945).

In 1951, with the rank of colonel, he took part in the Korean War but was not allowed permission to participate in combat missions. He went on to become a general and was made an Aviation Marshal in 1985.

He died on 8 August 1991 at the age of 71.

4. Constantin Cantacuzino Romania 69 kills



Romanian pilots were part of the *Aeronautica Regala Romana* (Royal Romanian Air

Force). They fought on the side of the Germans.

Nicknamed Bâzu, Constantin Cantacuzino came from a noble family. He was the captain of the Romanian ice hockey team at the World Championships in 1931 and 1933.

In 1939 he won the national aerial aerobatics contest with his Bü 133 Jungmeister and in 1941 was named chief pilot of the Romanian national air transport company LARES. Even though this was a comfortable job, he managed to get in the front line as a fighter pilot in the 53rd Fighter Squadron (equipped with Hurricane Mk. I).

After August 1944, when Romania quit the Axis, the Luftwaffe started bombing Bucharest from airfields close to the capital which were still in German hands. The remains of the 7th and 9th Fighter Groups were brought in to protect the capital. Cantacuzino shot down 3 Heinkel He 111s on this occasion.

After the war ended, Cantacuzino was demobilized and returned to LARES. The USSR imposed a communist regime that confiscated private property and began imprisoning the old elite and opponents of the regime.

Cantacuzino lost all his land and soon his wife left him. In 1946 he married Nadia Gray. He managed to escape to Italy in 1947 and then he settled in Spain.

There he was helped by the Romanian community to buy

himself an airplane, in order to earn his living at air shows. He died in Madrid on 26 May 1958 at the age of 52.

3. Tetsuzo Iwamoto Japan 80 kills



Lieutenant Junior Grade Tetsuzō Iwamoto was a pilot with the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service (IJNAS). Depending on various totals cited, Tetsuzō Iwamoto or Hiroyoshi Nishizawa was Japan’s top ace.

He flew Zeros from the aircraft carrier *Zuikaku* from December 1941 to May 1942, including at the Battle of the Coral Sea. In late 1943, Iwamoto’s air group was sent to Rabaul, New Britain, resulting in three months of air combat against Allied air raids.

Subsequent assignments were Truk Atoll in the Carolines and the Philippines, being commissioned an ensign in October 1944. Following the evacuation of the Philippines, Iwamoto

to served in home defence and trained kamikaze pilots.

Like many Japanese veterans, Iwamoto was reported to have fallen into depression after the war. In summer 1953, he developed a stomach ache. A surgeon examined him and diagnosed enteritis. It was found later to be appendicitis.

After a series of operations, he complained of a backache. Doctors decided to operate on him again. With cause unknown, they removed three or four ribs without anaesthesia. This led to *sepsis* (septicaemia, blood poisoning). He died on 20 May 1955 at the age of 38.

2. Ilmari Juutilainen Finland 94 kills



Eino Ilmari “Illu” Juutilainen (21 February 1914 – 21 February 1999) was a fighter pilot of the *Ilmavoimat* (Finnish Air Force), and the top scoring non-German fighter pilot of all time.

This makes him the top flying ace of the Finnish Air Force, leading all Finnish pilots in score against Soviet aircraft in World War II (1939–40 and 1941–44), with 94 confirmed aerial combat victories in 437 sorties. He achieved 34 of his victories while flying the Brewster Buffalo fighter.

Juutilainen entered the Finnish military on 9 September 1932 for his compulsory military service, serving as a pilot in the Finnish Air Force from 1935.

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Juutilainen entered the Finnish military on 9 September 1932 for his compulsory military service, serving as a pilot in the Finnish Air Force from 1935.

In 1943, Juutilainen was transferred to *LeLv 34*, which used new Messerschmitt Bf 109G-2s. With the Bf 109, he shot down a further 58 enemy planes.

He shot down six Soviet airplanes on 30 June 1944 (all

TOP TEN

confirmed on Soviet loss records), becoming an ace in a day.

He ended the war with the rank of Lentomestari (Sergeant Major). Juutilainen refused an officer commission, fearing it would keep him from flying.

After the wars, Juutilainen served in the air force until 1947. He worked as a professional pilot until 1956, flying people in his De Havilland Moth. His last flight was in 1997 at age 83, in a double-seated F-18 Hornet of the Finnish Air Force.

Juutilainen died at home in Tuusula on his 85th birthday on 21 February 1999.

1. Erich Hartmann Germany 352 kills



Erich Alfred Hartmann was nicknamed *Bubi* (The Kid) by his comrades and the ‘Black Devil’ by the Soviets. He is the most successful fighter ace in the history of aerial warfare.

He flew 1,404 combat mis-

sions and participated in aerial combat on 825 separate occasions. 345 of the aircraft he shot down were Soviet, while seven were American.

He was awarded the Knight’s Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves, Swords and Diamonds.

After the war he surrendered to the Americans, but was handed over to the Red Army. He spent 10 years in various Soviet prison camps and gulags until he was released in 1955.

In 1956 he joined the newly established West German German Air Force in the *Bundeswehr*, and became the first *Geschwaderkommodore* of *Jagdgeschwader 71* “Richthofen”.

He was retired in 1970, due to his opposition to the procurement of the F-104 Starfighter. In his later years, after his military career had ended, he became a civilian flight instructor.

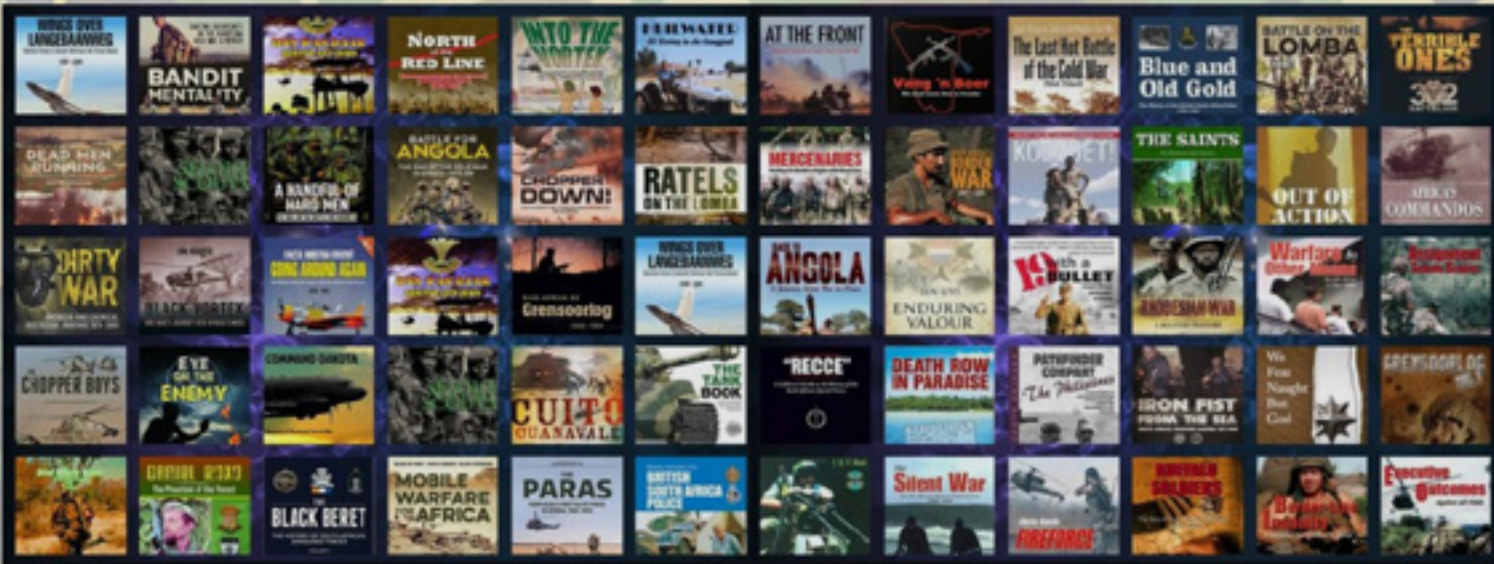
He died on 20 September 1993 at the age of 71.

Fighter pilot trivia

- An ‘Ace in a day’ was a pilot that shot down five enemy aircraft in a single day. A ‘Double-ace in a day’ meant they shot down 10 aircraft in a day.
- Erich Hartmann was the first pilot to achieve 300 kills. He did this on the same day he became a ‘Double-ace in a day’.
- Walter Nowotny (*Luftwaffe*) became a Double-ace in a day on two different occasions. He was also the first

pilot to achieve 250 kills.

- Kurt Welter was the top jet ace with 20+ victories in Me 262.
- Emil Lang, August Lambert, Hubert Strassl and Hans-Joachim Marseille (all *Luftwaffe*) became ‘Triple-aces in a day’.
- Gordon Gollob (*Luftwaffe*) was the first pilot to reach 150 kills.
- Heinz-Wolfgang Schnaufer (*Luftwaffe*) was the top night-fighter ace with 121 kills.
- Werner Mölders (*Luftwaffe*) was the pilot to achieve 100 kills.
- Russell Bannock of the Royal Canadian Air Force shot down 19 V-1 rockets.
- Fourteen American World War II aces scored kills in the Korean War. Two of them became Korean War aces.
- Three German aces had kills in World War I. Two of them were also World War I aces.
- Robin Olds of the U.S. Army Air Forces had 13 kills in World War II. He achieved another four kills during the Vietnam War.
- *Reichsmarschall* Hermann Göring, head of the *Luftwaffe* during World War II, was a fighter ace in World War I with 22 kills.
- Albert Lippett (Royal Air Force) was an ‘Ace in a day’ and ended the war with 12 kills. All of them achieved as a turret gunner on a two-man fighter plane.



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

Special Forces - Brazil

Part Three of a series that takes a look at Special Forces units around the world. This month we look at Brazil.

Officially known as the *República Federativa do Brasil*, Brazil is the largest country in both South America and Latin America.

At 8.5 million square kilometres and with over 208 million people, Brazil is the world's fifth-largest country by area and the fifth most populous.

The federation is composed of the union of the 26 states, the Federal District, and the 5,570 municipalities. It is the largest country to have Portuguese as an official language and the only one in the Americas; it is also one of the most multicultural and ethnically diverse nations, due to over a century of mass immigration from around the world.

The *Forças Armadas Brasileiras* (Brazilian Armed Forces) is the unified military organization. It comprises of the Brazilian Army (including the Army Aviation), the Brazilian Navy (including the Marine Corps and Brazilian Naval Aviation) and the Brazilian Air Force.

Brazil's armed forces are the third largest in the Americas, after the United States and Colombia, and the largest in Latin America by the level of military equipment, with 318,480 active-duty troops and officers.

As with most large military organisations, the Brazilian Armed Forces have a number of special forces components. These include:

Special Operations Command

The Brazilian *Comando de Operações Especiais* (Special Operations Command) is often shortened to C Op Esp.

It is a part of the Brazilian Army Commands, specifically the Land Army Command. Head quartered in Central Brazil, in Goiania, C OP ESP is positioned under the larger Planalto Military Command.

It's motto is; "any mission, in any place, at any time, by every way".



Special Operations Command

C Op Esp is a highly specialized and dynamic fighting force that operates all over Brazil. C Op Esp is trained in non conventional warfare. Some of C Op Esp's top level capabilities include; covert reconnaissance on the battlefield, the ability to perform search, destruction, neutralization and interdiction of targets of significant value, perform guided air strikes, rescue allies and high value targets, kidnap enemy personnel, and

conduct operations classified as non conventional warfare.

Another valuable capability that C Op Esp excels in is counterinsurgency and counter-terrorism. Operations of this type include; rescuing hostages of any type, neutralization of explosives and other weapons used by terrorists, monitoring and spying on terrorist groups.

C Op Esp is structured by the following subordinate units:

- 1st Special Forces Battalion (1° BF Esp)
- 1st Commando Action Battalion (1° BAC)
- 1st Battalion of Information Support Operations (1st BOAI)
- 3rd Special Forces Company (3ª Cia F Esp)
- Special Operations Support Battalion (B Ap Op Esp)
- Administrative Base of the Special Operations Command (B Adm C Op Esp)
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense Battalion (BDQBRN)
- 6th Army Police Platoon (6th Pel PE)

GRUMEC

The *Grupamento de Mergulhadores de Combate* (Combat Divers Group), abbreviated to GRUMEC, is the special forces unit of the Brazilian Navy.

The GRUMEC was created in 1974 and is subordinate to the Submarine Force, which provides the primary means of transport for combat diver



GRUMEC Emblem

missions. GRUMEC teams can be transported to the target by a submarine, from which can reach the target by swimming, in kayaks, or in inflatable boats that can be launched from the submarine while it is still under water. The GRUMEC can also reach the target by parachute or helicopter.

The function of the GRUMEC is to infiltrate undetected in coastal and riverine environments in order to perform tasks such as reconnaissance, sabotage and the elimination of targets of strategic value. In this sense it is similar to the U.S. Navy SEALs and British Special Boat Service.

A member of the force is known as a "MEC", which is an abbreviation of "*mergulhador de combate*", meaning "combat diver".

1º Batalhão de Forças Especiais

1º Batalhão de Forças Especiais (1st Special Forces Battalion) or 1° B F Esp is a counter-terrorism unit of the Brazilian Army.

The Battalion was initially formed in 1957 as a jungle rescue unit. However in 1968 it was reorganized as a special forces unit. In 1983 the unit was expanded and placed under the parachute infantry brigade structure.

The Battalion's mission is similar to that of the Green Beret units; however, because they have the CT mission, they have modified their organization to more closely follow Britain's Special Air Service and American's Delta Force. The SF Battalion falls within the Army's Special Operations Brigade and is located in Guadelupe, near Rio de Janeiro.



1º Batalhão de Forças Especiais

The battalion is capable of conducting its missions independently from or in conjunction with conventional forces. Battalion troops are trained in jungle warfare at the Army's CIGS jungle warfare school and in amphibious, mountain warfare, airborne, airmobile and HAHO/HALO operations. They are also prepared for long-range reconnaissance in addition to their CT operations.

COMANF

The Marine Corps Special Operations Battalion, known as *Tonelero* Battalion located in the city of Rio de Janeiro is the military HQ of *Comandos Anfíbios* (COMANF) and is a special force unit of the Brazil-

ian Marine Corps. They are the Marines specifically prepared for the planning and execution of special operations.



COMANF

For officers, sergeants and corporals who have passed the test for the course of qualification for promotion to Sergeant, the nine month Amphibious Commandos Special Course (acronym in Portuguese C-ESP-COMANF) is taught, covering the disciplines of infiltration; exfiltration; commando actions; utility swimming; patrol; explosive devices; advanced first aid; combat in urban areas; fighting hand-to-hand; advanced mountaineering; rappelling; survival techniques at sea and on land; intelligence and counter-intelligence; advanced reconnaissance; handling UAV and rotorcraft of Brazilian Navy, among others, in addition to training to operate in coastal regions and in the wetland and mountains, cold weather, in semi-arid regions, jungle and urban areas.

The battalion is currently organized as follows:

- 1st Reconnaissance Company.
- 2nd Commandos Actions Company.

- 3rd Special Group for Recapture and Rescue Company.
- 4th Command and Services Company.
- Special Operations Instruction Section.

Some members are assigned abroad for training, specializing in courses such as the (IDF/Israel) Sayeret Matkal, (Marina/Spain) Special Operations Command, (USDOD) USSO-COM and the (National Gendarmerie/France) GIGN.

There is a phrase in the Brazilian Navy to define the "COMANF" soldiers: "*Um Comanfê imbatível, dois são inseparáveis e três fazem guerra*" (Portuguese for "One Comanf is unbeatable, two are inseparable and three wage war").

Para-SAR

The *Esquadrão Aeroterrestre de Salvamento* (Airborne Rescue Squadron), known by its nickname Para-SAR, is a Brazilian Air Force special operations search and rescue squadron, based in the city of Campo Grande.

The unit has no aircraft of its own and its airborne personnel conduct operations by being dropped from other units' aircraft. The unit has seven SAR teams located in seven states.

Each Para-SAR detachment is made up of SAR qualified military parachutists. Members of this unit can be distinguished by their maroon berets and orange baseball caps.

The Brazilian Air Force has a long history of parachute training. In 1943, at the former Alfonsos Field School of Aeronautics and with the support

of the Air Force, cadet gymnastics instructor Achile Garcia Charles Astor first introduced civil parachute training in Brazil.

Seeing the usefulness of having a parachuting unit, the Electronics and Flight Protection Administration conducted studies to see how such a unit could be created under the auspices of the air force. The results of that study gave rise to the Para-SAR.



Para-SAR

In 1946, the Brazilian Army formed its parachute school, the now-named General Penha Brazil Parachutist's Instruction Centre. It graduated its first class of Brazilian Air Force students in 1959.

The group initially consisted of a division of three officers and five sergeants whose mandate was to provide instruction to the cadets of the School of Aeronautics and to provide search and rescue, by means of the DEPV. The unit also consisted of a group of volunteers who trained at the old military aviation school and went on to provide help in accidents and under special circumstances.

Eventually, on 2 September 1963, the Airborne Rescue unit

was formed. Para-SAR is the traditional name given to the search and rescue arm of the air force and is housed in the old School of Aeronautics.

By November 20, 1973, the flotilla no longer existed, becoming the Airborne Rescue Squadron, or EAS. Its mandate was to continue training of the BAF parachutists, the instruction and the administration of the rescue teams and helicopter squadrons among other tasks.

The Para-SAR mandate includes specialized instruction for crewmembers and rescue teams of the Brazilian Air Force, SAR and special operations.

New members of the squadron start with the Brazilian Army parachute course and then complete courses such as parachute packing and maintenance, aerial resupply, demolition, sniper and jungle warfare. They then move onto advanced training. The following training programs are offered by the squadron:

Search and rescue

This course includes: aircraft access; fire fighting; machines, engines and radio equipment; free diving; helilift operations; orientation and ground searches; sea and jungle survival; SAR combat tactics; mountaineering; search and rescue theory and first aid.

Scuba diving

Graduates become qualified in scuba diving which is typically used to recover charges and pieces of submerged aircraft.

Airborne techniques

Graduates are qualified to parachute out of a military aircraft

as well as air drop supplies, precision landing, calculate the effects of wind and carry out the pathfinder role. They also learn packing, inspecting and repairing parachutes. Also taught are techniques for aircraft operations using the Lockheed C-130 Hercules and C-95.

Skydiving

The course teaches parachutists operational skydiving, the use of instruments and equipment; skydiving from both low and high altitudes and jumping with weapons and equipment for military operations.

Master skydiver

Graduates of this course become qualified in all aspects of skydiving, from organizing the jump team to coordinating the aircraft to be used. Students are also given a knowledge of meteorology and reading weather reports as well as precision targeting, advanced navigation skills and techniques of free fall Basic Body Fly.

Commando

The Brazilian Air Force commando course teaches combat search and rescue, including locating downed crews in a hostile environment, survival, evasion, resistance and escape.

The course also covers counter-terrorism, reconnaissance and sabotage subjects.

CORE

The *Coordenadoria de Recursos Especiais* (Coordination of Special Assets), best known by its acronym CORE, is the police tactical unit of the Civil Police of Rio de Janeiro State. It was formed on 4 July 1969.



CORE

The duties of the unit include operations against organized crime, high-risk arrests, and high-risk VIP escort.

GOE

Grupo de Operações Especiais (Special Operations Group), mostly known by its acronym GOE, is the police tactical unit of the Civil Police of the state of São Paulo.



GOE

Founded in 1991, GOE serves to assist conventional police units in high-risk operations involving hostages and uprisings in the prison system. It is subordinate to the *Departamento de Polícia Judiciária da Capital* ("Judicial Capital Police Department") - DECAP.

Over the years GOE has carried out innumerable successful tactical actions, and has established itself as one of the largest and best police special forces units in Brazil.



Germany calling...

Propaganda has always played an important role in war and some of the broadcasters went on to achieve fame or notoriety. Lord Haw-Haw was probably the best known.

Propaganda has always played an important role in society, whether it be in politics, religion, culture or even commerce. And it definitely has an important role in war.

Take World War II for example. Nazi Germany had a Ministry of Propaganda. From 1939 to 1945 Joseph Goebbels was the Reich Minister of Propaganda.

Herr Goebbels had some interesting things to say about the use of propaganda. Among the quotes he made were:

- “If you tell a lie long enough, it becomes the truth.”
- “The bigger the lie, the more it will be believed.”
- “The truth is the greatest enemy of the State.”

Radio was a perfect method of broadcasting propaganda to the civilian population.

The English-language propaganda radio programme Germany Calling was broadcast to audiences in the United Kingdom on the medium wave station *Reichssender Hamburg* and by shortwave to the United States.

The programme began on 18 September 1939 and continued until 30 April 1945, when the British Army overran Hamburg.

Through such broadcasts, the Reich Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda attempted to discourage and demoralise American, Australian, British, and Canadian troops, and the British population, to

suppress the effectiveness of the Allied war effort through propaganda, and to motivate the Allies to agree to peace terms leaving the Nazi regime intact and in power.

Among many techniques used, the Nazi broadcasts reported on the shooting down of Allied aircraft and the sinking of Allied ships, presenting discouraging reports of high losses and casualties among Allied forces.

Although the broadcasts were well known to be Nazi propaganda, they frequently offered the only details available from behind enemy lines concerning the fate of friends and relatives who did not return from bombing raids over Germany.

As a result, Allied troops and civilians frequently listened to German broadcasts despite the sometimes infuriating content and frequent inaccuracies and exaggerations, in the hopes of learning clues about the fate of Allied troops and air crews.

Mass Observation interviews warned the Ministry of Information of this; consequently, more attention was given to the official reports of British military casualties.

If you are broadcasting in English to listeners that are English-speaking, then naturally the presenters have to be either English or at least be able to speak near-flawless English for the broadcast to have the

right impact.

Lord Haw-Haw

It was radio critic Jonah Barrington of the Daily Express that first coined the name Lord Haw-Haw. He used it to describe a German broadcaster, probably in an attempt to reduce the possible impact of the broadcast.

“He speaks English of the haw-haw, dammit-get-out-of-my-way-variety”.

In practice, the name probably came from the announcers using such verbiage as “So you English believe that you can defeat the superior German forces! Haw, Haw,” a low-brow put-down obviously meant as a discouragement to the opposition.

The “Haw, Haw” name reference was then applied to a number of different announcers and, even soon after Barrington coined the nickname, it was uncertain exactly which specific German broadcaster he was describing.

Some British media and listeners just used “Lord Haw-Haw” as a generic term to describe all English-language German broadcasters, although other nicknames, like “Sinister Sam”, were occasionally used by the BBC to distinguish between obviously different speakers. Poor reception may have contributed to some listeners’ difficulties in distinguishing between broadcasters.



HAW HAW: William Joyce would become better known as Lord Haw-Haw.

A number of announcers could have been the original Lord Haw-Haw.

Wolf Mittler was a German journalist. Mittler spoke near-flawless English, which he had learned from his mother, who had been born of German parents in Ireland. His persona was described by some listeners as similar to the fictional aristocrat Bertie Wooster.

Reportedly finding political matters distasteful, he was relieved to be replaced by Norman Baillie-Stewart, who stated that Mittler “sounded almost like a caricature of an Englishman”.

It has been speculated that it was Mittler’s voice which Barrington described; if so it would make him the original Lord Haw-Haw.

In 1943, Mittler was deemed suspect and arrested by the Gestapo, but he managed to escape to Switzerland. After the war, he worked extensively for

German radio and television.

Norman Baillie-Stewart was a former officer of the Seaforth Highlanders who was cashiered for selling secrets to Nazi Germany. He worked as a broadcaster in Germany for a short time in 1939. He was jailed for five years by the British after the war. For a time he claimed that he was the original Lord Haw-Haw. He did have an upper-class accent, but he later decided that it was probably Mittler whose voice Barrington had heard. He may have been the broadcaster the BBC referred to as “Sinister Sam”.

Eduard Dietze, a Glasgow-born broadcaster of a mixed German-British-Hungarian family background, is another possible, but less likely, candidate for the original Lord Haw-Haw. He was one of the English-speaking announcers with an “upper-crust accent” who were heard on German radio in the early days of the war.

William Joyce

William Brooke Joyce was born in Brooklyn, New York but was raised in Ballinrobe, County Mayo in the Republic of Ireland.

As a teenager he was an informant to the British forces about the IRA members during the Irish War of Independence. He was also a senior member of the British Union of Fascists and fled England when tipped off about his planned internment on 26 August 1939.

In October 1939, the Fascist newspaper *Action* identified “one of the subsidiary announcers” on German radio, “with a marked nasal intonation”, as

one of its former members and distanced itself from him as a “renegade”, whose broadcasts were “likely only to rouse the fighting ire of the average Briton.”

In February 1940, the BBC noted that the Lord Haw-Haw of the early war days (possibly Mittler) was now rarely heard on the air and had been replaced by a new spokesman. Joyce was the main German broadcaster in English for most of the war, and became a naturalised German citizen; he is usually regarded as Lord Haw-Haw, even though he was probably not the person to whom the term originally referred.

He had a peculiar hybrid accent that was not of the conventional upper class variety. His distinctive nasal pronunciation of “Germany calling, Germany calling” may have been the result of a fight as a schoolboy that left him with a broken nose.

Joyce, initially an anonymous broadcaster like the others, eventually revealed his real name to his listeners. The Germans actually capitalised on the fame of the Lord Haw-Haw nickname and came to announce him as “William Joyce, otherwise known as Lord Haw-Haw”.

Joyce recorded his final broadcast on 30 April 1945, during the Battle of Berlin. Rambling and audibly drunk, he chided Britain for pursuing the war beyond mere containment of Germany and repeatedly warned of the “menace” of the Soviet Union. He signed off with a final defiant “Heil Hitler and farewell”.

There are conflicting accounts as to whether this last pro-

gramme was actually transmitted, although a recording was found in the Apen studios.

The next day Radio Hamburg was seized by British forces, and on 4 May Welsh journalist and broadcaster Wynford Vaughan-Thomas used it to make a mock “Germany Calling” broadcast denouncing Joyce.

Besides broadcasting, Joyce’s duties included writing propaganda for distribution among British prisoners of war, whom he tried to recruit into the British Free Corps. He wrote a book *Twilight Over England* promoted by the German Ministry of Propaganda, which unfavourably compared the evils of allegedly Jewish-dominated capitalist Britain with the alleged wonders of National Socialist Germany. Adolf Hitler awarded Joyce the War Merit Cross (First and Second Class) for his broadcasts, although they never met.

On 28 May 1945, Joyce was captured by British forces at Flensburg, near the German border with Denmark, which was the last capital of the Third Reich. Spotting a dishevelled figure while resting from gathering firewood, intelligence soldiers engaged him in conversation in French and English. After they asked whether he was Joyce, he reached into his pocket (actually reaching for a false passport); believing he was armed, they shot him through the buttocks, resulting in four wounds.

Two intelligence officers then drove him to a border post and handed him to British military police. Joyce was then taken to London and tried at the Old

Bailey on three counts of high treason.

At his trial Joyce pleaded ‘not guilty’ on all three charges. The only evidence offered that he had begun broadcasting from Germany while his British passport was valid was the testimony of a London police inspector who had questioned him before the war while he was an active member of the British Union of Fascists and claimed to have recognised his voice on a propaganda broadcast in the early weeks of the war.

During the processing of the charges Joyce’s American nationality came to light, and it seemed that he would have to be acquitted, based upon a lack of jurisdiction; he could not be convicted of betraying a country that was not his own. He was acquitted of the first and second charges.

However, the Attorney General, Sir Hartley Shawcross, successfully argued that Joyce’s possession of a British passport, even though he had misstated his nationality to get it, entitled him (until it expired) to British diplomatic protection in Germany and therefore he owed allegiance to the King at the time he commenced working for the Germans. It was on this basis that Joyce was convicted of the third charge and sentenced to death on 19 September 1945.

The noted historian A.J.P. Taylor remarked, in his book *English History 1914–1945*, that “Technically, Joyce was hanged for making a false statement when applying for a passport, the usual penalty for which is a small fine.”

Joyce was executed on 3 Jan-

uary 1946 at Wandsworth Prison, aged 39. He was the next to last person to be hanged for a crime other than murder in the United Kingdom. The last was Theodore Schurch, executed for treachery the following day at Pentonville. In both cases the hangman was Albert Pierrepoint.

As was customary for executed criminals, Joyce’s remains were buried in an unmarked grave within the walls of HMP Wandsworth. In 1976 they were exhumed and reinterred in the Protestant section of the New Cemetery in Bohermore, Galway, Ireland. A Roman Catholic Tridentine Mass was celebrated at his reburial.

Sally and Rose

While Lord Haw-Haw was probably the most famous of the Axis propaganda broadcasters during World War II, he was not alone.

Mildred Elizabeth Gillars, nicknamed ‘Axis Sally’, was an American broadcaster employed by Nazi Germany to disseminate propaganda during World War II.

Her broadcasts, aimed mostly at American troops and the civilian population, included the programmes *Home Sweet Home Hour*, *Midge at the Mike*, and *GI’s Letter-box and Medical Reports*.

Home Sweet Home Hour was a regular propaganda program aimed at making U.S. forces in Europe feel homesick. A running theme of these broadcasts was the infidelity of soldiers’ wives and sweethearts while the listeners were stationed in Europe and North Africa.

The broadcasts were designed to make soldiers feel doubt about their mission, their leaders, and their prospects after the war.

During *Midge at the Mike* she played American songs interspersed with defeatist propaganda, anti-Semitic rhetoric and attacks on Franklin D. Roosevelt.

GI’s Letter-box and Medical Reports was directed at the U.S. home audience in which Gillars used information on wounded and captured U.S. airmen to cause fear and worry in their families.

Following her capture in post-war Berlin, she became the first woman to be convicted of treason against the United States.

In March 1949, she was sentenced to ten to thirty years’ imprisonment. She was released in 1961 after serving twelve years of her sentence.

She died in Columbus, Ohio on 25 June 1988 at the age of 87.

Tokyo Rose was a name given by Allied troops in the South Pacific during World War II to all female English-speaking radio broadcasters of Japanese propaganda.

The programmes were broadcast in the South Pacific and North America to demoralize Allied forces abroad and their families at home by emphasizing troops’ wartime difficulties and military losses.

Several female broadcasters operated under different aliases and in different cities throughout the Empire, including Tokyo, Manila, and Shanghai. The name “Tokyo Rose” was never actually used by any Japanese

broadcaster, but it first appeared in U.S. newspapers in the context of these radio programs in 1943.

During the war, Tokyo Rose was not any one individual, but rather a group of largely unconnected women working within the same propagandist effort throughout the Japanese Empire.

Korea and Vietnam

Anna Wallis Suh was an American missionary and educator. She earned the nickname ‘Seoul City Sue’ as a North Korean propaganda radio announcer to United States forces during the Korean War.

Nicknamed ‘Hanoi Hannah’, Trịnh Thị Ngọ was a Vietnamese radio personality best known for her work during the Vietnam War, when she made English-language broadcasts for North Vietnam directed at United States troops.

Few if any desertions are thought to have happened because of her propaganda work and the soldiers “hooted at her scare tactics”.

They were sometimes impressed, however, when she mentioned the correct location of their unit (when they would “give a toast to her and throw beer cans at the radio”), named US casualties and welcomed Navy ships into port with their correct arrival details and crew members’ names.

There were exaggerated legends of her omniscience, with rumours that she would give clues about everything from specific future North Vietnamese attacks to soldiers’ girlfriends cheating on them at home. In

reality, most of her information came from publications such as the US military newspaper, Stars and Stripes.

It has been claimed that US forces in Vietnam distrusted the U.S. Armed Forces Radio bulletins, and listened to Ngô’s bulletins for information from the U.S.

Modern-day broadcasts

Radio is no longer as popular as it once was. It is seldom used these days for broadcasting propaganda.

Social media, such as YouTube, Facebook and Twitter, are the modern tools used for broadcasting propaganda.

And while we may never listen to another Lord Haw-Haw, Axis Sally, Tokyo Rose or Hanoi Hannah, we have been exposed to the likes of Baghdad Bob and Azzam the American.

Baghdad Bob, also known as Comical Ali, was Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf. He was the Iraqi Information Minister under Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, acting as spokesperson for the Arab Socialist Ba’ath Party and Saddam’s government.

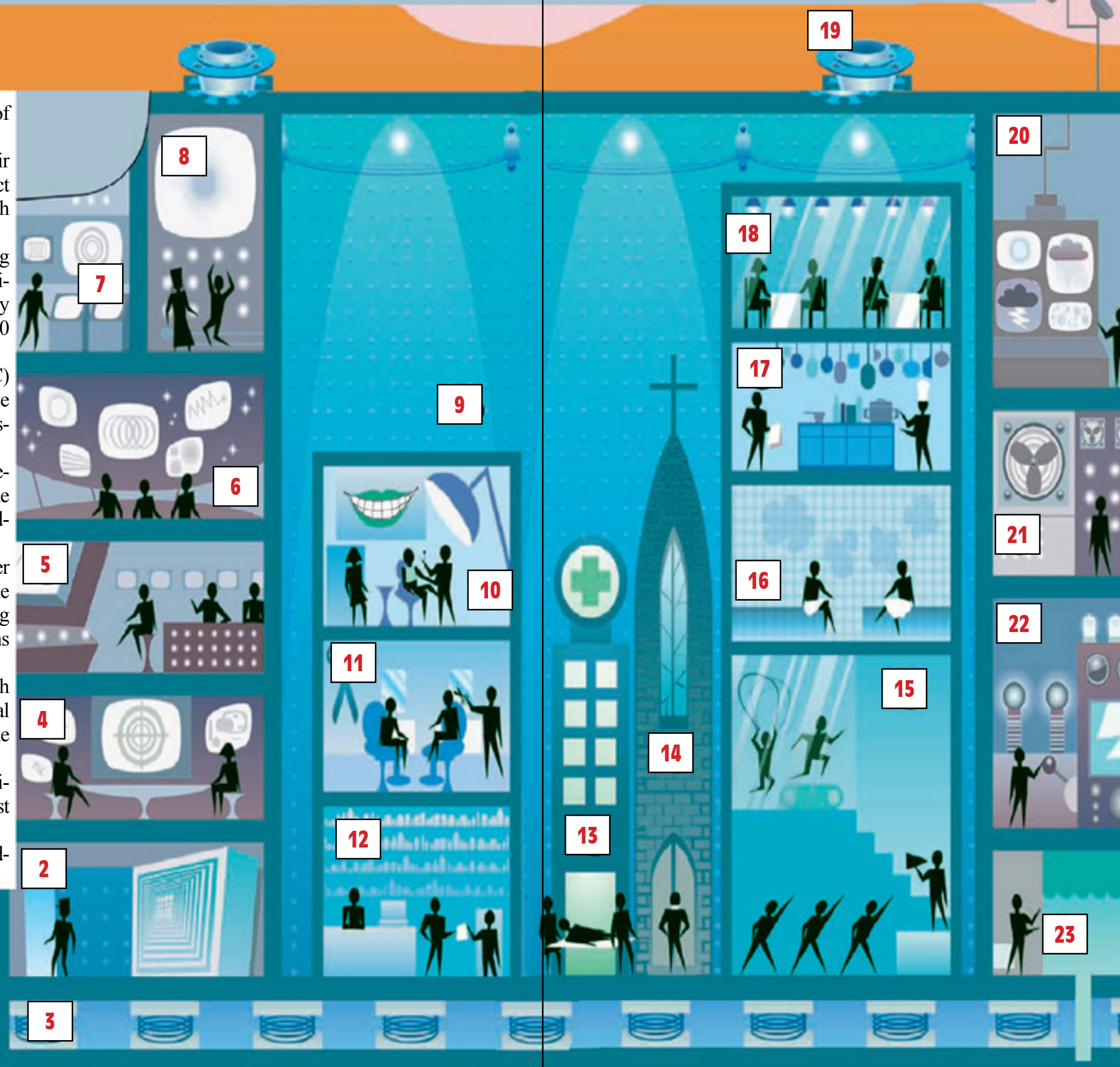
During a press conference he denied that there were any American tanks in Baghdad, even though they were only several hundred metres away and the sounds of combat could be heard in the background.

Adam Yahiye Gadahn (born Adam Pearlman) was an American spokesman and media advisor for the Islamist group al-Qaeda. He appeared in a number of videos produced by al-Qaeda as “Azzam the American” before being killed in a drone strike in January 2015.

Cheyenne Mountain

Deep inside a mountain in Colorado, in a huge cavern blasted out of solid granite, is a secret military base. On the surface it looks just like any other tree-covered mountain, but get past the security guards and you will find your way into an entire underground city. Although the base is no longer a major command centre, the military personnel once stationed here constantly monitored potential threats to the United States. It was always staffed with five crews of 40 people, but could accommodate 800 people in the event of an attack.

1. The tunnel entrance is the only sign of what lies hidden underground.
2. Deep into the mountain, a huge pair of one metre thick steel doors protect the complex from a nuclear blast. Each door weighs 22 metric tons.
3. The buildings float on 1,319 strong steel springs that can soak up the vibration from a nuclear explosion by squeezing or stretching more than 30 cm in length.
4. The Missile Warning Center (MWC) is at the heart of America's defense against nuclear attack, detecting missiles launched anywhere in the world.
5. The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) scans the skies night and day for threats, including terrorist planes and spacecraft.
6. The Space Defense Operations Center (SPADOC) keeps tabs on every single one of more than 8,500 objects orbiting the Earth in space, from space stations to loose bolts.
7. The Combined Intelligence Watch Center (CIWC) looks for any potential danger to the United States around the world, from any source.
8. The National Warning Facility monitors the country for signs of civil unrest and protest movements.
9. Metal walls on the chambers and build-



- ings shield the complex from the electromagnetic pulse of a nuclear explosion.
10. There's a dentist to ensure everyone smiles in the face of danger.
11. A hairdresser and barber means staff can always look neat and tidy for work.
12. The pharmacy stocks a vast range of medication - from headache medicine to lifesaving drugs.
13. The hospital has a fully functional operating room in case of an emergency.
14. A church means that staff can perform religious duties and doubles up as a place to rest.
15. There are two gyms to help staff keep fit.
16. A sauna offers somewhere for staff to relax, particularly after a visit to the gym.
17. The kitchen has a huge food supply, much of it frozen, to guarantee meals for months.
18. The restaurant serves food daily and is the only place in the base to eat.
19. In the event of a big explosion at the surface, blast valves, built in to all the pipes to the outside, can detect pressure waves and snap shut instantly, sealing off the complex from damage or contamination.
20. The weather centre watches the weather, using data fed in from satellites and weather stations.
21. The air intakes have sophisticated filters to remove germs and dangerous radiation and chemicals.
22. During peacetime, electricity is fed into Cheyenne Mountain from local power plants. In emergencies six big 1,750 kilowatt, diesel-powered generators kick in.
23. Water is stored in four huge underground pools, each holding up to 6.8 million litres.

On the right track

During the Second Anglo-Boer War the railway lines were vital life lines, but there were vulnerable to sabotage and attack. That's where the armoured trains came in. By Servaas van Breda.

The Second Anglo-Boer War began on 12 October 1899 and would continue for two and a half years.

Both sides, in one way or another, were very dependent on the railways. The railway lines were vital life lines for transporting both civilian goods and for moving troops and supplies.

The railway lines did, however, have a fundamental flaw - they were vulnerable to both sabotage and attack. This is where armoured trains came to the fore.

The British had some 15 to 20 of them that were constructed at Salt River, Kimberley, Durban and Bulawayo.

An armoured train was basically an armoured locomotive with one or more wagons on

each end. There were many different variations, depending on their function at the time.

The locomotives which were armoured on the Western Railway were CGR 3rd and 4th Class engines, while those armoured at Durban were, naturally, NGR types.

The style of armouring depending on which workshop did the job and the availability of steel plate at the time.

The drivers of the locomotives often had no way of seeing where they were going and had to rely on an electric bell or telephone system from the train commander situated in the leading wagon.

Armoured trains came in all shapes and sizes depending on their function. One of the most

simple armoured wagons was the low-sided flat car or flat wagon. It was reinforced with sandbags and was little more than a mobile slit trench.

Then there were the armoured personnel carriers. These were wagons where the sides had been built up with steel plating or lengths of rail and they offered pretty decent protection. Again details differed, depending on where they had been built. These wagons were not only used on armoured trains. Often they were attached singly to passenger or goods trains as an escort.

Occasionally they were shunted into a remote siding and left as a kind of a mobile fort or strong point.

Armoured trains were mainly used in a defensive role, but they could also be used offensively when needed.

For that reason there were

numerous wagons designed for that specific purpose. For example, some wagons were fitted with one or more Maxim machine guns. These could lay down devastating fire.

There were also four-wheeled wagons armed with Pom-pom guns mounted on a pivot to fire in any direction.

For heavier guns there were bogie vans equipped with a pair of six or twelve pounder guns, one facing in either direction.

Later on special wagons, like bigger editions of the Pom-pom wagon, were designed and brought into use. Often they were fitted with a canvas awning or roof which protected to gun and crew from the sun and,

to a lesser extent, concealed the nature of the wagon from a distance.

Now let's take a look at another important aspect of the railway lines, and one that can still be seen today. These were the blockhouses.

In all, some 8,000 blockhouses were built during the war. Some were built from stone, others from concrete, depending on the availability of materials. Their purpose was to protect the railway lines, especially the bridges, against sabotage.

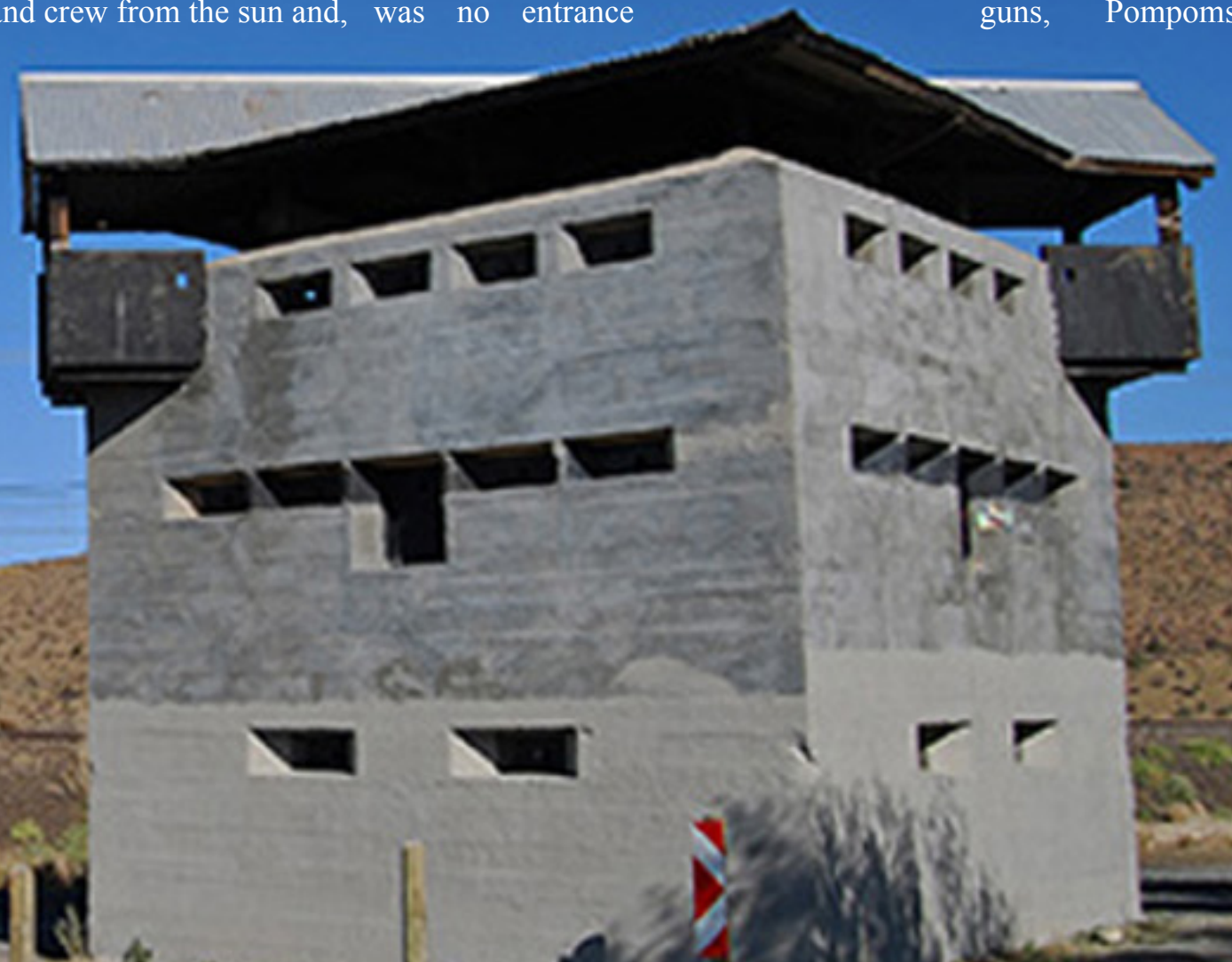
Most blockhouses followed a similar design. They were three storeys high and were about six metres square. There was no entrance

from the ground floor and this area was used for storage. Entrance was via a ladder to a door on the first floor and the ladder was pulled up after them. The first floor served as the living area.

The top floor offered a good view of the surrounding countryside.

The roof was corrugated iron with guttering all around and downpipes that led to storage barrels on the ground floor. Many of these blockhouses can still be found today.

Finally, let's go back on the offensive. Because of the success of armoured wagons armed with machine guns, Pom-poms



and light artillery when used in support of the infantry, it was decided to use something a little larger.

Some six-inch guns were taken off warships in Simon's Town and mounted on specially built wagons. Being naval guns they were naturally manned by Royal Navy gunners.

These were sizeable guns and, unlike the gun wagons that accompanied normal armoured trains, they were only taken forward when required.

Usually they were located so that they could fire straight ahead, or a section of the track could be slewed to point them at the target. It was also possible to use out-riggers to enable them to fire to the side when necessary.

The British Army's planning was based on the assumption that the Boer forces would fall

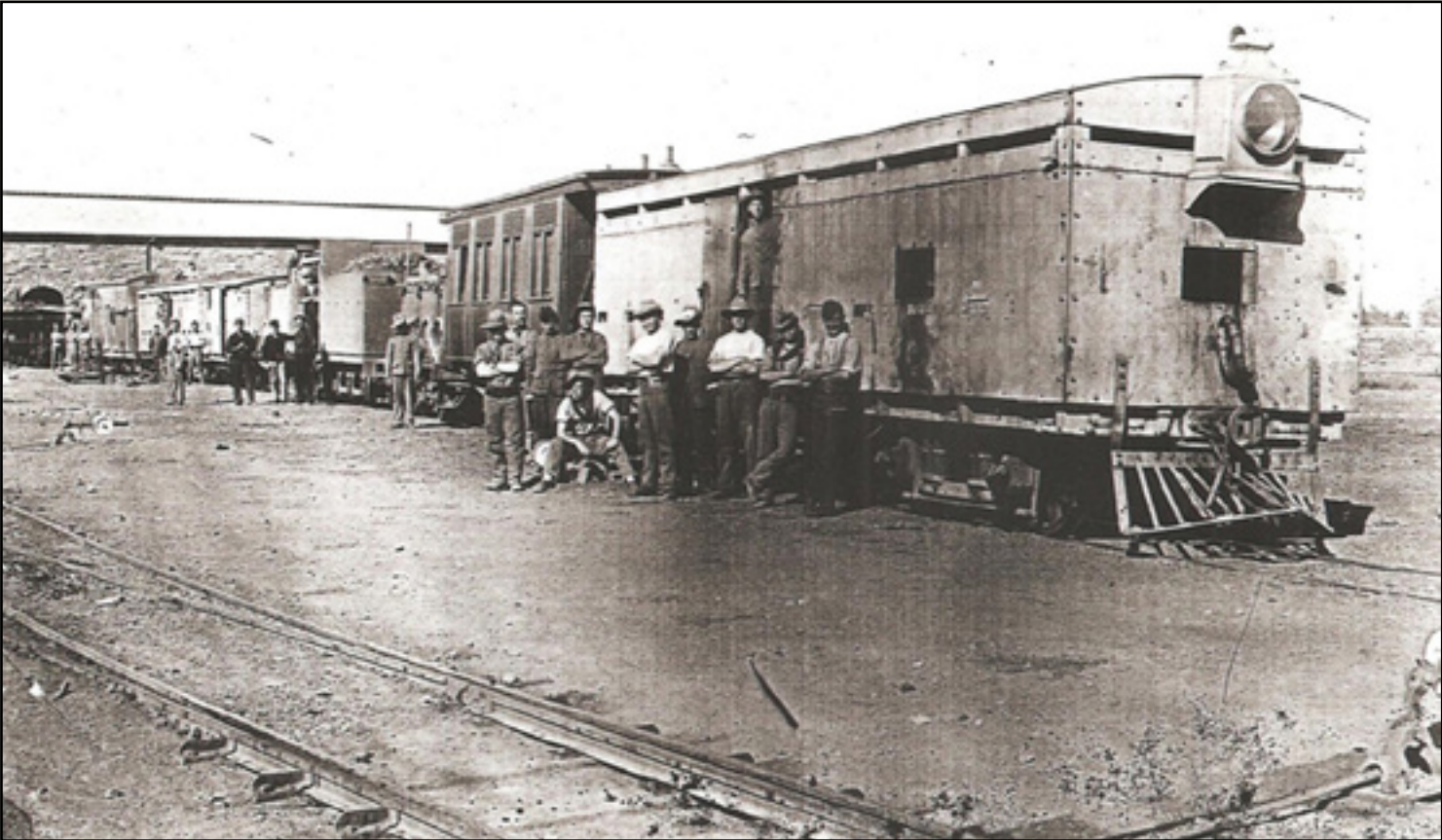
back on their capital and defend it to the last.

On this basis they foresaw the need to have to besiege Pretoria and they therefore made provision for this contingency.

First they organised the equipment necessary to build a narrow-gauge railway line around Pretoria. Secondly, the plan was to bring up a 9.2 inch gun that could fire a shell a distance of nearly 13 kilometres.

As we all know, the siege of Pretoria never took place and the gun, which had been mounted on a special wagon at Salt River and test fired into False Bay, finished the war at Machadodorp without ever having fired a shot in anger.

Editor's Note:
This article is based on talk originally written and presented by David Rind at a Model



READY TO ROLL: Make up of a typical armoured train during the Anglo-Boer War. Note that the locomotive is in the middle of the train, with armoured wagons on either side offering protection.

Railway Convention.
Servaas assisted David with the research, as he had access to the archives at the Naval Museum.
David was tragically murdered in 2001 and Servaas was given the presentation by David's widow.
He added information about the make-up of the trains and has since presented the talk at the Military Academy in Saldanha, at the Staff Naval College, and to MTR 3 and 2 students.
If you enjoyed this article and would like to see more about the topic of the use of trains and the railway during war, we can look at some articles of the armoured trains that were used during World War I and World War II.
Let us know.

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Talking about tradition

It's always interesting to discover some of the traditions that military units and organisations have adopted. Some of which have been around for hundreds of years.

Not only is it interesting to observe some of the traditions attached to military units and organisations, it is just as interesting to find out how they originated.

Battle Honours

A battle honour is an award of a right by a government or sovereign to a military unit to emblazon the name of a battle or operation on its flags, uniforms or other accessories where ornamentation is possible.

In European military tradition, military units may be acknowledged for their achievements in specific wars or operations of a military campaign. In Great Britain and those countries of the Commonwealth which share a common military legacy with the British, battle honours are awarded to selected military units as official acknowledgement for their achievements in specific wars or operations of a military campaign.

These honours usually take the form of a place and a date, for example - "Cambrai 1917".

Trooping the Colour

Trooping the Colour is a ceremony performed by regiments of the British and Commonwealth armies. It has been a tradition of British infantry regiments since the 17th century, although its roots go back much earlier. On the battlefield, a regiment's colours, or flags, were

used as rallying points.

Consequently, regiments would have their ensigns slowly march with their colours between the ranks to enable soldiers to recognise their regiments' colours.

Since 1748, Trooping the Colour has also marked the official birthday of the British sovereign. It is held in London annually on a Saturday in June at Horse Guards Parade by St James's Park, and coincides with the publication of the Birthday Honours List. Among the audience are the Royal family, invited guests, ticket holders and the general public.

Swords in a court-martial

Traditionally in British courts-martial, all court officials would wear swords as well as all officers, whether they were a witness or were acting for the defence or prosecution. All accused, regardless of rank, would be marched into the courtroom by an armed escort.

Officers' escorts would carry a drawn sword. If the accused was not an officer, the escort would carry a drawn cutlass. The accused officer would then have to lay his sword lengthwise on the court table as a symbol of putting his officer's commission and reputation on hold and on the line.

When the verdict was decided, the judge would move the

sword. If the tip of the sword pointed towards the accused, it meant they had been found guilty. If the sword was either unmoved or the hilt of the sword was pointing towards the accused then he had been found not guilty.

The practice was abolished in 2004 following a claim that it was demeaning under the Human Rights Act 1998.

The Royal Australian Navy, however, retains the practice of the sword on the table at courts-martial, as does the Indian Army.

Ship's badges

The Royal Navy assigns badges to every ship, submarine, squadron and shore establishment. Prior to the age of steam ships, ships were identified by their figurehead. With the removal of the figurehead, ships badges and motto's were created to graphically represent the ships.

The official process for creating the badge was initiated by Charles ffoulkes after World War I who was appointed as the Admiralty Advisor on Heraldry. Soon after his appointment The Ships' Badges Committee was established. This was amalgamated in 1983 with the Ships' Names Committee (founded in 1913) to create the Ships' Names and Badges Committee.

The Naval Crown adorns the top of all the badges. The



SKULL AND CROSSBONES: British submarines began flying the Jolly Roger when returning from successful patrols.

frame is gold rope. Originally, different classes of ships had different shapes, but currently all ships and submarines have a circular design. Shore establishments have an offset square design.

Toasting the Emperor

The 14/20th Kings Hussars is a cavalry unit in the British Army. At formal dinners a chamber pot filled with champagne is passed around and each officer drinks from the pot and toasts 'the emperor'.

The chamber pot once belonged to Emperor Joseph Bonaparte of France and he was probably using it right up until the Battle of Vitoria in 1813.

It was at this battle that the emperor was soundly defeated and his chamber pot was amongst the loot taken by the 14/20th Kings Hussars. It was shortly after this that the tradition began.

Hopefully they gave the chamber pot a good cleaning before drinking the first toast.

Jolly Roger

The Jolly Roger is a symbol that has been used by submarines, primarily those of the Royal Navy Submarine Service and its predecessors. The practice came about during World War I.

First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Arthur Wilson was not all that impressed with the method that submarines attacked their targets.

He complained that submarines were "underhanded, unfair, and damned un-English" and that personnel should be hanged as pirates.

Lieutenant Commander Max Horton, the skipper of a British submarine, was known for his wicked sense of humour. In response to Wilson's comment he began flying the Jolly Roger flag after returning from successful patrols.

During World War II Horton would go on to become an admiral and flag officer submarines.

Take a seat

When *God Save The Queen* is played, all British soldiers will jump to attention and salute. Except, that is, for the officers of the 13/15th Royal Hussars.

When the national anthem is played they will remain seated. In fact any officer standing will immediately find somewhere to sit. Even if it is on the floor.

Are they a rebellious, unpatriotic mob that show no respect for the monarch or their country? No, they're following an old regimental tradition.

It appears that Queen Mary was a guest at a formal dinner at the regiment. When the national anthem, *God Save The Queen*, was played all the officers present jumped to their feet.

"Don't bother to stand," Queen Mary told them. "Please sit down and relax, Sit down."

So they did sit down - and have never stood since for the national anthem.

Missing Man Formation

The missing man formation is an aerial salute performed as part of a flypast of aircraft at a funeral or memorial event, typically in memory of a fallen pilot, a well-known military service member or veteran, or a well-known political figure.

Several variants of the formation are seen. The formation most commonly used in the United States is based on the "finger-four" aircraft combat formation composed of two pairs of aircraft.

The aircraft fly in a V-shape with the flight leader at the point and his wingman on his left. The second element leader and his wingman fly to his right.

The formation flies over the ceremony low enough to be clearly seen and the second element leader abruptly pulls up out of the formation while the rest of the formation continues in level flight until all aircraft are out of sight.

In an older variant the formation is flown with the second element leader position conspicuously empty. In another variation, the flight approaches from the south, preferably near sundown, and one of the aircraft will suddenly split off to the west, flying into the sunset.

In all cases, the aircraft performing the pull-up, split off, or missing from the formation, is honouring the person (or persons) who has died, and it represents their departure.

Navy toasts

The Navy also had many traditions, especially the Royal Navy. One of these traditions is drinking a special toast at mess dinners. This toast is made immediately after the loyal toast.

The toast would depend on what day of the week it was. On a Sunday, for example, the toast would be, "Absent friends." The Monday toast would be, "Our ships at sea."

On a Tuesday the toast was, "Our men" and on a Wednesday it would be "Ourselves (as no one else is likely to be concerned for us!)."

The toast on a Thursday was "A Bloody War or a Sickly Season" (and a quick promotion!). Friday's toast was "A Willing Foe and Sea-Room."

On Saturday's the toast would be "Wives and Sweethearts" (may they never meet). The



FINAL REVIEW: The riderless horse named Sergeant York, during the funeral procession for the 40th President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, with President Reagan's boots reversed in the stirrups.

words in brackets are normally quip after the toast.

In June 2013 the Tuesday and Saturday toasts were officially changed under orders from the Second Sea Lord, Vice-Admiral David Steel, to reflect the fact that women have been at sea in the Royal Navy for nearly two decades.

Officially the Tuesday toast is now "Our Sailors" and the Saturday toast is "Our Families". However, the majority of personnel prefer the traditional toasts and they are still overwhelmingly used.

While most of these toasts are self-explanatory, "a bloody war or a sickly season" refers to the desire and likelihood of being promoted when many people die: during war or sickness.

The Navy traditionally makes the loyal toast seated, due to the evident danger of low deck-heads on wooden sailing ships.

The toasts are typically given

by the youngest officer present at the mess dinner.

Riderless horse

A riderless horse is a single horse, without a rider, and with boots reversed in the stirrups, which sometimes accompanies a funeral procession. The horse follows the caisson carrying the casket.

A riderless horse can also be featured in military parades to symbolize fallen soldiers. In Australia for example, it is traditional for a riderless horse known as the 'Lone Charger' to lead the annual Anzac Day marches.

The custom is believed to date back to the time of Genghis Khan, when a horse was sacrificed to serve the fallen warrior in the next world. The riderless horse later came to symbolize a warrior who would ride no more.

In the United States, the riderless horse is part of the military honours given to an Army



MISSING MAN: During a fly over, a single jet starts to pull up away from the formation to begin the 'Missing Man Formation'. This honours the person, or persons, that have died.

or Marine Corps officer who was a colonel or above; this includes the President, by virtue of having been the country's commander in chief and the Secretary of Defence, having overseen the armed forces. Alexander Hamilton, former Secretary of the Treasury (1789-1795) was the first American to be given the honour.

Historian Ron Chernow noted that Hamilton's grey horse followed the casket "with the boots and spurs of its former rider reversed in the stirrups."

Abraham Lincoln was the first president of the United States to be officially honoured by the inclusion of the riderless horse in his funeral cortège, although a letter from George Washington's personal secretary recorded the president's horse was part of the president's funeral, carrying his saddle, pistols, and holsters.

Traditionally, simple black riding boots are reversed in the stirrups to represent a fallen commander looking back on his troops for the last time.

Three-volley Salute

The three-volley salute is a ceremonial act performed at military funerals and sometimes also police funerals.

The custom originates from the European dynastic wars, where the fighting ceased so the dead and wounded could be removed. Then, three shots were fired into the air to signal that the battle could resume.

The Last Post

The Last Post was first published in the 1790s, just one of the two dozen or so bugle calls sounded daily in British Army camps.

The soldier's day started with the call of Reveille, and came to a close with the First Post. This indicated that the duty officer was commencing his inspection of the sentry-posts on the perimeter of the camp. The inspection would take about 30 minutes, and at the end there would be sounded the Last Post, the name referring simply to the fact that the final sentry-post had been inspected. For dec-

ades this was the sole use of the call, a signal that the camp was now secure for the night, closed till morning.

It was not until the 1850s that another role began to emerge. It was an era when many military bandsmen, and most bandmasters, were civilians and were under no obligation to accompany their regiments on overseas postings. So when a soldier died in a foreign land, there was often no music available to accompany him on his final journey. And, necessity being the mother of invention, a new custom arose of charging the regimental bugler to sound the Last Post over the grave.

The symbolism was simple and highly effective. The Last Post now signalled the end not merely of the day but of this earthly life. And, as the practice developed - back home now as well as abroad - it was then followed by few moments of silent prayer and by the sounding of Reveille, the first call of the day, to signify the man's rebirth into eternal life.

Over the years, the piece has changed - not in the music but in the performance. Notes are held for longer, the pauses extended, the expression more mournful, so that it now lasts around 75 seconds, rather than the 45 seconds it used to take to mark the end of the day.

It is interesting to note that the American military do not use the Last Post, but rather use a bugle call known as Taps. Reportedly it originated in 1862 during the American Civil War.

Saints alive!

There are no fewer than 314 Patron Saints. Every continent, country, place, occupation, ailment, illness, and danger has a patron saint to call its own. And the military is no exception. Special thanks to Paul J. Els for help with the research.

Let's face it, being in the military can sometimes be a bit of a hazardous occupation. Especially when someone decides to go and start a war.

When you're in harms way you will try and make full use of any knowledge, training, technology and equipment that is available to try and ensure your protection.

If you can whistle up the support of a few guardian angels, why not. Even better, how about having your very own patron saint.

There are no fewer than 314 Patron Saints. Every continent, country, place, occupation, ailment, illness, and danger has a patron saint to call its own. And the military is no exception.

Let's take a closer look at some of the patron saints that are linked to the military. Some of them are patron saints of a number of military and non-military occupations. For example, St Adrian is the patron saint of arms dealers, guards, and soldiers. But he is also the patron saint of butchers.

St Adrian of Nicomedia

Patron Saint of arms dealers, guards, and soldiers.

Saint Adrian (also known as Hadrian) or Adrian of Nicomedia (died 4 March 306) was a Herculian Guard of the Roman Emperor Galerius Maximian.

St Barbara.

Patron Saint of artillerymen, military engineers and fire fighters, Italian marines, and service-men of the Russian Strategic Rocket Forces.

Saint Barbara, known in the Eastern Orthodox Church as the Great Martyr Barbara, was an early Christian Greek saint and martyr.

St Florian

Patron Saint of providing protection in battle.

Saint Florian was an officer of the Roman army, who occupied a high administrative post in Noricum, now part of Austria, and who suffered death for the Faith in the days of Diocletian.

St George

Patron Saint of archers, armourers, cavalry, and soldiers.

Saint George was a soldier of Cappadocian Greek origins, a member of the Praetorian Guard for Roman emperor Diocletian who was sentenced to death for refusing to recant his Christian faith.

St Ignatius of Loyola

Patron Saint of soldiers.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola was a Spanish Basque Catholic priest and theologian, who co-founded the religious order called the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) and became its first Superior Gen-

eral at Paris in 1541.

St Joan of Arc

Patron Saint of soldiers.

Joan of Arc, nicknamed "The Maid of Orléans", is considered a heroine of France for her role during the Lancastrian phase of the Hundred Years' War, and was canonized as a Roman Catholic saint.

St Martin of Tours

Patron Saint of soldiers.

Saint Martin of Tours was the third bishop of Tours. He has become one of the most familiar and recognizable Christian saints in Western tradition.

St Maurice

Patron Saint of infantrymen and alpine troops.

Saint Maurice was the leader of the legendary Roman Theban Legion in the 3rd century, and one of the favourite and most widely venerated saints of that group.

Saint Philip of Agirone

Patron Saint of US Army Special Forces.

Philip Romolo Neri, known as the Third Apostle of Rome, after Saints Peter and Paul, was an Italian priest noted for founding a society of secular clergy called the Congregation of the Oratory.



AIRBORNE: Saint Michael medal. He is the patron saint of paratroopers.

St Quentin

Patron Saint of bombardiers and chaplains.

Saint Quentin, also known as Quentin of Amiens, was an early Christian saint. No real details are known of his life.

St Sebastian

Patron Saint of soldiers.

Saint Sebastian was an early Christian saint and martyr. According to traditional belief, he was killed during the Roman emperor Diocletian's persecution of Christians, initially being tied to a post or tree and shot with arrows, though this did not kill him.

He was, according to tradition, rescued and healed by Saint Irene of Rome.

In all versions of the story, shortly after his recovery he went to Diocletian to warn him about his sins, and as a result was clubbed to death.

Other Patron Saints

Here are a few other patron saints that relate to the military.

- **Andorran security forces** - Our Lady Help of Christians.
- **Argentinian Army** - Our Lady of Mercy.
- **Argentinian Air Force** - Our Lady of Loreto.
- **Argentinian military chaplains** - Our Lady of Lujan.
- **Armies of Jalisco, Mexico** - Our Lady of Zapopan.
- **Australian military chaplains** - Our Lady Help of Christians.
- **Bandsmen** - St. Cecilia.
- **Belgian Military Chaplains** - Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces.
- **Bolivian Navy** - Our Lady of Charity.
- **Chilean Army** - Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.
- **Chilean Navy** - Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.
- **Civilian war victims** - Mary, Queen of Peace.
- **Conscientious objectors** - St. Marcellus.
- **Ecuadorian Army** - Our Lady of Mercy.
- **French Army Commissariat** - St. Ambrose.
- **French Security forces** - St. Genevieve.
- **Italian Cavalry** - St. George.
- **Military Chaplains** - St. John of Capistrano.
- **Military Signals** - Gabriel the Archangel.
- **National Guard of Russia** - Prince Vladimir.
- **Naval officers** - St. Francis of Paola.
- **Peruvian Security forces** - St. Rose of Lima.
- **Philippine Military Chaplains** - Immaculate Conception of Mary.
- **Pilots** - Our Lady of Loreto.
- **Prisoners of war** - Leonard of Noblaco.
- **Russian airborne troops** - Holy Prophet Isaiah.
- **Russian Navy** - St Andrew.
- **Russian nuclear submarines** - St Feodor Ushakov.
- **Russian nuclear warhead specialists** - St Seraphim of Sarov.
- **Russian Spetsnaz** - St Alexander Nevskiy.
- **Spanish Army Commissariat** - St. Teresa of Avila.
- **Spanish Army Engineers** - St. Ferdinand III of Castile.
- **Spanish High command** - Immaculate Conception of Mary.
- **Spanish Military Chaplains** - Immaculate Conception of Mary.
- **Spanish Navy** - Our Lady of Mount Carmel.
- **Venezuelan Navy** - Our Lady of Valle.
- **Women's Army Corps** - St. Genevieve.

St Michael the Archangel

Patron Saint of paratroopers.

Saint Michael is more frequently known as Michael the Archangel, the most senior of the three Archangels, Gabriel, Rafael and Michael.

Apart from his patronage of paratroopers, Saint Michael has four distinct roles.

Firstly, He is the Enemy of Satan and the fallen angels. He defeated Satan and ejected him from Paradise and will achieve victory at the hour of the final battle with Satan.

Secondly, He is the Christian angel of death - at the hour of death.

Saint Michael descends and gives each soul the chance to

redeem itself before passing,

Saint Michael's third role is weighing souls (Hence the saint is often depicted holding scales) on Judgment Day.

And Finally, Saint Michael is the Guardian of the church.

It was two chaplains, Valin de la Vassiere and Jego, from the French paratroopers who first suggested that Saint Michael be chosen as the Patron Saint of Paratroopers. This was in Indochina in the late 1940s.

The first Mass in honour of the paratrooper saint was celebrated in Hanoi Cathedral on 29 September 1949.

Since then it has been celebrated as Saint Michael's Day.

South African connection

The first celebration of Saint Michael's Day in South Africa was held in Oudtshoorn in 1972. And the story of how it began is an interesting one.

In 1969 four members of the South African Defence Force (all paratroopers) were deployed to Nigeria to train troops of the Biafran Army.

One of the training team, Staff Sergeant Trevor Floyd, was given a weekend off in September. He boarded a flight at Uli Airport in Nigeria on the Friday night and landed in Libreville in Gabon.

On landing he left the aircraft at the end of the runway, jumped a fence, and headed for a villa occupied by French soldiers.

He walked straight into a huge party. On asking what the occasion was, they informed him that the following day, Saturday, was Saint Michael's Day.

Of course he had no clue as to what that was and was then



ST MICHAEL CELEBRATIONS: From left to right: Koos Moorcroft, PW van Heerden, Kenaas Conradie Dewald de Beer and Trevor Floyd.

informed that it was in celebration of Saint Michael, the patron saint of paratroopers.

Naturally, being a paratrooper himself, Trevor felt that it was his duty to celebrate with them.

The celebrations continued well into the Sunday night, meaning that Trevor missed his flight back to Uli and could only fly back on the Monday evening.

When he arrived back at Uli the then Major Jan Breytenbach was furious. He calmed down when Trevor explained the reason as to why he was late.

Major Breytenbach decided that they were going to hold their own Saint Michael's Day celebration the very next weekend.

Once back on South African soil the four members of the training team would go on to become the first members of One Reconnaissance Commando (the Recces), South Africa's Special Forces unit, which was formed in Oudtshoorn.

In 1972 it was decided that the first Saint Michael's Day

celebrations would take place in South Africa.

A Dakota was arranged to bring Parachute Battalion members from Bloemfontein for a jump and for the celebrations that would be held at the Cretaria Hotel. Part of the group from Bloemfontein included Captains Joe Verster and Hennie Blaauw.

Other Recce members from Oudtshoorn included Dave Tippet, Jimmy Oberholster and Wannies Wannenberg. Even the ladies bought themselves new dresses for the occasion.

One Reconnaissance Commando was transferred to Durban in 1974 and the celebration were continued every year by the Special Forces units.

The Pretoria Canopy celebration of 2018 was a great success where Trevor Floyd told his story in the involvement in the first celebration held in South Africa.

Pretoria Canopy is planning to have their St Michaels function on the 28 September 2019.



Acronyms

Do you know your HALO from your HAHO? Were you GV enough to stay out of DB? And did you prefer an FN to an AK? This month we're looking at military acronyms. See how many of these you get right. Answers on page 85.

1. What does NATO stand for?
2. The AK-47 is one of the most popular weapons of all time. What does the AK stand for?
3. In the SADF the term 'GV' was used to describe someone who was very enthusiastic. What did 'GV' stand for?
4. The Casspir was an armoured personnel carrier originally developed for and used by the South African Police and later used by the SADF. What did Casspir stand for?
5. In parachuting terms, what does HALO stand for?
6. The MP 40 was a submachine gun used by the Germans in World War II. What did the MP stand for?
7. PLAN was the military wing of SWAPO. What did PLAN stand for?
8. During the Cold War, the main security agency for the Soviet Union was the KGB. What did KGB stand for?
9. The South African R1 rifle was designed on the Belgian FN rifle. What did FN stand for?
10. The national intelligence agency of Israel is the Mossad. What does Mossad stand for?
11. The *Waffen SS* was the armed wing of the Nazi SS organisation. What did SS stand for?
12. In the SADF, DB was not a place where you wanted to spend any time. What did 'DB' stand for?
13. During World War II the ME 109 fighter aircraft that was the backbone of the Luftwaffe's fighter force. What did 'ME' stand for?
14. The PIAT Mk I was a British man-portable anti-tank weapon developed during the Second World War. What did PIAT stand for?
15. The RPG-7 is a Russian shoulder-launched anti-tank weapon. What does RPG stand for?
16. The M1918 BAR was an American weapon that saw action from World War I to the Vietnam War. What did BAR stand for?
17. With its distinctive sound and high rate of fire, the RPD was a popular Russian light machine gun. What did RPD stand for?
18. Flak is a common term for anti-aircraft fire. Where does the word Flak come from?
19. The 7.5 cm Pak 40 was a German 75 millimetre anti-tank gun used in World War II. What did Pak stand for?
20. In the SADF what did PF and CF stand for?



Rank Structure - Brazil

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 Brazilian Armed Forces.

The *Forças Armadas Brasileiras* (Brazilian Armed Forces) is the unified military organization of Brazil. The Navy includes the Brazilian Marine Corps and Brazilian Naval Aviation.

It compromises the Brazilian Army, the Brazilian Navy, and the Brazilian Air Force. The ranks originate from those adopted upon Brazil's independence from Portugal in 1822. Nowadays they are defined by Act no. 6880 of December 9, 1980.

The Army includes the Brazilian Army Aviation, while



Brazilian Army

Non-commissioned Officers (NCO) and Warrant Officer



Soldado
(Private)



Cabo
(Corporal)



Terceiro-Sargento
(Third Sergeant)



Segundo-Sargento
(Sergeant)



Primeiro-Sargento
(First Sergeant)



Subtenente
(Warrant Officer)

Officers



Aspirante-a-oficial
(Officer Candidate)



Segundo tenente
(2nd Lieutenant)



Primeiro tenente
(Lieutenant)



Capitão
(Captain)



Major
(Major)



Tenente-coronel
(Lieutenant Colonel)



Coronel
(Colonel)



General-de-brigada
(Brigadier General)



General-de-divisão
(Divisional General)



General-de-exército
(Army General)



Marechal
(Marshal)

Brazilian Navy

Non-commissioned Officers (NCO) and Warrant Officer



Marinheiro
(Seaman)



Cabo
(Leading Seaman)



Terceiro-Sargento
(Petty Officer)



Segundo-Sargento
(First Petty Officer)



Primeiro-Sargento
(Chief Petty Officer)



Suboficial
(Warrant Officer)

Officers



Guarda-marinha
(Midshipman)



Segundo tenente
(2nd Lieutenant)



Primeiro tenente
(Lieutenant)



Capitão-tenente
(Captain Lieutenant)



Capitão-de-corveta
(Corvette Captain)



Capitão-de-Fragata
(Frigate Captain)



Capitão-de-Mar-e-Guerra
(Captain of Sea and War)



Contra-almirante
(Rear Admiral)



Vice-almirante
(Vice Admiral)



Almirante-de-esquadra
(Admiral of the Squadron)



Almirante
(Grand Admiral)

Brazilian Air Force

Non-commissioned Officers (NCO) and Warrant Officer



Soldado
(Airman)



Cabo
(Corporal)



Terceiro-Sargento
(Third Sergeant)



Segundo-Sargento
(Sergeant)



Primeiro-Sargento
(Flight Sergeant)



Suboficial
(Warrant Officer)

Officers



Aspirante
(Officer Candidate)



Primeiro tenente
(Lieutenant)



Capitão
(Captain)



Major
(Major)



Tenente-coronel
(Lieutenant Colonel)



Coronel
(Colonel)



Brigadeiro-do-ar
(Brigadier)



Major-brigadeiro
(Major Brigadier)



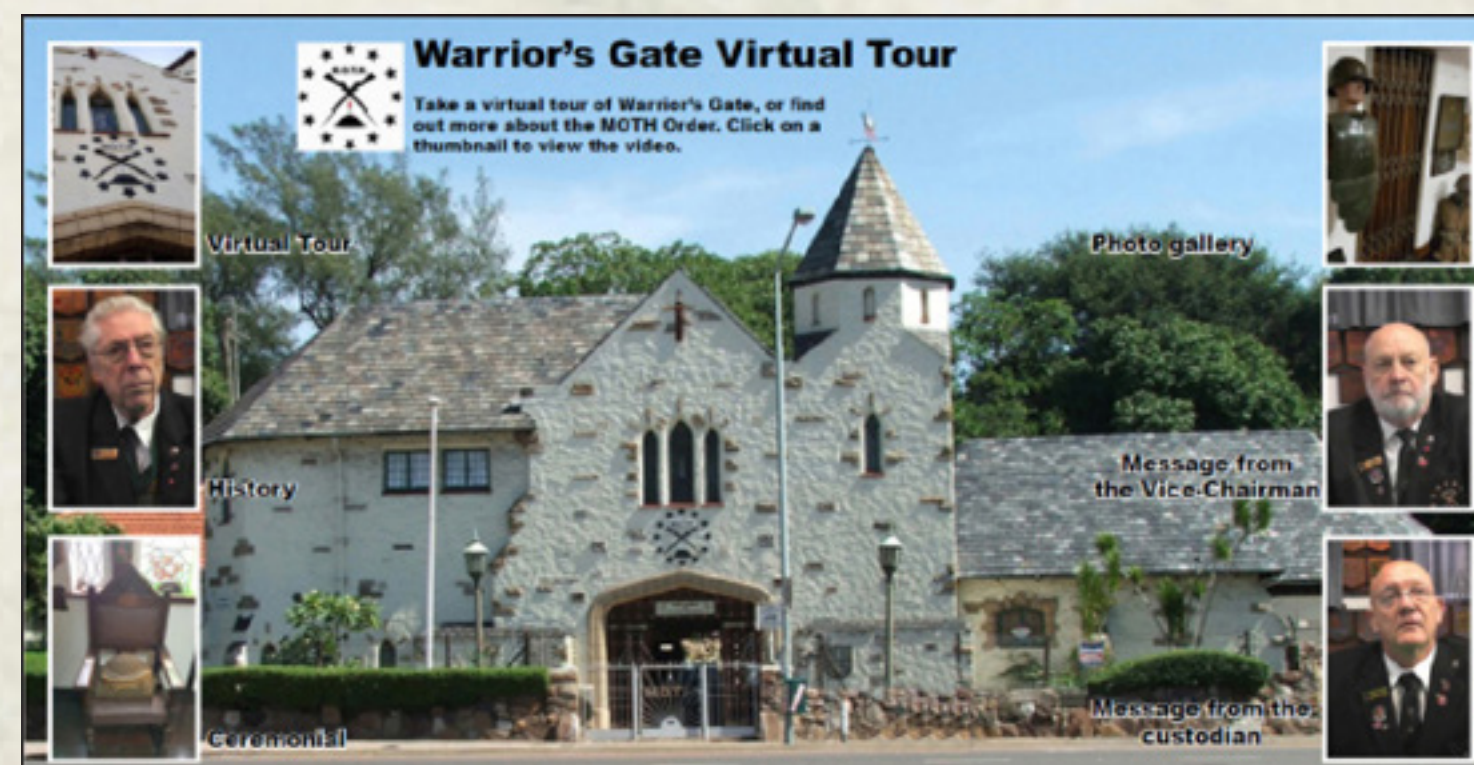
Tenente-brigadeiro
(Lieutenant Brigadier)



Marechal-do-ar
(Marshal of the Air)



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



A matter of survival - Trapping III

Over the next few months we will be running a series of articles looking at survival, something that has always been important for those in the military. This month we look at constructing spear traps.

As we've seen from past articles in this series, you need to eat to survive. While we can survive on plants and grains, meat is an important source of food.

If you trap a small animal, such as a mouse, it will provide meat for a single meal. If, however, you trap something larger, such as a buck or a wild pig, it will provide you with meat for a number of meals.

In order to trap larger animals you need a trap that is able to kill your prey. This is where spear traps are effective.

These traps are particularly good for killing pigs and buck. But they are extremely dangerous and can be lethal to humans.

Always stand behind the spear when setting the trap and ensure that the location and danger is known to everyone.

Mark with signs to attract human attention. Except in a survival situation, never leave spear traps set and unsupervised.

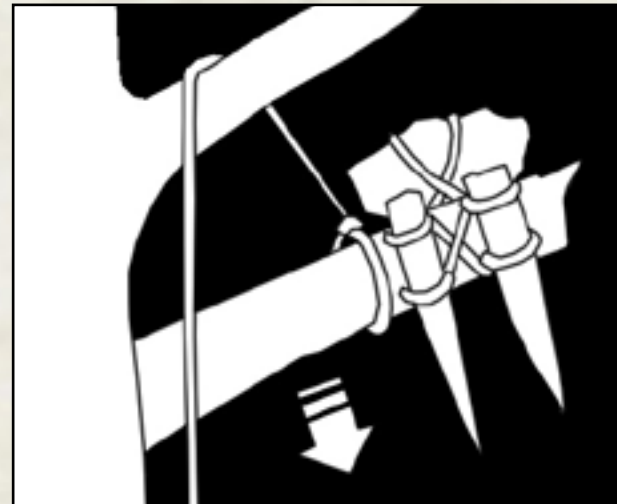
It should also be noted, as mentioned earlier, these traps can be lethal to humans.

In a situation where you are not doing the hunting, but a rather the hunted, these traps are an excellent way of slowing down pursuers.

Traps similar to those shown here were commonly used by the Viet Cong against the Americans in Vietnam.

Deadfall spear trap

This uses the same mechanism as the dead fall trap but uses rocks to add weight and arms the trap with sharpened sticks. It delivers a stabbing as well as a stunning blow.



Spring spear trap

This is a very dangerous trap which will kill game. It's very effective against wild pigs.

A springy shaft, with a spear attached, is held taut above the trail. A slip ring made from bound creeper or smooth material (not from rough twine which could catch against the toggle) attached to a trip wire acts as a release mechanism.

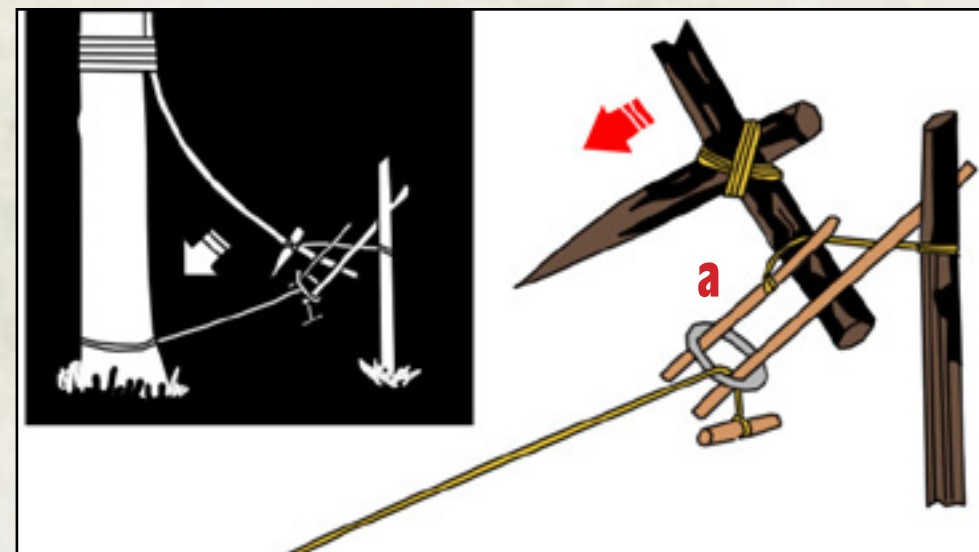
A toggle (a) and short line (to a fixed upright) hold the spear

shaft in tension.

A further rod through the ring is tensed between the near side of the spear shaft and the far face of the upright, securing all until tripped.

Spring spear traps were often used by the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War.

They were cheap and easy to construct and, if triggered, very effective.



Pig spear trap

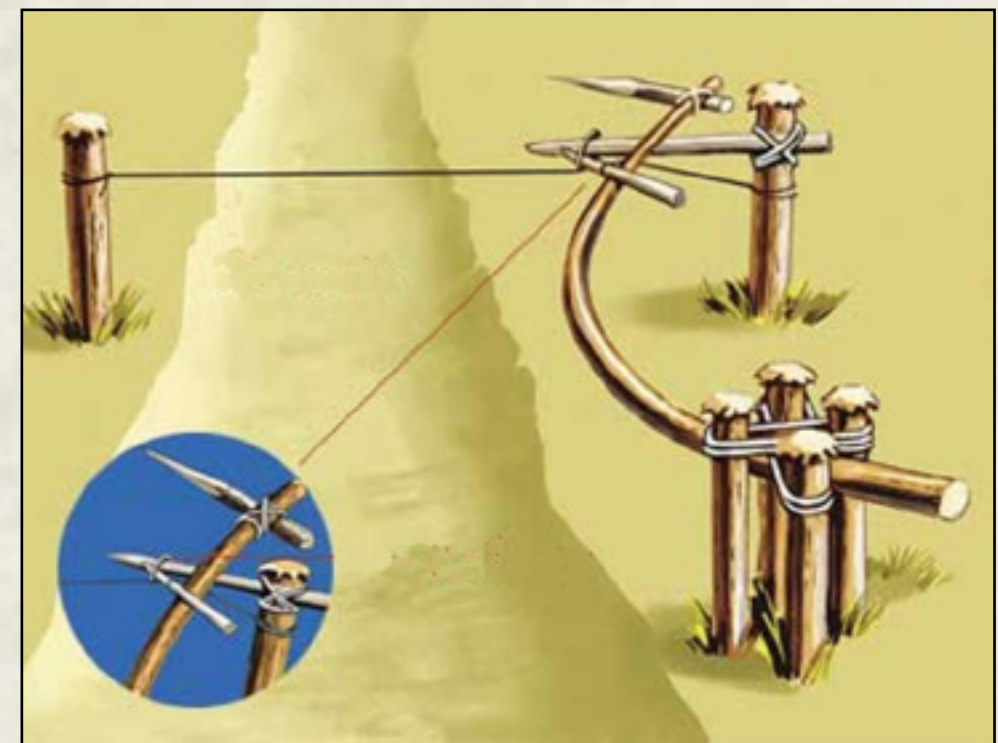
Similar to the spring spear trap but operating horizontally, this trap has the unarmed end of the springy shaft secured and lashed between four uprights.

At the business end, the toggle (anchored by a short line) retains the springy shaft so long as the toggle point is held against the horizontal bar by a ring.

The ring is on the end of a trip wire, anchored to a point on the other side of the trail.

Make sure that the spear is lashed very firmly to the springy shaft or it may be knocked sideways on impact instead of plunging into the animal's body.

Ensure that the spear shaft



is set at a height level with the that height.

body of the animal it is designed

to kill, or alighted to spring to

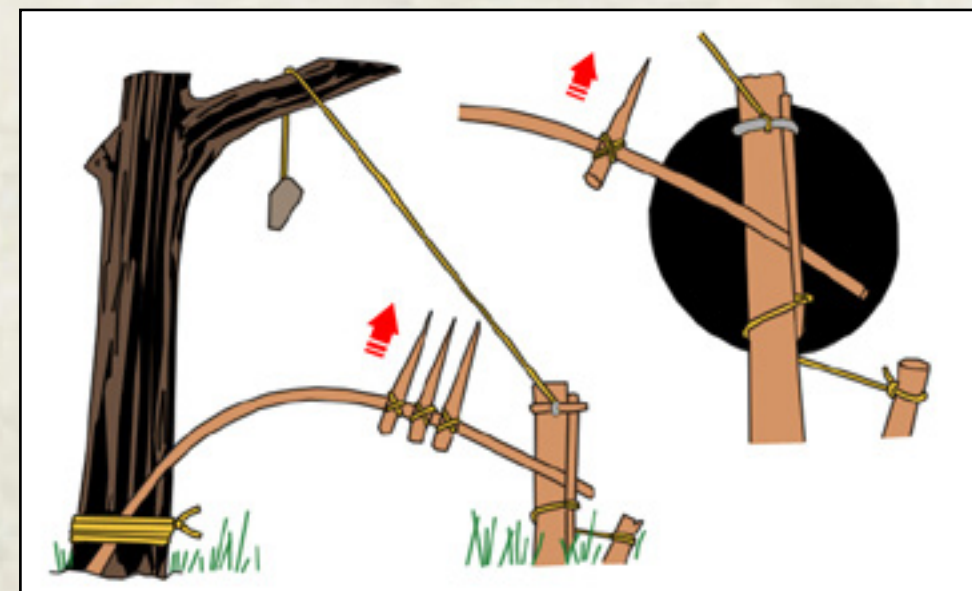


REMEMBER

Because spear traps are so dangerous, make sure the cord and the knots are strong enough to stand the tension.

Never approach these traps except from behind the spear.

Take no risks where these traps are concerned.



Baited spring spear trap

Taking the suspended bait dislodges a retaining ring to release the trigger bar, allowing the spear to fly upwards.

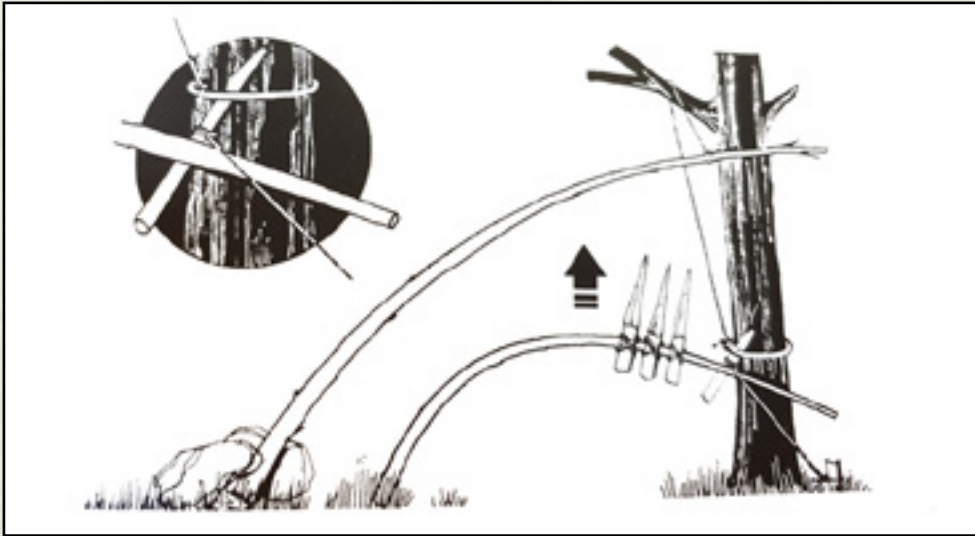
The ring holds the upper end of the trigger bar against an upright post, so that it retains the spear shaft.

The lower wend of the trigger is restrained by a cord. To increase the trap's efficiency use several spear points on the bar.

Perch spear trap

This is a good trap for monkeys. It is similar in action to the baited spring spear trap, but uses a perch instead of bait as the trigger mechanism.

If the securing ring is around the trunk of a tree rather than a post make sure that it is on a smooth area and can move easily.



WARNING

Never leave a bow trap unattended where people could walk into it - it is a potential man-killer.

Bow trap

A simple bow made of suitable wood is held taut and angled to shoot slightly upwards by upright posts and a toggle switch with an arrow fitted.

The trigger bar is held in place by a toggle attached to a trip wire, which must be routed round to the point of aim.

Keep the first stretch of wire close to the mechanism for there

is no point in it being triggered by the animal approaching from behind the bow.

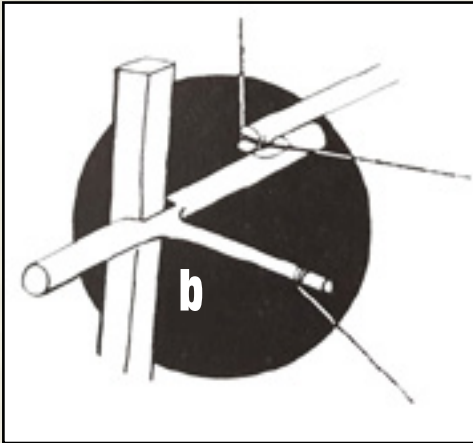
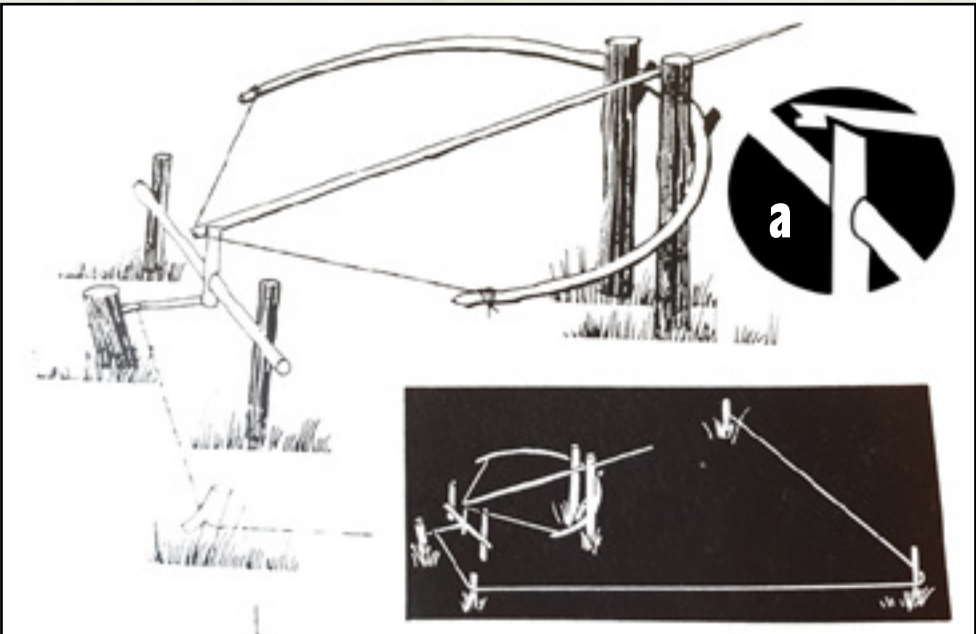
This trap is suitable for large and dangerous animals and can work with animals coming head on to the arrow or approaching from the trip wire side - the quarry passes across the arrow as it fires.

The arrow may also strike

larger animals passing in front of the bow first.

a. Notch arrow for bowstring and trigger bar. Angle trigger bar tip to fit arrow notch.

b. An alternative trigger method can be used by cutting a square face on an upright notch on the side of a forked stick to engage it.



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”

Weapons & Equipment of the United States Army

This month we take a look at the evolution of US Army weapons and equipment from World War I through to the modern era.

World War I

U.S. service members in World War I came to be dubbed doughboys - the term most typically was used to refer to troops deployed to Europe as part of the American Expeditionary Forces.

The standard infantry weapons was the bolt-action Springfield M1903.

The most popular sidearm was the Colt M1911, a pistol that remained in service for many years.

The AEF gas mask and respi-

rator was standard issue to US troops.

Like the British, the Americans favoured a trench knife that was also a 'knuckle duster'. It was effective for mêlée combat.

Like the British and the French, US troops wore puttee., a name adapted from the Hindi *pattī* (bandage). The consisted of a long narrow piece of cloth wound tightly and spirally round the leg from the ankle to the knee. They served to provide both support and protec-

tion.

Infantry Equipment

1. Combat boots.
2. Steel helmet.
3. Springfield M1903.
4. Colt M1911.
5. Mk 1 Grenade.
6. Springfield M1903 Bayonet.
7. Trench knife.
8. Gas mask and case.
9. Canteen.
10. Trenching tool.
11. Mess kit.
12. Ammo bandolier.
13. Backpack.

World War II

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

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

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

The standard submachine gun was the Thompson M1A1,

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

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

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

The Mk 2 grenade was nicknamed the 'pineapple' grenade

and it remained in service until the late 1960s. It was replaced by the M26 grenade in 1952.

Infantry Equipment

1. Combat boots.
2. Steel helmet.
3. Rifle cartridge belt.
4. M1 Garand.
5. Thompson M1A1.
6. M1 carbine.
7. Colt M1911A1.
8. M1 Garand bayonet.
9. Mess kit.
10. Water bottle.
11. Mk 2 grenade.
12. Gas mask case.
13. Back pack.

Vietnam

The Vietnam War was fought between 1 November 1955 and 30 April 1975. Beginning in 1950, American military advisors arrived in what was then French Indochina.

By 1969 there were 530,000 US troops serving in Vietnam.

The standard US rifle was the 5.56 x 45 mm Colt M16A1. It used a 20 round box magazine. Many troops did not like the M16, claiming that it did not have enough stopping power.

Some troops in a squad would carry an M79 grenade launcher, known as the 'Thumper'. It was a single-shot, shoulder-fired, break-action grenade launcher

that fired a 40x46mm grenade. Other troops would be armed with a 12-gauge Winchester Model 1200 pump-action shotgun. The shotgun could hold six rounds.

Troops would carry at least two M26 fragmentation grenades with them.

The standard side arm was the .45 ACP Colt M1911A1.

Most troops would carry something tucked into the band around their helmet. This was usually a packet of cigarettes, insect repellent, or rifle oil.

Field rations consisted of MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat) and these came in a variety of meals.

Modern era

Since the end of the Vietnam War the US Army has been deployed on nearly every continent.

The camouflage uniforms are selected according to the terrain where they will be operating (desert, jungle, etc.).

Much emphasis is placed on personal protection and on communication.

Troops wear ballistic body armour that covers the chest, back and groin.

The Generation II Lightweight Advanced Combat Helmet (ACH) has a fitting that allows the mounting of night vision goggles.

The ACH is currently in the process of being phased out and replaced by the Enhanced Combat Helmet (ECH). The ECH

will offer 35% more protection than the ACH.

Troops will soon be issued with the Enhanced Night Vision Goggles - Binocular (ENVG-B) that allows accurate firing from the hip and even allows firing around corners.

Every troop wears a tactical headset that allows communication at all levels.

Troops also wear knee pads and elbow pads that offer protection against rough terrain.

The M4 carbine is a shorter and lighter variant of the M16A2 assault rifle. The M4 is a 5.56x45 mm NATO, air-cooled, direct impingement gas-operated, magazine-fed carbine. It has a 370 mm barrel and a telescoping stock. It can mount various optical sights.

The SIG Sauer M17 pistol

Infantry Equipment

1. Combat boots.
2. Steel helmet.
3. M16A1.
4. M26 Hand grenade.
5. M79 Grenade Launcher.
6. Winchester Model 1200.
7. Colt M1911A1.
8. M7 Bayonet.
9. Poncho and sleeping bag.
10. Canteen.
11. Mess kit.
12. Trenching tool.
13. Torch.
14. Packback.
15. MRE rations.
16. Ammo bandolier.

replaced the Beretta M9. It is a 9x19mm Parabellum pistol with a 17 or 21 round box magazine.

Some troops will carry the FGM-148 Javelin man-portable fire-and-forget anti-tank missile. It replaced the M47 Dragon.

Infantry Equipment

1. Combat boots.
2. Advanced Combat Helmet.
3. M4 carbine.
4. SIG Sauer M17.
5. M67 Grenade.
6. Bose T5 Tactical Headset.
7. FGM-148 Javelin.
8. MOLLE ammo vest.
9. Torch.
10. Interceptor Body Armour.
11. Knee pads.
12. Elbow pads.
13. Canteen.
14. MOLLE II rucksack.

World War I



World War II



Vietnam



Modern



Hal Moore

A veteran of Korea and Vietnam, Hal Moor rose to the rank of lieutenant general. He was an author and recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross.

Anyone that saw the film *We Were Soldiers* needs to introduction to Hal Moore.

He was a United States Army lieutenant general and author.

He was a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, the U.S. military's second-highest decoration for valour, and was the first of his West Point class (1945) to be promoted to brigadier general, major general, and lieutenant general.

Early life

Harold Gregory "Hal" Moore, Jr was born on 13 February 1922, in Bardstown, Kentucky, the eldest of four children born to Irish Catholics Harold, Sr. and Mary Moore.

His father was an insurance agent of whose territory covered western Kentucky and his mother was a homemaker.

Because he was interested in obtaining an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York and felt his chances were better if he was located in a larger city, he left Kentucky at the age of seventeen before finishing high school and got a job in Washington, D.C. working in the U.S. Sen-

ate book warehouse.

Moore finished high school at night while working days and graduated from St. Joseph Preparatory School in Bardstown with the class of 1940.

Moore attended George Washington University at night for two years, working at his warehouse job while waiting on an appointment to West Point.

During his time at George Washington University he was initiated into the Kappa Sigma Fra-

ternity. After President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed legislation authorizing each senator and representative additional appointments to the military and naval academies, Moore was offered an appointment to the United States Naval Academy by Representative Ed Creal (4th District, Kentucky) but Moore had no desire to go to the Naval Academy.

Moore asked Creal if he could find another congressman that would trade his Military Academy appointment for Creal's Naval Academy appointment would he be agreeable to that arrangement. Creal agreed, and Moore soon found Representative Eugene Cox of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District, with an open appointment to West Point. Cox was impressed with Moore's tenacity and he left Cox's office with the West Point appointment

West Point

Moore received his appointment to the U.S. Military Academy shortly after the United States entered into World War II. He reported to West Point for "Reception Day" on

July 15, 1942, and the summer training referred to as "Beast Barracks" held before the formal academic school term took up in the fall.

During his plebe summer at Pine Camp, he qualified expert on the M-1 Garand rifle and was the top scorer in his company. Although Moore did well in most of his classes, he was academically deficient in the required math subjects and he had to redouble his efforts to absorb the engineering, physics and chemistry, often studying two or three hours past lights out to memorize the material.

During the fall of 1942 his class received the news that because of the war his class would graduate in three years rather than the usual four years. Moore made it through the plebe year, but just barely, or as he put it, "an academic trip from hell."

This observation caused Moore to lead a student life at West Point devoted to studying and very few extracurricular activities. After a ten-day pass, he reported to Camp Popolopen for summer military training where his company trained with various vehicles and fired many types of weapons.

The summer ended with manoeuvres held again at Pine Camp. During the second year at the Academy, he studied more complicated subjects like calculus, electrical engineering, thermodynamics and historic military campaigns. Wednesdays were spent watching the latest Staff Combat Film Report which reported the most recent

fighting from the Pacific and European war fronts.

Summer military training after his second year consisted of touring U.S. Army basic training centres to study tactics and techniques. The final academic year was spent studying military history and tactics as the war was winding down in Europe.

Just before graduation each cadet selected his branch of assignment dependent on their academic standing in the class and the quota of openings in each branch. Moore stood in the bottom fifteen percent and he wanted an infantry assignment.

When his name was finally called to declare, there were still infantry openings available. Moore graduated from West Point on 5 June 1945 and he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the infantry branch.

Post World War II

Moore's first assignment after graduation was the Infantry Officer Basic Course at Fort Benning, Georgia which was a six-week course. During the basic course he applied for the airborne jump school at Fort Benning, however, he was not selected and was instead assigned to the three-week jump school held at the 11th Airborne Division in Tokyo, Japan.

His first assignment out of jump school was with the 187th Glider Infantry Regiment at Camp Crawford near Sapporo, Japan from 1945 until 1948.

After a seven-month stint as company commander, he was assigned as Camp Crawford's construction officer and responsible for all of the construction improvements being made at the camp.

In June 1948, he was reassigned to the 82nd Airborne Division, at Fort Bragg. He volunteered to join the Airborne Test Section, a special unit testing experimental parachutes, and he made the first of some 150 jumps with the section over the next two years on 17 November 1948.

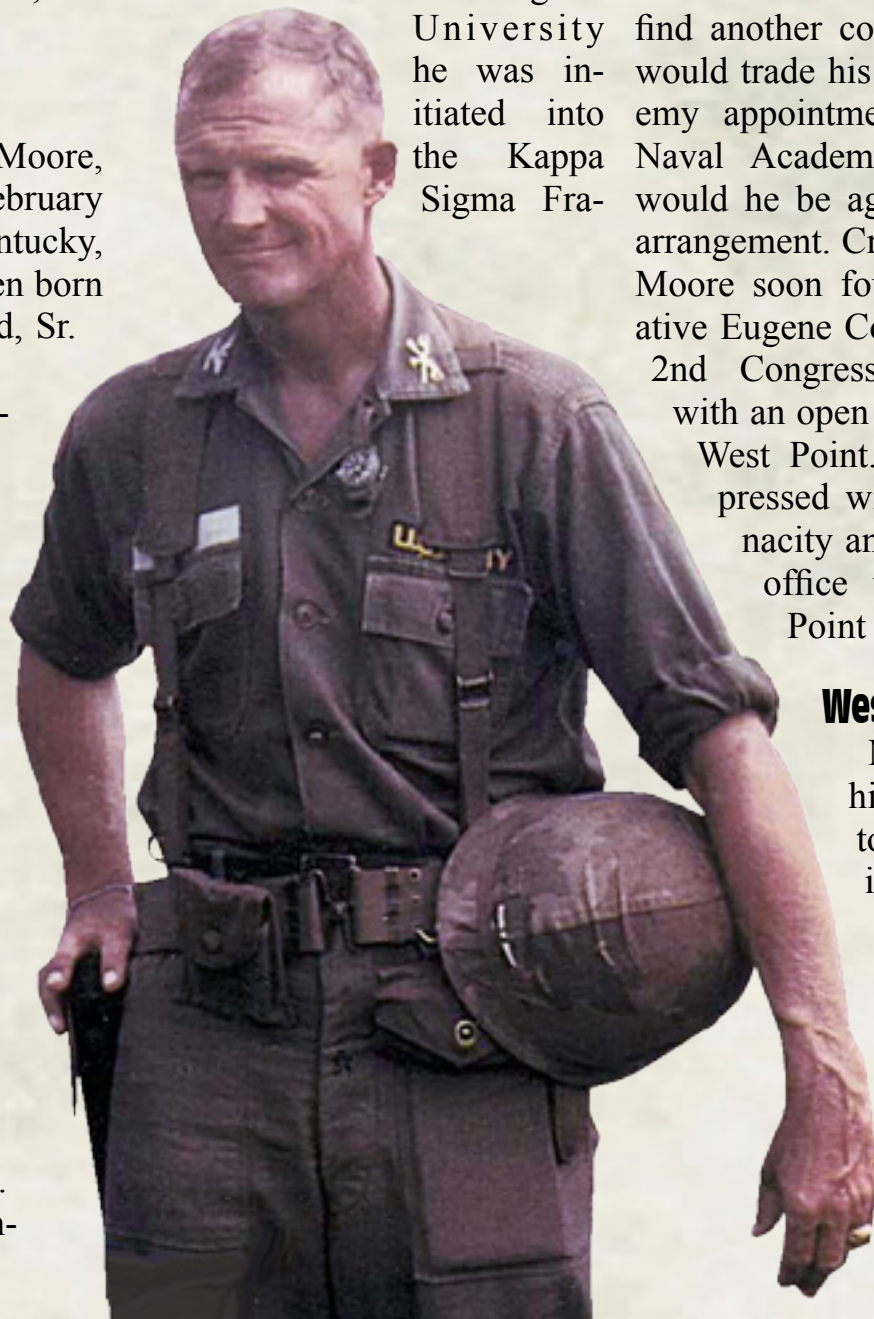
Over the course of his career, he became a jumpmaster with over 300 jumps.

Korean War

During the Korean War (1950–1953) in 1951, he was ordered to Fort Benning to attend the Infantry Officer's Advanced Course, which would prepare him to command a company or to serve on a battalion staff.

In June 1952 Moore was assigned to the 17th Infantry Regiment of the 7th Infantry Division. As a captain, he commanded a heavy mortar company in combat. He next served as regimental Assistant Chief-of-Staff, Operations and Plans. Moore's promotion to major was put on hold by a policy of the 7th Division commanding general that stated that no promotion to major would be possible without command of an infantry company in combat.

The division commander personally assigned Moore to an



infantry company so that Moore could be promoted to major and thus later become divisional assistant chief-of staff for operations.

Return to the US

In 1954, Moore returned to West Point and served for three years as an instructor in infantry tactics. While serving as an instructor, Moore taught then-Cadet Norman Schwarzkopf, who called Moore one of his “heroes,” and cites Moore as the reason he chose the infantry branch upon graduation. Schwarzkopf later became a general in the U.S. Army and led the U.N. coalition forces in the Persian Gulf War against Iraq.

During this assignment, Moore took a personal interest in the battles between the French Army forces and the Việt Minh at Điện Biên Phủ in Vietnam.

Moore was assigned to attend the year-long student course at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in 1956. The course prepared majors for the duties of staff officers at the division and corps level.

After school at Fort Leavenworth, Moore reported to the Pentagon and the Office, Chief of Research and Development where his initiative and insights were key to the development of new airborne equipment and airborne/air assault tactics. Following graduation from the Armed Forces Staff College at Norfolk, Virginia in 1960 Moore served a three-year tour as NATO Plans Officer with Headquarters, Al-



THE ‘NAM: Colonel Moore during the Battle of Ia Drang in 1965.

lied Forces Northern Europe in Oslo, Norway.

In 1964, now a lieutenant colonel, Moore completed the course of study at the Naval War College, while earning a master’s degree in International Relations from George Washington University in Washington, DC. Moore was transferred to Fort Benning and commanded 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry later to become a part of 11th Air Assault Division, undergoing air assault and air mobility training and tests.

On 28 July 1965 President Lyndon Johnson announced that he was sending “the Airmobile Division to Vietnam”. That same month the 11th Air Assault Division was re-designated the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and alerted for deployment to Vietnam.

Moore’s battalion was re-designated as 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, the same regiment that

was under the command of Lieutenant Colonel George Custer when the Irish song Garryowen was adopted as a marching tune.

The “Garryowen” Brigade left Fort Benning August 14, 1965 and went to South Vietnam by way of the Panama Canal aboard USNS General Maurice Rose arriving at the Division’s An Khê Base Camp a month later.

Battle of Ia Drang

Beginning on 14 November 1965, Lt. Col. Moore led the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in the week-long Battle of Ia Drang.

Encircled by enemy soldiers with no clear landing zone that would allow them to leave, Moore managed to persevere despite being significantly outnumbered by North Vietnamese Army (NVA) forces that would go on to defeat the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry only two-and-a-half miles away the next day.



GARRYOWEN: Emblem of the US 7th Cavalry Regiment. Garryowen is Irish Gaelic for ‘Owen’s garden’.

Moore’s dictum that “there is always one more thing you can do to increase your odds of success” and the courage of his entire command are credited with this outcome.

Blond haired Moore was known as “Yellow Hair” to his troops at the battle at Ia Drang, and as a tongue-in-cheek homage referencing the legendary General George Armstrong Custer, who commanded as a lieutenant colonel the same 7th Cavalry Regiment at the Battle of the Little Bighorn just under a century before.

Moore was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism at Ia Drang. After the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley, Moore was promoted to colonel and took over the command of the Garry Owen (3rd) Brigade.

Post-Vietnam War Service

After his service in the Vietnam War, Moore served at the Pentagon as the military liaison to the Assistant Secretary for In-

ternational affairs in the Office of Under Secretary of Defense.

In his next assignment the Army sent him to Harvard University where he completed his M.A in International Relations in 1968. Having completed his work at Harvard, Moore reported back to the Pentagon to work with the Deputy Chief-of-Staff for Operations. He then helped draft the Army plan for the withdrawal of two brigades of the 9th Infantry Division to the United States as a part of the Vietnamization of the war effort.

On 31 August 1968, Moore was promoted to the rank of brigadier general. In July 1969, he was assigned as Assistant Chief-of-Staff, Operations and Plans of the Eighth Army in South Korea where tensions were high from demilitarized zone incursions and drug use and racism among Eighth Army troops were at an all-time high.

Shortly after becoming Commanding General of the 7th Infantry Division Moore was promoted to major general in 1970 and he and his family moved to Camp Casey, South Korea. He was charged by General John H. Michaelis, Commander, United States Forces Korea with cleaning up the drug abuse problem and racial strife that was prevalent at the time in the 7th Division.

In August 1973, Moore was assigned as Commanding General, US Army Military Personnel Center (MILPERCEN), and in 1974 he was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Department of the Army; his last

assignment before leaving the Army.

Moore’s next assignment was to become the Commanding General, U.S. Army Japan but he elected to retire instead. Moore retired from the Army 1 August 1977 after completing thirty two years of active service.

Personal life

While assigned to Fort Bragg, Moore met Julia B. Compton, the daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Louis J. Compton.

They were married at the Fort Bragg main post chapel on 22 November 22, 1949. After his retirement in 1977, Moore served as the Executive President of the Crested Butte Ski Area, Colorado.

In June 2009, the 87 year old Moore attended the formal opening of the National Infantry Museum in Columbus, Georgia. One of the featured exhibits of the museum is a life-size diorama of L.Z. X-Ray from the Battle of Ia Drang.

The Moores had five children as well as twelve grandchildren. Two of their sons are career U.S. Army officers: one a retired colonel and another a retired lieutenant colonel.

Moore died from a stroke on 10 February 2017, three days before his 95th birthday.

He was buried in Fort Benning Post Cemetery on 17 February 2017 with full military honours.

FN FAL Assault Rifle

During the Cold War it was given the title 'The right arm of the Free World' and used by more than 90 countries. The FN FAL is a weapon that was forged in battle.

The FAL (French: *Fusil Automatique Léger*) is a battle rifle designed by Belgian small arms designers Dieudonné Saive and Ernest Vervier and manufactured by *Fabrique Nationale Herstal* (FN Herstal).

During the Cold War the FAL was adopted by many countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), with the notable exception of the United States. It is one of the most widely used rifles in history, having been used by more than 90 countries.

Because of its prevalence and widespread usage among the militaries of many NATO and first world countries during the Cold War it was given the ti-

tle "The right arm of the Free World".

It is chambered for the 7.62×51mm NATO cartridge (although originally designed for the .280 British intermediate cartridge). The British Commonwealth variant of the FAL was redesigned from FN's metric FAL into British imperial units and was produced under licence as the L1A1 Self-Loading Rifle.

FN created what is possibly the classic post-war battle rifle. Formally introduced by its designers Dieudonné Saive and Ernest Vervier in 1951, and produced

two years later.

The FAL battle rifle has its Warsaw Pact counterpart in the AKM, each being fielded by dozens of countries and produced in many of them. A few, such as Israel and South Africa, manufactured and issued both designs at various times. Unlike the Soviet AKM assault rifle, the FAL utilized a heavier full-power rifle cartridge.

Design

The FAL operates by means of a gas-operated action very similar to that of the Russian SVT-40.

The gas system is driven by a short-stroke,



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE: Above is the British L1A1 rifle with the FN FAL below.

spring-loaded piston housed above the barrel, and the locking mechanism is what is known as a tilting breechblock. To lock, it drops down into a solid shoulder of metal in the heavy receiver much like the bolts of the Russian SKS carbine and French MAS-49 series of semi-automatic rifles.

The gas system is fitted with a gas regulator behind the front sight base, allowing adjustment of the gas system in response to environmental conditions. The piston system can be bypassed completely, using the gas plug, to allow for the firing of rifle grenades and manual operation.

The FAL's magazine capacity ranges from five to 30 rounds, with most magazines holding 20 rounds. In fixed stock versions of the FAL, the recoil spring is housed in the stock, while in folding-stock versions it is housed in the receiver cover, necessitating a slightly different receiver cover, recoil spring, and bolt carrier, and a modified lower receiver for the stock.

FAL rifles have also been manufactured in both light and heavy-barrel configurations, with the heavy barrel intended

for automatic fire as a section or squad light support weapon. Most heavy barrel FALs are equipped with bipods, although some light barrel models were equipped with bipods, such as the Austrian StG58 and the German G1, and a bipod was later made available as an accessory.

Among other 7.62×51mm NATO battle rifles at the time, the FN FAL had relatively light recoil, due to the gas system being able to be tuned via regulator in fore-end of the rifle, which allowed for excess gas which would simply increase recoil to bleed off. In fully automatic mode, however, the shooter receives considerable abuse from recoil, and the weapon climbs off-target quickly, making automatic fire only of marginal effectiveness.

Many military forces using the FAL eventually eliminated full-automatic firearms training in the light-barrel FAL.

Production and use

The FAL has been used by over 90 countries, and over two million have been produced. The FAL was originally made by *Fabrique Nationale de Herstal* (FN) in Liège, Belgium,



FN FAL

Weight: 4.3 kg

Length: 1,090 mm

Barrel Length: 533 mm

Cartridge: 7.62x51 NATO

Action: Gas operated

Rate of fire: 700 rounds/min

Muzzle Velocity: 840 m/s

Feed System: 20 or 30 round detachable box magazine

Sights: Aperture rear sight, post front sight; sight radius:

but it has also been made under license in fifteen countries. As of August 2006, new examples were still being produced by at least four different manufacturers worldwide.

A distinct sub-family was the Commonwealth inch-dimensioned versions that were manufactured in the United Kingdom and Australia (as the L1A1 Self Loading Rifle or SLR), and in Canada as the C1. The standard metric-dimensioned FAL was manufactured in South Africa (where it was known as the R1), Brazil, Israel, Austria and Argentina. Both the SLR and FAL were also produced without license by India.

Mexico assembled FN-made components into complete rifles at its national arsenal in



Mexico City. The FAL was also exported to many other countries, such as Venezuela, where a small-arms industry produces some basically unchanged variants, as well as ammunition.

By modern standards, one disadvantage of the FAL is the amount of work which goes into machining the complex receiver, bolt and bolt carrier. Some theorized that the movement of the tilting bolt mechanism tends to return differently with each shot, affecting inherent accuracy of the weapon, but this has been proven to be false. The FAL's receiver is machined, while most other modern military rifles use quicker stamping or casting techniques.

Modern FALs have many improvements over those produced by FN and others in the mid-20th-century.

Conflicts

In the more than 60 years of use worldwide, the FAL has seen use in conflicts all over the world. During the Falklands War, the FN FAL was used by both sides. The FAL was used by the Argentine armed forces and the L1A1 Self Loading Rifle (SLR), a semi-automatic only version of the FAL, was used by the armed forces of the UK and other Commonwealth nations.

The FAL has been used in no fewer than 31 conflicts and wars. These include:

- Mau Mau Uprising.
- Bay of Pigs Invasion.
- Nigerian Civil War.
- Six-Day War.
- Yom Kippur War.
- Angolan Civil War.
- Rhodesian Bush War.
- Falklands War.
- South African Border War.

R1 rifle

The FAL was produced under license by ARMSCOR by Lytleton Engineering Works.

After a competition between the German G3 rifle, the Armalite AR-10, and the FN FAL, the South African Defence Force adopted three main variants of the FAL: a rifle with the designation R1, a "lightweight" variant of the FN FAL 50.64 with folding butt, fabricated locally under the designation R2, and a model designed for police use not capable of automatic fire under the designation R3.

A number of other variants of the R1 were built, the R1 HB, which had a heavy barrel and bipod, the R1 Sniper, which could be fitted with a scope and the R1 Para Carbine, which used a Single Point IR sight and had a shorter barrel.

The R1 was standard issue in

the SADF until the introduction of the R4 in the early 1980s. It is still used by the SANDF as a designated marksman rifle.

5.56 mm vs 7.62 mm

Many countries that used the 7.62 mm FAL have now switched to weapons that use the 5.56×45 mm NATO round.

South Africa adopted the R4, which is based on the Israeli IMI Galil.

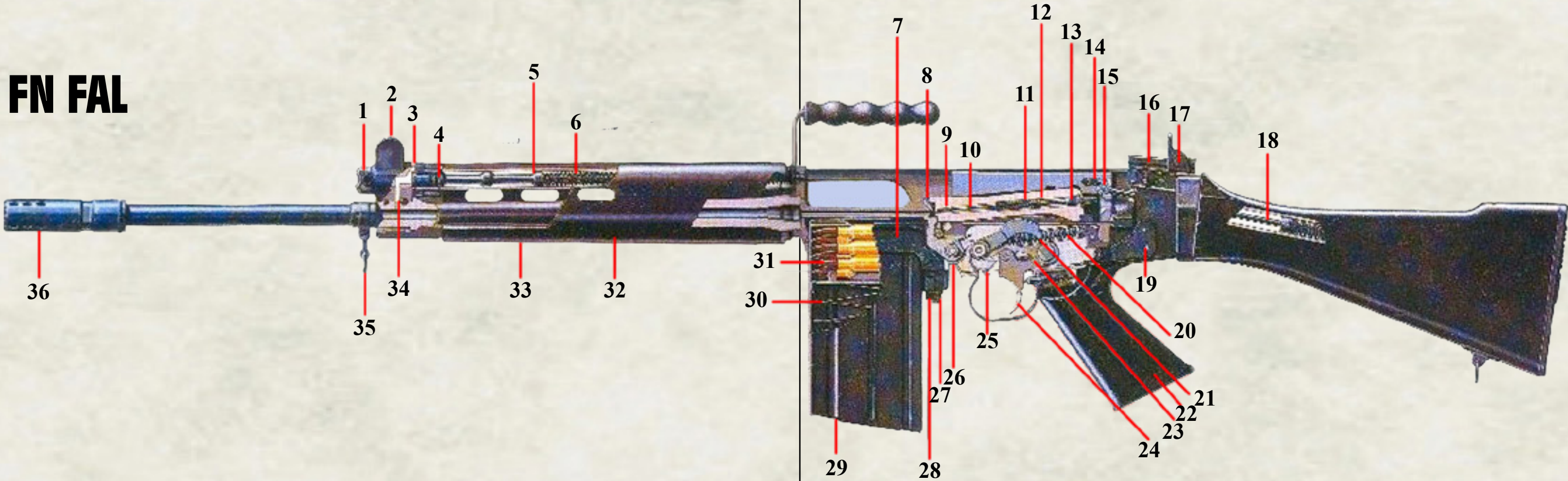
Many countries have also switched to bullpup assault rifles. For example, Britain now uses the 5.56 mm SA80. Both Austria and the Irish Defence Forces use the Steyr AUG. France uses the FAMAS F1.

Yet there are still many countries that use the FN FAL, a weapon that was forged in battle.

KEY

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Gasplug. | 21.Axis change lever. |
| 2. Foresight Protector. | 22.Pistol grip. |
| 3. Gas outlet vent. | 23.Plunger. |
| 4. Gas regulator sleeve. | 24.Trigger. |
| 5. Piston. | 25.Sear. |
| 6. Piston spring. | 26.Locking shoulder. |
| 7. Ejector. | 27.Safety sear. |
| 8. Extractor. | 28.Magazine catch. |
| 9. Firing pin. | 29.Magazine. |
| 10.Slide. | 30.Spring for magazine platform. |
| 11.Firing pin spring. | 31.7.62 mm NATO round. |
| 12.Hammer. | 32.Hand guard. |
| 13.Pin retraining firing gun. | 33.Barrel. |
| 14.Slip rod spring. | 34.Gas port. |
| 15.Plunger spring slip rod. | 35.Front sling swivel. |
| 16.Back sight adjuster screw. | 36.Flash hider. |
| 17.Back sight. | |
| 18.Slide rod. | |
| 19.Lever activating butt catch. | |
| 20.Hammer spring. | |

FN FAL



On 20 November 1970, US Special Forces attacked Son Tay, a camp only 37 kilometres from Hanoi, that was believed to house American prisoners of war. The raid was a text book operation that succeeded with one exception - the prisoners were no longer there.

The briefing given by US Special Forces Colonel Arthur "Bull" Simons was simple, but straight to the point.

"We are going to rescue 70 American prisoners of war, maybe more, from a camp called Son Tay. This is something American prisoners have a right to expect from their fellow soldiers. The target is 23 miles (37 km) west of Hanoi."

By the spring of 1970 there were more than 450 known American POWs held in North Vietnam. Another 970 American servicemen were listed as missing in action.

Some of them had been in captivity for more than five years, the longest period in any war in American history.

Intelligence reports told of brutal conditions, torture, and even deaths of the POWs.

Background

In May 1970 aerial reconnaissance photographs revealed the existence of two prison camps west of Hanoi, the capital of North Vietnam.

At Son Tay, one photograph showed a large 'K' drawn in the dirt. This was the code for "come and get us".

The other camp, at Ap Lo, showed a photograph of the letters SAR (Search and Rescue) spelled out by the prisoner's laundry. An arrow with the number '8' indicated the distance the men had to travel to the fields they worked in.

Air Force Brigadier General LeRoy J. Manor and Army Colonel Arthur D. "Bull" Simons began to plan an operation to rescue the prisoners from Son Tay.

Reconnaissance photos taken by SR-71 "Blackbirds" revealed that Son Tay "was active". SR-71 reconnaissance aircraft took most of the Son Tay target photos from above 24,000 metres while streaking over North Vietnam at more than three times the speed of sound.

Planning and training

There were numerous obstacles that had to be considered. The camp itself was in the open and surrounded by rice paddies.

In close proxim-

ity was the 12th North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Regiment totalling approximately 12,000 troops.

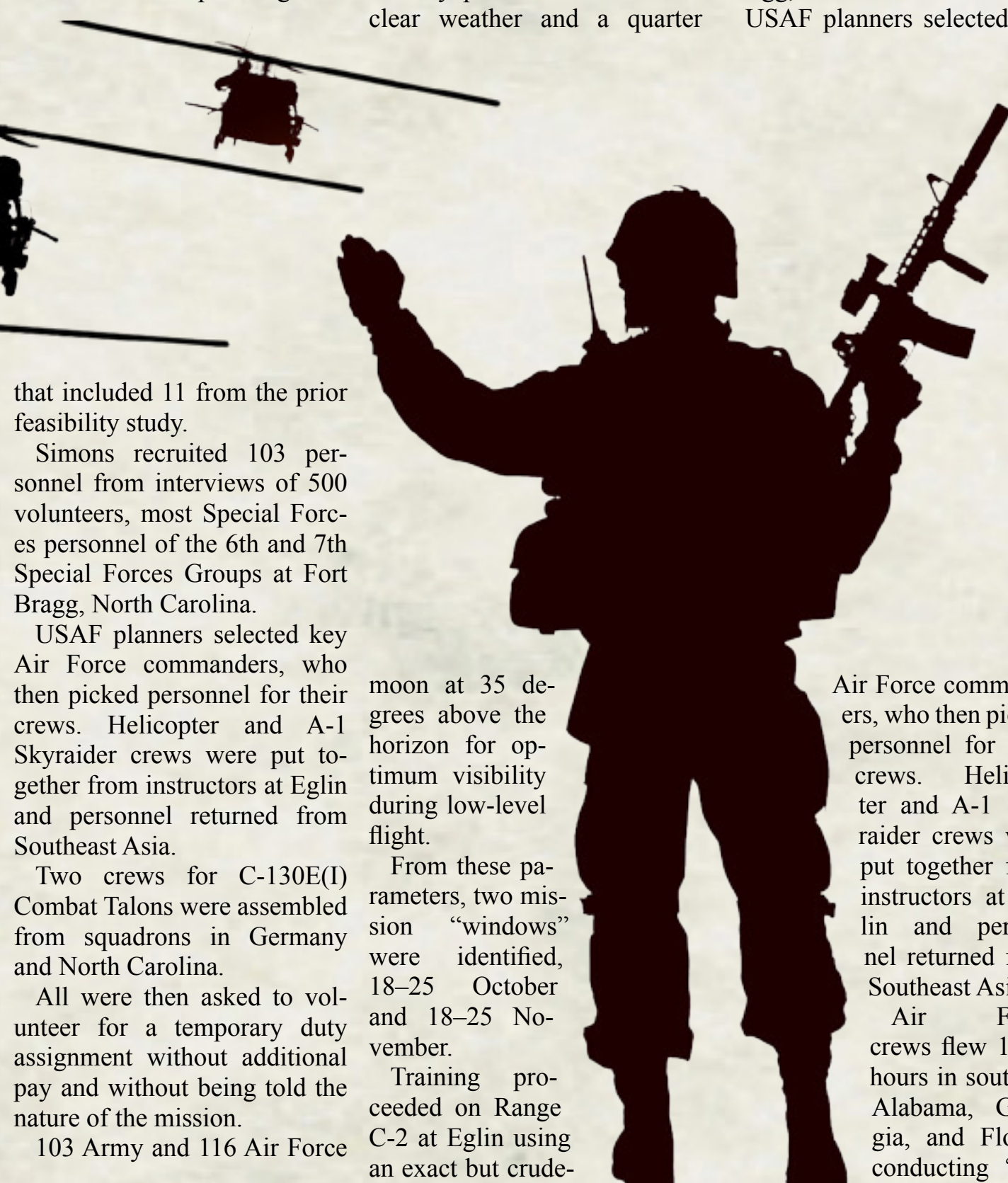


Also nearby was an artillery school, a supply depot, and an air defence installation.

500 metres south was another compound called the "secondary school", which was an administration centre housing 45 guards. To make matters more difficult, Phuc Yen Air Base was only 32 kilometres north-east of Son Tay.

The raiders would have to get in and out very quickly, before anyone could react to the situation.

Admiral Thomas H. Moorer,



that included 11 from the prior feasibility study.

Simons recruited 103 personnel from interviews of 500 volunteers, most Special Forces personnel of the 6th and 7th Special Forces Groups at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

USAF planners selected key Air Force commanders, who then picked personnel for their crews. Helicopter and A-1 Skyraider crews were put together from instructors at Eglin and personnel returned from Southeast Asia.

Two crews for C-130E(I) Combat Talons were assembled from squadrons in Germany and North Carolina.

All were then asked to volunteer for a temporary duty assignment without additional pay and without being told the nature of the mission.

103 Army and 116 Air Force

personnel were selected for the project, including ground force members, aircrewmembers, support members, and planners.

The 219 man task force planned, trained, and operated under the title of the "Joint Contingency Task Group" (JCTG).

The planning staff set up parameters for a night time raid, the key points of which were clear weather and a quarter

ly made replica of the prison compound for rehearsals and a \$60,000 1.5 x 15 metre scale table model (codenamed "Barbara") for familiarization.

Simons recruited 103 personnel from interviews of 500 volunteers, mostly Special Forces personnel of the 6th and 7th Special Forces Groups at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

USAF planners selected key

moon at 35 degrees above the horizon for optimum visibility during low-level flight.

From these parameters, two mission "windows" were identified, 18-25 October and 18-25 November.

Training proceeded on Range C-2 at Eglin using an exact but crude-

Air Force commanders, who then picked personnel for their crews. Helicopter and A-1 Skyraider crews were put together from instructors at Eglin and personnel returned from Southeast Asia.

Air Force crews flew 1,054 hours in southern Alabama, Georgia, and Florida conducting "dis-

similar (aircraft) formation" training with both UH-1H and HH-3E helicopters at night and at low-level (a flight profile for which procedures had to be innovated by the two selected crews), and gaining expertise in navigation training using forward looking infrared (FLIR), which, until Ivory Coast, had not been part of the Combat Talon's electronics suite.

A vee formation in which the slower helicopters drafted in echelon slightly above and behind each wing of the Combat Talon escort aircraft was chosen and refined for the mission to give the helicopters the speed necessary to keep pace with the Talons flying just above their stall speeds.

Special Forces training began on 9 September, advancing to night training on 17 September and joint training with air crews on 28 September that included six rehearsals a day, three of them under night conditions.

By 6 October, 170 practice sessions of all or partial phases of the mission were performed on the mock up by the Special Forces troopers, many with live fire.

On that date, the first full-scale dress rehearsal, using a UH-1H as the assault helicopter, was conducted at night and included a 5.5-hour, 1,106 km flight of all aircraft, replicating the timing, speeds, altitudes, and turns in the mission plan.

The rehearsal spelled the end of the option to use the UH-1 when its small passenger compartment resulted in leg cramps to the Special Forces troopers that completely disrupted the timing of their assault, more

than offsetting the UH-1's only advantage (smaller rotor radius) over the larger HH-3.

Two further full night rehearsals and a total of 31 practice landings by the HH-3E in the mock-up's courtyard confirmed the choice.

Manor issued the formal launch order at 15:56 local time 20 November, while the raiding force was in the final stages of crew rest, and brought together the entire ground contingent for a short briefing regarding the objective and launch times.

Following the briefing, Manor and his staff flew by T-39 Sabreliner to Da Nang, where they would monitor the mission from the USAF Tactical Air Control Center, North Sector (TACC/NS) at Monkey Mountain Facility.

Three theater lift C-130s previously staged at U-Tapao Royal Thai Navy Airfield arrived at Takhli to transport the Army contingent and helicopter crews to Udorn RTAFB and the A-1 pilots to Nakhon Phanom.

Mission organisation

The fifty-six Special Forces troopers selected to conduct the raid were flown from Takhli to their helicopter staging base at Udorn RTAFB by C-130 on the evening of 20 November.

The Special Forces were organised into three platoons: a 14-man assault group, code-named Blueboy, which would crash-land within the prison compound; a 22-man support group, Greenleaf, which would provide immediate support for the assault team, and a 20-man security group, Redwine, to protect the prison area from NVA



SPECIAL FORCES LEGEND: Colonel Arthur D 'Bull' Simons.

reaction forces and provide backup support if needed for either of the other two groups. Simons (using the call sign Axle) accompanied the Greenleaf group, while the ground force commander, LTC Elliott P. "Bud" Sydnor, Jr. (Wildroot), was with the Redwine group.

The 56 raiders were heavily armed, carrying a total of 51 personal side arms, 48 CAR-15 carbines, two M16 rifles, four M79 grenade launchers, two shotguns, and four M60 machine guns.

They carried 15 Claymore mines, 11 demolition charges, and 213 hand grenades and were equipped with a plethora of wire cutters, bolt cutters, axes, chainsaws, crowbars, ropes, bullhorns, lights, and other equipment (much of it acquired from commercial retail sources) to execute the mission.

The ground force was also equipped for voice communications with 58 UHF-AM and 34 VHF-FM radios, including a survival radio for each individual soldier.

116 aircraft (59 Navy and



GOING IN: Some of the Son Tay raiders prior to the mission. It was one of the most audacious special forces raids carried out during the Vietnam War.

57 Air Force) participated in the operation, with 28 aircraft (crewed by 92 airmen) assigned direct roles in the target area.

Two C-130E Combat Talons, modified with the temporary addition of FLIR sets, were assigned to navigate the mission. One was to lead the helicopter "assault formation" (Cherry 01) and the second to escort the A-1 "strike formation" (Cherry 02).

Because of the variances in cruising speeds between the helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft, the forces flew separate routes, with the faster strike formation trailing the helicopter formation by several minutes and zigzagging across its route.

Each Combat Talon crew cross-trained to assume the role of the other, but the assault formation was required to have a navigation leader with four fully functioning engines all the way to the objective.

Operation Kingpin

Operation Kingpin was the assault phase of Operation Ivory Coast.

Beginning at 22:00 on 20 November 1970, aircraft began leaving five bases in Thailand and one in South Vietnam.

Cherry 02, the Combat Talon escort for the A-1 strike formation, took off from Takhli at 22:25. Cherry 01, scheduled to take off a half hour later, had difficulty starting an engine and took off 23 minutes late at 23:18.

Cherry 01 adjusted its flight plan and made up the time lost at engine start. At 23:07, two HC-130P aerial refuelers (call signs Lime 01 and Lime 02) took off from Udorn, followed by the helicopters ten minutes later.

Shortly after midnight, the A-1 Skyraiders lifted off four minutes early from Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base under clandestine, blacked-out conditions.

The helicopters encountered thick clouds over northern Laos

at their refueling altitude and climbed to 2,100 metres AGL (Above Ground Level) to refuel from Lime 01 on the flight plan's fourth leg. Lime 01 then led them to the next checkpoint for hand-off to Cherry 01 at 01:16.

The assault formation approached from the southwest using the clutter returns of the mountains to mask them from radar detection, while U.S. Navy aircraft launched at 01:00 on 21 November from the aircraft carriers USS Oriskany and USS Ranger in the largest carrier night operation of the Vietnam War.

Starting at 01:52, twenty A-7 Corsairs and A-6 Intruders, flying in pairs at stepped-up altitudes to deconflict their flight paths, entered North Vietnamese airspace on three tracks, dropping flares to simulate an attack. The last track also dropped chaff to mimic the mining of Haiphong harbor.

Over the Gulf of Tonkin, twenty-four other aircraft in thirteen orbits provided support and protection. The operation prompted a frantic air defense reaction at 02:17 that provided a highly effective diversion for the raiders and completely saturated the North Vietnamese air defense system.

Combat assault

At 02:18 Cherry 01 transmitted the execute command "Alpha, Alpha, Alpha" to all aircraft as it overflew the prison and deployed four illumination flares, then performed a hard-turning descent to 150 metres to drop two battle simulators south and southeast of Son Tay.

After Apple 03 made its strafing pass with side-firing mini guns on the prison's guard towers, Cherry 01 successfully dropped one of two planned napalm ground markers as a point of reference for the A-1s, then departed the objective area to a holding point over Laos where it would provide UHF direction-finding steers for the departing aircraft.

The assault helicopters in single file encountered winds that caused them to break formation 140 metres to the right of their intended track. The pilots of Apple 03, the gunship helicopter preceding the others, observed a compound nearly identical to the prison camp in size and layout (previously labeled a "secondary school" by intelligence sources) and steered toward it, followed by the assault lift force.

However, they recognized their error when they saw the river next to the actual location and corrected their flight path. Banana, the HH-3E carrying the Blueboy assault team, descended on the wrong location and observed that the expected courtyard was much smaller than required and that the expected treeline enclosed the compound rather than crossing through it.

By that time, Blueboy (as previously rehearsed) was firing its weapons from all openings in the helicopter. Banana's pilots also recognized the error, applied power, and quickly veered north to the actual target.

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Despite the error, and trees taller than briefed that forced a steeper descent than rehearsed, the assault team crash-landed into the courtyard of Son Tây prison at 02:19 with all weapons firing.

Although one raider, acting as a door gunner, was thrown from the aircraft, the only casualty was the helicopter's flight engineer, whose ankle was fractured by a dislodged fire extinguisher.

Army Captain Richard J. Meadows used a bullhorn to announce their presence to the expected POWs, while the team dispersed in four elements on a rapid and violent assault of the prison, killing guards and me-

thodically searching the five prisoner blocks cell by cell.

Also at 02:19, Apple 01 (after its pilots saw Banana fire on the first location) landed the Greenleaf support group outside the south side of the secondary school, thinking it to be the target prison compound. Unaware that it was 400 meters from the objective, it lifted off to relocate to its holding area.

The "secondary school" was actually a barracks for troops that, alerted by Banana's aborted assault, opened fire on Greenleaf as two of its elements assaulted the compound.

The support group attacked the location with small arms and hand grenades in an eight-minute fire-fight, after which Simons estimated that 100 to 200 hostile soldiers had been killed.

Two A-1s supported Greenleaf with an air strike using white phosphorus bombs on a wooden footbridge east of the area. Apple 01 returned at 02:23, and by 02:28, the support group had disengaged under fire and re-boarded the helicopter for the short movement to the correct landing area.

The pilot of Apple 02 observed the errors in navigation by the helicopters in front of him and made a hard turn towards the prison. He also observed Apple 01 unload at the secondary school and initiated Plan Green, the contingency plan for the loss or absence of Greenleaf.

The Redwine security group, including ground force commander Sydnor, landed at 02:20 outside Son Tây prison and immediately executed the previously rehearsed contingency

plan.

In the meantime, Cherry 02 arrived with the A-1 force, dropped two more napalm ground markers, and created other diversions to disguise the target area by dropping MK-6 log flares and battle simulators at road intersections that North Vietnamese reaction forces might be expected to use.

Cherry 02 then orbited in the area just west of the Black River acting as on-call support for the ground teams, jamming North Vietnamese radio communications, and providing a secure radio link to the mission command post in Da Nang.

After a thorough search that included a second sweep ordered by Meadows, Blueboy's three teams found that the prison held no POWs.

Meadows transmitted the code phrase "Negative Items" to the command group. Pathfinders clearing the extraction LZ blew up an electrical tower that blacked out the entire west side of Son Tây including the prison area.

At 02:29, Sydnor ordered the A-1s to attack the vehicle bridge over the Song Con leading into the area and, three minutes later, called for extraction by the HH-53s idling on the ground in a holding area a mile away.

Before the first helicopter arrived, a truck convoy approached the prison from the south, but was stopped by two Redwine security teams that each fired an M72 light antitank weapon into the lead vehicle.

The HH-53s returned singly to the extraction landing zone amidst the SAM barrage, flying well below the minimum effec-

tive level of the missiles, and Apple 01 landed first at 02:37.

It lifted off with its passengers at 02:40, followed a minute later by the landing of Apple 02, which departed at 02:45. Apple 03, the last aircraft out, was cleared to leave its holding area at 02:48.

The raid had been executed in only 27 minutes, well within the planned 30-minute optimum time. Although at first it was feared one raider had been left behind, all the troopers were accounted for. One Redwine trooper had been wounded in the leg and was the only casualty to hostile fire on the raid.

Impact of the raid

The mission was deemed a "tactical success" because of its execution, but clearly involved an "intelligence failure". The 65 prisoners at Son Tây had been moved on 14 July because its wells had been contaminated by flooding, or possibly due to the threat of further inundation, to a camp 24 km closer to Hanoi that the POWs dubbed "Camp Faith".

Criticism of the raid, particularly in the news media and by political opponents of the Vietnam War and the Nixon Administration, was widespread and of long duration. Not only was the failure denounced as the result of poor or outdated intelligence, but charges were made that the operation caused increased mistreatment of the prisoners.

However, as a result of the raid, the North Vietnamese consolidated their POW camps to central prison complexes. An area of the infamous "Hanoi

Hilton" formerly housing civilian and South Vietnamese prisoners became "Camp Unity", a block of large communal areas housing 50 POWs each.

After their repatriation, many POWs said that being in close contact with other Americans lifted their morale, as did knowledge of the rescue attempt. Some POWs said that food, medical care, and even seemingly basic things like mail delivery vastly improved after the raid.

Recognition of participants

For their actions, members of the task force received six Distinguished Service Crosses, five Air Force Crosses, and at least 85 Silver Stars, including all 50 members of the ground force who did not receive the DSC. Manor received the Distinguished Service Medal.

The successful demonstrations of joint operating capability in Ivory Coast and Kingpin were, in part, a model for the creation of a joint United States Special Operations Command in 1987.

Son Tây raider HH-53 68-10357 (Apple 01) was subsequently converted to MH-53M Pave Low IV standard, served in Bosnia and Iraq and was finally retired in 2008 after 38 years of service, the last survivor of the five Apples.

It is now on display in the Cold War Gallery of the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio.

While the raid may have failed in its overall objective, it is still regarded as a text-book special forces operation.



With a shout of “Tally ho” Squadron Leader Matt ‘Brain’ O Brien scrambles to take on the might of the Luftwaffe during the Battle of Britain.

As I may have mentioned in the past, I rather enjoy flight simulations. But they can be a bit boring.

With that said, I really do enjoy a good combat flight simulation. Back in Volume 4 of Military Despatches (October 2017), I reviewed IL-2 Sturmovik: Battle of Stalingrad.

So I was really looking forward to the release of IL-2 Sturmovik: Cliffs of Dover back in 2011. This would see the game moving from the Russian Front to the Battle of Britain.

Unfortunately the game was a disaster. It had more bugs than a cheap hotel. There was, however, one small ray of light. A modding community that went by the name of Team Fusion created a mod for the game that made it almost playable.

Digitalmindsoft, the developers of the game, eventually did the wise thing. They teamed up with Team Fusion and in December 2017 they released IL-2 Sturmovik: Cliffs of Dover - Blitz Edition. The work of Team Fusion has greatly improved performance and fixed serious issues.

At the start of the game you decide whether you want to do training, single player, or multi-player.

I recommend that you start off with training, especially if

you're new to flight simulators.

The first thing you need to do is set up the realism options that you want to use. This is comprehensive and are divided into various sections.

They include options for vulnerability, ground collisions, gunnery, bombing, limited fuel and ammunition, views, engine management, engine temperature effects, head shake, blackouts and redouts.

Atmosphere and handling defines the effects of the in-game atmosphere on a player's plane. They include wind and turbulence, flutter effects, torque and gyro effects, stalls and spins, and clouds.

You can fly a plane using the keyboard, but you really should use a joystick for the best experience.

Cockpits for the various aircraft are accurately modelled and you will find all the controls and gauges there for you to use.

There are now no fewer than 23 aircraft that you can fly in the game. These are:

Bf-109 E-1B (Early Fighter-Bomber)

Bf-109 E-4N (DB601N engine and 100 octane fuel)

Bf-109 E-4/E-4B and E-4N versions with added armor for fuel tank and pilot

• Bf-110 C-2

• Bf-110 C-4 Late

• Bf-110 C-4B (Early Fighter-Bomber)

• Bf-110 C-4N (DB601P engines with 100 octane fuel)

• Bf-110 C-4NJG (Night-Fighter)

• Bf-110 C-6 (Heavy 30mm Cannon armed version)

• Blenheim Mk.IV_Late (twin gun rear turret and extra bomb-load)

• Blenheim Mk.IV F (Heavy Day-Fighter)

• Blenheim Mk.IV F_Late (Twin-gun rear turret and extra bomb-load)

• Blenheim Mk.IV NF (Night-Fighter)

• Blenheim Mk.IV NF_Late (Twin-gun rear turret and extra bomb-load)

• Spitfire Mk.I 100 octane

• Hurricane DH-520-100 octane

• Hurricane Mk.I NF (Night-Fighter)

• Hurricane Mk.I FB (Fighter-Bomber)

• Beaufighter Mk.I F

• Beaufighter Mk.I NF (Night-Fighter)

• DH-82A-1 (Field Mod armed Tiger Moth)

• DH-82A-2 (Czechoslovakian armed Tiger Moth)

• DH-82A (Battle of Britain Tiger Moth version with bomb carrying capacity)

The expansive 350 by 350 km



map covers London, the entire southeast of England, the English Channel, Northern France and parts of Belgium and has been updated with beautiful new textures and additional historical landmarks.

New Autumn and Winter maps allow the Battle to be extended into late 1940. Dozens of vehicles, ships and structures give life to the environment.

In single player mode you can fly a single mission, or you can start a campaign flying either for the RAF or the Luftwaffe.

Multi-player allows over 100 players and dozens of AI aircraft online simultaneously, providing for huge and spectacular aerial battles.

There is also a mission builder where you can create your own single player missions or multi-player missions.

When setting up a flight you choose what ammunition and ordinance you will be carrying. For example you can choose between ball, tracer, armour

piercing, incendiary, high explosive, or a combination.

If you're flying a plane that is not a single-seater, you can switch between the various positions. Put the plane on autopilot and then switch to one of the gunner slots or to the bomb aimer.

The graphics are not bad at all and aircraft are historically painted and with the correct markings.

Radio communication is important, especially if you are playing multi-player.

Missions are varied and can include everything from flying patrols, intercepting enemy fighters or bombers, escorting bombers, attacking enemy shipping, bombing targets, and a whole lot more.

There is a lot of detail in the game. For an idea of what I am talking about, take a look at the 118 page manual by clicking [here](#). Now you'll have an idea of what I'm talking about when I say "attention to detail."

IL-2 Sturmovik: Cliffs of Dover - Blitz Edition is a great simulation for those that are looking for realism and a challenge.

I've just heard the bell ringing for a scramble, so I'll have to end it here.



Publisher - 1C Entertainment

Genre - Flight Sim

Score - 8/10

Price - R150 (on Steam)



Movie Review

We were Soldiers

Released: 2002
Running time: 138 minutes
Directed by: Randall Wallace

Released in 2002 and based on the book *We were soldiers once...and young* by by Lieutenant General (Ret.) Hal Moore and reporter Joseph L. Galloway, *We were Soldiers* was directed Randall Wallace.

The film is based on the Battle of Ia Drang on 14 November 1965.

The film opens with a French unit on patrol in Vietnam in 1954, during the final year of the First Indochina War. The patrol is ambushed and the Viet Minh commander, Nguyen Huu An (Đôn Dương), orders his soldiers to "kill all they send, and they will stop coming".

Eleven years later, the United States is fighting the Vietnam War. U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Hal Moore (Mel Gibson) is chosen to train and lead a battalion.

After arriving in Vietnam, he learns that an American base has been attacked, and is ordered to take his 400 men after the enemy and eliminate the North Vietnamese attackers, despite the fact that intelligence has no idea of the number of enemy troops.

Moore leads a newly created air cavalry unit into the Ia Drang Valley. At his side is his Company Sergeant Major Basil L. Plumley (Sam Elliott).

After landing in the "Valley of Death", the soldiers capture

a North Vietnamese soldier and learn from him that the location they were sent to is actually the base camp for a veteran North Vietnamese army division of 4,000 men.

Upon arrival in the area with a platoon of soldiers, 2nd Lt. Henry Herrick spots an enemy scout, runs after him, and orders reluctant soldiers to follow. The North Vietnamese scout lures them into an ambush, resulting in several men being killed, including Herrick and his subordinates. The surviving platoon members are surrounded with no chance of retreat and are cut off from the rest of the battalion. Sgt. Savage assumes command, calls in artillery, and uses the cover of night to keep the Vietnamese from overrunning their small defensive position.

Meanwhile, with helicopters constantly dropping off units, Moore manages to secure weak points before the North Vietnamese can take advantage of them.

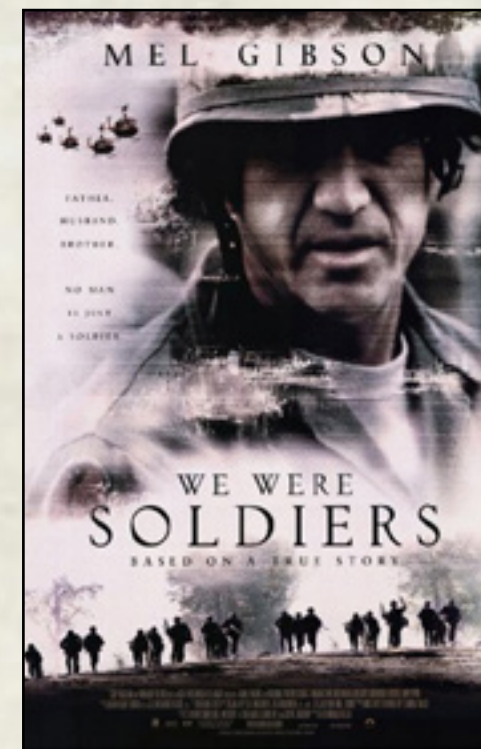
Back at the base reporter Joe Galloway (Barry Pepper) asks chopper pilot Major Bruce "Snake" Crandall (Greg Kinnear) if he can be dropped off in the combat zone.

On the second day, despite being trapped and desperately outnumbered, the main U.S. force manages to hold off the North Vietnamese with artillery, mortars, and helicopter airlifts

of supplies and reinforcements. Eventually, Nguyen Huu An, the commander of the North Vietnamese division, orders a large-scale attack on the American position.

Meanwhile, back in the United States, Julia Moore (Madelaine Stowe) has become the leader of the American wives living on the base. When the Army begins to use yellow cab drivers to deliver telegrams notifying the next of kin of soldiers' deaths in combat, Julia personally assumes that emotional responsibility instead.

We were Soldiers is a movie well worth watching and has some really good action scenes.



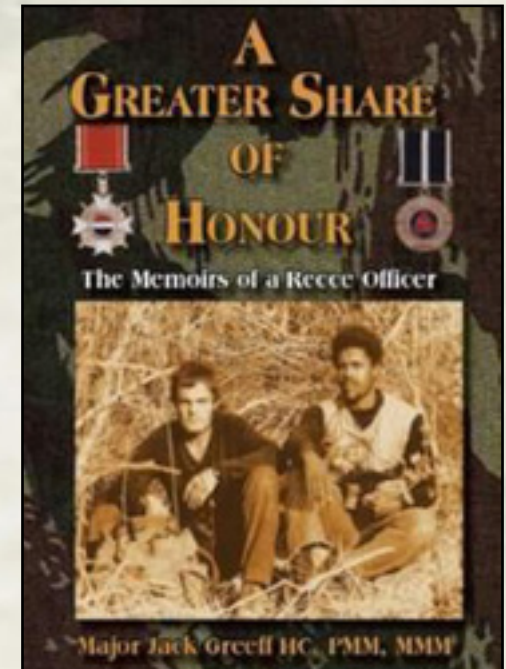
Click on the poster to watch a trailer of the film.

A Greater Share of Honour

A Greater Share of Honour - The Memoirs of a Recon Officer by Major Jack Greef is one of the better books about the elite Reconnaissance Regiment - the Recces.

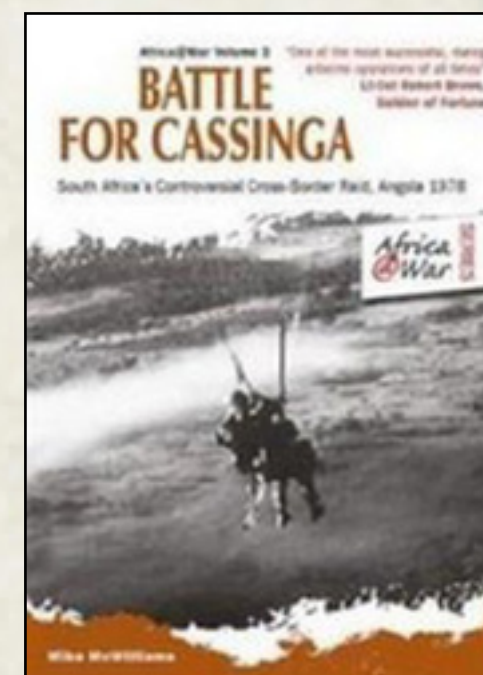
As a young Staff Sergeant in the Recces, Jack Greeff became one of the most decorated soldiers in the SADF. Leading two-man reconnaissance patrols deep into enemy held territories and operating under the noses of the enemy, they collected vital strategic information on enemy movements and installations. Using the information gathered, he led raiding parties to the targets to execute what were probably the biggest and most daring acts of sabotage in recent military history.

After five years service with 5 South African Infantry Battalion, both as an instructor and as a platoon sergeant in the operational area, he passed selection for the Recces and qualified as a combat operator. He served in the Recces for 11 years and was the recipient of the Golden Operator's Badge for 10 or more years as a combat operator in Special Forces. He became one of the most decorated soldiers in the SADF - all awarded for achievements and bravery during special operations. This included a well-deserved Honoris Crux. After rising to the rank of major he resigned to pursue a career as a game ranger. He has since successfully directed anti-poaching operations, firstly in South Africa's world-renowned

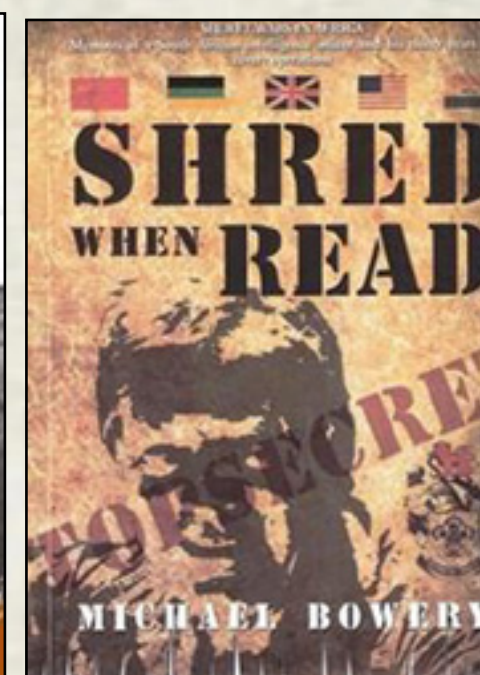


Kruger National Park and later elsewhere in Africa.

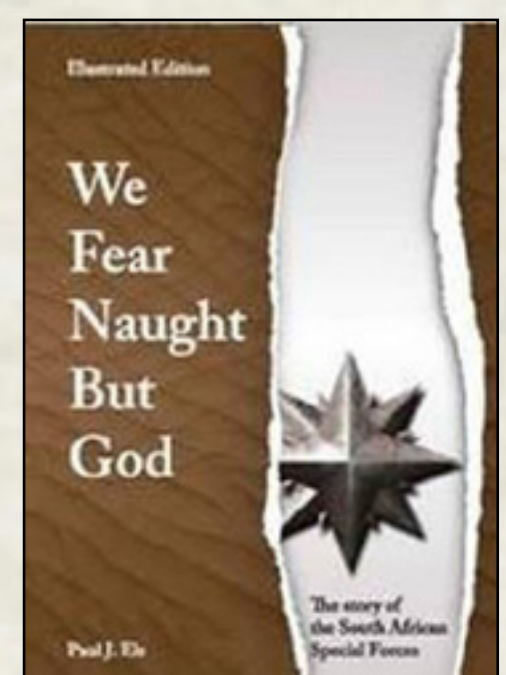
A Greater Share of Honour - Major Jack Greeff
Softcover, 390 pages
Cost: R375



Battle for Cassinga
R220



Shred when Read
R300



We fear naught but God
R395

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

Some of the significant military events that happened in May. Highlighted in blue are the names of those members of the South African Defence Force (SADF) that lost their lives during the month of May.

1 May

- **1915** - A German U-boat sinks the American tanker 'Gulflight', three killed.
- **1936** - Emperor Haile Selassie leaves Ethiopia as the Italians rout his army.
- **1941** - German assault on Tobruk.
- **1947** - Vice Adm Roscoe Hillenkoeter becomes 1st CIA director.
- **1960** - An American U-2 spy plane was shot down over Sverdlovsk in central Russia on the eve of a summit meeting between President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Soviet Russia's Premier Nikita Khrushchev. The pilot, CIA agent Francis Gary Powers, survived the crash, and was tried, convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison by a Russian court.
- **1962** - First French underground nuclear blast, in the Sahara.
- **1982** - Two members from Infantry School were killed in a private motor vehicle accident between Edenburg and Bloemfontein while on weekend pass. The casualties were: Rifleman Marnes van Jaarsveld (18). Rifleman Jurgen Swaak (18).
- **1982** - Rifleman Hans Jurie Storm from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed in a private motor vehicle accident near Bloemfontein while on weekend pass. He was 19.

- **1984** - Corporal Johannes Gerhardus Terblanche from 1 SAI was killed instantly when his Ratel Infantry Fighting Vehicle overturned during exercises at the De Brug Training Area. He was 20.

2 May

- **1863** - Stonewall Jackson is wounded by his own men at Chancellorsville, he dies on 10 May.
- **1943** - Japanese aircraft bomb Darwin, Australia.
- **1945** - Berlin formally surrenders to the Red Army.
- **1945** - German forces in Italy surrender.
- **1982** - Falklands War: British sub HMS 'Conqueror' sinks Argentine light cruiser 'General Belgrano', 323 members of the crew are killed.
- **1982** - Rifleman Karel Titus from the South African Cape Corps was killed when he was knocked down and run over by a civilian vehicle while carrying road block duties at Eersterivier. He was 29.
- **1982** - Captain Leon van Wyk from 1 Parachute Battalion was Killed in Action east of Otavi during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 26.
- **1984** - Special Warrant Officer Benyamen Joseph from the SWA Police Counter-In-

surgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 37.

- **1985** - Rifleman Piet De-fransa from 201 Battalion SWATF was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 21.
- **1987** - Three members from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces at Otchinjau in Southern Angola during Ops Bauwer. They were: Corporal Augusta Fernando (26). Corporal Martin Nyamhunga (24). Corporal Obadiah Malose Sebata (25).
- **1988** - A self-confessed SA spy of the security police in the ANC, Olivia Forsyth, who was held prisoner at ANC Quatro prison camp for seven months and spent another fifteen months under ANC guard in Luanda, evades her guards and takes refuge in the British embassy in Luanda.
- **1990** - Two members from the Cape Regiment were accidentally killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Mpumalanga. They were: Corporal Andrew Afrika (23). Rifleman Jan Geduld (36).
- **1990** - Lieutenant Mike Schillings from Group 17

was killed in military vehicle accident at Vereeniging. He was 22.

- **2011** - U.S. Special Operations Forces killed Osama bin Laden during a raid on his secret compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

3 May

- **1846** - The Mexican Army invades Texas.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: A battle takes place between the British forces under Lord Roberts and the Boers under Gen. De la Rey at Brandfort OFS. De la Rey retreats at nightfall.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Lord Roberts departs from Bloemfontein and begins the 'March to Pretoria' with almost 44,000 men, 18,000 horses, and 1,200 field-guns. He leaves to the strains of "We are marching to Pretoria" which is heard for the first time.
- **1941** - US supply ships final-

ly reach the British Middle East army at the Suez Canal.

- **1943** - US 1st Armoured Division captures Mateur, Tunisia.
- **1945** - British troops liberate Rangoon from the Japanese.
- **1945** - Polish 10th Armoured Brigade captures Wilhelms-hafen.
- **1945** - RAF sinks several German prison-ships in Lubeck Bay. About 7,500 are killed.
- **1946** - The Allied Military Tribunal in Tokyo begins war crimes trials.
- **1961** - Defence legislation is amended to enable use of the armed forces for the suppression of internal disorder and reorganise the police so as to co-ordinate its command headquarters with that of the military.
- **1969** - Lieutenant Andre Weilbach from 4 Squadron was killed when his AT-6 Harvard failed to recover from a spin and crashed near Hartebeespoortdam during a routine general flying training sortie. He was 25.
- **1976** - Two members of the Kempton Park Commando were killed in a military vehicle accident in Pretoria. They were: Lance Corporal Johannes Petrus Hendrik Barnard (20). Rifleman Lawrence William Custard (24).
- **1978** - Three thousand members of the Congolese

National Liberation Front (FNL) invade Zaire's Shaba Province from Angola.

- **1979** - Captain Gabriel Johannes Jacobus Basson from 4 SAI accidentally drowned when his boat struck an underwater obstruction and he was thrown overboard by the impact. He was 28.
- **1982** - Falklands War: Argentine Exocet missile sinks HMS 'Sheffield'.
- **1987** - Corporal Cornelius Johannes Du Toit from Regiment Bloemspruit died from a gunshot wound resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle while at Fouriesburg. He was 24.
- **1988** - Representatives of South Africa, United States, Angola and Cuba meet in London (3-4 May) in search of a solution to the Angolan war and independence for Namibia.

4 May

- **1860** - The Orange Free State signs a peace treaty with Moshesh at Wittebergen, near Winburg, after the first Basuto war.
- **1902** - General Smuts, on his way to the national delegation at Vereeniging to start peace negotiations, meets with General Lord Kitchener at Kroonstad, OFS.
- **1916** - Germany abandons unrestricted submarine warfare, at the "request" of the US.
- **1945** - German troops in the Netherlands, Denmark, and



Osama bin Laden

- Norway surrender
- **1965** - Units of the SADF are now being equipped with a rifle made completely in South Africa. It is the R1-7.62 mm rifle, developed from the Belgian FN rifle, with improvements.
- **1970** - At Kent State University, four students were killed by National Guardsmen who opened fire on a crowd of 1,000 students protesting President Richard Nixon's decision to invade Cambodia.
- **1978** - South African airborne attack on a South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) military base at the former town of Cassinga, Angola. Conducted as one of the three major actions of Operation Reindeer during the South African Border War, it was the South African Army's first major air assault.
- **1978** - Four members from 2 and 3 Parachute Battalion were Killed in Action during Operation Reindeer and the subsequent assault on Cassinga in Southern Angola. The casualties were: Rifleman Edward James Backhouse (22). Rifleman Martin Kaplan (25). Rifleman Jacob Conrad De Waal (23). Rifleman Andries Petrus Human (29) was reported Missing in Action after jumping from the aircraft at Cassinga. It was later learnt that he had landed in the river and drowned.
- **1978** - Corporal Terence Michael Bridgeman, an Eland 90 Armoured Car Crew Commander from 2 Special Service Battalion "D" Squadron Walvis Bay, was Killed in Action. He was 19.
- **1978** - Corporal Herbert Charles Truebody, an Eland 90 Armoured Car Crew Commander from 2 Special Service Battalion "D" Squadron Walvis Bay, was Killed in Action when his Eland 90 armoured car was hit by a Soviet 82mm B10 recoilless anti-tank rocket. He was 19.
- **1981** - Signaller Ronald Christo van Hamersveld from 2 Signal Regiment was killed in Military Vehicle Accident in Pretoria. He was 21.
- **1982** - Special Sergeant N. Tamunila 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.
- **1983** - Lance Corporal Gerhardus Daniel Blignaut from 6 SAI was Killed in Action after suffering fatal gunshot wounds when his patrol walked into a SWAPO/PLAN ambush. He was 21.
- **1988** - Six members from 101 Battalion SWATF were Killed in Action during a contact with a numerically superior enemy force at Donguena, North of Calueque in Southern Angola.

Private Papenfus from the Technical Service Corps was captured during this encounter and later taken to Cuba. He was released a few years later. The casualties were: Lance Corporal Hendrik Jacobus Venter (20). Lance Corporal F. Petrus (22). Rifleman L. Haifiku (24). Rifleman H. Haimbodi (22). Rifleman W. Robert (23). Rifleman J. Petrus (20).

5 May

- **1821** - France's Napoleon Bonaparte dies in exile on the island of St. Helena.
- **1941** - Emperor Haile Selassie returns to Addis Ababa.
- **1942** - US begins rationing sugar during WW II.
- **1942** - A combined British military and naval force land on Madagascar and by the afternoon the town of Diego Suarez is captured.
- **1945** - Okinawa: 131 Kamikaze sink 17 ships.
- **1945** - German troops in the Netherlands surrender to the Allies.
- **1965** - First large US ground units arrive in South Vietnam.
- **1969** - P.W. Botha, the Minister of Defence, announces that an air-to-air projectile has been perfected by South Africa.
- **1977** - Rifleman Hendrik Johannes Jordaan from Regiment Westelike Provinsie was Killed in Action when he detonated a landmine while on patrol in the Jati Strip. He was 21.

- **1977** - Willem Johannes Pietersen drowned while on Observation Post duties on the Kavango River. He was 20.
- **1980** - Rifleman Simon Kapuna from (35 Battalion) 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 24.
- **1980** - Two members of 8 SAI were Killed in Action after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds when their TB came under attack from SWAPO/PLAN insurgents using mortars and RPG-7 Anti-Tank Rockets. The casualties were: Rifleman Derek van den Berg (21). Rifleman Andre Johannes Redelinghuys (20).
- **1987** - Lance Corporal Rodney Abraham Scott from Group 39 was killed in a motor vehicle accident at Barkley East. He was 21.
- **2000** - Sierra Leone rebels seize peacekeepers from Zambia, raising to more than 300 the number of UN personnel they are believed to be holding captive and dealing another blow to UN peacekeeping efforts in Africa.
- **2011** - Claude Stanley Choules dies in Australia at the age of 110. He was the last combat veteran of World War I and also the last veteran to have served in both World Wars.

6 May

- **1906** - British troops kill over sixty Zulus during a punitive expedition near Durban, Natal.
- **1915** - Gallipoli: Allies attack Cape Hellas.
- **1942** - Corregidor and the Philippines surrender to the Japanese
- **1943** - Allied forces on their way to Tunis wipe out German 15th Panzer Division.
- **1945** - Axis Sally makes her last broadcast.
- **1955** - West Germany joins NATO.
- **1962** - USS 'Ethan Allen' (SSBN-608) fires the first nuclear warhead from a submerged submarine.
- **1976** - Two crew members from 27 Squadron were Reported Missing when their Piaggio P166S Albatross disappeared south of Dassen Island while returning from



Claude Choules

a long range West Coast Sea Patrol. The crew have no known grave and remain unaccounted for. They were: Major Raymond Hall Carter (52). Captain Gideon Machiel Albertus Rossouw (25).

- **1978** - South Africa is condemned by the United States of America for its recent raid into Angola (Operation Reindeer).
- **1982** - Lieutenant Raymond Roderick Hughes from 6 Squadron was killed near Port Elizabeth while approaching to land in Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I while returning from a routine training flight. He was 25.
- **1983** - Rifleman Louis Smit from Regiment Westelike Provinsie suffered a fatal heart attack and died while on a foot patrol in the Operational Area. He was 25.
- **1991** - Gunner Phillipus Andries van der Merwe from 25 Field Regiment was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Batavia. He was 18.
- **1992** - Rifleman Ralph Jeffrey Steyn from 3 SAI was killed at Imbali Township near Pietermaritzburg when his Buffel Troop Carrier suffered brake failure and overturned. He was 22.

7 May

- **1915** - The British passenger ship Lusitania was torpedoed by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland, losing 1,198 of its 1,924 passen-

gers, including 114 Americans. The attack hastened neutral America's entry into World War I.

- **1937** - Germany's Condor Legion arrives in Spain to help the Nationalists.
- **1939** - Germany and Italy announce a military and political alliance known as the Rome-Berlin Axis.
- **1942** - World War II: East Africa. Naval bases on Madagascar are surrendered to the British by Vichy forces.
- **1943** - World War II: Final Allied Offensive, Tunisia. General Sir Harold Alexander's 18th Army Group captures Bizerte and Tunis. All that remains of the German force is General Gustav von Vaerst's 5th Panzer Army on the Cape Bon peninsula.
- **1945** - World War II: Germany signs an unconditional surrender at Allied headquarters in Rheims, France, to take effect the following day, ending the European conflict of World War II.
- **1946** - British Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, announces plans to withdraw British troops from Egypt, dependent upon agreement for a military alliance for the protection of the Suez Canal.
- **1954** - The French Indochina War ended with the fall of Dien Bien Phu, in a stunning victory by the Vietnamese over French colonial forces in northern Vietnam. The country was then divided in half at the 17th parallel, with South Vietnam created

in 1955.

- **1982** - Corporal Hercules Petrus Bester from 5 SAI was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents at Tsumeb. He was 20.
- **1982** - Private Barry Andre van Tonder from the Technical Service Corps was accidentally electrocuted at Lohatla and could not be revived. He was 22.
- **1983** - Two 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 Warrant Officer Lebeus Vilho (36). Constable Nico Johannes Swiegers (22).
- **1984** - Special Sergeant Filupus Matheus 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.
- **1985** - Gunner Conrad Heathcote from 10 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment collapsed and died after suffering a fatal heart attack during Junior Leaders Course at Youngsfield. He was 24.
- **1985** - Rifleman A.H. Ambrosius from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents

near the Cut-Line. He was 19.

- **1987** - Rifleman Christopher George Docherty from 7 SAI was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Barberton. He was 23.
- **1997** - Former Defence Minister Magnus Malan takes full responsibility for secret apartheid raids into neighbouring countries but says they were all state-sanctioned and legal.
- **2000** - Rebels in Sierra Leone use civilians as shields while fighting UN forces.

8 May

- **1902** - A combined force of British soldiers and armed Blacks attempts to surround General C.H. Muller's commando, commanded in his absence by Col. Trichardt, near Belfast. The attackers are repulsed.
- **1940** - The Cape Corps, consisting of Cape Coloured men, is reformed under Col. C.N. Hoy.
- **1941** - Royal Navy captures 'U-110', with an intact Enigma machine.
- **1942** - During World War II in the Pacific, the Battle of the Coral Sea began in which Japan would suffer its first defeat of the war.
- **1943** - World War II: Final Allied Offensive, Tunisia. Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham, Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Fleet launches Operation 'Retribution', to prevent

Axis forces from evacuating North Africa.

- **1945** - A second German surrender ceremony was held in Berlin. Soviet Russia's leader Josef Stalin had refused to recognize the German surrender document signed a day earlier at Reims.
- **1950** - General Douglas MacArthur is appointed commander of the United Nations (UN) forces in Korea, including South Africans.
- **1952** - US conducts the first H-Bomb test at Eniwetok Atoll.
- **1966** - WO1 Louis Matthys Jakobus Pienaar from the Artillery School was killed when his Landrover was involved in a head-on collision with a civilian vehicle near Heidelberg. He was 45.
- **1980** - Rifleman Simon Kanunu from 35 Battalion (Later 202 Battalion) SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.



Joseph Stalin

- **1980** - Two members of 36 Battalion (Later 203 Battalion) SWATF were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. They were: Rifleman Kumsa Ntamshe (22). Rifleman David Twi (20).
- **1981** - Two members from 2 SAI were Killed in action in a landmine explosion in Northern Owamboland. They were: Lance Corporal Johannes Petrus Botha (19). Rifleman Johannes Willem Hanekom (22).
- **1985** - Rifleman Petrus Johannes Theron from the Germiston Commando was killed in a head-on collision between two Buffel Troop Carriers in the Kathlehong Township. He was 26.
- **1985** - Special Constable Linus Abraham 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.

9 May

- **1936** - Five days after Italy captured the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, Mussolini annexes Ethiopia and announces that Abyssinia is now part of the Italian Empire.
- **1945** - Czechoslovakia lib-

erated from Nazi occupation.

- **1945** - German troops in the Channel Islands surrender to the British.
- **1975** - Sergeant (Flight Engineer) Jacobus Johannes Crause from 16 Squadron was killed when his Alouette III Helicopter ditched into the sea off Port Elizabeth after suffering engine failure. He was 28.
- **1977** - A Second Defence Amendment Bill passes its final stages in the House of Assembly, with the support of the entire opposition. The existing twelve months' maximum national service will be increased to twenty-four months and the subsequent period of service increased to a maximum of 240 days.
- **1986** - Sapper Jacobus Petrus van den Berg from 25 Field Engineer Squadron was killed at Oshakati after being struck by a bullet resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 19.

10 May

- **1857** - Sepoy uprising at Meerut initiates the Indian Mutiny.
- **1918** - Royal Navy commando raid on Ostend: HMS 'Vindictive' is sunk to block the Harbour.
- **1940** - British form the Home Guard (Dad's Army).
- **1940** - Germany invades France, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg.

- **1940** - Kurt Student becomes the first general to make a combat parachute jump, over Rotterdam.
- **1940** - Luftwaffe bombs Freiburg, Germany, by mistake; Goebbels blames the RAF.
- **1940** - Winston S. Churchill becomes Prime Minister of the UK.
- **1941** - Rudolf Hess, Adolph Hitler's deputy, parachutes into Scotland.
- **1946** - Italy's former colonies in North Africa are to be placed under UN control.
- **1956** - France sends 50,000 reservists to Algeria.
- **1968** - Vietnam War: Paris peace talks begin, as does the Battle of Hamburger Hill.
- **1983** - Four members from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) were Killed in Action during fierce engagement with a numerically superior force of SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. They were: Sergeant A. Willem (27). Special Constable U. Maundu (25). Special Constable T. Mben-dura (28). Special Constable J. Musaso (24).
- **1915** - World War I: The force of the Union of South Africa enters Windhoek, capital of South West Africa.
- **1943** - World War II: Final Allied Offensive, Tunisia. General Gustav von Vaerst's 5th Panzer Army finally surrenders on the Cape Bon peninsula, Tunisia.
- **1943** - RMS 'Queen Mary' arrives at New York with Winston Churchill and the British Chiefs of Staff, en route to Washington, as well as 5,000 Afrika Korps veterans bound for POW camps, and the 300 troops guarding them.
- **1955** - Israeli raid on Gaza.
- **1960** - Israeli agents capture Adolf Eichmann in Buenos Aires.
- **1966** - Lieutenant Ian Pieter Roos from 1 Squadron was killed when his Canadair CL13B Sabre crashed near Waterkloof during a routine general flying training flight. He was 21.
- **1978** - Private Pieter Benade from 84 Technical Stores Depot was killed in a military motor vehicle accident at Grahamstown. He was 20.
- **1982** - Rifleman Jaques Samuae Du Preez from the Army Intelligence Corps was Killed in Action during an attack on the "Kanjimi Marenga" school where he was serving as a teacher. He was 19.
- **1982** - Corporal Don Stoffel Olyn from 911 Battalion SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier over-

11 May

- **1862** - To prevent its capture by Union forces advancing in Virginia, the Confederate Ironclad Merrimac was destroyed by the Confederate Navy.
- **1914** - Taza, Morocco, is occupied by French troops.

- turned during a patrol in the Etosha Pan. He was 18.
- **1985** - Corporal Mark Anthony Pond from 905 Special Services Company was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola.
- **1986** - Three members from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) were Killed in Action during a fierce contact with heavily armed PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland when their Z5S Casspir was hit by a Soviet RPG-7 Anti-Tank Rocket. The casualties were: Constable Ignatius Francois van Zyl (25). Special Constable Simeon Shindele (25). Special Constable Simon Toivo (24).

12 May

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Lord Roberts enters Kroonstad. President M.T. Steyn proclaims Heilbron in the Orange Free State as his new capital.
- **1941** - Urgent supplies, including tanks and aircraft arrive at the Egyptian port of Alexandria with the convoy, code-named 'Tiger'. General Wavell can now prepare for operation 'Brevity', and the push against Rommel's forces on the Egypt-Libya border.
- **1949** - Soviet Russia lifted its blockade of Berlin.
- **1973** - 2nd Lieutenant Jacobus Petrus Kolver from 6

- Squadron was killed when his AT-6 Harvard spun into the ground near the Sundays River during a routine general flying training flight. He was 21.
- **1975** - Trooper Pieter Gabriel Eybers from 2 Special Service Battalion was accidentally killed when he fell out of a patrol observation post in the Operational Area. He was 20.
- **1980** - Rifleman Cornelius Johannes Nortje from 1 SAI attached to 61 Mech Battalion was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1982** - Lance Corporal Michael Simon Ngoma from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment died from gunshot wounds accidentally sustained. He was 24.
- **1983** - Rifleman Frank Paul Couvelis from 912 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action in Southern Angola when his convoy was ambushed by a



Kurt Student

- numerically superior enemy force.
- **1988** - Rifleman Dean Anthony Lones from Regiment Dan Pienaar was killed in a military vehicle accident at Hazyview near White River. He was 25.
- **2000** - Ignoring international pleas to end their two-year border conflict, Ethiopia and Eritrea return to open war with fighting reported on three fronts.
- **1940** - Churchill promises "blood, toil, tears, and sweat."
- **1940** - Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands flees to England to avoid capture by the Germans.
- **1943** - World War II: The Italian commander-in-chief in Tunisia surrenders a day after his German counterpart, with the Allies holding some 250,000 prisoners of war.
- **1946** - US sentences 58 Mauthausen concentration camp guards to death.
- **1964** - Rifleman Paul Jacobus Krogh from 1 Parachute Battalion was accidentally shot dead by a fellow soldier in the Barracks in Tempe, Bloemfontein. He was 20.
- **1981** - Rifleman Mike Williams from the South African Intelligence Corps was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident, at Madimbo. He

- was 21.
- **1988** - Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha and Defence Minister Magnus Malan hold talks in Brazzaville, Congo, with an Angolan delegation headed by Minister of Justice Fernando van Dunem.
- **1942** - During World War II, an Act of Congress allowed women to enlist for non-combat duties in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), the Women Appointed for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES), Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), and Semper Paratus Always Ready Service (SPARS), the Women's Reserve of the Marine Corp.
- **1943** - Japanese submarine sinks Australian hospital ship 'Centaur' off Brisbane, 268 of 332 persons aboard die; wreck is found in 2009, with the Red Cross still prominent on her sides.
- **1976** - 2nd Lieutenant Lionel John Kidson from 6 SAI was critically injured when his Unimog vehicle overturned on the "Wit Pad", close to Eenhana. He and the other injured were airlifted to the Grootfontein Hospital where he died during the night. He was 19.
- **1978** - Communist-backed Katangan gendarmes, who had been living in neighbouring Angola, invade the region around Kolwezi in southern Zaire. Zairian

14 May

troops are sent into quell the violence.

- **1980** - Three members from 8 SAI were killed after receiving multiple shrapnel wounds in an accidental M26 hand grenade explosion at Okalongo in Northern Owamboland. They were: Lance Corporal Andre David Naude (21). Rifleman Frederick Engelbrecht (18). Rifleman Willem Johannes Landman (20).
- **1982** - Rifleman Andre Jodt from the South West Africa Territory Force Gymnasium was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 29.
- **1986** - Staff Sergeant Jan Carl Bergh from the Soutpansberg Commando was killed in a private vehicle accident while on his way to the Unit Headquarters after being called up for duty during the state of emergency. He was 42.
- **1987** - Rifleman L. Emmanuel from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 24.

15 May

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Buller and Lord Dundonald enter Dundee. Lyttelton's division captures Glencoe.
- **1902** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Vereeniging conference begins. The sixty Boer representatives elect General C.F. Beyers as chairman.

- **1940** - German troops occupy Amsterdam as the Dutch Army surrenders.
- **1941** - World War II: Operation 'Brevity'. British forces regain Halfaya Pass and capture the towns of Sollum and Capuzzo on the Egypt-Libya border.
- **1944** - Eisenhower & Montgomery brief George VI & Churchill on the D-Day plan.
- **1957** - First British A-bomb explosion, Christmas Island, the Pacific.
- **1973** - Private Harry Cornelius Theron from 1 Maintenance Unit was accidentally shot dead by a fellow soldier at the 1 Maintenance Unit weapons store while they were in the process of cleaning and checking firearms. He was 18.
- **1980** - Rifleman Glen Andrew Paul from 8 SAI was critically wounded after receiving multiple shrapnel wounds in an accidental hand grenade explosion at Okalongo in Northern Owamboland on 14 May 1980, he unfortunately succumbed to his wounds on 15 May 1980. He was 20.
- **1981** - Rifleman Willie Elefante from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1984** - Rifleman Malekudu Johannes Nkada from 113 Battalion was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned while on patrol

near Messina. He was 23.

- **1985** - Special Constable K. Tjindunda from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 27.
- **1986** - Lance Corporal Isaac Londo from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion in Northern Owamboland. He was 26.

16 May

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: A 'flying' column that has sped its way straight from Kimberley (reinforced further by Canadian troops) comes to the aid of Mafeking who is under siege by Boer forces.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Hunter occupies Christiana, the first ZAR town to be captured.
- **1941** - World War II: North Africa. Believing that previous day's advance by British forces into Sollum and Fort Capuzzo was the start of an attack on Tobruk, General Rommel attacks and forces the British back to Halfaya Pass.
- **1943** - German troops destroy the main synagogue of Warsaw.
- **1964** - Six members of the SADF were killed when their Military Vehicle was involved in a head-on collision with a Military Re-

covery vehicle while returning from a sports event at Uniondale. The casualties were: Staff Sergeant Abraham Carel Prinsloo (30). Sergeant Johannes Hendrik August Agenbach (22). Corporal Pieter Johannes Kotze (22). Trooper Izak Sybrand Visagie (20). Bombardier Johannes Adrianas Du Toit (21). Rifleman Johannes Frederick Wepener (18).

- **1981** - WO II Isak Philipus Venter from North West Command Headquarters was accidentally killed at Stilfontein when he was knocked down by a civilian vehicle during the Republic Day preparation festivities. He was 47.
- **1981** - Rifleman Benjamin Buys from 16 Maintenance Unit was killed when his private motor vehicle overturned at Grootfontein. It appears that he had fallen asleep behind the wheel. He was 20.



- **1997** - Mobutu Sese Seko, who has ruled Zaire for more than 30 years, looting it of billions of dollars, flees the capital city as rebel forces advance. The rebels enter the city the next day and Laurent Kabila declares himself head of state.

17 May

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: After 216 days Boer forces abandon the siege of Mafeking and Colonel Mahon's relief column enters the town.
- **1940** - Germans capture Brussels.
- **1941** - World War II: North Africa. Rommel is instructed by Berlin to leave Tobruk to the Italians and concentrate his *Deutsches Afrika Korps* on the fight along the Egypt-Libya border.
- **1943** - Operation Chastise: RAF 617 Squadron ("The Dam Busters") destroys the Ruhr Valley dams.
- **1981** - Signaler Albert Peter Jordaen from the Army Signals Training Centre at Heidelberg was killed in a private motor vehicle accident between Heidelberg and Grootvlei, on the N3. He was travelling home on weekend pass after standing guard duty the whole night. He was 18.
- **1987** - USS 'Stark' (FFG-31) hit by Iraqi missiles, 37 sailors die.

Mobutu Sese Seko

- **1988** - Former information officer of the SADF, Brigadier J. Bosman, reveals in Parliament that one third of the 3 000 troops involved in SA's operation in south-east Angola are not White. In addition 65% to 70% of the soldiers in the operational area were 'people of colour'.
- **1989** - A military coup fails to remove Mengistu Haile Mariam as president of Ethiopia.
- **1991** - Rifleman Antonio Joao Sampaio from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action after being struck in the neck by an AK-47 bullet fired from an unknown gunman while he was on patrol in Tokoza Township. He was 34.

18 May

- **1804** - Napoleon Bonaparte became Emperor of France, snatching the crown from the hands of Pope Pius VII during the actual coronation ceremony, and then crowning himself.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Boer negotiators, Generals Botha, De Wet, De la Rey, Smuts and Hertzog attend peace talks in Pretoria with Lord Milner and Lord Kitchener. They are still asking for a continued independence of the former republics.
- **1941** - World War II: East Africa. The 5th Indian Division, part of General William Platt's Northern Force, takes Amba Alagi after eighteen days of fighting. The Italian

commander, Duke d'Aosta, is the last one to leave the fortress.

- **1944** - The Polish II Corps storms Monte Cassino.
- **1967** - UN agrees to Egyptian demand to withdraw UN forces from Gaza Strip.
- **1973** - Staff Sergeant Kevin Everitt Potgieter from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed in a parachute accident at Tempe. He was 27.
- **1980** - Four members from 41 Battalion were Killed in Action during a contact with a numerically superior force of SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. The casualties were: Rifleman Hendrik Balie (21). Rifleman Dawid Goliath (29). Rifleman Vincent Sekopomashe (25). Rifleman Joseph Tjipuna (22).
- **1982** - Rifleman Likambo Zecks Maxwell from 701 Battalion SWATF was killed after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in an accidental mortar bomb explosion at Nkongo Base. He was 21.
- **1994** - Military observers returning to the Rwandan countryside report ethnic killings of at least 200,000.
- **1997** - Rebels led by Laurent Kabila take control of Kinshasa, capital of Zaire now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, after overrunning the country in seven months.
- **1999** - Sierra Leone's government and the country's rebels agree to a cease-fire to end seven years of savage

fighting.

- **2000** - The UN Security Council unanimously approves an arms embargo against Ethiopia and Eritrea following the latest flare-up in their two-year border war.

19 May

- **1931** - "Pocket Battleship" 'Deutschland' launched in Germany.
- **1935** - T. E. Lawrence, better known as 'Lawrence of Arabia', is killed in a motorcycle accident at the age of 46.
- **1940** - Charles De Gaulle's 4th Armoured Division counter-attacks the Germans at Péronne.
- **1951** - UN begins counter offensive in Korea.
- **1958** - The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) is established.
- **1967** - US bombs Hanoi.
- **1978** - Rifleman Adriaan Adolf Jonker from the Midlands Commando died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained as a result of an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while he was serving in the Operational Area. He was 24.
- **1983** - Lance Corporal Colin Watson Kindness from 4 SAI, attached to 61 Mechanised Battalion Group died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained as a result of an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while the platoon was 'Falling In' during musketry training.

He was 22.

- **1986** - South African troops carry out raids in Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, killing three people.
- **1987** - Rifleman John Barnard from Regiment Bloemspruit was killed in a military vehicle accident at Van Stadensrus. He was 25.
- **1996** - French troops move into downtown Bangui, Central African Republic, to help quell an army uprising.
- **1998** - The name of the military base, Voortrekkerhoogte is officially changed to Thaba Tshwane.

20 May

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: A squadron of Colonel E.C. Bethune, under Captain Geoff, runs into a well-placed ambush under Commandant Blignaut at Scheepers Nek, ten km south west of Vryheid. The British lose twenty-seven killed, twenty-five wounded, eleven taken prisoner and twenty-nine horses killed. The Boers capture a machine gun and twenty-six horses, while losing one burgher killed, one wounded and one captured by the British.
- **1902** - US military occupation of Cuba (since June of 1898) ends.
- **1940** - German tanks reach the Channel.
- **1940** - World War II: The 1st SA Infantry Brigade is called up for continuous training, to be followed by other units, including the SA Artillery Corps, Engineer Corps and the newly formed Tank Corps.

lery Corps, Engineer Corps and the newly formed Tank Corps.

- **1942** - Japanese submarine-borne aircraft reconnoiter Durban, South Africa.
- **1970** - Two members from Flying Training School Langebaanweg were killed when their Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I flipped over on the runway during a landing at Air Force Base Langebaanweg. They were: Major Gabriel Hendrik van Dyk (31). Captain Phillip Spencer Weyer (25).
- **1979** - Special Constable Petrus Mabashe 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.
- **1981** - Three members of the SADF were Killed in Action while on a vehicle patrol from Okankolo northeast along the Odilla River bed. The casualties were:

2nd Lieutenant Stephen Soloman Hansen (19). Sapper Jan Hendrik Smith (19). Sapper Anthonie Christoffel Strydom (19).

- **1982** - Corporal Brian Gerald Peterson from 701 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1983** - A powerful car bomb placed by MK Operatives exploded outside the Air Force Headquarters building in Church Street during the afternoon rush-hour period killing seven members of the SADF and 10 civilians. Another 197 SADF personnel and civilians were wounded in the explosion that also killed the two MK Operatives who had placed the bomb. The SADF casualties were: Colonel Stefanus Sebastiaan Walters (43). Commandant Johan de Villiers (47). Commandant Izak Johannes Henning (60). Captain Rian Hendrik Liebenberg (26). Flight Sergeant Jacob Johannes Ras (38). Corporal Anton Nel (22). Airman Wayne Lawrence Kirtley (19).
- **1983** - Rifleman John Philip Olivier from Regiment Groot Karoo was Killed in Action near Mupa. He was 24.
- **1987** - Chief Petty Officer Jan Johannes Barend Mostert

was killed in a military vehicle accident at Nelspoort. He was returning from Simons-town after collecting sports equipment when his vehicle overturned. He was 38.

- **1987** - Private Clifton Brian Kilian from 97 Ammunition Depot was killed in a military vehicle accident at Mokerong. He was 19.
- **1988** - Rifleman Motsemoholo Joseph Mpembe from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was killed in a parachuting accident at Kenilworth. He was 23.
- **1988** - Rifleman Andre Petrus Prinsloo from 16 Maintenance Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident 10km South of Windhoek. He was 21.
- **1998** - Ethiopia and Eritrea amass thousands of troops along their border, ready to fight over a 640-square km triangle of disputed land.

21 May

- **1902** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The proposed peace proposals agreed on by a commission of five, Botha, De la Rey, De Wet and Hertzog, with Kitchener and Milner, are received in London.
- **1941** - SS 'Robin Moore' is sunk off Brazil, first U-boat kill of an American ship in World War II.
- **1944** - World War II: Allied forces break through the Hitler Line in Italy.
- **1951** - USSR announces it will sell arms to Egypt.
- **1956** - US explodes the first



T E Lawrence

airdropped hydrogen bomb, Bikini Atoll

- **1974** - The British Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, states in the House of Commons that the export license for a Westland Wasp helicopter to South Africa will be revoked.
- **1976** - Private Adriaan Johannes van der Merwe from the 4th Provost Company, South African Corps of Military Police was killed in Military Vehicle Accident at Grootfontein. He was 19.
- **1978** - French and Belgian paratroopers who were flown into Kolwezi, Zaire's main copper producing town, to rescue the 3,000 White residents, have discovered over 150 bodies lying in the town's main streets. Most have been badly mutilated. Communist-backed Katangese gendarmes, who had invaded the region earlier this month, are blamed. Zairian troops, who had been sent in a week ago, appear to have joined with the Katangese gendarmes, getting high on drugs and going on the murder spree.
- **1980** - Fifteen members from 32 Battalion were Killed in Action during heavy close-quarter fighting against a vastly numerically superior enemy force of FAPLA troops and PLAN insurgents during an engagement to neutralise an enemy base complex at Savate in Southern Angola during Operation Tiro a Tiro. The

casualties were: Captain Andre Erasmus (28). Lieutenant Charl de Jongh Muller (23). 2nd Lieutenant Timothy Simmons Patrick (18). 2nd Lieutenant Johannes Mattheus Heyns Muller (19). Corporal Eduard Coetzee Engelbrecht (19). Lance Corporal Andrew Jeremy Falkus (20). Lance Corporal Joao Kaumba (21). Rifleman Rodrigues Alberto (27). Rifleman Benedito Albino (25). Rifleman Sebastiao Angelo (22). Rifleman Manuel Augusto (26). Rifleman Antonio Caliang (31). Rifleman Abel Livingue (23). Rifleman Casto Marcelino (24). Rifleman Joaquim Matamba (22).

- **1985** - Three members of the Air Force Base Waterkloof Fire Section were Killed in Action after being called to assist the Pretoria Fire Department in extinguishing a massive fire at the SASOL Bulk Storage Depot in Pretoria West after Soviet SPM limpet mines planted by MK Operatives had exploded and damaged some of the large fuel storage tanks. The casualties were: Sergeant Wynand Jacobus Hawkins (30). Corporal Donald Graham Clench (22). Airman Michael Sydney Knoetze (23).
- **1985** - A SADF unit is ambushed at the Cabinda oil refinery in Angola and Special Forces Captain Wynand du Toit is taken captive.
- **1985** - Two members from

4 Reconnaissance Regiment were Killed in Action during a Reconnaissance Operation in Cabinda Province of Northern Angola. Captain Wynand du Toit is captured. The casualties were: Corporal Rowland Ridgard Liebenberg (25). Corporal Louis Pieter van Breda (25).

- **1985** - Three members from 101 Battalion SWATF were killed when their Caspir Vehicle overturned at Ondangwa. They were: Rifleman J Kandjii (27). Rifleman M Domingos (26). Rifleman J Felosiano (25).
- **1986** - Rifleman Gabriel Gerhardus Malan from 7 SAI was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Kwan-debele. He was 19.
- **1986** - Corporal D Maurioco from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 24.

22 May

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: USA President McKinley says he will not intervene in the war in South Africa despite direct requests by Boer representatives visiting the White House.
- **1915** - Italy declares war on Austria-Hungary.
- **1941** - World War II: East Africa. Caught between a pincer movement of the 11th and 12th African Divisions, the Abyssinian town of Soddu is captured. It was the penultimate point of resistance

to the Allied campaign in East Africa; only Gondar, to the north, still remains under Italian control.

- **1941** - British troops take Baghdad, deposing pro-Nazi Iraqi regime.
- **1942** - Mexico declares war on Nazi Germany and Japan.
- **1945** - The Allies dissolve the "Dönitz Government," and abolish German sovereignty.
- **1945** - After being captured by the British, Heinrich Himmler commits suicide. He was 44.
- **1960** - Israel announces the capture of Nazi Adolf Eichmann in Argentina.
- **1965** - Minister of Defence Jim Fouché announces that R12m. has been spent on the defence radar screen in the Transvaal.
- **1969** - Trooper Hendrik Er-lank Pieterse from 84 Technical Stores Depot was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 19.
- **1983** - Rifleman Johannes Engelbrecht from the In-



Kat Liebenberg

fantry School was critically injured in a private motor vehicle accident near Colesburg and later succumbed to his injuries in the Universitas Hospital, Bloemfontein. He was 22.

- **1985** - Major Jan Pen Wes-sels from 85 Combat Flying School was killed when his Dassault Mirage IID2Z crashed near Pietersburg. He was 36.
- **1994** - Rwandan rebels seize the key government army barracks in Kigali, removing the biggest obstacle in their drive to capture the capital.

23 May

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British troops arrive at the Renoster River only to find that the Boers have destroyed the bridge.
- **1966** - The Fort Klapperkop military museum, Pretoria, mainly illustrating the period from the Great Trek to 1902, is opened by President C.R. Swart.
- **1979** - Two members from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment were Killed in Action at Shona Mutamanjamba in Southern Angola while carrying out reconnaissance mission to locate a suspected SWAPO/PLAN Base in the area. The casualties were: Captain Johannes Cornelius van Wyk HC (27). Corporal Johan Kloosterziel (22).
- **1983** - Rifleman Coenraad

Jacobus Bezuidenhout from Regiment De La Rey was killed instantly when a Soviet PG-7 Anti-Tank Rocket was accidentally detonated inside their Buffel Troop Carrier while travelling on the Oshakati-Oshikuku road. He was 24.

- **1983** - 2nd Lieutenant Jacobus Edward Visser from 202 Battalion SWATF was killed in a motor cycle accident at Rundu. He was 23.
- **1983** - In response to a car bomb attack in Pretoria on 20 May, the South African Air Force bombs ANC bases in a Maputo suburb, Mozambique, killing six.
- **1998** - General Andreas "Kat" Liebenberg, ex-chief of the SA defence force, dies of cancer in Pretoria.

24 May

- **1870** - Jan Christian Smuts, who was to become the Union of South Africa's second prime minister, is born on the farm Bovenplaats near Riebeeck West in the Cape.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Britain annexes the Orange Free State. Lord Roberts changes the name to Orange River Colony.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Colonel Robert Baden-Powell occupies Zeerust.
- **1902** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British General Sir Ian Hamilton attends General Jan Christiaan Smuts' birthday party: "I sat between Botha and De la Ray. On

Botha's right was De Wet, on De la Ray's left sat Smuts. I had the most enchanting evening, and never wish to eat my dinner in better company."

- **1916** - Britain introduces conscription.
- **1916** - Germans capture Ft. Douaumont, Verdun, from the French.
- **1921** - The British Legion, now the Royal British Legion, is formed by Great War veterans.
- **1941** - Battle of the Denmark Straits: the 'Bismarck' sinks HMS 'Hood', 1,416 are killed. There are only three survivors.
- **1979** - Private Albertus Mundy from 16 Maintenance Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident at Grootfontein. He was 21.
- **1991** - Corporal Revis Omie Khoza from the Kruger Park Commando was killed after he was attacked and trampled to death by an enraged buffalo while on patrol in the Kruger National Park. He was 35.

25 May

- **1857** - In an attempt to unite the two Boer republics, the commandoes of the Free State and Transvaal (Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek) confront each other at the Renoster River, but an armed clash is averted through mediation of Paul Kruger and others.
- **1940** - German troops reach the Channel near Boulogne.

- **1977** - US raises concern over the presence of Cuban military advisers in Ethiopia.
- **1977** - Sergeant William Henry Bernard Gildenhuys HC (Posthumous) from the Cape Town Highlanders was killed after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds while detached to Alpha Company, 1 Parachute Battalion for special duties. He was 28.
- **1981** - Special Warrant Officer Antonio Chiwale 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.
- **1982** - Rifleman Daniel de Klerk from 4 SAI was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 19.
- **1982** - Private Wayne Peter Lourens from 86 Technical Stores Depot went for dental treatment in Bloemfontein. After receiving a dental injection, he suddenly lapsed into a coma and was rushed to hospital where he later died. He was 21.
- **1982** - Three members from 202 Battalion SWATF were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy Forces in Southern Angola. They were: Rifleman G. Muronga (24). Rifleman A.H. Kudumo (25). Rifleman L. Kudumo (26).
- **1983** - Sergeant Alberto Costa from the South West Africa Police Counter-In-

surgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.

- **1984** - Rifleman Craig Rudolph Olivier from the Durban Light Infantry died in 1 Military Hospital after being critically injured in a military vehicle accident. He was 22.
- **1987** - Two members from 111 Battalion were killed in a military vehicle accident on the Carolina Road approximately 30 km from Amsterdam. They were: Rifleman Menzie Albert Moyo (22). Rifleman Passport Johannes Zulu (21).
- **1994** - The UN arms embargo on South Africa is finally lifted following the election of Nelson Mandela as president of the government of National Unity.
- **1997** - Rebels topple the government of Sierra Leone in a violent coup.

26 May

- **1940** - The Dunkirk evacuation began in order to save the British Expeditionary Force trapped by advancing German armies on the northern coast of France. Boats and vessels of all shapes and sizes ferried 200,000 British and 140,000 French and Belgian soldiers across the English Channel by 2 June.
- **1940** - The Crown detains British Fascist Oswald Moseley.

- **1942** - North Africa: Rommel attacks the Gazala Line.
- **1967** - Egyptian premier Gamal Abdel Nasser vows to destroy Israel if war is provoked.
- **1971** - Eleven SAAF members, nine from 21 Squadron and two from 24 Squadron were killed when a formation of three Hawker Siddeley Mercurius HS125 aircraft flew into the side of Devil's Peak during an aircraft formation practice rehearsal for the Republic Day 10th Anniversary celebrations in Cape Town. The casualties were: Major Michael Christiaan de Graaff Genis (37). Captain Daniel du Plessis Lombard (37). Commandant Lourens Adrian Francois Henning (40). Major George Johannes Euvrard (32). Major Nico Beetge (31). Captain Gerald Nicol Snyman (27). Major Herwie Herman Albert Cornelius Lamoral (37). Major Willem Abram Prinsloo (37). Corporal Reiner Nicolaas Grobler



Oswald Moseley

(24). Lance Corporal Eugene Hayes (22). Private Gerhardus Hermanus Waserman (21).

- **1972** - US-USSR sign SALT I (Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty).
- **1973** - Rifleman Jeffrey Gerald Holm from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident, in Eastern Caprivi. Jeffrey was the first SADF soldier to die on service in the Border area after the SADF took over the border area protection role from the South African Police. He was 19.
- **1977** - Rifleman Charles Henry Janse van Noordwyk from 3 SAI was killed after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in an accidental hand grenade explosion at Potchefstroom. He was 18.
- **1977** - The Shaba War in Zaire comes to an end.
- **1980** - Rifleman Johannes Stephanus van der Merwe from Sector 10 Headquarters was killed when he was struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while serving at Oshakati. He was 20.
- **1986** - Rifleman Ivan Conradie from the South African Cape Corps, attached to Sector 10 Headquarters, was killed in a military vehicle accident at Oshakati. He was 21.
- **1987** - Corporal Willem Jo-

hannes Gysberg Venter from Northern Transvaal Command was killed in a military motor cycle accident at Cullinan. He was 21.

- **1989** - WO1 Roland Stanley Sheppard from South West Africa Medical Command was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident on the Tsumeb-Ondangwa Road. He was 50.
- **1991** - South African Air Force pioneer Major-General Ken van der Spuy, veteran of both world wars and holder of fourteen decorations from several countries, dies at the age of 99.

27 May

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Lord Roberts crosses the Vaal River and occupies the town of Ver-eeniging.
- **1918** - Battle of the Aisne: Allies begin pressing back the Germans.
- **1941** - World War II: North Africa. General Erwin Rommel, now reinforced with the 15th Panzer Division, recaptures Halfaya Pass.
- **1941** - The Royal Navy sinks the 'Bismarck'.
- **1956** - The Casbah area of Algiers is sealed off as French troops search for weapons caches.
- **1969** - Two members of 28 Squadron were killed instantly when the private motorcycle they were riding crashed at the notorious "Death Bend" in Johannesburg. They were: Air Ser-

- geant Terence McKelvin (24). Air Mechanic Anthony Edward Dwyer (20).
- **1980** - RENAMO denies in Lisbon that the movement is receiving assistance or supplies from South Africa.
 - **1981** - Rifleman Terence Rodney le Roux from 5 SAI was Killed in Action while on patrol from Etale base close to the Charlie pipeline. He was 22.
 - **1990** - Signaller Alan Vernon Campbell from 2 Signal Regiment was killed in a military vehicle accident on the Pietersburg Highway. He was 21.

28 May

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The annexation of the Orange Free State is announced by Lord Roberts, and back-dated to coincide with the Queen's birthday on 24 May.
- **1924** - A serious peacetime air force accident takes place when a 20-lb bomb falls from a military DH9 bomber, which was damaged during a forced landing at Kuruman. The bomb explodes among a crowd of spectators, killing three and injuring thirty-nine.
- **1940** - King Leopold III surrenders Belgium to the Germans.
- **1940** - Norway: Anglo-French forces capture Narvik.
- **1941** - World War II: General Jan Smuts, premier of SA, becomes a field marshal of the British army.
- **1942** - World War II: North Africa. Colonel General Erwin Rommel begins his third offensive to push the British back into Egypt: Operation 'Venezia'.
- **1970** - Private Bartholomeus Stephanus Diedericks from the Technical Service Corps was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 18.
- **1978** - Candidate Officer Stephanus Rudolph Strydom from the Infantry School Instructor Group was killed after being struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle while at Grootfontein. He was 20.
- **1979** - Special Warrant Officer David Gabriel from the SWA Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) was driving from Ondangwa to Oshakati and gave a lift to a man who, unknown to him, was a member of SWAPO/PLAN. Halfway to Oshakati Warrant Gabriel stopped alongside the road to relieve himself, leaving his FN rifle in the vehicle with the passenger. The SWAPO/PLAN passenger took the rifle and shot him dead before successfully making his escape. He was 36.
- **1980** - The first 55 women graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy.
- **1983** - Lance Corporal Frank Pieter Leendert van der Bijl from 101 Field Workshops was killed after he accidentally fell under the wheels

of a moving Samil truck. He was 20.

- **1984** - Signaller Daniel Hendrik Klue from the South African Corps of Signals was killed in a military vehicle accident at Olifantshoek. He was 19.
- **1985** - Lieutenant Michael Robert Borthwick from the Personnel Services Corps was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident on the Pietersburg Highway. He was 27.
- **1985** - Two members from the SWA Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. They were: Constable Johannes Jurgens Vos (20). Special Constable Frans Bajiyu (24).
- **1986** - Trooper Johann Pretorius from 1 Special Service Battalion was Killed in Action when his armoured car detonated a landmine near the Cut-line. He was 21.
- **1991** - Ethiopian rebels seize Addis Ababa.

29 May

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Louis Botha visits Johannesburg two days before British occupation and asks the residents not to resist and not to destroy the gold mines.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The Battle of Klipriviersberg or Doornkop starts.
- **1945** - Okinawa: the 5th Ma-

rines storm Shuri Castle.

- **1981** - Lieutenant Jeremy John van der Wath from 42 Squadron was killed instantly while flying Atlas AM3C Bosbok, Serial No. 958. The aircraft crashed near Eenhana while flying low level ration drops over a shona. He was 20.
- **1981** - Lieutenant Immo Klaus Kruger from 32 Battalion was killed after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in an accidental hand grenade explosion in the 32 Battalion training area. He flung himself onto the hand grenade to protect those around him. He was 25.
- **1982** - Lance Corporal Adam Cecil Lennox from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment died at Phalaborwa as a result of an accidentally self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head while playing with a privately owned revolver. He was 18.
- **1983** - Rifleman Noreneus Philipus from 101 Battalion



Georg Meiring

SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 23.

- **1984** - WO1 Willem de Ruyter Genis from Northern Logistics Command was killed in a military vehicle accident at Grootfontein. He was 48.
- **1990** - Private Charl de Villiers from the Technical Service Corps was accidentally killed in Pretoria when his Ratel overturned on the road in front of Special Forces Headquarters. He was 19.
- **1998** - Accepting a seventeen-gun salute, outgoing South African National Defence Force (SANDF) chief, General Georg Meiring, formally hands over command of the SANDF to Lt Gen. Sphiwe Nyanda in the sports stadium in Thaba Tshwane, Pretoria.

30 May

- **1815** - The British troopship Arniston is wrecked on the rocks at Waenhuiskrans (later called Arniston). 372 of the 378 people on board are drowned.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Lady Edward (Violet) Cecil writes to Lord Salisbury on the conditions in Bloemfontein: "Far more people have been killed in our hospitals than by Boer bullets... Men are dying by

the hundreds who could easily be saved."

- **1902** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The officially reported camp population of the White concentration camps is 116,572 and the deaths for May are 196.
- **1902** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The officially reported Black concentration camp population in the sixty-six Black camps reach 115,700. 523 deaths are recorded for May. The total recorded deaths are calculated at a minimum of 14,154 (more than 1 in 10). 81% of the fatalities are children.
- **1941** - The Luftwaffe bombs Dublin.
- **1942** - First Allied air raid on Cologne.
- **1942** - World War II: East Africa. Japanese submarines shell Sydney and Diego Suarez naval bases on Madagascar.
- **1966** - 300 US airplanes bomb North Vietnam.
- **1967** - Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser and Jordan's King Hussein sign a mutual defence treaty, prompting Israel to strike pre-emptively a week later, starting the Six-Day War.
- **1970** - 2nd Lieutenant Johannes Jacobus Theron from 4 Artillery Regiment was killed in a military vehicle accident at Messina. He was 19.
- **1974** - South Africa tells Britain that unless the Wasp helicopter is delivered, the Simonstown Agreement on

naval cooperation will have to be reviewed.

- **1982** - Spain becomes the 16th member of NATO.
- **1997** - US Marines evacuate 900 civilians from Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, wracked by looting and violence after a military coup.
- **2003** - The UN Security Council votes unanimously to send a peacekeeping force to Congo's north-eastern Ituri province. The European Union approves the force to restore order and security in a region plagued by violence among ethnic militias.

31 May

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British troops under Lord Roberts enter Johannesburg as the Boers withdraw to Pretoria. The British flag is hoisted in Johannesburg.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: At Vlakfontein (the present day Derby), General Kemp attacks Brigadier-General Dixon and captures the field guns. Dixon launches a counter-attack and Kemp withdraws.
- **1902** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Boer delegates at the Vereeniging national delegation agree fifty-four to six to accept the British proposals for peace. Representatives of both sides at Melrose House, Pretoria, sign the Treaty of Vereeniging.
- **1915** - Zeppelin 'LZ-38' makes the first airship raid on London, dropping 1.5

tons of bombs, killing seven people

- **1916** - The Battle of Jutland: The British Grand Fleet wins a strategic victory over the German High Sea Fleet, which never goes to sea again.
- **1937** - German ships bombard Almeria, Spain, retaliating for an accidental air attack on a German warship.
- **1943** - World War II: North Africa. Charles de Gaulle and Henri Honoré Giraud set up the Committee of National Liberation in Algiers to represent France until the end of the war.
- **1962** - Adolf Eichmann, war criminal, is hanged in Israel at the age of 55.
- **1966** - The Republic of South Africa celebrates its fifth anniversary with a massive military demonstration in Pretoria. A crowd of more than 500,000 sees nearly 20,000 troops and 200 aircraft take part in the proceedings.
- **1966** - Brigadier Jan Harmse Burger SM OBE from 16 Combat Group collapsed and died after suffering a fatal heart attack while attending a Parade at Voortrekkerhoogte. He was 49.
- **1977** - Salisbury announces that Rhodesian troops have captured and occupied the town of Mapai, 100 km inside Mozambique.

Adolf Eichmann



- **1978** - Lance Corporal Yvan Mark L'Hoest from 1 SAI Died of Wounds in 1 Military Hospital after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in an accidental hand grenade explosion in Northern Owamboland. He was 20.
- **1982** - Corporal Mario Jose from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 26.
- **1984** - Rifleman Kevin James Morrow from Regiment Port Natal was killed in a military vehicle accident on the road to Ondangwa. He was 29.
- **1991** - The civil war in Angola ends officially after seventeen years, though fighting still occurs occasionally.



Acronyms

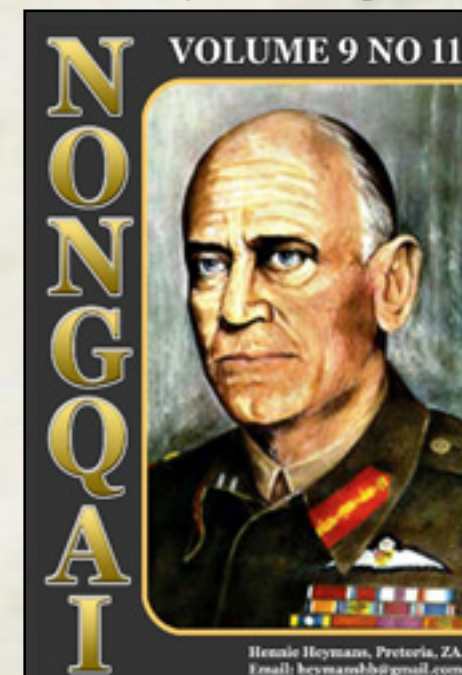
1. North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.
2. *Avtomat Kalashnikova*.
3. *Grens Vegter* (Afrikaans for 'border fighter').
4. The word Casspir is taken from the joint designers of the vehicle - The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the South African Police (SAP).
5. High Altitude, Low Opening.
6. *Maschinenpistole*.
7. People's Liberation Army of Namibia.
8. *Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti* (Committee for State Security).
9. *Fabriek Nasionale*.
10. *HaMossad leModi'in ule-Tafkidim Meyuhadim* (Institute for Intelligence and Special Operations).
11. *Schutzstaffel* (Protection Squadron).
12. Detention Barracks.
13. Messerschmitt. They were the manufacturers.
14. Projector, Infantry, Anti Tank.
15. *Ruchnoy Protivotankoviy Granatomyot*, but we'll also accept Rocket Propelled Grenade.
16. Browning Automatic Rifle.
17. *Ruchnoy Pulemyot Degtyaryova* (Degtyaryov hand-held machine gun).
18. From the German *Fliegerabwehrkanone* (aircraft defence cannon).
19. *Panzerabwehrkanone*.
20. Permanent Force and Citizen Force.



Useful links

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

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



Hipe!

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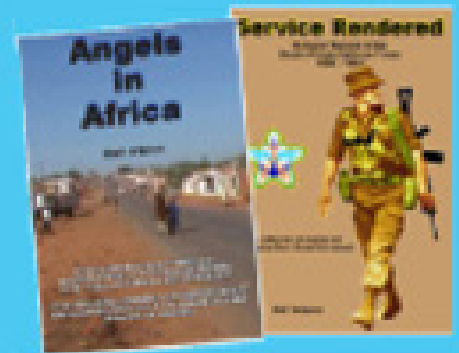
Online Magazines

Flip book magazines with pages that can be turned.



E-books

Produced in any electronic format required.



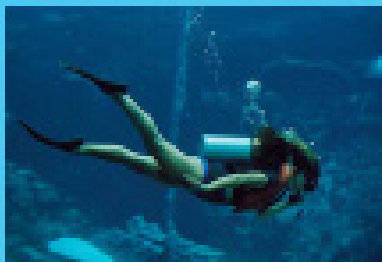
2D & 3D Animation

Produced in any video format.



Video Production

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



Still Photography

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