



Military Despatches

Vol 24 June 2019

Operation Deadstick

A mission vital to D-Day

Remembering D-Day

Marking the 75th anniversary of D-Day

Forged in Battle

The Katyusha MRLS, Stalin's Organ

Isoroku Yamamoto

The architect of Pearl Harbour

Thank your lucky stars

Life in the North Korean military



For the military enthusiast

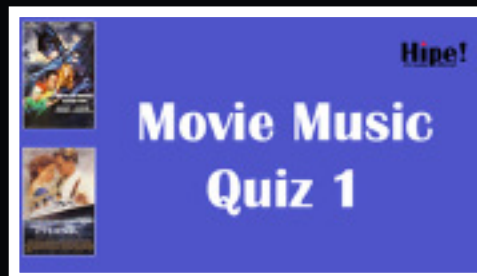


Click on any video below to view



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

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



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



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

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

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



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

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This month our quiz is all about the old South African Defence Force. How much do you remember?





Editor's Sitrep

Can you believe that this month Military Despatches is two years old. No wonder I look so old and bugged.

When I started this online magazine I hoped that a few people would actually read it. I had no idea that within two years we would have more than 100,000 readers in 32 countries. Now imagine if every reader paid just one Rand to read it.

But, as I said when we started, the magazine will always be free for anyone that wants to read it.

So, this month marks the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy. I can remember as a young boy speaking to a number of men that actually took part in the landings. It makes me feel kind of old.

Imagine what it must have felt like, sitting in a landing craft, heading for the beaches. That fear of the unknown, not knowing what will happen when you hit the beaches. Have the Germans discovered the time and place of the landing, and will they be waiting? Will you be greeted by witheringly machine gun fire? It was a very

different war to ours.

I was fascinated to find out more about the North Korean military. The guys have to do 10 years compulsory national service. And our lot complained about doing two years. And to discover that most of them are starving. At least we got fed. If you find yourself at war with North Korea, all you'd have to do is wave a tin of bully beef at them and they'll probably surrender on the spot.

Reverend Ralph Thornley sent me two photographs (they appear on page 28). The first photograph is of an entire battalion of the Cameron Highlanders. It was taken in 1914, just before they left for the front.

The second photo shows the same battalion in 1918 after they returned from the war. There are only 27 of them left. It makes you want to cry.

Until next month.

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Military Despatches is published on-line every month. The articles used in **Military Despatches** are copyrighted and may not be used without prior permission from the editor.

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Japanese Fleet Admiral of the Imperial Japanese Navy, Commander-in-chief of the Combined Fleet during WW II, and the architect of Pearl Harbour.



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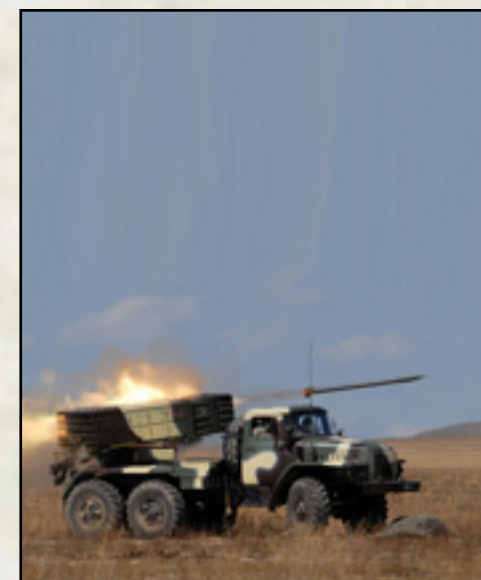
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Front Cover

A BM-21 Grad MRLS in action. An earlier model, the BM-13, was nicknamed 'Katyusha' by the Russians, and 'Stalin's Organ' by the Germans during World War II.



Top Ten Wartime Urban Legends

War is often filled with confusion, propaganda, and disturbing rumours. It's often difficult to tell fact from fiction. Here are ten disturbing wartime urban legends.

This month we're taking a look at ten disturbing urban legends that originated in wartime.

Some of them were no more than propaganda to show the enemy in a bad light. Others were as a result of rumours and hearsay. And others were as a result of the "fog of war".

The fog of war is the uncertainty in situational awareness experienced by participants in military operations.

The term seeks to capture the uncertainty regarding one's own capability, adversary capability, and adversary intent during an engagement, operation, or campaign.

The word "fog" in reference to uncertainty in war was introduced by the Prussian military analyst Carl von Clausewitz in his posthumously published book, *Vom Kriege* (1832), which appeared in English translation in 1873 under the title *On War*.

Here are our Top Ten Disturbing Wartime Urban Legends.

10. German corpse factory

The legend of the German corpse factories war arguably one of the most infamous anti-German propaganda stories circulated in World War I by the British.

According to the story, the *Kadaververwertungsanstalt* was

a special installation supposedly operated by the Germans in which, because fats were so scarce in Germany due to the British naval blockade, German battlefield corpses were rendered down for fat, which was then used to manufacture nitroglycerine, candles, lubricants, and even boot dubbin.

It was supposedly operated behind the front lines by the DAVG — *Deutsche Abfall-Verwertungs Gesellschaft*.

After the war, in 1925, John Charteris, the British former Chief of Army Intelligence, allegedly stated in a speech that he had invented the story for propaganda purposes, with the principal aim of getting the Chinese to join the war against Germany.

It was later used by the Nazis as part of their own anti-British propaganda.

9. Whale Parade

During the Cold War, a rumour circulated that the American CIA had a bizarre secret weapon — a dead fin whale named Jonah.

Caught by Norwegian whalers in the 1950s, Jonah was mounted on a truck and toured all over Europe in the 1960s.

Exactly why anyone would want to parade a dead whale around the place is anyone's

guess. It seems an odd kind of thing to do. But conspiracy theorists argued that the whole thing was a cover-up for a more cunning purpose. Especially after the whale arrived in Hungary.

Allegedly, the CIA wanted to test if the roads of Hungary could handle the weight of nuclear missiles loaded on trucks.

According to conspiracy theorists, the truck carrying the whale eerily resembled ones used to carry nuclear missiles.

However, no concrete proof was ever presented. And the strangest thing of all is that the Hungarian people loved Jonah and tickets were sold out everywhere he went.

8. Beliye Kolgotky

Stories about the *Beliye Kolgotky*, or White Tights, started circulating during the Chechen Wars in Russia.

The White Tights were allegedly a group of women who were paid to assassinate officers. Their method of killing was, how should we put it, rather unique.

During the First Chechen War it was reported that the rebels were paying the White Tights \$2,000 per officer killed, with a very specific request — to eliminate the Russians by blowing their genitals off.



TERROR OF THE NIGHT: During World War II, Italian household believed that Pippo was a ghostly plane that would appear at night to bomb your house.

Though the stories of the White Tights seem a little far-fetched, they do have a ring of truth about them. It's a well-known fact that even during the Russian Civil War in 1918, the Russians trained and employed woman as snipers.

Not only were they patient and calculating, they could also easily infiltrate certain areas, particularly when they were carrying a child with them. During World War II, many of the top Russian snipers were female.

7. Pig Blood Bullets

During the 1900s when the Americans fought and subsequently occupied the Philippines, they had stiff opposition from the ethnic Muslims, called Moros.

Attacks by Moro religious

zealots became so frequent that military commander John Pershing came up with an unusual and sneak solution.

The story goes that Pershing played up on the belief that any Muslim who touched a pig would not be able to enter heaven. Prior to a scheduled execution of 50 Moro insurgents, he ordered his men to dip their bullets in pig's blood before shooting the insurgents.

After the executions had been carried out he buried the men along with dead pigs and spared the life of one man, in the hope he'd pass on the story to his comrades. Pershing's actions single-handedly stopped further attacks for the rest of the American occupation.

However, to this day, historians debate how much of this

story is true. Reports from 1911 suggest the Pershing actively attempted to negotiate peacefully with the Moros people.

6. Pippo the Ghost Plane

Nearly every culture has tales about scary things that frequent the night. They all have their own Boogie Man. Yet during World War II Italian households had Pippo, the night terror plane.

No one knew where Pippo came from, what type of plane it was, or who piloted it. But it was alleged he dropped explosive device and bombed homes as he flew over villages, towns and cities.

People also claimed that the sound coming from his engines was unmistakably his own, and once you heard them, you

would know it was Pippo.

Italian mothers would frighten their children by telling them that if they did not behave, Pippo would come and get them at night.

Historians actually believe that the legends about the night terror plane came from the real night fighters which operated over Italy at the time, such as the Bristol Beaufighter or the de Havilland Mosquito.

5. Angels of Mons

One of the most popular, but far-fetched legends is about a group of angels who supposedly protected members of the British Army during the Battle of Mons at the outset of World War I.

According to an article in the London Evening News by British author Arthur Machen published in 1914, just as German soldiers were about to step in for the kill they were suddenly confronted by angels in the form of English archers who blocked their path. The angels pointed their bows at the Germans and released their arrows.

This apparition caused the Germans to retreat in terror and allowed the English enough time to regroup.

Machen himself later declared the story as a fabrication, but it gradually became accepted as fact among British soldiers and the British public because for them it was clear proof that God was on the British side.

Sceptics were quick to dismiss the whole incident as nothing more than mass hysteria.



COINCIDENCE OR NOT: Just a board game, or a coded message by the Japanese?

4. Deadly dice

Two weeks before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour in 1941, an advert was published in an issue of New Yorker magazine. This ad was said to have predicted the entire event.

The story goes that the ads for a dice game called 'Deadly Double' contained a coded message warning about the attack.

It featured two dice displaying a selection of numbers. Two of the most prominently visible were 12 and 7. And of course the date of the attack on Pearl Harbour was 7 December. The remaining numbers were allegedly references to the time of the attack.

Later during the war, navy transport pilot Joseph Bell was flying with an intelligence officer who told him that many in the intelligence community considered this ad a secret warning.

The officer had been assigned to investigate the matter, but every lead had led to a dead end. Was it simply a coincidence, or was there something more sinister behind it?

Was it perhaps a sophisticated coded message from Japan to warn co-conspirators of the Pearl Harbour attack?

To this day it still remains a mystery.

3. Wild deserters

One of the most imaginative myths from the Great War was that of a band of soldiers, deserters from both sides, who were living in No Man's Land.

According to the accounts, these men were ghoulish in appearance and behaved in a most diabolical manner. They only came out at night, raiding corpses for clothing, rations and weapons. There was even talk of cannibalism.

Legends about these World War I wild deserters were first recounted in the memoirs of British cavalry lieutenant Ardern Arthur Hulme Beaman in 1920, and later in an autobiography written by Army Captain Sir Osbert Sitwell.

Sitwell stated that after World War I ended and the troops withdrew, these wild deserters were gassed because they would never have been able to be rehabilitated back into normal society.

In hindsight, such stories may have originated from the occasional cry of wounded men which could be heard from No Man's Land, while looting of bodies was commonplace on both sides.

2. Ransom collecting pigeons

During the 2003 invasion of Iraq a rather strange story began doing the rounds about kidnappings and homing pigeons.

Iraqi police reported cases in which kidnappers had left homing pigeons in cages on the doorsteps of houses where

someone had recently been kidnapped.

A note was placed on the cage with instructions for the families to attach cash to the bird's legs and release it at a specific time. The pigeons would then deliver the ransom to the gang's hideouts.

Kidnappers had supposedly begun to use this new tactic as a way of avoiding being caught by

police, since it would be difficult for the police to follow the pigeons back to their location.

While the story may seem far-fetched, an article in the Telegraph recounted stories of families who had to pay off ransoms via pigeons for the release of kidnapped children.

One such family attached \$10,000 in \$100 notes to the legs of five homing pigeons, which they found in a cage left on their doorstep. Soon after they released the birds their 12 year old son returned home.

1. The Crucified Soldier

According to this bizarre legend, soldiers from both sides of the First World War crucified their captured opponents in a place that was visible to the prisoner's comrades.



Allegedly, the Germans started this practice when they crucified a Canadian soldier with bayonets to a barn door. When word spread about this atrocity, the Canadians crucified a German soldier in retaliation.

Soon after, the Germans also accused Belgian soldiers of crucifying their captured prisoners.

Evidence to suggest that any of the crucifixions were anything other than hearsay was never found, but the grisly tale still became embedded in the Canadian national consciousness.

Following the war, artist Francis Derwent Wood made a bronze statue called Canada's Golgotha, which showed a Canadian soldiers being crucified and mocked by German soldiers.

Special Forces - Canada

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

Canadian Special Forces can trace their roots back to World War II.

There were two Canadian Army airborne units, the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, raised at Camp Shiloh in the USA in 1942, and the 2nd Parachute Battalion, formed later in Canada.

Following the war the Canadian parachuting capability was reduced to cadre level until 1968, when it was expanded and the Canadian Airborne Regiment (CAR) was formed.

It was intended to be a light, independent, all-arms unit for deployment in low-intensity operations in jungle, desert or Arctic warfare conditions.

The capability was expanded yet again with the formation of the Special Service Force, whose 'teeth' elements comprised an armoured battalion, an infantry battalion, the CAR, plus artillery and engineer battalions, and communications and logistics support.

It also included the Canadian SAS, which had been formed in 1946 as a company-sized unit, closely modelled on the British SAS.

The CAR was disbanded in the mid 1990s as a result of an enquiry into activities of some elements during its participation in the UN operation in Somalia, and its three component companies were dispersed to form airborne companies in the conventional infantry battalions.

CANSOFCOM

Canada's current Special Operations Forces are generated and commanded by the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command (CANSOFCOM).

In French, Canada's second language, it is called *Commandement des Forces d'opérations spéciales du Canada - COMFOSCAN*.

CANSOFCOM is a high-readiness organization, ready to deploy Special Operations Forces on very short notice to protect Canada and Canadians from threats to the national interest at home and abroad.

CANSOFCOM is capable of contributing to Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) operations across the full spectrum of conflict, from peace through to war; therefore, CANSOFCOM provides special operations support to CAF operations abroad when required.

CANSOFCOM's primary mission is counter-terrorism, which involves conducting rigorous and specialized training and working with local law enforcement agencies, as required, to protect Canadians from the threat of terrorism.

The commander of CANSOFCOM reports directly to the Chief of the Defence Staff, it is important to note that the Leadership of the Canadian Forces and the Department of National Defence maintains full oversight on all CANSOFCOM operations



CANSOFCOM

CANSOFCOM is organized into a headquarters element and five units:

- Joint Task Force 2 (JTF 2);
- Special Operations Regiment (CSOR);
- 427 Special Operations Aviation Squadron (SOAS);
- Joint Incident Response Unit – Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CJIRU-CBRN);
- Special Operations Training Centre (CSOTC).

Joint Task Force 2

Joint Task Force 2 (JTF2) (French: *Force opérationnelle interarmées 2, FOI 2*) is a special operations force of the Canadian Armed Forces.

JTF2 serves alongside the Canadian Special Operations Regiment, the Canadian Joint Incident Response Unit and 427 Special Operations Aviation Squadron as part of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command. The unit is currently



UNIFORM: With operational uniforms, all members of CANSOFCOM wear the tan beret, regardless of their environment (Navy, Army or Air Force), with the badge of their personnel branch or, in the case of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps and Royal Canadian Infantry Corps members, the badge of their former regiment. The beret colour is the same as the British SAS.

based at Dwyer Hill, near Ottawa, Ontario.

Serving as the centrepiece of Canada's special operations, JTF2 is primarily tasked with counter-terrorism operations but also specializes in direct action, hostage rescue, personnel recovery, and foreign internal defence.

Much of the information regarding Joint Task Force 2 is classified, and is not commented on by the Government of Canada.

In 1992, Deputy Minister of Defence Robert Fowler announced he was recommending to Governor General Ray Hnatyshyn that he disband the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) and create a new military counter-terrorism group.

The decision was made largely because the Canadian Forces offered a greater pool of recruits for the program than civilian

police forces, and it stemmed the public uproar about police being taught to use primarily lethal means.

In early 1993, the unit was activated with just over 100 members, primarily drawn from the Canadian Airborne Regiment and Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

They were given the SERT facility on Dwyer Hill Road near Ottawa as their own base of operations, and permanently parked a Greyhound bus and a DC-9 aircraft on the grounds for use in training.

Since inception, JTF2 has taken part in the following operations:

- Operation Assurance – Rwanda
- NATO intervention in Bosnia
- Kosovo War
- War in Afghanistan
- Christian Peacemaker hostage crisis
- Operation Impact - military

- intervention against ISIL
- 2004 Haitian coup d'état
- Libyan Civil War

JTF2 has also acted as bodyguards to Canadians travelling abroad, notably accompanying Lieutenant-General Maurice Baril and Raymond Chrétien to Zaire in November 1996.

When photographs provided to the media were revealed to show the faces of JTF2 forces, they were redacted and reissued with the faces removed.

In 1998, they accompanied General Roméo Dallaire to Tanzania where he was due to testify against a Rwandan Hutu official accused of complicity in the 1994 genocide.

They similarly accompanied war crimes prosecutor Louise Arbour into Kosovo.

In early November 2000, Conservative Defence Critic David Price stated that JTF2 had been deployed to Kosovo, however, this was denied by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Defence Minister Art Eggleton.

The unit was believed to be operating with the Special Air Service and Special Boat Service in Operation Mobile, the Canadian operation in the 2011 Libyan civil war.

The unit has also been awarded a United States Presidential Unit Citation.



JTF2 Weapons



Colt Canada
C7



Heckler &
Koch MP5



Colt Canada
C8SFW



FN Herstal
P90



SIG Sauer
P226



Remington
Model 870



Heckler &
Koch PSG1



FN Minimi
C9A1 LMG



Heckler & Koch
HK69A1

Other units

Other units that make up CANSOFCOM are:

- The **Canadian Special Operations Regiment** (French: *Régiment d'opérations spéciales du Canada, ROSC*) is an elite unit of the Canadian Armed Forces. It forms part of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command. As a special forces unit, the regiment's roles include conducting complex or difficult raids, capturing strategic facilities and undertaking reconnaissance. It is also capable of working with the armed forces of other countries.
- **427 Special Operations Aviation Squadron** (French: *427e Escadron d'opérations spéciales d'aviation, 427 EOSA*) is a tactical helicopter unit that provides aviation support to Canadian Special Operations Forces Command. The squadron is based at CFB Petawawa, Ontario with a fleet of Bell CH-146 Griffon helicopters. It was founded as No. 427 Squadron Royal Canadian Air Force.
- The **Canadian Joint Incident Response Unit** (French: *Unité interarmées d'intervention du Canada*) of the Canadian Armed Forces was created "to provide timely and agile broad-based CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) support to the Government of Canada in order to prevent, control and mitigate CBRN threats to Canada, Canadians, and Canadian interests". It is a sub-unit

of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command.

Operational tasks

CANSOFCOM has five strategic tasks:

- Provide advice on special operations to the Chief of the Defence Staff and other CAF operational commanders.
- Generate deployable, high readiness Special Operations Forces (SOF) capable of deploying as part of a broader CAF operation, or independently.
- Conduct and command SOF operations on behalf of the CDS.
- Continuously develop SOF capabilities and tactics.
- Maintain and promote relationships with Canadian security partners and allied special operations forces.

In support of these strategic tasks, CANSOFCOM personnel are organized, trained, equipped and always ready to conduct a wide variety of operational tasks. These tasks include:

- Hostage rescue
- Direct action
- Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) crisis response
- Sensitive site exploitation
- Combating weapons of mass destruction
- Maritime special operations
- Support to non-combatant evacuation operations
- Special protection operations
- Defence, diplomacy and military assistance

The small size and unique capabilities of CANSOFCOM



provide Canada with an agile, adaptive, and rapidly deployable military response.

CANSOFCOM employs an integrated operating concept that combines the capabilities of all units in a Special Operations Task Force (SOTF) capable of completing assigned missions and tasks.

Therefore, depending on the tasks at hand, various combinations of personnel from JTF 2, CSOR, 427 SOAS and CJIRU are assembled into a Special Operations Task Force, as appropriate, to accomplish assigned missions.

Selection

Volunteer standards are not normally specified, but the Canadian Forces have made their requirements for JTF 2 public.

Volunteers must be in the ranks of officer - captain only, warrant officer, sergeant, master corporal, corporal, or private.

The general qualifications are at least three years service and members maybe re-engaged for a second three year en-

gagement. They must have no known phobias (heights, water, enclosed spaces, etc), a valid civilian drivers licence, and a demonstrated wish and ability to learn a second language.

A high standard of medical and physical fitness is required and the volunteer must demonstrate capability of running 2,5 km inside 11 minutes, 40 consecutive push-ups, five consecutive overhand grip, straight arm pull-ups, 40 sit-ups in 60 seconds, 66 kg bench press.

With all these completed, the next hurdle is a preliminary screening by a qualified JTF recruiting team, followed by a three week course in which levels of physical fitness, weapons handling, and confidence are improved.

The volunteers then undergo a one week assessment of suitability for special forces, but officer applicants must also undergo an additional four day assessment of their planning and leadership skills. If the volunteers pass all that they then start the five month training course.



Canadian Special
Operations Regiment



427 Special Operations
Aviation Squadron



Canadian Joint Incident
Response Unit

Thank your lucky stars

If you think your military service was tough, be thankful that you never had to serve in the North Korean military.

Most people that did national service, or any form of military service, will take great delight in telling you how tough their training was. Even if they did serve in the Woman's Auxiliary Balloon Corps.

Now the next time you

complain how hard your military service was or how tough life is in general, spare a thought for the 25 million people that live in the reclusive and isolated nation of North Korea. Life is not exactly a bed of roses for them.

And if things are rough for the ordinary citizen, imagine how hard it must be for those serving in the North Korean military.

Let's take a look at what it's like to be a soldier in the North Korean Army.

Compulsory service

North Korea has compulsory military service for everyone. And this does mean everyone.

Every man must complete 10 years of compulsory military service, and every woman must complete seven years.

Those lucky enough to get into university and get a bachelor's degree only have to serve for five years after graduation. If you are a scientist and considered important to the country, you will only have to serve for three years. Unfortunately, very few citizens get the chance to attend university because of

a lack of schooling.

It should come as no surprise that North Korea has the largest army in the world in comparison to the number of people who live there. There are 47 active soldiers for every 1,000 people. That's a total of 1,190,000 active soldiers and 6,300,000 in reserve. Compare this to America, which has five active soldiers per 1,000 people, and Russia has 10.



Teens included

The North Korean paramilitary force includes teenagers. Now you would think that being able to put more than seven million troops into the field would be enough to protect their country from enemies.

This is not enough as far as they are concerned. They also have a paramilitary force – The Worker-Peasant Red Guards (also known as The Workers and Peasant's Red Militia). This has somewhere between one and a half and six million reservists, but they don't like to reveal the real numbers. And let's not forget the teenage soldiers.

The Red Youth Guards organisation was created in 1970 and takes 15 to 17 year old teens on compulsory survival military training for 10 to 15 days in the summer. In this way they prepare for conscription at the age of 18. If there is a war, these teens will be shoved into the front line as well.

Starved

The nutrition is so bad that many soldiers can barely walk. You would think that having to serve your country for 10 years without any choice in the matter would be bad enough. That's just the tip of the iceberg.

Imagine that you're going through tough military training and all you get to eat is raw corn kernels or, if you're really lucky, a few potatoes a day. So it's hardly a surprise that two out of every five North Koreans are undernourished (according to United Nations figures).

This may also explain the fact that on average most North Korean soldiers are a few centime-



ON TARGET: North Korea spends a fortune on weapons. It's a pity so little of the budget is spent on food and clothing.

tres shorter than soldiers in the South Korean Army. Once they become too weak to be efficient in their training, they are sent home to recover. At that point, many of them are too weak to walk unaided.

Unfortunately, not everyone manages to get to the point where they are sent home to recover. Many soldiers pass away from hunger and related health issues. Can you imagine the anguish of parents who know that their children may not come back from the army – even in times of peace?

Soldiers fighting for their lives often have to steal food by raiding farms and villages that barely have enough food to meet their own needs.

There have been reports that senior officers force their juniors to steal from farmers. Sometimes they are hired out to work in the fields twice a year. They also say that they have to use human excrement to fertilize the crops.

Uniforms that injure

Imagine, as a soldier, being injured by your own uniform. Unless you belong to some third-world rag tag guerrilla group, chances are that if you're in the military you will wear a uniform.

Normally, it's a subject of pride and respect. In North Korea, it's also a source of pain and injuries.

According to former North Korean soldiers, the boots they are issued are thin and stuffed with cotton for reasons of economy. As you can imagine, this is no fun during the freezing cold winters.

They aren't sturdy enough to protect the soldiers from frostbite and start to fall apart quickly. They also rub, hurt and injure the soldiers.

Even worse as a female

Things are even worse for female soldiers. These days most countries recognise that women



NOT HAPPY CAMPERS: Training is often brutal, and so what if a few recruits are lost. After all, troops are considered expendable.

deserve to be treated the same way as men and given the same rights. Yet it appears that the North Korean Army never got the memo.

During their seven years compulsory military service, many women fall victim to sexual violence or humiliation. The 'right' place for them is considered the kitchen.

Former soldiers told of how senior officers and commanders harass female recruits, touching them inappropriately. It is not uncommon for female recruits to be raped by senior NCOs and officers. If they dare complain then they are labelled as 'trouble makers' and can expect even harsher treatment.

There are currently around 180,000 women serving as it only become compulsory three years ago. This accounts for 40% of women aged between 18 and 25.

Because of the terrible conditions they live in, the hard training and malnutrition, a lot of them miss their periods for

years. However, they say that this is not a bad thing because they would otherwise have to wash and reuse cotton sanitary pads and suffer even more.

Throwing sea mines

You may be called upon to throw sea mines into the Yellow Sea. According to reports Kim Jong-un forced his army to throw sea mines into the Yellow Sea, which would resurface in South Korea and kill locals and tourists.

The reports say that the primary target of those mines was American tourists and there were over 100 recorded incidents connected with those sea mines in 2017.

Foreign tourists obviously can't read the warning signs in Korean characters and they fall into danger zones quite easily. Even though not all of the soldiers agree with a command leading to so much cruelty, they have no choice not to do it, nor any right to complain. Refuse an order and it's tickets for you.

Soldiers are brainwashed

One might hope that no human being would support violence against other humans, even if they came from a different country or political regime.

Well, even if some North Korean soldiers refuse to support violence, their army commanders are working hard to change that. They spend about 60% of their time learning the 'right' ideology.

In this case 'right' means that North Korea is superior to other countries, and all those other countries want to attack them. So they always have to be on guard, obey Kim Jong-un no matter what, and be ready to give their lives for him.

They're supposedly doing it for the next generation, so that they can enjoy the same happy life that they're living now. Brainwashing isn't so hard in an isolated country.

Dodgy military hospitals

Brainwashed soldiers believe that it's an honour to die or get injured in the name of their glorious leader. So what happens to those soldiers that do get hurt? They are sent to a special military treatment centre. However, those centres have no free medications.

When interviewed, former soldiers described how they had to pay for their own treatment and, even when they did pay, all they got was alcohol rubbed on them. The only effect it had was to cause even more pain.

When treatment doesn't help, they are kicked out of the army. In case of death, there is no compensation for the family. All they get is a certificate stat-

ing how long the soldier served. I wonder if the families have to pay for the printing of the certificate as well?

Personality change

Making it back home from the army alive and physically uninjured sounds like a dream when you consider everything they have to go through. Yet there’s a different kind of danger to the soldiers.

Their personalities often shift so greatly that there’s nothing that can be done to bring things back to normal. Soldiers have to be merciless and suppress their feelings and emotions.

Years of violence cannot go unnoticed, and they turn those men and women into cruel machines. It’s no wonder that many civilians prefer to avoid any contact with the military.

No escape

The bad news is that there is no way to escape. The most natural thing to do to avoid all the pain, suffering, and cruelty seems to be escaping the army. There have been multiple attempts to do so, but they usually don’t end well.

Kim Jong-un takes a dim view on defection, especially when soldiers try to flee the country. Running away abroad seems like the only route to safety.

The Supreme Leader believes that it’s bad for the country’s reputation, so those trying to cross the Tumen River are mostly taken down – in a very terminal manner.

Military seniors who didn’t stop their recruits from escaping or failed to inform about their plot get punished as well.

That’s why very few people are bold enough to try and escape.

And if all this is not scary enough, here are two facts that you need to take into consideration.

North Korean subs

North Korea has the same number of submarines as the United States Navy.

This may seem a bit out of balance when you consider the size of the US Navy and the Korean People’s Navy.

The US has 72 submarines while North Korea has between 70 and 75, but there is no comparison.

North Korea has one nuclear submarine, four former Soviet Whiskey-class submarines built in the 1950s and 20 Chinese-built Romeo class submarines which were also built in the 1950s. The others are Romeo-class subs built in North Korea.

Even their single nuclear sub (Kim Jong-un’s personal submarine) is a former Yugoslavian vessel built in the early 1970s.

According to reports, many of the Korean People’s Navy vessels are not sea worthy. And this includes their submarine force.

The US Navy has 14 nuclear submarines. They also have 51 modern conventional attack submarines

Big Budget

North Korea spends almost half of its budget on the military. The exact amount is not in open sources, but a lot of people are wondering just how much North Korea spends on its military. Official North Korean government reports say that it is only 15,8%, but most experts agree that it is far higher than this figure.

By all accounts, North Korea is no Utopia, and living there is not much fun for your average citizen.

Having to serve in the military sounds like even less fun. When compared to North Korea, our military training doesn’t seem quite so bad now, does it?



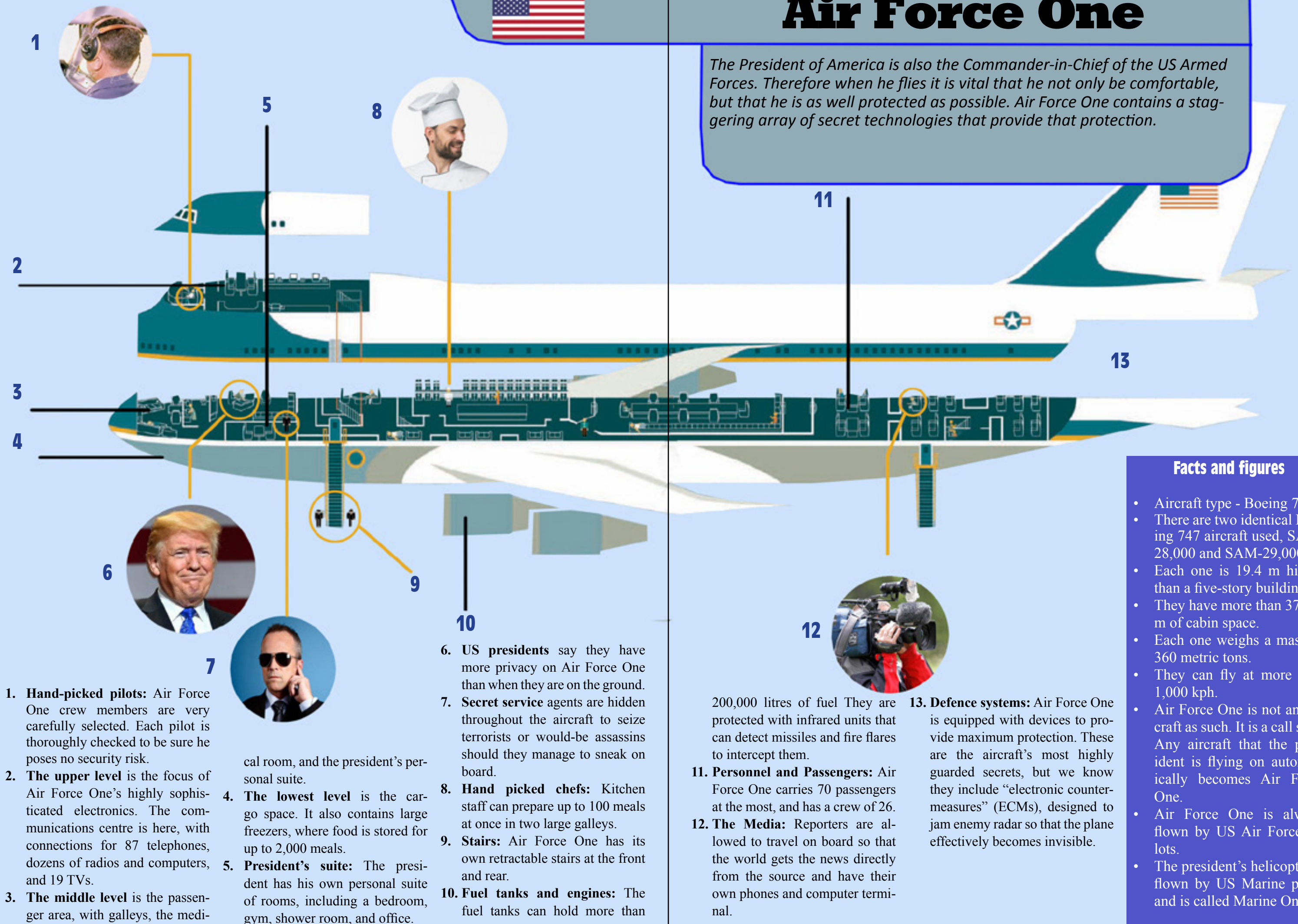
Bush War Books has probably one of the finest collections of military titles available. Especially on the South African Border War.

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

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

Air Force One

The President of America is also the Commander-in-Chief of the US Armed Forces. Therefore when he flies it is vital that he not only be comfortable, but that he is as well protected as possible. Air Force One contains a staggering array of secret technologies that provide that protection.



1. **Hand-picked pilots:** Air Force One crew members are very carefully selected. Each pilot is thoroughly checked to be sure he poses no security risk.
2. **The upper level** is the focus of Air Force One's highly sophisticated electronics. The communications centre is here, with connections for 87 telephones, dozens of radios and computers, and 19 TVs.
3. **The middle level** is the passenger area, with galleys, the medi-

4. **The lowest level** is the cargo space. It also contains large freezers, where food is stored for up to 2,000 meals.
5. **President's suite:** The president has his own personal suite of rooms, including a bedroom, gym, shower room, and office.

6. **US presidents** say they have more privacy on Air Force One than when they are on the ground.
7. **Secret service** agents are hidden throughout the aircraft to seize terrorists or would-be assassins should they manage to sneak on board.
8. **Hand picked chefs:** Kitchen staff can prepare up to 100 meals at once in two large galleys.
9. **Stairs:** Air Force One has its own retractable stairs at the front and rear.
10. **Fuel tanks and engines:** The fuel tanks can hold more than

200,000 litres of fuel They are protected with infrared units that can detect missiles and fire flares to intercept them.

11. **Personnel and Passengers:** Air Force One carries 70 passengers at the most, and has a crew of 26.
12. **The Media:** Reporters are allowed to travel on board so that the world gets the news directly from the source and have their own phones and computer terminal.

13. **Defence systems:** Air Force One is equipped with devices to provide maximum protection. These are the aircraft's most highly guarded secrets, but we know they include "electronic counter-measures" (ECMs), designed to jam enemy radar so that the plane effectively becomes invisible.

Facts and figures

- Aircraft type - Boeing 747.
- There are two identical Boeing 747 aircraft used, SAM-28,000 and SAM-29,000.
- Each one is 19.4 m higher than a five-story building.
- They have more than 370 sq m of cabin space.
- Each one weighs a massive 360 metric tons.
- They can fly at more than 1,000 kph.
- Air Force One is not an aircraft as such. It is a call sign. Any aircraft that the president is flying on automatically becomes Air Force One.
- Air Force One is always flown by US Air Force pilots.
- The president's helicopter is flown by US Marine pilots and is called Marine One.

Remembering D-Day

Thursday 6 June 2019 will be the 75th anniversary of the Allied invasion to liberate Europe during World War II. We explore some facts and figures relating to D-Day.

On Tuesday 6 June 1944 the Normandy coast in France. German-occupied north-western Europe from Nazi control. Codenamed Operation Neptune, it was part of Operation Overlord, the liberation of It was also the launch of the long-awaited second front. It

was simply termed D-Day.

- 138 warships, 221 destroyers, frigates, corvettes, 187 mine sweepers, 495 smaller vessels, 58 submarine chasers, 4,000 landing craft of all types, 441 auxiliary Naval craft and small boats, 864 Merchant Navy ships, and over 300 other small craft

were used.

- 112,824 British sailors, 52,889 American sailors, and 25,000 Merchant navy sailors took part.
- 11,590 aircraft, 3,500 gliders, and 31,000 air crew took part. This number does not include airborne troops or their aircrews.
- 20,000 vehicles, including over 1,000 tanks, were used.

- A total of 132,715 troops were landed on the beaches.
- 24,900 troops parachuted or were landed by glider.
- Planning for Operation Overlord began in earnest in 1943 with Dwight D Eisenhower being appointed as Supreme Commander.
- Marshall of the RAF, Sir Arthur Tedder, was the Deputy Supreme Commander.



- General Walter Bedell-Smith was the Chief of staff to the Supreme Commander.
- Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay was appointed Commander of the Navy Forces.
- Air Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory was appointed Commander of the Air Forces.
- General Sir Bernard Law Montgomery was the Commander of the XXIst Army, as well as Commander of the Land Forces.
- About 3,200 reconnaissance missions were launched in the run-up to the invasion to take photos of vital locations.
- In the summer of 1943 an early copy of the plans blew out of a window in Norfolk House, London. A man who was passing by handed them in, saying his sight was too bad to read them.
- Beach landings in Normandy were chosen instead of the Pas-de-Calais because defences were lighter and advancing troops would have fewer rivers and canals to cross.
- There were to be five landing zones along a 80 km stretch of coast. The Americans would attack at Utah and Omaha, the British at Gold and Sword and Canadian troops at Juno.
- It was vital that D-Day take place on the date of the highest half-tide at the most Westerly beach (Utah), 40 minutes after first light and following a night when the moon rose between 01h00 and 02h00. Such occasion occur only three days each

month and in June 1944 they were the 5th, 6th and 7th of that month. If the invasion wasn't launched on one of those three days it would have had to be postponed for another month.

- D-Day was originally set for June 5 but had to be postponed for 24 hours because of bad weather.



Dwight D. Eisenhower

- During D-Day preparations top-secret code names were used to hide the allies' plans from the enemy. 'Utah', 'Omaha', 'Gold', and 'Sword' were beaches on the Normandy coastline, 'Neptune' was the code name for the landings, 'Overlord' was the ensuing battle for Normandy and a 'Bigot' was the code name for someone who had high level security clearance.
- In 1944 authorities became concerned when a number of secret code names appeared as answers in the Daily Telegraph's crossword puzzle. In the month before the D-Day attacks, no less than five code names, including 'Utah', 'Omaha' and 'Neptune' were spotted in the puzzle answers. Alarm bells rang at MI5, which suspect-

ed someone was trying to pass information to the enemy, although a search of the writer's home and office turned up nothing.

- Operation Overlord was the name given to the whole of the Normandy Invasion. Each separate task was named differently. Operation Neptune was the amphibious invasion, Operation Pointblank the massive bombing campaign prior to the invasion, and Operation Bodyguard to ensure information of the invasion never reached the Germans.
- Hitler anticipated that the Allied Forces would invade France from the northern coast. To fortify and prepare for this, he assigned Erwin Rommel to head construction of defences. Rommel was placed in charge of finishing Hitler's Atlantic Wall which consisted of 3,800 km of bunkers, land mines, and various obstacles to make a beach landing more difficult and hazardous for the Allies.
- A phantom army of dummy camps, planes and tanks was constructed in Kent and Essex in order to deceive Germans into thinking the invasion would be at Calais.
- On 28 April 1944, eight ships full of US servicemen and equipment were making their way to the Devon coast in the UK to take part in a rehearsal for the D-Day landings. Unfortunately, a mistake in their paperwork meant the ships were using different radio frequencies, so when a group of German boats picked up on the heavy



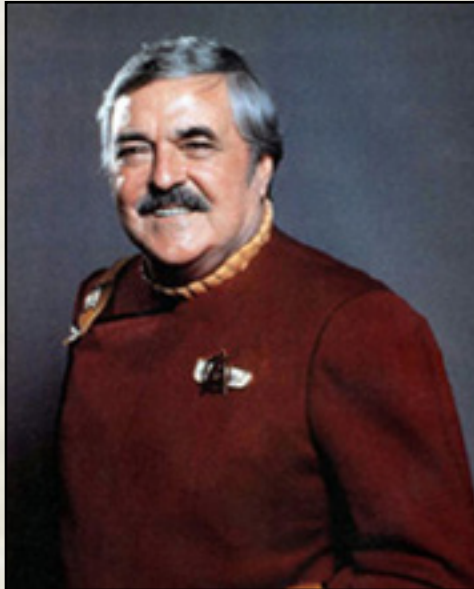
COMING ASHORE: American troops wade ashore at Colleville sur Mer in Normandy as reinforcements.

- radio traffic, the slow-moving US landing ships and their lack of communication proved to be easy targets for the German torpedoes. In total some 800 people were killed in the botched operation, a heavier loss than on some of the D-Day beaches. Worried about leaked intelligence and a drop in morale, Allied commanders ordered a blackout on all information about the attack and some families never found out how their relatives had died.
- Terence Otway, whose unit was tasked with attacking the Merville battery on D-Day, wanted to be sure that his men wouldn't leak this highly sensitive information in advance. So to test security he sent thirty of the prettiest members of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, in civilian clothes, down to the local pubs. The women were told to do all
- they could try and get the information. None of the men fell into the trap.
- Despite his well-documented capacity for inspirational speeches, on the night before D-Day Winston Churchill was feeling less than confident. He apparently confided his fears to his wife the evening before the landings telling her: "Do you realise that by the time you wake up in the morning 20,000 men may have been killed?"
- Over the years many people have wondered what the 'D' in D-Day stands for; some have suggested Disembarkment-Day, Decision-Day and even Death-Day. In reality the D just stands for 'Day'. D-Day and H-Hour represent the secret time and day an operation is set to begin, so before and after WWII many other operations had a 'D-Day'. The day before D-Day was known as 'D-1' and the day

after as 'D+1', meaning that if the day of the operation changed, all the dates in the plans did not have to be changed.

- New gadgets designed for D-Day included a "swimming tank" and a flame throwing tank called "the crocodile". There were even collapsible motorbikes.
- Eisenhower's famous statement to the troops as he gave the order for Operation Overlord open with "You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you."
- US General Dwight D. Eisenhower wrote a letter that was to be opened 'in case of failure'. In it he wrote "Our landings in the Cherbourg-Havre area have failed to gain a satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops. My decision to attack at this time and place was based upon the best information available. The troops, the air and the Navy did all that bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone." The letter is mistakenly signed 5 July instead of 5 June - presumably he was a little preoccupied at the time.
- Coded messages were sent to alert French Resistance to begin a programme of sabotage. Phrases used included "*le dés est sur le tapis*" (the dice is on the carpet) – an order to destroy trains and railway lines.

- High command thought a successful landing would cost 10,000 dead and 30,000 wounded – 30,000 stretchers and 60,000 blankets were issued.
- From 23h00 on 5 June some 24,000 airborne troops were delivered behind the German lines to secure important roads and bridges. Along with more than 2,000 aircraft, 867 gliders were used.
- To add to the illusion, early on D-Day morning “Ruperts” – dummies dressed in paratrooper uniforms complete with boots and helmets – were dropped in Normandy and the Pas-de-Calais. The dummies were equipped with recordings of gunfire, while the real troops supplied additional sound effects to create the illusion of a large scale airborne attack. This operation, code-named “Titanic,” was designed to distract the German military while the main forces landed further to the west.
- The first British casualty on D-Day was Lt “Den” Brotheridge, shot in the neck shortly after landing in France in a glider at 00h16. His unit was tasked with taking the crucial target of Pegasus Bridge, an objective that was achieved.
- Many paratroopers that day were dropped in the wrong place including US Private John Steele. His parachute famously became snagged on the church steeple at Sainte-Mère-Eglise. He was trapped for two hours before being taken prisoner.
- At 03h00 1,900 Allied bombers attacked German lines. A staggering three million kilograms of bombs were dropped that day. A total of 10,521 combat aircraft flew a total of 15,000 sorties on D-Day, with 113 lost.
- A naval bombardment from seven battleships, 18 cruisers, and 43 destroyers began at 05h00 and went on until 06h25. Midget submarines, called X-boats, lay submerged in the sea off the coast of France, surfacing on the morning of D-Day to guide in the invading craft using beacons.



BEAM ME UP SCOTTY: James Doohan, who played the part of chief engineer Montgomery Scott in *Star Trek* took part in the D-Day landings.

- Defences on the beaches included concrete gun emplacements, wooden stakes, mines, anti-tank obstacles, barbed wire and booby traps. Around 50,000 German troops opposed the landing forces.
- General Dwight Eisenhower once said “Andrew Higgins is the man who won the war

for us”. But who is Andrew Higgins? Higgins is the man who designed and built LCVPs, the amphibious vehicles that enabled the Allied forces to cross the channel. Eisenhower is reported to have said, “If Higgins had not designed and built those LCVPs, we never could have landed over an open beach. The whole strategy of the war would have been different.”

- The flat-bottomed landing craft were originally designed to rescue flood victims on the Mississippi river in the US.
- US troops went ashore on the landing beaches at 06h31, followed an hour later by the British and Canadians on their beaches. There were 61,715 British troops, 21,400 Canadian soldiers and 73,000 Americans.
- The heaviest losses were on Omaha beach where US forces suffered 2,000 casualties.
- Field Marshal Erwin Rommel was in charge of defending northern France from the expected Allied invasion. On 6 June he was at home in Germany celebrating his wife’s 50th birthday having been told the sea was too rough for a landing.
- Nazi leader Adolf Hitler was asleep when word of the invasion arrived. No one dared wake him and it’s said vital time was lost in sending reinforcements.
- Spanish-born double agent Garbo plied the Germans with misinformation that led them to believe the Norman-

dy landings were just a ruse.

- The newly developed drug penicillin went with troops on D-Day and saved thousands of lives.
- Condoms were issued to soldiers – most were used for covering the end of their rifles to keep them dry.
- Despite setbacks, including the failure to capture the city of Caen, D-Day saw the Allies establish a successful beachhead from which they could continue the invasion of Normandy. By the evening of the first day, along with more than 150,000 men, 20,000 vehicles had been landed.
- The Allies ferried two prefabricated harbours called Mulberries across the Channel to help supply the beachhead with equipment. The one at Arromanches involved 600,000 tons of concrete.
- Total Allied casualties on D-Day were much lighter than feared – around 10,000 with 4,572 killed including 1,641 Brits. The Germans are estimated to have lost about 9,000.
- Actor Richard Todd starred in *The Longest Day*, a 1962 film about D-Day, as Major John Howard. He was involved in the real landings as an officer in the 7th Parachute Battalion.
- James Doohan, who would go on to find fame as Scotty in *Star Trek*, was a lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Artillery on D-Day and lost a finger during the fray.
- The stunning Omaha Beach scene in the 1998 movie



AND SO IT BEGINS: Paratroopers from the American 101st Airborne Division en route to their drop zone. From 23h00 on 5 June some 24,000 airborne troops were delivered behind the German lines to secure important roads and bridges.

Saving Private Ryan, starring Tom Hanks, cost \$9,24 million to film and used 1,000 extras.

- Famous photographer Robert Capa captured some of the most memorable images of the action though only a handful of the frames he took survived. The others were accidentally destroyed by a lab technician.
- The victory in Normandy can’t be traced to a single moment. The Germans had been unable to complete the Atlantic Wall and the deception tactics had paid off with many of the German forces diverted from the key coasts. Even the French Resistance, having heard from their English sources of the invasion, had launched successful attacks that slowed German reinforcements.
- The Allies failed to achieve

any of their goals on the first day. Carentan, St. Lô, and Bayeux remained in German hands, and Caen, a major objective, was not captured until 21 July. Only two of the beaches (Juno and Gold) were linked on the first day, and all five beachheads were not connected until 12 June. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill landed on the beach at Gray-sur-Mer (Juno) on 12 June, General de Gaulle on 14 June and King George VI on 16 June. On 6 June the Canadian 50th Infantry Division had landed at Juno and by the end of the day had landed 21,400 men, 3,200 vehicles and 1,100 tons of supplies.

Please Note: Some of the information in this article was previously published in Volume 4 of Military Despatches.

Lest we forget

Two powerful photographs that say more than words ever could.

The expression “A picture paints a thousand words,” Brisbane said in the article. He was making a clear-cut case for the use of images to accompany stories. The article was written by editor Arthur Brisbane and was a discussion about journalism and publicity. “Use a picture. It’s worth a

thousand words,” Brisbane said in the article. He was making a clear-cut case for the use of images to accompany stories. Reverend Ralph Thornley sent me these photographs below. They in turn had been sent to him by Peter Napier. The first photograph shows a battalion of the Cameron Highlanders in 1914, prior to being dispatched to the front line. The second photograph is of the same battalion upon their return in 1918 after the Armistice. These photographs do indeed paint a thousand words.



Jimmy's get together

Military Despatches attends the Annual Signals Association Luncheon.

Sunday 5 May found deputy editor John Verster and myself at the Parow Golf Club. Not that we were there to play golf.

John, like Mark Twain, believes that “golf is a good walk spoilt.” We were there to attend the Annual Signals Association Luncheon.

Robbie Roberts, whilst serving as Officer Commanding 71 Signal Unit initiated the establishment of the Signals Association (Western Cape) on 2 December 2000 following a successful Open Day event at Acadia Park Military Base on 6 May 2000 when Maj General Piet Verbeeck officiated as the functionary. Signallers from all walks of life came together after having read advertisements placed in various newspapers of the time.

The Association kicked off with 16 members and gradually grew annually, mainly from members of 71 Signal Unit that joined. Presently, the Association has over 100 members from all over South Africa and internationally.

The food at the lunch was good, the company even better. The guest speaker for the day was Captain (SAN) (Ret) Trunell Morom. She was the last Officer Commanding SAS Unitie. I must confess that I really enjoyed her presentation.

Another guest that I was really happy to see was Sydney ‘Uncle Syd’ Ireland.



VIP GUESTS: From left to right: guest speaker Captain (SAN) Trunell Morom, Chairman of the Signals Association Lt Col (Ret) Robbie Roberts, and ‘Uncle’ Syd Ireland.

At the age of 98 he is the oldest member of the Signals Association. He is also the last surviving signaller of 3 Brigade Signal Company that was established during World War II.

Syd joined the army in 1940 and he went on to serve as a wireless operator in Kenya, Abyssinia, British Somalia and Egypt. He spent much time in Cairo and Alexandria and took part in the Battle of El Alamein.

He was later seconded to the Air Force as a wireless operator and attended a conversion course from Army to Air Force

procedures at Tempe, Bloemfontein. He was demobilised in 1945.

All in all, it was a memorable day. A big thank you to the Signals Association for inviting us to the event.

And a big thank you to Robbie Roberts, a true scholar and gentleman, and someone that I hold in the highest esteem.

I’m looking forward to the next Signals Association event.

Certa Cito.

More details and photos appear in the June issue of ‘Jimmy’s Own’. Click [here](#) to read.

Our own Lords Haw-Haw

German propaganda broadcaster William Joyce, better known as Lord Haw-Haw, was hanged after World War II for treason. But did you know that South Africa had their own versions of Lord Haw-Haw?

Last month I did an article titled “Germany Calling...” Part of the article took a look at William Joyce, who was also known as Lord Haw-Haw.

I received an e-mail from Dr Brian Austin with regard to the above article.

It’s interesting to note that South Africa had its own Lord Haw Haws (or should that be Lords Haw Haw?) during the war.

As you will know, the *Ossewabrandwag* (OB) was very active in opposing South Africa’s involvement in the war and particularly on the same side as Britain, their sworn enemy.

At the outbreak of war there were a number of Afrikaans-speaking South Africans in Germany, for one reason or another.

They were soon recruited as broadcasters on Radio Zeesen, a very powerful shortwave transmitter outside Berlin, which had regular Afrikaans-language transmissions to South Africa.

They were listened to by many of the OB’s supporters all across South Africa, often having set up loudspeakers in the trees so that the local people could bring their chairs and sit under the night sky while listening to ‘Neef Holm’ (Erik Holm), ‘Neef Buurman’ (Jan Strauss), ‘Neef Hermanus’ (Michael Pienaar) and ‘Neef Sagie’ (Johannes Snoek).

They broadcast Nazi propaganda and extracts from the speeches of the OB leader, Dr Hans van Rensburg, as well as other ‘kampvuur en ketel’ stories to their South African audience which thought that both the SABC and the BBC were biased against their cause.

After the war they were all arrested and brought back to South Africa to face charges of high treason. Holm, who was the most prominent among them, was sentenced to ten years in jail with the others receiving slightly lesser sentences.

However, in 1948, after the Nationalist government of Dr D F Malan came to power one of their first acts was to release all OB prisoners, including Holm and his co-announcers.

It’s also interesting to note that a particular piece of music called ‘*Opsaal Boere*’ played an important part during Zeesen’s broadcasts.

It was composed by another OB sympathiser, by the name of Olaf Andresen who had been interned along with many other Germans living in the country, plus numerous Nazi-supporting members of the OB.

The OB adopted ‘*Opsaal Boere*’ as their anthem and when the *Abwehr* agent code-named Felix (Lothar Sittig, by name) was transmitting messages by radio, from either Pretoria or Vryburg, to the German consulate in Lourenco Marques - and

later direct to Berlin - Zeesen would acknowledge receipt of these messages by playing *Opsaal Boere* during their Afrikaans transmissions.

Ossewabrandwag

The *Ossewabrandwag* (OB) (Ox-wagon Sentinel) was an anti-British and pro-German organisation in South Africa during World War II, which opposed South African participation in the war. It was formed in Bloemfontein on 4 February 1939 by pro-German Afrikaners.

During the 19th century, most of the Boers of the northeastern Cape frontier migrated to the interior, and established the Orange Free State and South African Republic, which were independent of Britain. In the Second Boer War (1899–1902), Britain conquered the Boer Republics. The Netherlands (and Germany) supported the Boer cause.

After the war, there was a general reconciliation between Afrikaners and Britain, culminating in the formation of the Union of South Africa in 1910, under the leadership of former Boer fighters such as Louis Botha and Jan Smuts. South African troops, including thousands of Afrikaners, served in the British forces during World War I.

Nonetheless, many Boers remembered the tactics used by

Britain in the Boer War and remained resentful of British rule, even loose association with Britain as a Dominion.

The chief vehicle of Afrikaner nationalism at this time was the “Purified National Party” of D. F. Malan, which broke away from the National Party when the latter merged with Smuts’ South African Party in 1934.

Another important element was the Afrikaner *Broederbond*, a quasi-secret society founded in 1918, and dedicated to the proposition that “the Afrikaner *volk* has been planted in this country by the Hand of God...”

1938 was the centennial anniversary of the Great Trek (the migration of Boers to the interior). The *Ossewabrandwag* was established in commemoration of the Trek. Most of the migrants travelled in ox-drawn wagons, hence the group’s name. The group’s leader was Johannes Van Rensburg, a lawyer who had served as Secretary of Justice under Smuts (as Minister), and was an admirer of Nazi Germany.

The Boer militants of the *Ossebrandwag* (OB) were hostile to Britain and sympathetic to Germany. Thus the OB opposed South African participation in the war, even after the Union declared war in support of Britain in September 1939. While there were parallels, neither Van Rensburg nor the OB were genuine fascists, according to van den Berghe.

Alexandre Kum’a Ndumbe III, however shows, that OB was “based on the Führer-principle, fighting against the Empire, the capitalists, the commu-

nists, the Jews, the party and the system of parliamentarism... on the base of national-socialism” according to a German secret source dated 18 January 1944.

Members of the OB refused to enlist in the South African forces and sometimes harassed servicemen in uniform. That erupted into open rioting in Johannesburg on 1 February 1941; 140 soldiers were seriously hurt.

More dangerous was the formation of the *Stormjaers* (Assault troops), a paramilitary wing of the OB. The nature of the *Stormjaers* was evidenced by the oath sworn by new recruits: “If I retreat, shoot me. If I die, avenge me. If I advance, follow me” (Afrikaans: As ek omdraai, skiet my. As ek val, wreek my. As ek storm, volg my).

The *Stormjaers* engaged in sabotage against the Union government. They dynamited electrical power lines and railroads and cut telegraph and telephone lines. These types of acts were going too far for most Afrikaners, and Malan ordered the National Party to break with the OB in 1942.

The Union government cracked down on the OB and the *Stormjaers*, placing thousands of them in internment camps for the duration of the war. Among the internees was future prime minister B. J. Vorster.

At the end of the war, the OB was absorbed into the National Party and ceased to exist as a separate body.

Two books on the subject of the *Ossewabrandwag* that are well worth reading are:

- Wit Terroriste: Afrikaner-Saboteurs in die Ossewabrandwag’ by Albert Blake, (Tafelberg,2018), and
- OB Traitors or Patriots?’ by George Cloete Visser, (Macmillan,1976).

About Dr Brian Austin

Dr Brian Austin is a retired engineering academic from the University of Liverpool’s Department of Electrical Engineering and Electronics.

Before that he spent some years on the academic staff of his alma mater, the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.

He also had a spell, a decade in fact, in industry where he led the team that developed an underground radio system for use in South Africa’s very deep gold mines.

He also has a great interest in the history of his subject and especially the military applications of radio and electronics. This has seen him publish a number of articles on topics from the first use of wireless in warfare during the Boer War (1899 – 1902) and South Africa’s wartime radar in WW2, to others dealing with the communications problems during the Battle of Arnhem and, most recently, on wireless in the trenches in WW1.

He is also the author of the biography of Sir Basil Schonland, the South African pioneer in the study of lightning, scientific adviser to Field Marshall Montgomery’s 21 Army Group and director of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell.”

Rank Structure - Canada

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 Canadian Armed Forces.

The Canadian Armed Forces (French: Forces armées canadiennes), are the unified armed forces of Canada, as constituted by the National Defence Act, which states: “The Canadian Forces are the armed forces of Her Majesty raised by Canada and consist of one Service called the Canadian Armed Forces.” This unified institution consists of sea, land, and air elements referred to as the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN), Canadian Army, and Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). Personnel may belong to either the Regular Force or the Reserve Force, which has four sub-components: the Primary Reserve, Supplementary Reserve, Cadet Organizations Administration and Training Service, and the Canadian Rangers. Current end strength is authorized at 126,500, including 71,500 Regular Force members, 30,000 Reserve Force members and 25,000 civilian employees.

The number of filled positions is lower than the authorized strength. The Commander-in-Chief of the Canadian Armed Forces is the reigning Canadian monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, who is represented by the Governor General of Canada. The Canadian Armed Forces is led by the Chief of the Defence Staff, who is advised and assisted by the Armed Forces Council.

Canadian Army

Non-commissioned Officers (NCO) and Warrant Officers

		
Private (Recruit)	Private (Basic)	Private (Trained)
		
Corporal	Master-Corporal	Sergeant
		
Warrant Officer	Master Warrant Officer	Chief Warrant Officer

Officers

			
Officer Cadet	Second Lieutenant	Lieutenant	Captain
			
Major	Lieutenant Colonel	Colonel	Brigadier General
			
Major General	Lieutenant General	General	

Royal Canadian Navy

Non-commissioned Officers (NCO) and Warrant Officers

		
Ordinary Seaman (Recruit)	Ordinary Seaman (Basic)	Able Seaman
		
Leading Seaman	Master Seaman	Petty Officer 2nd Class



Petty Officer
1st Class



Chief Petty
Officer 2nd Class



Chief Petty
Officer 1st Class

Officers



Naval
Cadet



Acting Sub-
Lieutenant



Sub-Lieutenant



Lieutenant



Lieutenant
Commander



Commander



Captain



Commodore



Rear
Admiral



Vice
Admiral



Admiral

Royal Canadian Air Force

Non-commissioned Officers (NCO) and Warrant Officers



Aviator
(Recruit)



Aviator
(Basic)



Aviator
(Trained)



Corporal



Master-
Corporal



Sergeant



Warrant
Officer



Master
Warrant Officer



Chief
Warrant Officer

Officers



Officer
Cadet



Second
Lieutenant



Lieutenant



Captain



Major



Lieutenant
Colonel



Colonel



Brigadier
General



Major
General



Lieutenant
General



General

A matter of survival - Bird Traps

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 bird traps.

Most of us enjoy a bit of fried or roasted chicken. And while they may not be flame roasted or come with a secret blend of herbs and spices, birds can make good eating.

Some birds are fairly small and don't offer a lot of meat. This means that you may have to catch a few of them to get a decent meal.

There are various methods of cooking a bird. Do a bit of research and find which methods you prefer, as well as which are the most tasty for various birds.

But before you can eat them, you'll first need to catch them. And this is where bird traps come in.

Nets

A fine net stretched between the trees where birds usually roost is one of the simplest ways of catching them.

Instead of a net you can also use fine twine criss-crossed between trees across their flight path. This will damage the birds that fly into it.

Bird Lime

Bird lime is an adhesive substance used in trapping birds. It is spread on a branch or twig, upon which a bird may land and be caught.

In South Africa, birdlime (called *voëlent* in Afrikaans) is prepared from local mistletoe fruits.

A handful of ripe fruits is

chewed until sticky, and the mass is then rubbed between the palms of the hands to form long and extremely sticky strands which are then coiled around small thin tree branches where birds perch.

When birds come home to roost they will get stuck to the bird lime when they alight.

Suspended Snares

Hang a line of snares across a stream a little above water level. This works best when set among reeds and rushes.

Baited Hooks

Fish hooks can be buried in fruit or other food and can be an effective ways of catching birds.

The hook gets caught in the

birds throat.

Noose Sticks

Tie a number of fine nooses close together along a stick or branch.

Place the stick in a favourite roosting or nesting spot with the nooses uppermost.

Birds become entangled
when the alight.

Do not remove the trap as soon as one bird is caught. It will attract other birds and you will soon have several. Probably enough for a meal.

Figure 4 Trap

This mechanism can be used with a 'log cabin' type of cage, made from a pyramid of sticks tied together, which is balanced over the bait.

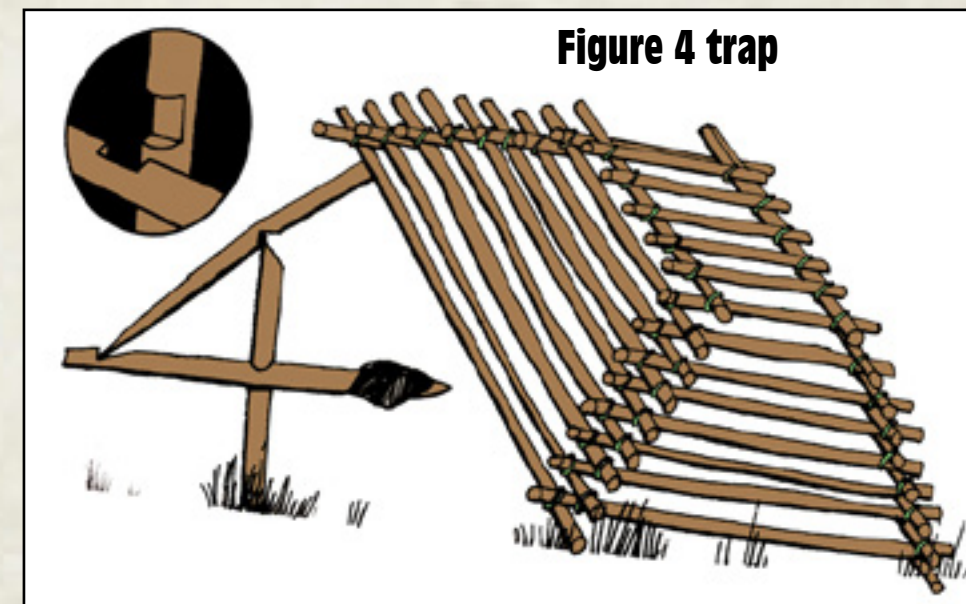


Figure 4 trap

It is also possible to prop the raised edge of the cage on a single stick tied to a long line.

Take the other end of the line and hide some distance away. If you hold the string taut, you can snatch the prop away as soon as a bird ventures under the cage.

Place bait around and under the cage. This works best in areas where birds seem plentiful.

Using this method will usually only catch a single bird.

Toggle release net trap

A net laid on the ground and baited to attract birds has lines from the corners of the net to a springy sapling overhead.

A tension line extends to a



Noose Sticks

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.



toggle mechanism notched on a horizontal bar and operated by a flat bait stick.

Set the stick off the ground and only just resting against the lower end of the toggle.

This trigger mechanism needs to be extremely sensitive if a small bird's weight is to set it off.

Remember: If you set any type of trap during a training exercise, take it down afterwards.

Next month we will look at hunting prey. We will look at making a bow and arrows, sling and shot, catapult, bola, and spears.

Weapons & Equipment of D-Day

This month we take a look at some of the weapons and equipment of D-Day.

On Tuesday 6 June 1944 the largest seaborne invasion force in history landed on an 80 km stretch of the Normandy coast in France.

Codenamed Operation Neptune, it was part of Operation Overlord, the liberation of German-occupied north-western Europe from Nazi control. It was also the launch of the long-awaited second front. It was simply termed D-Day.

More than 6,700 ships of all sizes were used in the landings. A total of 132,715 troops and 20,000 vehicles were eventually landed on the beaches.

There were five landing beaches, codenamed Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword.

Utah

The American units that landed on Utah were:

- VII Corps.
- 4th Infantry Division.
- 90th Infantry Division.
- 4th Cavalry Regiment.
- 70th Tank Battalion.

The German units defending the beach were:

- 91st Infantry Division.
- 6th Parachute Regiment (attached from the 2nd Parachute Division).
- Two battalions of the 919th Grenadier Regiment, part of the 709th Static Infantry Division.

American losses at Utah were 197 killed. The German losses are unknown.

Omaha

The American units that landed on Utah were:

- 1st Infantry Division.
- 29th Infantry Division.
- U.S. Army Rangers.

The German units defending the beach were:

- 352nd Infantry Division.
- 439th Ost-Battalion (Poles and Russians who had been conscripted to serve in the Wehrmacht).

American casualties at Utah were 2,000 - 5,000+. The German casualties were 1,200.

Gold

The British units that landed on Utah were:

- 50th Infantry Division.

- 8th Armoured Brigade.
- 56th Infantry Brigade.
- No. 47 Commando.

The German units defending the beach were:

- 352nd Infantry Division.
- 716th Static Division.

British casualties at Gold were 1,000 - 1,100. The German losses are unknown.

Juno

The Allied units that landed on Juno were:

- Canadian 3rd Infantry Division.
- Canadian 2nd Armoured Brigade.
- United Kingdom No. 48 (Royal Marine) Commando.

The German units defending the beach were:

- A Company of the 736th Grenadier Regiment.
- 21st Panzer Division.

Allied casualties at Juno were 914. The German losses are unknown.

Sword

The British units that landed on Utah were:

- 8th Brigade.
- 9th Brigade.
- 185th Brigade.
- 27th Armoured Brigade.
- 1st Special Service Brigade.
- 4th Special Service Brigade.

The German units defending the beach were:

- Eight companies of the 716th Infantry Division.
- 9,790 men of the 21st Panzer Division.

British casualties at Sword were 683. The German losses are unknown.

American Infantry Weapons



M1903 Springfield

- Designer: Springfield Armoury
- Designed: 1903
- Weight: 3.9 kg
- Length: 1,100 mm
- Cartridge: .30-03
- Action: Bolt action
- Rate of fire: 10–15 rounds/min
- Effective firing range: 910 metres
- Feed system: 5-round stripper clip.



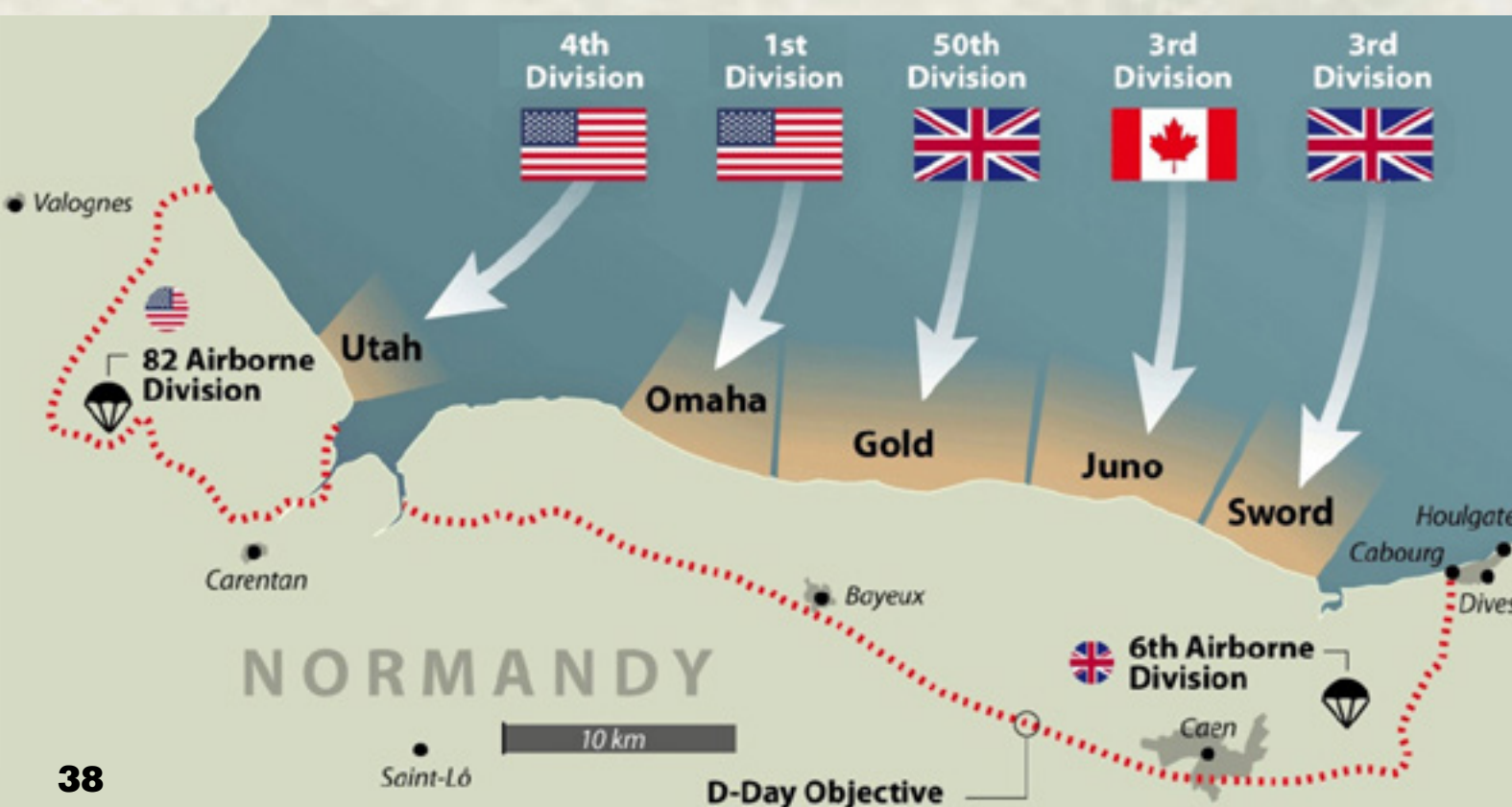
M1 Garand

- Designer: John C. Garand
- Designed: 1928
- Weight: 4.31 kg
- Length: 1,100 mm
- Cartridge: .30-06 Springfield
- Action: Gas-operated, rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: 40–50 rounds/min
- Effective firing range: 457 metres
- Feed system: 8-round en-bloc clip.



M1 Carbine

- Designer: Frederick L. Hu-meston
- Designed: 1938–1941
- Weight: 2.6 kg
- Length: 900 mm
- Cartridge: .30 Carbine
- Action: Gas-operated (short-stroke piston), rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic 750 rounds/min
- Effective firing range: 270 metres
- Feed system: 15- or 30-round detachable box magazine.





Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR)

- Designer: John Browning
- Designed: 1917
- Weight: 7.25 kg
- Length: 1,194 mm
- Cartridge: .30-06 Springfield
- Action: Gas-operated, rising bolt lock
- Rate of fire: 500–650 rounds/min
- Effective firing range: 91–1,372 metres
- Feed system: 20-round detachable box magazine.

The BAR was designed to be carried by infantrymen during an assault advance while supported by the sling over the shoulder, or to be fired from the hip. This is a concept called “walking fire” - thought to be necessary for the individual soldier during trench warfare. The BAR never entirely lived up to the original hopes of the war department as either a rifle or a machine gun.



Mk 2 grenade



M1917 Browning

- Designer: John Browning
- Designed: 1917
- Weight: 47 kg
- Length: 980 mm
- Cartridge: .30-06 Springfield
- Action: Recoil-operated automatic
- Rate of fire: 450 round/min
- Feed system: 250 round fabric belt.



M1919 Browning

- Designer: John Browning
- Designed: 1919
- Weight: 14 kg
- Length: 964 mm
- Cartridge: .30-06 Springfield
- Action: Recoil-operated/
- short-recoil operation
- Rate of fire: 400–600 round/min
- Effective firing range: 1,400 metres
- Feed system: 250-round belt

As a company or battalion support weapon, the M1919 required at least a two-man machine gun team. But, in practice, four men were normally involved: the gunner (who fired the gun and when advancing carried the tripod and box of ammo), the assistant gunner (who helped feed the gun and carried it, and box of spare parts and tools), and two ammunition carriers.

The Thompson became infamous during the Prohibition era, being a signature weapon of various crime syndicates in the United States.

It was also known informally as the “Tommy Gun”, “Annihilator”, “Chicago Typewriter”, “Chicago Sub-machine”, “Chicago Piano”, “Chicago Style”, “Chicago Organ Grinder”, “Trench Broom”, “Trench Sweeper”, “Drum Gun”, “The Chopper”, and simply “The Thompson”.



Thompson M1A1

- Designer: John T. Thompson
- Designed: 1917–1920
- Weight: 4.9 kg
- Length: 860 mm
- Cartridge: .45 ACP
- Action: Blowback, Blish
- Lock
- Rate of fire: Approx. 625 rpm
- Effective firing range: 150 metres
- Feed system: 20-round stick/box magazine



M3 'Grease Gun'

- Designer: George Hyde
- Designed: 1942
- Weight: 3.70 kg
- Length: 740 mm
- Cartridge: .45 ACP
- Action: Blowback, open bolt
- Rate of fire: Approx. 450 rounds/min
- Effective firing range: 91 metres
- Feed system: 30-round detachable box magazine

The M3 was intended as a replacement for the Thompson, and began to enter front line service in mid 1944. Due to delays caused by production issues and approved specification changes, the M3 saw limited combat use in World War II. The M3A1 variant was used in the Korean War and later conflicts.

The M3 was commonly referred to as the “Grease Gun” or simply “the Greaser,” owing to its visual similarity to the mechanic’s tool.



Colt M1911A1

- Designer: John Browning
- Designed: 1924
- Weight: 1,100 g
- Length: 210 mm
- Cartridge: .45 ACP
- Action: Short recoil operation
- Feed system: 7 round standard detachable box magazine

British Infantry Weapons



Lee Enfield Mk 4 No. 1

- Designer: James Paris Lee, RSAF Enfield
- Designed: 1904
- Weight: 4.19 kg
- Length: 1,129 mm
- Cartridge: .303 Mk VII SAA Ball
- Action: Bolt-action
- Rate of fire: 20–30 aimed shots per minute
- Effective firing range: 503 metres
- Feed system: 10-round magazine, loaded with 5-round charger clips

The WWI versions are often referred to as the “SMLE”, which is short for the common “Short Magazine Lee-Enfield” variant.

A redesign of the Lee–Metford (adopted by the British Army in 1888), the Lee–Enfield superseded the earlier Martini–Henry, Martini–Enfield, and Lee–Metford rifles.



Mills bomb



Bren gun

- Designed: 1935
- Weight: 10.35 kg
- Length: 1,156 mm
- Cartridge: .303 British
- Action: Gas-operated, tilting bolt
- Rate of fire: 500–520 rounds/min
- Effective firing range: 550 metres
- Feed system: 20-round L1A1 SLR magazine; 30-round detachable box magazine



Sten gun

- Designer: Major Reginald V. Shepherd, Harold J. Turpin
- Designed: 1940
- Weight: 3.2 kg
- Length: 762 mm
- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Action: Blowback-operated, open bolt
- Rate of fire: 500–600 rpm
- Effective firing range: 100 metres
- Feed system: 32-round detachable box magazine

STEN is an acronym, from the names of the weapon’s chief designers, Major Reginald V. Shepherd and Harold Turpin, and EN for Enfield. Over four million Stens in various versions were made in the 1940s.

They had a simple design and very low production cost, so they were also effective insurgency weapons for resistance groups.

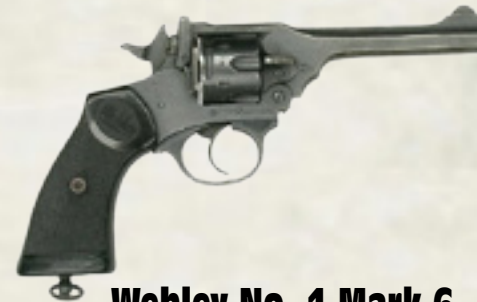
The machine gun typically required a six to eight-man team to operate: one fired, one fed the ammunition, the rest helped to carry the weapon, its ammunition, and spare parts. It was in service from before the First World War until the 1960s, with air-cooled versions of it on many Allied World War I fighter aircraft.

The weapon had a reputation for great solidity and reliability. During an action that took place in August 1916, during which the British 100th Company of the Machine Gun Corps fired their ten Vickers guns continuously for twelve hours. Using 100 barrels, they fired a million rounds without a failure.



Vickers

- Designed: 1912
- Weight: 15–23 kg
- Length: 1.12 m
- Crew: Three man crew
- Cartridge: .303 British
- Action: Recoil with gas boost
- Rate of fire: 450 to 500 round/min
- Effective firing range: 2,000 metres
- Feed system: 250-round canvas belt



Webley No. 1 Mark 6

- Designer: Webley & Scott
- Designed: 1887
- Weight: 1.1 kg
- Length: 286 mm
- Cartridge: .38
- Action: Double Action revolver
- Rate of fire: 20–30 rounds/minute
- Effective firing range: 45 metres
- Feed system: 6-round cylinder

- Designer: John Browning
- Designed: 1914-1935
- Weight: 1 kg
- Length: 197 mm
- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Action: Short recoil operated
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50 metres
- Feed system: 13 or 15 round detachable box magazine



Browning P-35 Highpower

German Infantry Weapons



Kar98k

- Designer: Paul Mauser
- Designed: 1935
- Weight: 3.7–4.1 kg
- Length: 1,110 mm
- Cartridge: 7.92×57mm
- Action: Bolt action
- Rate of fire: 15 rpm
- Effective firing range: 500 metres
- Feed system: 5-round stripper clip, internal magazine

The Karabiner 98 kurz often abbreviated Kar98k or K98k and often incorrectly referred to as a “K98” (which was a Polish Carbine) was adopted on 21 June 1935 as the standard service rifle by the German Wehrmacht.

It replaced the Gewehr 98 which first saw service in 1888.



Gewehr 43

- Designer: Walther
- Designed: 1943
- Weight: 4.4 kg
- Length: 1,130 mm
- Cartridge: 7.92×57mm Mauser
- Action: Gas-operated short-stroke piston, flapper locking
- Effective firing range: 500 metres
- Feed system: 10-round detachable box magazine or 5-round stripper clips

Inspired by its predecessor the MP 38, it was heavily used by infantrymen (particularly platoon and squad leaders), and by paratroopers, on the Eastern and Western Fronts.

Its advanced and modern features made it a favourite among soldiers and popular in countries from various parts of the world after the war.

It was often erroneously called “Schmeisser” by the Allies, although Hugo Schmeisser was not involved in the design or production of the weapon.



Model 24 grenade



MP 40

- Designer: Heinrich Vollmer, Berthold Geipel
- Designed: 1938
- Weight: 3.97 kg
- Length: 833 mm - stock extended
- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Action: Straight blowback, open bolt
- Rate of fire: 500–550 rpm
- Effective firing range: 100–200 metres
- Feed system: 32-round detachable box magazine

It was arguably the most advanced machine gun in the world at the time of its deployment.

The MG 34 was envisaged and well developed to provide portable light and medium machine gun infantry cover, anti-aircraft coverage, and even sniping ability.

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



MG 34

- Designer: Heinrich Vollmer
- Designed: 1934
- Weight: 12.1 kg
- Length: 1,219 mm
- Cartridge: 7.92×57mm Mauser
- Action: Open bolt, Recoil-operated, Rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: 1,200 rounds/min.
- Effective firing range: 200–2,000 metres
- Feed system: 50/250-round belts, 50-round drum, or 75-round drum magazine with modification



MG 42

- Designer: Werner Gruner
- Designed: 1942
- Weight: 11.6 kg
- Length: 1,220 mm
- Cartridge: 7.92×57mm Mauser
- Action: Recoil-operated, roller-locked
- Rate of fire: 1,200 rounds/min.
- Effective firing range: 4,700 metres
- Feed system: 50 or 250-round Patronengurt 33, 34, or 34/41 model belt, 50-round belt drum

Designed to be low-cost and easy to build, the MG 42 proved to be highly reliable and easy to operate.

It is most notable for its very high cyclic rate for a gun using full power service cartridges, averaging about 1,200 rounds per minute compared to around 850 for the MG 34, and perhaps 450 to 600 for other common machine guns like the M1919 Browning or Bren. This ability made it extremely effective in providing suppressive fire, and its unique sound led to it being nicknamed “Hitler’s buzzsaw”.

- Designer: Georg Luger
- Designed: 1898
- Weight: 871 g
- Length: 222 mm
- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Action: Toggle-locked, short recoil
- Rate of fire: 116 rpm
- (semi-automatic)
- Effective firing range: 50 metres
- Feed system: 8-round detachable box magazine



Luger P08



Walther P38

- Designer: Carl Walther
- Designed: 1938
- Weight: 840 g
- Length: 216 mm
- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Action: Short recoil, locked breech
- Effective firing range: 50 metres
- Feed system: 8-round magazine

Special Weapons and Equipment

LCVP



General Dwight Eisenhower once said “Andrew Higgins is the man who won the war for us”. But who is Andrew Higgins?

He designed the landing craft, vehicle, personnel (LCVP). It was a landing craft used extensively in amphibious landings in World War II.

It could ferry a roughly platoon-sized complement of 36 men to shore at 9 knots (17 km/h). Men generally entered the boat by climbing down a cargo net hung from the side of their troop transport; they exited by charging down the boat’s lowered bow ramp.

For Operation Overlord, 514 tanks were modified with duplex drive kits intended to give the armoured vehicles an amphibious capability. This transformed them into the “DD Tank” - the duplex drive tank. The modifications - a British concept - mainly comprised a twin-screw propulsion system at the rear of the vehicle for water navigation and inflatable skirts, or “bloomers,” to aid buoyancy. Though the arrangement worked well for shallow water, such as rivers, it proved disastrous in ocean swells. The skirts afforded only a low freeboard, which left the hulls susceptible to being swamped.



A Bangalore torpedo is an explosive charge placed within one or several connected tubes. It is used by combat engineers to clear obstacles that would otherwise require them to approach directly, possibly under fire. It is sometimes colloquially referred to as a “Bangalore mine”, “banger” or simply “Bangalore”.

On D-Day it was used mainly for clearing paths through concentrations of barbed wire.

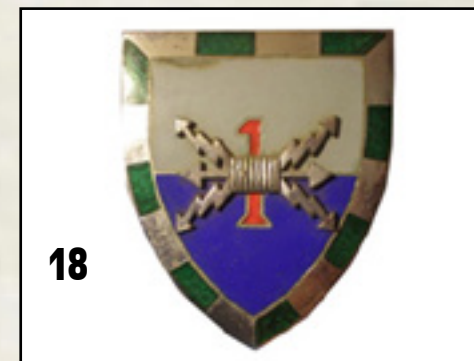


SADF Stuff

This month we have a bit of a different quiz for you. It’s about the SADF (South African Defence Force). There are a few questions, slang expressions and some flashes and emblems to identify. Answers on page 88.

1. In which year did military service become compulsory for white South African men?
2. What was the navy term for a ‘chicken parade’?
3. What form was used for the purposes of laying a charge against any SADF member?
4. What was the slang term given to slices of polony?
5. What was the Hercules C-130 transport aircraft better known as?
6. What was a leading seaman in the navy better known as?
7. What was a ‘Noddy Car’?
8. What was ‘pille en brille’?
9. Who, or what, was a ‘pon-go’?
10. What was PLAN?
11. What was a ‘siel tiffie’?
12. Who, or what, was a ‘Santa Maria’?
13. What was the nickname given to the Valkiri 127 mm multiple rocket launcher?
14. What was the nickname given for the tray on which food was sometimes served?
15. Who, or what, was ‘white gold’?
16. What was a ‘soek steek stok’?
17. What did the term ‘maak dood’ mean?

Identify the following:



18



19



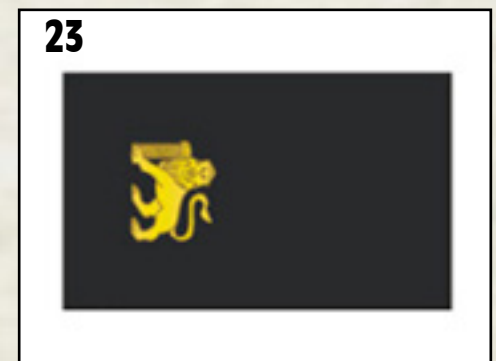
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26

Isoroku Yamamoto

Japanese Fleet Admiral of the Imperial Japanese Navy, Commander-in-chief of the Combined Fleet during World War II, and the architect of Pearl Harbour.

Isoroku Yamamoto held several important posts in the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN), and undertook many of its changes and reorganizations, especially its development of naval aviation.

He was the commander-in-chief during the early years of the Pacific War and oversaw major engagements including the attack on Pearl Harbour and the Battle of Midway.

He took part in three wars - the Russo-Japanese War, World War I, and World War II. He was a strong proponent of naval aviation.

He was one of the few Japanese to be awarded the German Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords. Yet he was strongly opposed to the 1940 Tripartite Pact with Nazi Germany and fascist Italy.

Early life

He was born Isoroku Takano in Nagaoka, Niigata on 4 April 1884. His father was Sadayoshi Takano, an intermediate-rank samurai of the Nagaoka Domain. "Isoroku" is an old Japanese term meaning "56"; the name referred to his father's age at Isoroku's birth.

In 1916, Isoroku was adopted into the Yamamoto family (another family of former Nagaoka samurai) and took the Yamamoto name. It was a common practice for samurai families lack-

ing sons to adopt suitable young men in this fashion to carry on the family name, the rank and the income that comes with it.

He was a gifted scholar and was rewarded in 1901 with acceptance to the Imperial Japanese Naval Academy. On his entrance exam he scored the second highest marks in the entire country.

He did well during his first three years, but it was during

his fourth year, which was spent at sea, that he really began to shine.

His instructors quickly spotted his leadership potential. Despite only standing at 5'3" (1.6 metres) and weighing 120 pounds (54 kg), he was physically skilled, being an accomplished gymnast and trained in the martial art of kendo.

Unlike his fellow students he was not interested in drinking and socialising, but rather spent time reading his bible (he was a devout Christian) and getting ahead on his studies.

In 1904 Yamamoto graduated from the Naval Academy, seventh out of 200 students. From February that year Japan had been at war with Russia, and Yamamoto was immediately thrown into the fray.

Yamamoto served on the armoured cruiser *Nisshin* during the Russo-Japanese War. He was wounded at the Battle of Tsushima, losing two fingers (the index and middle fingers) on his left hand, as the cruiser was hit repeatedly by the Russian battle line.

He returned to the Naval Staff College in 1914, emerging as a lieutenant commander in 1916.

In 1918 Isoroku married Reiko Mihashi, with whom



he had two sons and two daughters.

Pre-World War II

Yamamoto spent a few years in the United States when he received two postings as a naval attaché in Washington, D.C.

While in America he not only learned to speak fluent English, but also enrolled part-time at Harvard University (1919-1921) where he studied American customs and business practices.

He was promoted to captain in 1923. On 13 February 1924, at the rank of captain, he was part of the Japanese delegation visiting the US Naval War College. Later that year, he changed his specialty from gunnery to naval aviation. His first command was the cruiser *Isuzu* in 1928, followed by the aircraft carrier *Akagi*.

He participated in the second London Naval Conference of 1930 as a rear admiral and the 1934 London Naval Conference as a vice admiral, as the growing military influence on the government at the time deemed that a career military specialist needed to accompany the diplomats to the arms limitations talks.

Yamamoto opposed the invasion of Manchuria in 1931, the subsequent land war with China (1937), and the 1940 Tripartite Pact with Nazi Germany and fascist Italy. As Deputy Navy Minister, he apologized to United States Ambassador Joseph C. Grew for the bombing of the gunboat USS *Panay* in Decem-

ber 1937. These issues made him a target of assassination threats by pro-war militarists.

Throughout 1938, many young army and naval officers began to speak publicly against Yamamoto and certain other Japanese admirals such as Mitsumasa Yonai and Shigeyoshi Inoue for their strong opposition to a tripartite pact with Nazi Germany as they saw it as inimical to "Japan's natural interests".

Yamamoto received a steady stream of hate mail and death threats from Japanese nationalists. His reaction to the prospect of death by assassination was passive and accepting.

The admiral wrote: *"To die for Emperor and Nation is the highest hope of a military man. After a brave hard fight the blossoms are scattered on the fighting field. But if a person wants to take a life instead, still the fighting man will go to eternity for Emperor and country. One man's life or death is a matter of no importance. All that matters is the Empire. As Confucius said, 'They may crush cinnabar, yet they do not take away its colour; one may burn a fragrant herb, yet it will not destroy the scent.' They may destroy my body, yet they will not take away my will."*

The Japanese Army, annoyed at Yamamoto's unflinching opposition to a Rome-Berlin-Tokyo treaty, dispatched military police to "guard" Yamamoto, a ruse by the army to keep an eye on him.

He was later reassigned from

the naval ministry to sea as the commander-in-chief of the Combined Fleet on 30 August 1939.

This was done as one of the last acts of the then-acting Navy Minister Mitsumasa Yonai, under Baron Hiranuma's short-lived administration. It was done partly to make it harder for assassins to target Yamamoto.

Yonai was certain that if Yamamoto remained ashore, he would be killed before the year [1939] ended.

On the brink of war

Yamamoto was promoted to admiral on 15 November 1940. This, in spite of the fact that when Hideki Tōjō was appointed prime minister on 8 October 1941, many political observers thought that Yamamoto's career was essentially over.

Tōjō had been Yamamoto's old opponent from the time when the latter served as Japan's deputy naval minister and Tōjō was the prime mover behind Japan's takeover of Manchuria. It was believed that Yamamoto would be appointed to command the Yokosuka Naval Base, "a nice safe demotion with a big house and no power at all".

After the new Japanese cabinet was announced, however, Yamamoto found himself left alone in his position despite his open conflicts with Tōjō and other members of the army's oligarchy who favoured war with the European powers and the United States.

Two of the main reasons for Yamamoto's political survival were his immense popularity within the fleet, where he commanded the respect of his men and officers, and his close relations with the imperial family. He also had the acceptance of Japan's naval hierarchy.

Consequently, Yamamoto stayed in his post. With Tōjō now in charge of Japan's highest political office, it became clear the army would lead the navy into a war about which Yamamoto had serious reservations. He wrote to an ultranationalist:

"Should hostilities once break out between Japan and the United States, it would not be enough that we take Guam and the Philippines, nor even Hawaii and San Francisco. To make victory certain, we would have to march into Washington and dictate the terms of peace in the White House. I wonder if our politicians [who speak so lightly of a Japanese-American war] have confidence as to the final outcome and are prepared to make the necessary sacrifices."

This quote was spread by the militarists, minus the last sentence, where it was interpreted in America as a boast that Japan would conquer the entire continental United States. The omitted sentence showed Yamamoto's counsel of caution towards a war that could cost Japan dearly.

Nevertheless, Yamamoto accepted the reality of impending war and planned for a quick victory by destroying the United States Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbour in a preventive strike

while simultaneously thrusting into the oil and rubber resource-rich areas of Southeast Asia, especially the Dutch East Indies, Borneo, and Malaya. In naval matters, Yamamoto opposed the building of the super-battleships Yamato and Musashi as an unwise investment of resources.

Innovations

Yamamoto was responsible for a number of innovations in Japanese naval aviation. Although remembered for his association with aircraft carriers, Yamamoto did more to influence the development of land-based naval aviation, particularly the Mitsubishi G3M and G4M medium bombers.

His demand for great range and the ability to carry a torpedo was intended to conform to Japanese conceptions of bleeding the American fleet as it advanced across the Pacific. The planes did achieve long range, but long-range fighter escorts were not available. These planes were lightly constructed and when fully fuelled, they were especially vulnerable to enemy fire. This earned the G4M the sardonic nickname the "flying cigarette lighter".

The range of the G3M and G4M contributed to a demand for great range in a fighter aircraft. This partly drove the requirements for the A6M Zero which was as noteworthy for its range as for its manoeuvrability. Both qualities were again purchased at the expense of light construction and flammability that later contributed to the A6M's high casualty rates as the war progressed.

As Japan moved toward war during 1940, Yamamoto gradually moved toward strategic as well as tactical innovation, again with mixed results.

Prompted by talented young officers such as Lieutenant Commander Minoru Genda, Yamamoto approved the reorganization of Japanese carrier forces into the First Air Fleet, a consolidated striking force that gathered Japan's six largest carriers into one unit.

This innovation gave great striking capacity, but also concentrated the vulnerable carriers into a compact target. Yamamoto also oversaw the organization of a similar large land-based organization in the 11th Air Fleet, which would later use the G3M and G4M to neutralize American air forces in the Philippines and sink the British "Force Z".

In January 1941, Yamamoto went even further and proposed a radical revision of Japanese naval strategy. For two decades, in keeping with the doctrine of Captain Alfred T. Mahan, the Naval General Staff had planned in terms of Japanese light surface forces, submarines, and land-based air units whittling down the American Fleet as it advanced across the Pacific until the Japanese Navy engaged it in a climactic "decisive battle" in the northern Philippine Sea (between the Ryukyu Islands and the Marianas), with battleships meeting in the traditional exchange between battle lines.

Correctly pointing out this plan had never worked even in Japanese war games, and painfully aware of American stra-

tegic advantages in military production capacity, Yamamoto proposed instead to seek a decision with the Americans by first reducing their forces with a preventive strike, and following it with a "decisive battle" fought offensively, rather than defensively.

Yamamoto hoped, but probably did not believe, that if the Americans could be dealt terrific blows early in the war, they might be willing to negotiate an end to the conflict.

The Naval General Staff proved reluctant to go along and Yamamoto was eventually driven to capitalize on his popularity in the fleet by threatening to resign to get his way. Admiral Osami Nagano and the Naval General Staff eventually caved in to this pressure, but only insofar as approving the attack on Pearl Harbour.

The First Air Fleet commenced preparations for the Pearl Harbour raid, solving a number of technical problems along the way, including how to launch torpedoes in the shallow water of Pearl Harbour and how to craft armour-piercing bombs by machining down battleship gun projectiles.

Pearl Harbour

US President Franklin D. Roosevelt called it "a day that will live in infamy." The day in question was 7 December 1941.

On that fateful morning the First Air Fleet of six carriers attacked the United States, launching 353 aircraft against Pearl Harbour and other locations within Honolulu in two waves.

The attack was a complete



PEARL HARBOUR BURNS: As a result of the attack on Pearl Harbour, America declared war on Japan on 8 December 1941.

success according to the parameters of the mission, which sought to sink at least four American battleships and prevent the U.S. from interfering in Japan's southward advance for at least six months. American aircraft carriers were also considered a choice target, but these were not in port at the time of the attack.

In the end, five American battleships were sunk, three were damaged, and eleven other cruisers, destroyers, and auxiliaries were sunk or seriously damaged, 188 American aircraft were destroyed and 159 others damaged, and 2,403 people were killed and 1,178 others wounded.

The Japanese lost 64 servicemen and only 29 aircraft, with 74 others damaged by anti-aircraft fire from the ground. The damaged aircraft were disproportionately dive and torpedo bombers, seriously impacting available firepower to exploit the first two waves' success, so the commander of the First Air

Fleet, Naval Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo, withdrew.

Yamamoto later lamented Nagumo's failure to seize the initiative to seek out and destroy the U.S. carriers, absent from the harbour, or further bombard various strategically important facilities on Oahu. Nagumo had absolutely no idea where the American carriers might be, and remaining on station while his forces cast about looking for them ran the risk of his own forces being found first and attacked while his aircraft were absent searching.

In any case, insufficient daylight remained after recovering the aircraft from the first two waves for the carriers to launch and recover a third before dark, and Nagumo's escorting destroyers lacked the fuel capacity for him to loiter long. Much has been made of Yamamoto's hindsight, but, in keeping with Japanese military tradition not to criticize the commander on the spot, he did not punish Nagumo for his withdrawal.

On the strategic, moral, and political level, the attack was a disaster for Japan, rousing American passions for revenge due to what is now famously coined a “sneak attack”. The US declared war on Japan the following day, 8 December 1941.

When asked by Prime Minister Fumimaro Konoe in mid-1941 about the outcome of a possible war with the United States, Yamamoto made a well-known and prophetic statement: If ordered to fight, he said, “I shall run wild considerably for the first six months or a year, but I have utterly no confidence for the second and third years.”

His prediction would be vindicated, as Japan easily conquered territories and islands in Asia and the Pacific for the first six months of the war, before suffering a major defeat at the Battle of Midway on 4-7 June 1942, which ultimately tilted the balance of power in the Pacific towards the U.S.

Early success

With the US fleet largely neutralized at Pearl Harbour, Yamamoto’s Combined Fleet turned to the task of executing the larger Japanese war plan devised by the Imperial Japanese Army (IJA) and Navy General Staff. The First Air Fleet made a circuit of the Pacific, striking American, Australian, Dutch and British installations from Wake Island to Australia to Ceylon in the Indian Ocean. The 11th Air Fleet caught the US 5th Air Force on the ground in the Philippines hours after Pearl Harbour, and then sank the British Force Z battleship

HMS Prince of Wales and battlecruiser HMS Repulse underway at sea.

Under Yamamoto’s able subordinates, Vice Admirals Jisaburō Ozawa, Nobutake Kondō, and Ibō Takahashi, the Japanese swept the inadequate remaining American, British, Dutch and Australian naval assets from the Dutch East Indies in a series of amphibious landings and surface naval battles culminating in the Battle of the Java Sea on 27 February 1942.

Along with the occupation of the Dutch East Indies came the fall of Singapore on 15 February 1942, and the eventual reduction of the remaining American-Filipino defensive positions in the Philippines on the Bataan peninsula, 9 April 1942, and Corregidor Island on 6 May 1942. The Japanese had secured their oil- and rubber-rich “southern resources area”.

The tide turns

In early May 1942 the Japanese Navy clashed with a US carrier task force in the Battle of the Coral Sea. Although the Japanese sank the US carrier USS Lexington and damaged the USS Yorktown (CV-5), the Americans damaged the carrier Shōkaku so badly that she required dockyard repairs, and the Japanese lost the light carrier Shoho. Just as importantly, Japanese operational mishaps and US fighters and anti-aircraft fire devastated the dive bomber and torpedo plane formations of both Shōkaku’s and Zuikaku’s air groups.

These losses sidelined Zuikaku while she awaited replace-

ment aircraft and aircrews, and saw to tactical integration and training. These two ships would be sorely missed a month later at Midway.

Battle of Midway

Yamamoto’s plan for Midway Island was an extension of his efforts to knock the US Pacific Fleet out of action long enough for Japan to fortify its defensive perimeter in the Pacific island chains. Yamamoto felt it necessary to seek an early, offensive decisive battle.

The plan was to seize Midway and draw the US carriers west into a trap where the First Mobile Force would engage and destroy them. Afterwards, First Fleet (one light carrier, seven battleships, three cruisers and 13 destroyers), in conjunction with elements of Second Fleet, would mop up remaining US surface forces and complete the destruction of the US Pacific Fleet.

Yamamoto held all the cards. The Japanese had four carriers, two light carriers, 11 battleships, 16 cruisers and 46 destroyers likely to be in the area of the main battle the US could field only three carriers, eight cruisers, and 15 destroyers. The disparity appeared crushing.

Unbeknownst to Admiral Yamamoto, the US had learned of Japanese plans thanks to the code breaking of Japanese naval code D (known to the US as JN-25).

As a result, Admiral Chester Nimitz, the Pacific Fleet commander, was able to circumvent both of Yamamoto’s security measures and place his outnumbered forces in a position

to conduct an ambush.

Nimitz’s carriers positioned themselves to ambush the *Kidō Butai* (striking force) when it struck Midway. A token cruiser and destroyer force was sent toward the Aleutians, but otherwise Nimitz ignored them.

On 4 June 1942, days before Yamamoto expected them to interfere in the Midway operation, US carrier-based aircraft destroyed the four carriers of the *Kidō Butai*, catching the Japanese carriers at an especially vulnerable moment.

Midway was a defeat for Japan and after that they suffered set back after setback.

Death

To boost morale following the defeat at Guadalcanal, Yamamoto decided to make an inspection tour throughout the South Pacific. On 14 April 1943, the US naval intelligence effort, code-named “Magic”, intercepted and decrypted a message containing specifics of Yamamoto’s tour, including arrival and departure times and locations, as well as the number and types of aircraft that would transport and accompany him on the journey.

Yamamoto, the itinerary revealed, would be flying from Rabaul to Balalae Airfield, on an island near Bougainville in the Solomon Islands, on the morning of April 18, 1943.

On 17 April the mission to intercept Yamamoto’s flight and shoot it down was authorised. A squadron of USAAF Lockheed P-38 Lightning aircraft were assigned the task as only they possessed sufficient range to intercept and engage. Select pilots



LAST GREETINGS: Admiral Yamamoto, a few hours before his death, saluting Japanese naval pilots at Rabaul on 18 April 1943.

from three units were informed that they were intercepting an “important high officer” with no specific name given.

On the morning of 18 April, despite urging by local commanders to cancel the trip for fear of ambush, Yamamoto’s two Mitsubishi G4M bombers, used as fast transport aircraft without bombs, left Rabaul as scheduled for the 507 km trip. Sixteen P-38 Lightnings intercepted the flight over Bougainville and a dogfight ensued between them and the six escorting Mitsubishi A6M Zeroes. The plane carrying Yamamoto was shot down and crashed into the jungle.

The crash site and body of Yamamoto were found the next day in the jungle of the island of Bougainville by a Japanese search and rescue party, led by army engineer Lieutenant Hamasuna.

A post-mortem of the body disclosed that Yamamoto had

received two 0.50-caliber bullet wounds, one to the back of his left shoulder and another to his left lower jaw that exited above his right eye. Yamamoto was 59 years old.

Yamamoto’s staff cremated his remains at Buin and his ashes were returned to Tokyo aboard the battleship Musashi, Yamamoto’s last flagship.

Yamamoto was given a full state funeral on 5 June, where he received, posthumously, the title of Marshal and was awarded the Order of the Chrysanthemum (1st Class). He was also awarded Nazi Germany’s Knight’s Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords.

Some of his ashes were buried in the public Tama Cemetery, Tokyo and the remainder at his ancestral burial grounds at the temple of Chuko-ji in Nagasaki City. He was succeeded as commander-in-chief of the Combined Fleet by Admiral Mineichi Koga.

Stalin's Organ

With its distinctive whine the Katyusha was a weapon that sowed terror and confusion among the Germans during their invasion of the Soviet Union. It was a weapon that was forged in battle.

Ask any South African that took part in combat operations in Angola or the then South West Africa to describe the sound of the war and they will probably tell you that it was the sound of the 282 hp turbo-charged diesel engine of the Ratel.

Ask any American that fought in Vietnam the same question and they will tell you that it was the 'thump-thump' of the Bell UH-1 Iroquois 'Huey' helicopter.

Yet for anyone that fought on the Eastern Front during World War II, the distinctive whine of the Soviet Katyusha rocket is

a sound they will never forget. And it is a sound that, to this day, is still just as frightening to those on the receiving end.

Background

Invented in Voronezh, Russia, Katyusha rocket launchers were mounted on many platforms during World War II, including on trucks, artillery tractors, tanks, and armoured trains, as well as on naval and riverine vessels as assault support weapons.

Soviet engineers also mounted single Katyusha rockets on lengths of railway track to serve in urban combat.

The design was relatively simple, consisting of racks of parallel rails on which rockets were mounted, with a folding frame to raise the rails to launch position. Each truck had 14 to 48 launchers. The M-13 rocket of the BM-13 system was 80 cm long, 13.2 cm in diameter and weighed 42 kg.

In June 1938, the Soviet Reaction-Engine Scientific Research Institute (RNII) in Moscow was authorized by the Main Artillery Directorate (GAU) to develop a multiple rocket launcher for the RS-132 aircraft rocket (RS for *Reaktivnyy Snaryad*, ('rocket-powered shell').

I. Gvay led a design team in Chelyabinsk, Russia, which built several prototype launchers firing the modified 132 mm M-132 rockets over the sides of ZiS-5 trucks.

These proved unstable, and V.N. Galkovskiy proposed mounting the launch rails longitudinally. In August 1939, the result was the BM-13 (*boyevaya mashina*).

The first large-scale testing of the rocket launchers took place at the end of 1938, when 233 rounds of various types were used.

A salvo of rockets could completely straddle a target at a range of 5,500 metres. But the artillery branch was not fond of the Katyusha, because it took up to 50 minutes to load and fire 24 rounds, while a conventional howitzer could fire 95 to 150 rounds in the same time.

Testing with various rockets was conducted through 1940, and the BM-13-16 with launch rails for sixteen rockets was au-

thorized for production. Only forty launchers were built before Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941.

After their success in the first month of the war, mass production was ordered and the development of other models proceeded. The Katyusha was inexpensive and could be manufactured in light industrial installations which did not have the heavy equipment to build conventional artillery gun barrels.

By the end of 1942, 3,237 Katyusha launchers of all types had been built, and by the end of the war total production reached about 10,000.

The truck-mounted Katyushas were installed on ZiS-6 6×4 trucks, as well as the two-axle ZiS-5 and ZiS-5V. In 1941, a small number of BM-13 launchers were mounted on STZ-5 artillery tractors.

A few were also tried on KV tank chassis as the KV-1K, but this was a needless waste of

heavy armour. Starting in 1942, they were also mounted on various British, Canadian and U.S. Lend-Lease trucks, in which case they were sometimes referred to as BM-13S.

The cross-country performance of the Studebaker US6 2½-ton 6x6 truck was so good that it became the GAU's standard mounting in 1943, designated BM-13N (*normalizovanniy*, 'standardized'), and more than 1,800 of this model were manufactured by the end of World War II.

After World War II, BM-13s were based on Soviet-built ZiS-151 trucks.

Initially, the BM-13 mobile rocket launcher was such a closely guarded secret, only specially cleared NKVD (Narodnyy Komissariat Vnutrennikh Del - People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs) state police units were permitted to operate the weapons. The technology would remain classified well into the war.



Nicknames

Initially, concerns for secrecy kept the military designation of the Katyushas from being known by the soldiers who operated them. They were called by code names such as Kostikov guns, after the head of the RNII, the Reaction-Engine Scientific Research Institute, and finally classed as Guards Mortars.

The name BM-13 was only allowed into secret documents in 1942, and remained classified until after the war.

Because they were marked with the letter K (for *Voronezh Komintern* Factory), Red Army troops adopted a nickname from Mikhail Isakovsky's popular wartime song, "[Katyusha](#)" (Click the underlined link to listen to the song), about a girl longing for her absent beloved, who has gone away on military service.

Katyusha is the Russian equivalent of Katie, an endearing diminutive form of the name Katherine: *Yekaterina* - *Katya* - *Katyusha*.

The Germans had their own name for the Katyusha. Comparing the visual resemblance of the launch array and the distinctive howling sound of the weapon's rocket motors, the German's nicknamed it *Stalinorgel* (Stalin's Organ).

When South African troops first encountered the 122 mm BM-21 Grad multiple-rocket launcher during Operation Savannah in 1975, they soon gave it their own nickname - *die rooi oog* (the red eye) - due to the red glare of the rockets when firing.



STALIN'S ORGAN: To listen to the sound of Katyusha's firing, click on the image above.

World War II

On 7 July 1941, only 15 days after Germany had launched Operation Barbarossa and invaded the Soviet Union, the Katyusha made its combat debut.

This was not perfect timing by any means. The first and only existing battery consisted of only seven BM-13 launchers and 600 M-13 rockets. More over they only had four days of training. This was a time when the existence of the Katyusha was a secret, so every possible precaution was taken to hide the launchers until they were fired in combat.

The target of the first launch of Katyusha rockets was an incoming formation of German troops near the river Berezina. The screaming wail of the rockets was enough to demoralize both battle-hardened troops and new recruits alike.

As the deluge of high explosives rained down on them the Germans panicked, and the steel fragments from the rockets added to the injuries and confusion.

The battery saw further action and in October they found themselves surrounded by the attacking Germans. Unfortunately for the Germans they were unable

to capture anything intact. The retreating Russian rocket crew had destroyed all the launchers and rockets to protect their precious new weapon from falling into enemy hands.

The Russian top brass were thrilled at how well the BM-13 had performed and this resulted in mass production.

By the end of the war over 10,000 Katyusha launchers along with 12 million rockets had been produced by about 200 factories.

It saw action from the defence of the Soviet Union after the Germans invaded, right through until the final battle for Berlin.

Post World War II

The success of the Katyusha in combat, its simple design and cost effectiveness ensured its ongoing development after the war. The term Katyusha is still used as a generic name to describe Russian MLRS of different calibres along with the prefix BM.

In 1952 the BM-14 went into service. It has 16 barrels and can fire a 140 mm rocket a maximum distance of 9.8 kilometres. It fires three different rockets of the M-14 series - a high-explosive fragmentation warhead

containing 3.68 kilograms of TNT. A smoke warhead containing white phosphorus. A chemical warhead containing 2.2 kilograms of sarin.

The most famous variant, post WWII is the BM-21 *Grad* (Hail) which entered service in 1962 and is still widely used. It has 40 barrels that can fire a 122 mm rocket a distance of between 30 and 45 kilometres.

The BM-27 *Uragan* (Hurricane) went into service in 1975 and was the first modern spin and fin stabilized heavy multiple rocket launcher. It has 16 barrels that can fire a 220 mm rocket a distance of 35 kilometres. It can use HE-FRAG, chemical, explosive or scatterable mine (PTM-3 or PFM-1) sub-munition equipped rockets, all of which are detonated by electric timing fuses.

The BM-30 *Smerch* (Whirlwind) went into service in 1989. It has 12 barrels that can fire a 300 mm rocket a distance of 90 kilometres. Various warheads have been developed for the *Smerch* MLRS.

The 9A52-4 Tornado was unveiled in 2007 and was designed as a lightweight and universal version of the BM-30 *Smerch*. Its six barrels can fire all current *Smerch* rockets, including HE-FRAG, incendiary, thermobaric, cluster with anti-personnel or anti-tank mines. Cluster rounds may also carry self-targeting anti-tank munitions. Launcher pods are designed for use with 122-mm and 220-mm rockets. The weapons system is equipped with an automated laying and fire control system, along with an autonomous satellite navigation and positioning system.



BM-21 Grad



BM-27 Uragan



9A52-4 Tornado

In the early hours of 6 June 1944 a mission that was vital to the success of Operation Tonga, the overall British airborne landings in Normandy, took place. So important was the mission that failure could have spelled doom for the Allied invasion of Europe.

On Tuesday 6 June 1944 the largest sea-borne invasion force in history landed on an 80 km stretch of the Normandy coast in France. Operation Overlord, the long-awaited liberation of Europe had begun.

While the prime focus was on Operation Neptune, the beach landings at Normandy, numerous other operations were also underway. Many of them were just as vital to the overall success of Operation Overlord. One of these missions was Operation Deadstick.

In the early hours of 6 June British airborne forces were given the objective of capturing intact two road bridges in Normandy, one across the River Orne and the other across the Caen Canal. These bridges provided the only exit eastwards for the British forces from their landing point on Sword Beach.

According to the intelligence reports, both bridges were heavily defended by the Germans as well as being wired for demolition. Once captured, the bridges had to be held against any counter-attack until the assault force was relieved by commandos and infantry advancing from the British landing zone.

If the Germans demolished either of the bridges the British 6th Airborne Division would be cut off from the rest of the Allied armies, with their back to two waterways.

If the Germans retained control over the bridges they could be used by their armoured divisions to attack the landing beaches of Normandy. For the British, failure was not an option.

Background

Responsibility for the operation fell to the members of 'D' Company, 2nd (Airborne) Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, part of the 6th Airlanding Brigade of the 6th Airborne Division. The assault group comprised a reinforced company of six infantry platoons and an attached platoon of Royal Engineers. They were under the command of Major John Howard with Captain Brian Friday as the second in command.

The 180 men under Howard's command would be transported to the objective by six Airspeed Horsa gliders, piloted by 12 NCOs from 'C' Squadron, Glider Pilot Regiment.

Howard was not told the exact details of the operation until 2 May, 1944. His orders were to seize the bridges over the River Orne and Caen Canal at Bénouville and Ranville intact and hold them until relieved.

The relief force would initially be a company from the 7th Parachute Battalion under Howard's command. When the remainder of the parachute battalion ar-



TARGET IN SIGHT: The three Horsa gliders assigned to the Caen Canal bridge. The bridge is hidden by the trees in the distance.

rived, he would hand over to their commander Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Pine-Coffin.

The 3rd Infantry Division and the commandos of the 1st Commando Brigade were scheduled to land at Sword at 06h00 on the day then advance to the bridges where they were expected to arrive at 11h00.

On 5 June 1944, the company made final preparations for the mission. Each man was issued their personal weapons and ammunition as well as up to nine hand grenades and four Bren gun magazines.

Each platoon also had a 2-inch mortar and a radio. Just before the men boarded the gliders, codewords were issued. 'Ham' indicated the canal bridge was captured and 'Jam' the river bridge. Capture and destruction of the canal bridge would be signalled using the codeword 'Jack'; 'Lard' would be used if a similar fate befell the river bridge.

The Ranville bridge spans the River Orne and the Bénouville

bridge crosses the Caen Canal to the west. They are 8.0 km from the coast and provided the only access to the city of Caen.

The main road between the two communes crosses the bridges and then continues east to the River Dives. At 190 58 metres long and 3.7 metres wide, the Caen Canal bridge opens to allow canal traffic to pass underneath. The controls were housed in a nearby cabin.

The canal is 8.2 metres deep by 46 metres wide, with earth and stone banks 1.8 metres high. Small tarmac tracks run on both banks along the canal's entire length.

Between the two bridges there is a strip of mostly marshy ground about 500 metres wide, broken up by ditches and small streams.

The Ranville bridge over the River Orne is 110 metres long, 6.1 metres wide and can be opened to allow river traffic to pass. The river is 49–73 metres wide and with an average depth of 2.7 metres. It has mud banks

averaging about 1.1 metres high and a tidal rise and fall of 4.9–2.0 metres.

A number of small houses lie to the west of the river, connected by a track 2.4–3.0 metres wide, that runs along both banks.

The bridges were guarded by 50 men belonging to the German 736th Grenadier Regiment, 716th Infantry Division. They were commanded by Major Hans Schmidt and based at Ranville, 1.9 km east of the River Orne.

The unit was poorly equipped and manned by conscripts from Poland, the Soviet Union, and France under a German officer and senior non-commissioned officers. Schmidt had orders to blow up the two bridges if they were in danger of capture.

Far more of a threat was the 21st Panzer Division that had moved into the area just the month before. One of its regiments, the 125th Panzergrenadier, commanded by Colonel Hans von Luck, was billeted at Vimont just east of Caen.

There was also a battalion of the 192nd Panzergrenadier Regiment based at Cairon to the west of the bridges. Further afield were the 12th SS Panzer Division at Lisieux and the Panzer Lehr Division at Chartres, both less than a day's march from the area.

Defences were in place at both bridges. On the west bank of the Caen Canal bridge there were three machine-gun emplacements and on the east bank a machine-gun and an anti-tank gun.

To their north were another three machine-guns and a concrete pillbox. An anti-aircraft tower equipped with machine-guns stood to the south.



At the River Orne bridge, the eastern bank south of the bridge had a pillbox with anti-tank and anti-aircraft guns. To the north of the bridge were two machine-guns. Both bridges had sandbagged trench systems along the banks.

Capture of the bridges

At 22h56 on 5 June 1944, the six gliders towed by Halifax bombers took off from RAF Tarrant Rushton. They each carried the following loads:

- No. 1 - Major Howard and Lieutenant Den Brotheridge's platoon.
- No. 2 - Lieutenant David Wood's platoon.
- No. 3 - Lieutenant Smith's platoon.

Their target was the Caen Canal.

- No. 4 - Captain Priday and Lieutenant Hooper's platoon.
- No. 5 - Lieutenant Fox's platoon.
- No. 6 - Tod Sweeney's platoon.

Their target was the river bridge. Each glider also carried five Royal Engineers.

At 00h16 on 6 June, Glider Number One crashed into barbed wire surrounding the canal bridge defences. Operation Deadstick had begun.

While the Germans were not sure of the exact date, nor the exact location, they knew the invasion was imminent. Major Schmidt was also fully aware that the bridges were one of the most critical points in Normandy. It was vital that they not fall into enemy hands. Yet, surprisingly, when the gliders landed there were only two sentries on duty on the canal bridges.

The sound of a gunshot alerted the two sentries on the canal bridge. As Brotheridge's platoon attacked, one ran off shouting "paratroops" while the second fired a flare gun to alert nearby defenders. Brotheridge shot him while other members of his platoon cleared the trenches and pillbox with grenades.

Alerted by the flare, the German machine gunners opened fire at the men on the bridge, wounding Brotheridge as he threw a grenade. The grenade silenced one of the machine gun positions and another was taken out by Bren gun fire.

1st Platoon crossed the bridge to take up a defensive position on the west bank. The Royal Engineers from number one glider searched for explosive charges and cut the fuse wires when they found any.

Smith's platoon crossed the bridge next, exchanging fire with the German defenders, whereupon Smith was wounded by a grenade. Using grenades and sub-machine gun fire, the platoons cleared the trenches and bunkers. By 00h21 German resistance on the west bank of the canal bridge was over.

Brotheridge's platoon discovered that he had succumbed to his wounds, becoming the first Allied soldier killed by enemy action during the invasion.

On the east bank, Wood's platoon cleared the trenches and bunkers with little opposition. Wood was hit in the leg by machine-gun fire. All three platoon commanders at the canal bridge were now either dead or wounded.

Around the same time, pathfinders from the 22nd Independent

Parachute Company landed in the area between the River Orne and the River Dives. Brigadier Nigel Poett, commanding the 5th Parachute Brigade, along with a small team accompanied the pathfinders. Disoriented after landing, Poett heard Brotheridge's Sten gun and set off for the bridges with the only man he could locate.

At the river bridge, Glider No. 5 landed only 300 metres away from the bridge at 00h20.

Glider No. 6 landed a minute later 700 metres away from the bridge. Glider No. 4, carrying Captain Priday, was reported missing.

When the Germans opened fire with an MG 34, the platoon responded with a 2-inch (51 mm) mortar and destroyed the gun with a direct hit. They then crossed the bridge without further opposition.

Sweeney left one of his sections on the west bank then moved the rest of the platoon across the bridge to take up defensive positions on the east bank.

From his newly established command post, in the trenches on the eastern bank of the canal near the bridge, Howard learned that the river bridge had also been taken. Captain Neilson of the engineers reported that although the bridges had been prepared for demolition, the explosives had not been attached.

Howard ordered his signalman to transmit the code words 'Ham' and 'Jam' then brought Fox's platoon across the canal bridge, positioning them at the Bénouville to Le Port crossroads as the company's forward platoon.



RELIEF ARRIVES: Led by a piper, elements of the 1st Commando Brigade cross the Caen Canal bridge.

7th Parachute Battalion arrives

At 00h50, aircraft carrying the rest of the 6th Airborne Division appeared overhead and the paratroopers descended onto drop zones marked out by the pathfinders.

Howard began blowing the morse code letter 'V' on his whistle, to help guide the 7th Parachute Battalion to the bridges. The first paratroops to arrive, at 00h52, were Brigadier Poett and the soldier he had picked up en route. Briefed by Howard on the situation, they heard tanks and lorries moving around in Bénouville and Le Port.

On the drop zone, only about 100 men of the 7th Parachute Battalion had made it to the rallying point but all their signal equipment, machine guns and mortars were missing.

Pine-Coffin, aware that his battalion was the only unit allocated defensive positions west of the bridges, decided they could not wait any longer and, at 01h10, left for the bridges.

The commander of the 716th Infantry Division, General-

leutnant Wilhelm Richter, was informed at 01h20 of the parachute landings and that the bridges had been captured intact. One of his first actions was to contact Generalmajor Edgar Feuchtinger of 21st Panzer Division. Richter ordered the division to attack the landing areas.

While Feuchtinger's tanks were delegated to support the 716th, it was also part of the German armoured reserve that could not move without orders from the German High Command. All German panzer formations could only be moved on the direct orders of Adolf Hitler, who was sleeping at the time and his staff refused to wake him.

When the 125th Panzergrenadier Regiment received news of the airborne landings at 01:30, Colonel von Luck ordered the regiment to their assembly areas north and east of Caen and to wait for further orders.

The closest large German unit to the canal bridge was the 2nd Battalion, 192nd Panzergrenadier Regiment based at Cairon.

General Feuchtinger ordered them to recapture the bridges,

and then attack the parachute landing zones further west. At 02h00, the 2nd Battalion headed for the bridges from the west, supported by the 1st Panzerjager Company and part of the 989th Heavy Artillery Battalion coming from the north.

As the first Panzer IVs from the north reached the junction leading to the bridge, the leading vehicle was hit by a round from 'D' Company's only serviceable PIAT anti-tank weapon. The vehicle exploded, setting off its stowed ammunition, and the other tanks withdrew.

The first company of the 7th Parachute Battalion, commanded by Major Nigel Taylor, arrived at the bridges. Howard directed them to defensive positions west of the canal in Bénouville and Le Port.

When Pine-Coffin arrived at the bridges, he was briefed by Howard, and crossed into Bénouville and set up his headquarters beside the church. Pine-Coffin had about 200 men in his three companies. He positioned 'A' and 'C' Companies in Bénouville facing south towards Caen and 'B' Company in Le Port facing Ouistreham.

'D' Company was now pulled back into the area between the two bridges and held in reserve. A further sweep of the trenches and bunkers was conducted, and resulted in the capture of a number of Germans.

At 03h00, the 8th Heavy Company, 192nd Panzergrenadier Regiment with 75 mm SP guns, 20 mm AA guns, and mortars attacked 'A' and 'C' Companies, 7th Parachute Battalion, from the south.

The paratroops were forced

back and the Germans established their own positions in Bénouville, but were unable to break the British line. They dug in and waited for tank support before moving forward again. The Germans fired mortar bombs and machine guns at the paratroopers and attempted small assaults on their positions throughout the night.

Just before dawn, Howard summoned his platoon commanders to a meeting. With their senior officers dead or wounded, 1, 2 and 3 Platoons were now commanded by corporals. Howard's second in command, Captain Priday and 4 Platoon were missing. Only Lieutenants Fox and Sweeney of 5 and 6 Platoons respectively had a full complement of officers and NCOs.

The landings at Sword began at 07h00, preceded by a heavy naval bombardment. At the bridges, daylight allowed German snipers to identify targets and anyone moving in the open was in danger of being shot.

The men of 1 Platoon who had taken over the 75 mm anti-tank gun on the east bank of the canal used it to engage possible sniper positions in Bénouville, the Château de Bénouville and the surrounding area.

At 09h00, two German gunboats approached the canal bridge from Ouistreham. The lead boat fired its 20 mm gun and 2 Platoon returned fire with a PIAT, hitting the wheelhouse of the leading boat, which crashed into the canal bank. The second boat retreated to Ouistreham.

Alone German aircraft bombed the canal bridge at 10h00, dropping one bomb. The bomb struck the bridge but failed to detonate.



STARK REMINDER: The original Pegasus Bridge at the Memorial Pegasus in Benouville.

Linking up with Sword Beach

The German 2nd Battalion, 192nd Panzergrenadier Regiment continued to attack Bénouville and Le Port, assisted by their tanks, mortars and infantry.

The attack caused serious problems for the understrength 7th Parachute Battalion, until the leading tank was blown up with a Gammon bomb, effectively blocking the road. During the attack, 13 of the 17 tanks trying to get through to the bridge were destroyed.

The paratroopers were then reinforced by 1 Platoon from 'D' Company. The platoon moved forward into Bénouville and cleared the Germans in house to house fighting. 5 and 6 Platoons also moved into positions opposite the Gondrée Café, on the west bank of the canal.

By midday, most of the missing men from the 7th Parachute Battalion had arrived at the bridges and the three glider platoons were moved back to their

original positions.

Just after midday, the 21st Panzer Division received permission to attack the landings. Luck ordered the 125th Panzergrenadier Regiment, east of the River Orne, towards the bridges. The column was quickly spotted, and engaged for the next two hours by Allied artillery and aircraft causing heavy losses.

At 13h30, the men at the bridges heard the sound of bagpipes, played by Bill Millin of the 1st Commando Brigade. As the commandos arrived, they crossed the bridges and joined the rest of 6th Airborne Division defending the eastern perimeter. Some of the tanks accompanying the commandos moved into Bénouville to reinforce its defences, while others crossed the bridges with the commandos.

At 15h00, a boat loaded with German infantry approached from Caen. It was engaged with the anti-tank gun manned by 1 Platoon, hit in the stern by the

second round fired and then retreated back toward Caen.

At 21h15, the 2nd Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment of the 185th Infantry Brigade arrived from Sword and began taking over the bridges' defences.

At around midnight, Howard handed over command of the bridges to the Warwickshire Regiment and his company left to join the rest of their battalion at Ranville.

At 03:30, they finally located the battalion's positions and found Captain Priday and 4 Platoon had already joined the battalion. Bénouville was the farthest forward point of the British advance on 6 June 1944.

Aftermath

Of the 181 men (139 infantry, 30 engineers and 12 pilots) of 'D' Company involved in the capture of the bridges, two were killed and an additional fourteen wounded. The 7th Battalion's losses during the defence of the bridges amounted to 18 dead and 36 wounded.

The total German losses, in the area, during 6 June are unknown. Fourteen tanks were lost during the fighting; the first during the night, and the remaining 13 throughout the day. Other losses include one gunboat on the Caen canal.

Major Howard was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, presented in the field by

General Bernard Montgomery. Both Smith and Sweeney were awarded the Military Cross; the Military Medal was awarded to Sergeant Thornton and Lance-Corporal Stacey; Lieutenant Brotheridge was posthumously mentioned in dispatches. In recognition of their feat of flying, eight of the glider pilots were awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.

The Caen Canal bridge was renamed Pegasus Bridge after the emblem of the British airborne forces, while the River Orne bridge became Horsa Bridge. The road across them is now the "Esplanade Major John Howard"

Any ideas on these?

Regular Military Despatches reader Paul Rosslee sent me these photographs along with the following e-mail.

Hi there Matt,

I have an interesting question for you (and your excellent "Dispatches")

Attached are three photo's.

First two come from Windhoek, where the vehicle is standing on a plinth. The third, I believe, is standing in Warsaw station.

Any idea what it was ever used for?

Paul

The first reader that can identify what they are will win a copy of *Point of the Dagger*, this month's featured book in our Book Review on page 67.

E-mail your answer to editor@hipe.co.za before 25 June.



ARMA DLC

It's back to the wars for Matt "Bullet Magnet" O'Brien as he revisits a classic game. He even tries his hand at being a humanitarian worker.

Way back in August 2017, in Issue 2 of Military Despatches, I reviewed ARMA 3. This month we look at some add-ons to the original game.

Released in September 2013, ARMA 3 is probably one of the best military simulators available.

Since its original release a number of DLC (downloadable content) have been released. And a lot of improvements have been made to the game.

Let's look at some of the new content.

Helicopters

Released on 4 November 2014, the Helicopter DLC introduced two new helicopters - the CH-67 Huron and Mi-290 Taru heavy-lift helicopters.

You can now carry externally slung cargo under heavy helicopters and can also abseil from them.

You can also use your personal weapons from specific passenger positions in a wide range of vehicles.

Helicopters DLC costs R129.

Marksmen

Released on 8 April 2014, the Marksmen DLC introduced five marksmen rifles and two medium machine guns - Cyrus 9.3 mm, MAR-10 .338, Mk-I

EMR 7.62 mm, Mk14 7.62 mm, ASP-1 Kir, SPMG .338 light-weight medium machine gun, and the Navid 9.3 mm medium machine gun.

The AMS and Kahlia medium range scopes complement both the new and existing weapons. Remote Designators - Two remotely-operated laser-designators can be used to spot and laser designate targets from afar.

Ghillie Suits - A number of new ghillie suits are also available. Marksmen DLC costs R149.

Apex

Released on 11 July 2016, the Apex DLC introduced the 100 km² South Pacific island archipelago of Tanoa.

Tanoa's varied locations, such as the rainforests, volcano, shanty towns, sugar cane factory, and industrial port, cater to all scenario types.

It introduced a new faction, a local criminal organization with deep roots on Tanoa. There are also 13 new weapons, as well as new uniforms and gear. There are also 10 new vehicles.

Apex also brought many improvements to the base game. The Apex DLC costs R349.

Jets

Released on 16 May 2017, the Jets DLC has four new

aircraft - the F/A-181 Black Wasp II, To-201 Shikra, A-149 Gryphon, and the Sentinel Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV).

Other content includes the Aircraft Carrier "USS Freedom" (CVN-83), Praetorian 1C AAA (Anti-aircraft artillery), and Mk-49 Spartan SAM & Mk-21 Centurion SAM.

There are also Radar and SAM systems and Anti-Radiation Missiles & Small Diameter Guided Bombs. The Jets DLC costs R129.

Laws of War

Released on 7 September 2017, the Laws of War DLC explores a different perspective on the battlefield.

The new International Development & Aid Project (IDAP) faction is a non-governmental organization which is specialized in rapidly responding to humanitarian disasters.

Content includes a van with an ambulance variant, a Utility & Demining Drone Vests, new IDAP uniforms, bags, headgear, facewear and safety equipment.

The APERS Mine Dispenser is an effective but controversial area denial weapon system. Several improvements to the identifying and clearing of mines (and other explosives)



make for a more manual process, with a greater emphasis on the Mine Detector tool. The Laws of War DLC costs R129.

Half of Bohemia Interactive's net revenue from direct sales of the Arma 3 Laws of War DLC in 2017 was donated to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The total amount raised and donated was \$176,667 (R 2,574,921).

Tanks

Released on 11 April 2018, the Tanks DLC introduced three new armoured vehicles - the T-140 Angara, AWC Nyx, and the Rhino MGS.

Armoured vehicles can be customized in the Virtual Garage with additional armour protection and camouflage nets for better concealment in different terrains.

Improvements include a new fire-control system and new missile flight profiles and capabilities.

There are also two new an-

ti-tank weapons at your disposal. The Tanks DLC costs R129.

Global Mobilization - Cold War Germany

Released on 29 April 2019, the Global Mobilization - Cold War Germany DLC is the first third-party creator content. It pits West Germany against East Germany.

Located in the northern plains of Germany, Weferlingen offers the largest ARMA terrain released so far: 419 km² of usable area. It's modelled after a real-world location in 1983, and uses entirely new assets.

There are 42 vehicles and vehicle variants, 21 new weapons, and a heap of new uniforms and equipment.

The DLC costs R299.

Workshop creator content

There is also so much content available for free on the Steam Workshop.

This is content that has been created by players and includes

vehicles, aircraft, helicopters, weapons, equipment, uniforms, maps and much more.

Currently there are 63,238 items of content on the workshop.

And all of it is for free.



Publisher - Bohemia Interactive

Genre - Military Simulator

Score - 8.5/10

Price - Various (on Steam)



Movie Review

Tora, tora, tora

Released: 1970

Running time: 144 minutes

Directed by: Richard Fleischer,
Toshio Masuda and Kinji Fukasaku

Released in 1970 and based up the 1969 book of the same name, Tora, Tora, Tora dramatizes the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

In August 1939, a trade embargo imposed by the United States is depriving a belligerent Japan of raw materials. Influential army figures and politicians push through an alliance with Germany and Italy in September 1940 and make preparations for war.

The newly appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Fleet Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto (Sō Yamamura) reluctantly orders the planning of a pre-emptive strike on the U.S. Pacific Fleet anchored at Pearl Harbor, believing that Japan's best hope of achieving control of the Pacific Ocean is to annihilate the fleet at the outset of hostilities. Air Staff Officer Minoru Genda (Tatsuya Mihashi) is chosen to mastermind the operation while his old Naval Academy classmate Mitsuo Fuchida (Takahiro Tamura) is selected to lead the attack.

In Washington, U.S. military intelligence has managed to break the Japanese Purple Code, allowing the U.S. to intercept secret Japanese radio transmissions indicating increased Japanese naval activity.

At Pearl Harbour itself, Admiral Kimmel (Martin Balsam) and General Short do their best to enhance defences by increasing na-

val and aerial patrols around Hawaii to provide early warning of any enemy presence. Short recommends parking all aircraft at the base on the runways to avoid sabotage by enemy agents.

Several months pass with diplomatic tensions continuing to escalate. As the Japanese ambassador continues negotiations to stall for time, the Japanese fleet sorties into the Pacific and soon is in position to begin the assault.

On 2 December 1941 the Japanese invasion fleet receives the coded message "Niitakayama Nobore" (Climb Mount Niitaka). It is the signal for the attack to go ahead.

At dawn on 7 December the Japanese fleet launches its aircraft. Their approach to Hawaii is detected by two radar operators but their concerns are dismissed by the duty officer receiving their alert.

The Japanese thus achieve complete surprise and a joyous commander Fuchida sends the code "Tora! Tora! Tora!" (Tiger, tiger, tiger) to indicate that surprise has been achieved.

The damage to the naval base is catastrophic with the U.S. suffering severe casualties. Seven battleships are either sunk or heavily damaged. General Short's anti-sabotage precautions prove a disastrous mistake that allows the Japanese aerial forces to destroy the U.S. aircraft on the ground with ease.

In Washington, the Secretary of State Cordell Hull is stunned on learning of the attack and urgently requests confirmation before receiving the Japanese ambassador. The message that was transmitted to the Japanese embassy in 14 parts – a declaration of war – was meant to be delivered to the U.S. at 1:00 pm in Washington, 30 minutes before the attack. However, it was not decoded and transcribed in time, with the result that the attack took place while the two nations were technically still at peace.

Although nearly 50 years old, this is still an excellent movie. In my opinion, far better than the 2001 movie, 'Pearl Harbor'.



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

Point of the Dagger

Peet Coetzee received recognition for two of his previous books, *Special Force Jam Stealer* and *Ons Vergeet Nie*, in a review by *Die Volksblad*, describing his books as the most gripping and richly illustrated war memoirs of all border war literature books.

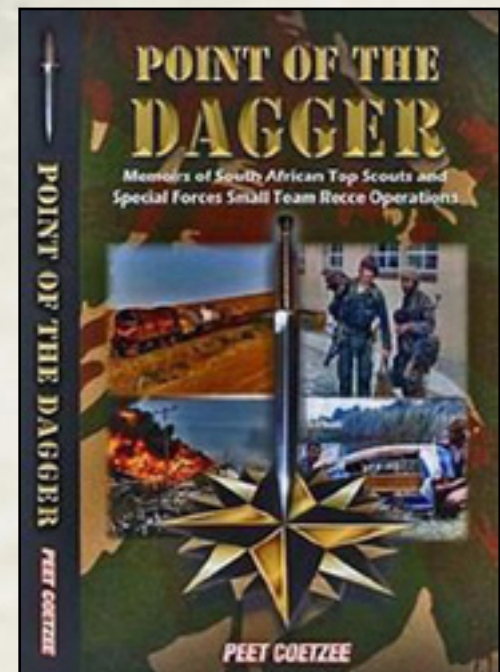
Coetzee offers the necessary homage in the form of interesting short stories about the achievements of the Chief Scouts of South Africa. Dating back in history to heroes like De la Rey, Danie Theron and Hendri Slegtkamp and the adventurous accounts of Major P.J. Pretorius, who was busy with his own personal war against the Germans in German East Africa, long before the First

World War commenced.

Later to be appointed as the Chief Scout of General Jannie Smuts, Pretorius is also seen as being comparable to the present-day Recce Operator

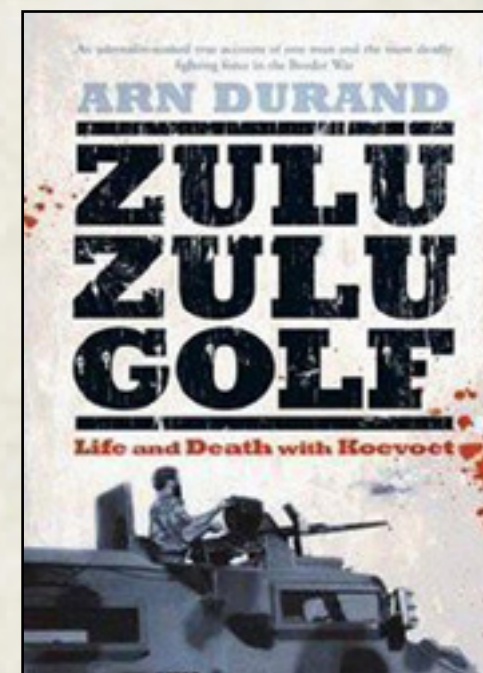
The creator or "father" of the highly successful Small Team concept was Captain Chris Schulenburg G.C.V., S.C.R. who served in the elite forces of the Rhodesian SAS, Selous Scouts and in the South African Special Forces.

The Recce Small Team operations conducted under the leadership of Colonel André Diedericks HCS, HC, SM, MMM and Major Jack Greeff HC, PMM, MMM who with their team mates successfully applied the Small Team con-

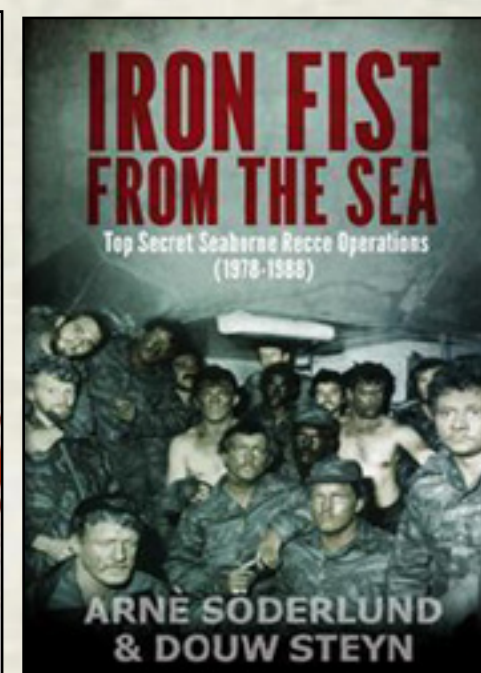


cept in many operations they conducted, as told in this book.

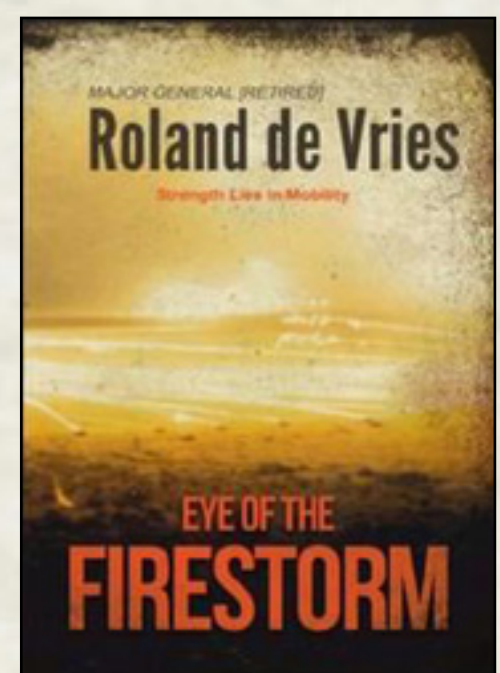
Paperback - 258 pages
Cost - R280



Zulu Zulu Golf
R450



Iron Fist from the Sea
R300



Eye of the Firestorm
R520

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

This month in military history

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

1 June

- **1879** - Eugene Louis Jean Joseph Napoleon, the 22 year old Prince Imperial of France, is killed in the Anglo-Zulu War when he and a British reconnaissance party are attacked by about forty Zulus in the vicinity of Itelezi Mountain and Ityotozi River in Zululand. The prince's horse, "Fate", bolts and the prince, in attempting to mount his fleeing horse, is stabbed to death.
- **1915** - First Zeppelin air raid over England.
- **1916** - Battle of Jutland: Fleets return to port.
- **1917** - The French Army "Mutinies" begin: Troops go on strike. Order is restored in about four weeks, with minimal violence, and the Germans never learn of them
- **1939** - The South African Police takes over the tasks of the German South-West African police. 423 members of the disbanded police force are incorporated into the force.
- **1943** - WWII: According to an entry in the squadron's diary, 28 Squadron of the SA Air Force is formed as a transport squadron at the SAAF Base Depot Almaza, Cairo.
- **1944** - Allied forces begin covering much of Britain with smoke screens, as troops crowd assembly areas for D-Day.
- **1948** - Cease-fire ends Israeli War for Independence.
- **1964** - Military coup installs a junta in Greece.
- **1976** - Lance Corporal Nollind Trevor Small from 4 SAI was killed just north of Grootfontein after he apparently suffered a seizure and blacked out while behind the wheel of the military Landrover he was driving. The vehicle left the road and collided with a water tower which collapsed on top of the vehicle. He was 19.
- **1977** - Private Johannes Jurgens Lensley from 16 Maintenance Unit was killed after being struck by a bullet during a shooting incident at Grootfontein. He was 18.
- **1978** - 2nd Lieutenant Philip Michael Dietlof Mare' from 6 Squadron was killed while on a routine training flight out of Air Force Base Port Elizabeth. He was 22.
- **1980** - Rifleman Petrus Johannes Bonnet from 61 Mechanised Battalion died of severe chest and lung injuries sustained when the Buffel Troop Carrier in which he was traveling, overturned outside the 61 Mech Base in Tsumeb. He was 19.
- **1980** - Umkhonto weSizwe strikes at the Sasol Complex, causing damage estimated at R66 million.
- **1980** - Two members from 102 Battalion SWATF were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in the Operational Area. They were: Rifleman B. Herunga ((22). Rifleman J. Matundu (20).
- **1981** - Festivities to mark the twentieth anniversary of the South African Republic reach a climax with a massive military display in Durban, attended by P.W. Botha, the Prime Minister.
- **1981** - Rifleman Gavin John Harvey from "B" Company, 1 Parachute Battalion was severely wounded during follow-up operations against SWAPO/PLAN insurgents on 22 May 1981. He was evacuated to the Hospital in Grootfontein where he was stabilised before being evacuated by air to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria the following day. He unfortunately succumbed to his wounds in 1 Military Hospital on 1 June 1981. He was 21.
- **1982** - Major Eugene Kotze SD, Station Pilot at Air Force Base Ondangwa was Killed in Action when his Atlas MB326KM Impala Mk II was shot down by anti-aircraft fire near Cuvelai in

Southern Angola while carrying out close-air support operations. He was 35.

- **1982** - Private Robert William Benjamin Ostram from the Air Force Command Post in Windhoek was critically injured on 29 May 1982 when he fell off the back of a moving vehicle in Windhoek. He succumbed to his injuries in the Windhoek State Hospital on 1 June 1982. He was 21.
- **1988** - Two members from 101 Battalion SWATF were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. They were: Rifleman G K Semba (24). Rifleman J Savinga (26).

2 June

- **1879** - A 1000-strong search party finds the body of the Prince Imperial of France, Louis Napoleon, who was killed when Zulu warriors attacked a small British reconnaissance party in the vicinity of Italezi Mountain and Ityotozi River in Zululand the previous day.
- **1902** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British Prime Minister Arthur Balfour reads the terms of surrender to the House of Commons in London after the signing of the Treaty of Vereeniging in Pretoria on 31 May which brought the Second South African (Anglo-Boer) War to an end.
- **1908** - Sir Redvers Henry Buller, British general during Second Anglo-Boer War, dies.
- **1940** - Heavy German bombing of the Dunkirk beach-head.
- **1944** - WWII: North Africa. North Africa is used as a base of operations for Operation Frantic – 130 Flying Fortresses fly to Russia, bombing targets in Romania and Hungary as they go.
- **1978** - US offers to airlift French paratroopers out of the escalating violence in southern Zaire.
- **1979** - Rifleman Abraham Johannes Willemse from the Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident at Wellington while on a 7-day pass. He was 20.
- **1981** - 2nd Lieutenant Christoffel Petrus Taylor from 1 Parachute Battalion died in 1 Military Hospital after being critically injured on 29 May 1981. He was 20.
- **1982** - Special Constable Petrus Venasio from the South West Africa Police Counter –Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (KOEVOET) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern

Owamboland. He was 25.

- **1986** - Rifleman T. Kefas from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 24.
- **1986** - Staff Sergeant L. Mutorwa from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents near the Angolan Border. He was 28.
- **1989** - Sapper Francois Crowley from the School of Engineers was accidentally killed when a telephone pole fell on top of him. He was 23.
- **1995** - USAF Capt Scott O'Grady's F-16C shot down over Bosnia.
- **2004** - DR Congo rebel leader General. Laurent Nkunda takes the town of Bukavu after a week of fighting with army troops.

3 June

- **1935** - Two Italian outposts are attacked by Haile Selassie's troops in Ethiopia. Thirty Ethiopian soldiers are killed.
- **1940** - World War II: The withdrawal of Allied Forces

PW Botha



- from Dunkirk ends.
- **1940** - Major German air raid on Paris.
- **1944** - Last Italian air raid on Gibraltar, by Mussolini's "Republican Air Force".
- **1959** - First US Air Force Academy graduation.
- **1978** - Security Police chief, Brigadier C.F. Zietsman, announces that about 4,000 South African exiles are undergoing guerrilla training in Mozambique, Angola, Tanzania and Libya; of these about three quarters have been recruited by the ANC.
- **1984** - Rifleman Gabriel Kampanza from 203 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action in a Landmine Explosion in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1985** - Rifleman Thomas Daniel from 101 Battalion SWATF was accidentally shot dead in a shooting incident in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.

4 June

- **1918** - US and French halt the Germans at Château-Thierry.
- **1942** - Reinhard Heydrich, Himmler's henchman, is assassinated at the age of 38.
- **1944** - During World War II in Europe, Rome was liberated by the U.S. 5th Army, led by General Mark Clark. Rome had been declared an open city by German Field Marshal Albert Kesselring amid Allied concerns the Germans might stage a Stalingrad-style defense that

would devastate the historic 'Eternal' city.

- **1963** - British Minister of War John Profumo resigns over an affair with Christine Keeler.
- **1969** - Joseph-Désiré Mobutu's troops kill over 100 students during a demonstration in the Congolese capital Kinshasa.
- **1969** - The Minister of Defence, P.W. Botha, accompanied by General Hiemstra, Lieutenant-General J.P. Verster, Chief of the Air Force and Lieutenant-General W.P. Louw, Chief of the Army, visits France (4-10 June). He denies that the visit involves the purchase of arms.
- **1973** - Over four thousand French troops are to be withdrawn from Madagascar at the request of Gabriel Ramanantsoa, the head of the recently imposed military government.
- **1974** - First Woman US Army Aviator: Sally Murphy.
- **1978** - Warrant Officer II Joseph Johannes Burger HCS from 2 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident at Messina. He was 38.
- **1979** - Rifleman David Johannes van Heerden from Eastern Province Command was killed at M'pacha after being struck by a bullet from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 28.
- **1979** - Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings seizes power in his first military coup in

Ghana.

- **1980** - Three members from 32 Battalion were Killed in Action, south of Mutu-anjamba (approximately 80km inside Angola) during the first phase of Operation Sceptic. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant Pieter van der Walt (19). Staff Sergeant Simao Domingos Braz (27). Rifleman Joshua Joao (24).
- **1982** - Revised figures for the Defence Budget indicate the funds available to the South African Defence Force have been increased to R3,068 million.
- **1982** - Israel attacks targets in south Lebanon.
- **1989** - The Chinese government ordered its troops to open fire on unarmed protesters in Tiananmen Square in Beijing.
- **1992** - Colonel David Frederik Strauss from Air Force Headquarters died in 1 Military Hospital from complications resulting from Brain Cancer. He was 49.
- **1997** - South Africa announces the development of a revolutionary canon an externally powered gun code-named EMAK3S, designed by Denel at the request of ARMSCOR.

5 June

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British troops enter Pretoria and Lord Roberts captures the capital of the ZAR.
- **1916** - Lord Kitchener drowns when the SS Hamp-

- shire sinks after being hit by a German mine near the Orkney Islands.
- **1942** - Midway Campaign: Yamamoto orders the Combined Fleet to retire.
- **1942** - USA declares war on Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania.
- **1944** - First B-29 raid over Tokyo; one plane is lost due to engine failure.
- **1952** - The monument at Delville Wood, unveiled on 10 October 1926 to honour the thousands of SA soldiers who were killed there during the Battle of the Somme, World War I, is rededicated to include World War II.
- **1967** - The Six Day War between Israel and its neighbouring countries Egypt, Jordan and Syria breaks out with Israel launching air strikes on Egypt, destroying most of that country's air force on the ground. Syria, Jordan and Iraq enter the conflict.
- **1978** - Corporal Charles Benjamin de Villiers from 1 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident in Bloemfontein. He was 22.
- **1984** - Rifleman M. Sipipa from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents. He was 22.
- **1984** - Rifleman Andries Christiaan Jacobs from Regiment Port Natal was killed in a military vehicle accident in Durban. He was 27.
- **1986** - Seven members from 250 Air Defence Artillery

Group, South African Air Force were killed in a private motor vehicle accident in the early hours of the morning while traveling between Pretoria and Hammanskraal. They were returning to the Unit from a weekend sports pass. The accident occurred 25km from Hammanskraal. The casualties were: Corporal Michael Christopher Marx (19). Airman Deon Phillipus Beukes (19). Airman Grant Sinclair Strange Braithwaite (18). Airman Matthys Gideon Britz (19). Airman Dawid Lindeque (19). Airman Frans Cornelius Moolman (19). Airman Marthinus Louis Nel (19).

- **1987** - Two members from Infantry School were killed in a private motor vehicle accident 8km from Vrededorp while on weekend pass. They were: Rifleman Francois Nel (18). Rifleman Pieter van der Linde (18).
- **1993** - Forces of Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid ambush UN soldiers in Mogadishu, killing twenty-two Pakistani soldiers.
- **2006** - Islamic militants with alleged links to al-Qaida

seize control of Somalia's capital, unifying the city for the first time in 16 years and posing a direct challenge to the UN-backed government.

6 June

- **1918** - The US Marines secure Belleau Wood.
- **1944** - D-Day: The Allied Forces land on the beaches of Normandy in the largest sea and air operation in the military history of the world.
- **1968** - Sir Miles Dempsey, Commander of the Canadian First Army on D-Day, dies at the age of 69.
- **1975** - Britain, France, and the United States use their UN Security Council veto to stop a proposed arms embargo against South Africa.
- **1977** - Corporal Salmon Petrus Claasen from the Technical Service Corps



Albert Kesselring

- Training Centre died in 1 Military Hospital after being critically injured in a military vehicle accident. He was 20.
- **1978** - Sergeant Coenrad Jacobus Theron from 32 Battalion Died of Wounds in 1 Military Hospital after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in a friendly fire incident on 6 May. He was 19.
 - **1979** - Lance Corporal Hendrik Swart from SWA SPES was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in the Oshivello area. He was 24.
 - **1980** - Corporal Mario van Wyk from 32 Battalion was killed in action. He was 20.
 - **1981** - Rifleman Robert Owen Brindle from SWA SPES died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained as a result of a accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle at Etale Base. He was 18.
 - **1982** - 30,000 Israeli troops invade Lebanon to drive out the PLO.
 - **1983** - Rifleman Vincent Mandla Mthembu from 121 Battalion was Killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Windhoek. He was 20.
 - **1985** - Captain Curtis McLeod from 4 Squadron was killed when his Atlas MB-326KM Impala crashed at Sandfontein near Lanseria. He was 29.
 - **1985** - 2nd Lieutenant Markus Wynand Pearson from 7 SAI was killed in action while on patrol in Southern Angola. He was 21.
 - **1985** - Two members from the south West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) were killed in action following a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. The casualties were: Special Warrant Officer J.M. Tsitula (34). Special Sergeant Lindu Valentino (26).
 - **1988** - Airman Ian-Roy Francois Erasmus from the Air Force Gymnasium was killed in a private vehicle accident while returning to the Air Force Gymnasium from a weekend pass. He was 19.
 - **1988** - With a border dispute escalating into bombing raids, hundreds of foreigners scramble out of Eritrea, fearing war with Ethiopia.
 - **1991** - Rifleman Johannes Frederick Lombaard Nel from 8 SAI was accidentally killed when he was run over by a Ratel during field manoeuvres at the Army Battle School. He was 20.
- ### 7 June
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The battle of Roodewal Siding takes place near Koppies, OFS. General De Wet and eighty men attack two companies (172 men) guarding a train and supplies. Eight British soldiers are killed; twenty-four wounded and between 500 and 600 crates of ammunition are taken.
 - **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Units under General Hunter occupy Lichtenburg.
 - **1912** - US Army Air Service tests an airplane-mounted machine gun.
 - **1916** - Germans capture Fort Vaux, Verdun.
 - **1917** - Battle of Messines: Mines totalling nearly 500 tons of explosives demolish the German trenches, and the Canadian Corps storms the ridge
 - **1940** - British and French troops evacuate Narvik, Norway.
 - **1942** - Battle of Midway: The USS 'Yorktown' (CV-5) goes down, after a desperate fight to save the ship.
 - **1942** - The Germans capture Sebastopol.
 - **1944** - British 50th division liberates Bayeux.
 - **1962** - Phosphorous bombs are detonated at Algiers University by members of the *Organisation de l'Armee Secrete* (OAS), a secret (terrorist) French army organisation opposed to the withdrawal of French troops from Algeria.
 - **1967** - Israeli forces reach Suez Canal in Egypt, two days into Six-Day War.
 - **1977** - Lieutenant Alwyn Merwe van Zyl from Regiment Oranjerivier died in the Grootfontein Hospital after contracting malaria while serving in the Operational Area. He was 26.
 - **1981** - Two members of the South African Medical Corps were killed after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in an accidental hand grenade explosion at Walvis Bay.

- They were: Private Henry John Pieterse (20). Private Kevin Henry Stanley (19).
- **1981** - Israeli air strikes destroy Iraqi nuclear weapons facilities.
 - **1982** - Rifleman Carlos Everisto from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 21.
 - **1982** - Sergeant Lloyd Mizwandile Mbele from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during a Contact with Enemy Forces in Southern Angola. He was 28.
 - **1985** - Trooper Johannes Ludwig Basson from 701 Battalion SWATF was killed at M'pacha after being struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 19.
 - **1990** - President F.W. de Klerk lifts the state of emergency in SA.
 - **1991** - Several Lesotho army officers are arrested after attempting a counter-coup to reinstate Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, ousted on April 30.
 - **1997** - Foreigners flee heavy fighting between rival militias in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo.
 - **1953** - Colonel René Paul Fonck, Allied World War I "Ace of Aces" (74 confirmed kills, 30+ possibles), dies at the age of 59.
 - **1960** - Argentine government demands Israel release Adolf Eichmann.
 - **1965** - US troops ordered to fight offensively in Vietnam.
 - **1976** - Corporal Hendrik Josias Stephanus Coetzee from 4 Maintenance Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident at Wenela Base in the East Caprivi. He was 19.
 - **1979** - Rifleman Johannes Leonardus Truter from 8 SAI was critically wounded in the head when his Temporary Base near Beacon 6 was attacked by SWAPO/PLAN insurgents on 4 February. This serious head wound left him completely paralysed and he remained in intensive care in 1 Military Hospital until he succumbed to his wounds on 8 June 1979. He was 19.
 - **1981** - 2nd Lieutenant Duncan Frederick Lahner from 32 Battalion was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Buffalo Base. He was 21.
 - **1984** - Two members from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. They were: Corporal D. Shiningivali (24). Lance Corporal K. Awino (22).
 - **1985** - Rifleman Izaskar Kariko from 911 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-line. He was 22.
 - **1987** - Corporal Jacques Barand Zaayman from 1 SAI was killed on the Malsespoort to Glen Road outside Bloemfontein when his Ratel overturned while he was instructing a pupil in driving skills. He was 19.
 - **1988** - Colonel Andre Bekker from the South African Air Force was killed when his civilian Christen Husky aircraft crashed at Wonder-

8 June

- **1900** - Botha's Pass in Natal comes under attack by General Buller's forces.
- **1948** - John Rudder becomes the first black officer in the US Marine Corps.

René Fonck



boom Airport during a routine training flight. He was 46.

- **1995** - Marines rescue downed USAF Capt Scott O'Grady in Bosnia.

9 June

- **1865** - The Second Basotho War, known as Siqiti war, breaks out.
- **1938** - The Chinese breach the Yellow River dykes at Huayangkuou, halting a Japanese offensive at the cost of perhaps 800,000 lives.
- **1940** - French government flees Paris for Tours, as German troops cross the Seine.
- **1940** - Norway surrenders to Germany, as King Haakon VII flees into exile in London.
- **1942** - Nazis raze Lidice, Czechoslovakia. About 1,400 people are slaughtered.
- **1944** - Normandy: U.S. VII & V Corps link up to form a continuous beachhead.
- **1959** - The first ballistic missile sub is launched from USS 'George Washington' (SSBN-598).
- **1967** - Military service becomes compulsory for White South African men.
- **1976** - 2nd Lieutenant Kevin Roy Winterbottom HC (P) from 4 Squadron had just taken off from Air Force base Waterkloof in his Atlas MB-326KM Impala Mk II, when it suffered engine failure due to a bird strike. There was a busy road ahead of him, so he began a left turn, which set him up on a heading di-

rectly for the built-up area of Monument Park. Realising this and although extremely low, he persisted with his left turn in a final effort to avoid damage to property and injury or death to persons on the ground. The aircraft was by this time so low as to exclude the possibility of ejection and it hit the ground just as it cleared the built-up area, disintegrating on impact and killing him instantly. For his actions he was awarded a posthumous Honoris Crux. He was 21.

10 June

- **1915** - British and French troops secure German Cameroon, Africa.
- **1917** - The South African Native Labour Contingent were recruited and employed to assist Britain in the First World War with labour duties.
- **1944** - Ouradour-sur-Glane: SS massacre 642 men, women, and children in a French village.
- **1967** - Cease fire ends the Six Day War (Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt vs. Israel).
- **1974** - Captain Petrus Johannes Coetzer from 6 SAI suffered severe brain injuries in a private motor vehicle accident on 8 June 1974 near Lichtenburg while on leave. He remained on life support in 1 Military Hospital until he succumbed to his injuries on 10 June 1974. He was 29.
- **1975** - Corporal Timothy Chadwick from 6 SAI was

accidentally killed while busy building a bunker at Bagani. He was 20.

- **1979** - Rifleman Johannes Wilhelmus Landerd Jans from the Johannesburg Regiment was Killed in Action in Southern Angola. He was 22.
- **1980** - Rifleman Jose Miguel from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion in Southern Angola during operations against enemy forces. He was 29.
- **1980** - Thirteen members of 61 Mechanised Battalion and 1 SAI (attached) were Killed in Action or Died of Wounds during the attack on the PLAN Smokeshell Base complex during Operation Sceptic in Southern Angola. The casualties were: Lieutenant Johannes Jacobus Du Toit (HC) (22). Rifleman Francois Johan Loubser (19). Rifleman Petrus Johannes Joubert (19). Rifleman Gert Johannes Venter (25). Rifleman Gerhardus Johannes Kemp (19). Rifleman Jacobus Hendrik Fourie (20). Corporal Paul Kruger (20). Rifleman Stephen Maritz Cronje (19). Rifleman Peter William Warrenner (19). Rifleman Roberto Nicola de Vito (19). Rifleman Michael Clarence Luyt (19). Rifleman Francis John Lello (19). Rifleman Andrew John Madden (19).
- **1981** - Rifleman Antonio Johannes from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with

SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 24.

- **1982** - Rifleman K Comoxoxo from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 25.
- **1982** - Israeli troops reach outskirts of Beirut.
- **1991** - Ticker tape parade up Broadway to honour Gulf War veterans.

11 June

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Colonel B.T. Mahon occupies Potchefstroom.
- **1900** - The battle of Donkerhoek (Diamond Hill) marks the continuation of the South African War.
- **1904** - German Lieutenant-General Lothar von Trotha lands in Swakopmund, South West Africa.
- **1940** - World War II: North Africa. British planes raid Italian targets in Libya following Italy's declaration of war against Britain and France on the 10th.
- **1940** - Italian air raid on Malta.
- **1940** - RAF raids Genoa and Turin.
- **1960** - Libyan president Colonel Muammar Gadhafi admits to providing funds, munitions, and training to the IRA.
- **1968** - Lieutenant Johannes Viljoen from 1 Squadron was killed when his Canadair CL13B Sabre crashed near

Pietersburg during a routine training flight. He was 23.

- **1977** - Dutch Marines rescue hostages on a train held by Moluccan terrorists.
- **1985** - Rifleman Litwayi Herbert from 202 Battalion SWATF was killed in a military vehicle accident at Vungu-Yungu. He was 20.
- **1994** - After 49 years, the Soviet military occupation of East Germany ended. At one time there had been 337,800 Soviet troops stationed in Germany. Over 300,000 Russians died during World War II in the Battle for Berlin.

12 June

- **1898** - The Philippines declared their independence from Spain. The islands were named after King Philip II. Once freed from Spain, the islands were then invaded and occupied by U.S. forces. They became an American colony and remained so until after World War II.

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Redvers Henry Buller occupies Volksrust after a victory at Allemansnek.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: President Steyn issues a proclamation refuting Lord Robert's annexation proclamations. He points out that the Orange Free State government is still in existence and its military forces are still unconquered and thus in terms of the Hague Convention, military rule cannot be imposed.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The two-day Battle of Diamond Hill or Donkerhoek, started on the previous day, ends when darkness sets in and Comdt.-Gen. Botha orders his burghers to return to Bronkhorstspuit. The following day Lord Roberts withdraws to Christinen Hill, Sammy Marks' farm.
- **1918** - First air raid by an American aviation unit, France.
- **1937** - The Purges: Stalin initiates mass executions of

Muammar Gadhafi



- senior military personnel
 - **1943** - British King George IV lands in Algiers at the start of a North African tour of Allied troops.
 - **1943** - Himmler orders extermination of all Polish ghettos.
 - **1944** - First V-1 cruise missile attack on London.
 - **1944** - US troops liberate Carentan and Chaumont, Normandy.
 - **1962** - Two members from Central Flying School Dunnottar were killed instantly when their AT-6 Harvard struck the ground and disintegrated near Dunnottar while they were carrying out unauthorised low level aerobatics. The crew of the aircraft were: 2nd Lieutenant Bruce Erroll Gaylard (19). Air Mechanic Hermanus Lambertus Booysen (18).
 - **1967** - Israel declares it will keep some of ground won from Egypt, Jordan and Syria in Six-Day War.
 - **1976** - A military coup in Uruguay overthrows civilian president Juan Bordaberry, beginning a nine-year dictatorship.
 - **1983** - Staff Sergeant Donald Norman Coleby from Regiment Groot Karoo Died of Wounds 10 km south of Cuvelai. He was 27.
 - **1983** - Special Constable K Kambirua 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.
 - **1989** - Private Clive Dean MacKenzie from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed instantly when he was electrocuted after accidentally touching overhead high tension wires at the Bulkop Railway Station while in the process of offloading military supplies. He was 18.
 - **1993** - US helicopters and gunships destroy four of Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid's arms depots, one week after his forces allegedly killed twenty-three Pakistani members of the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping forces in a series of fire fights.
 - **1999** - NATO peacekeeping forces begin operating in Kosovo, Yugoslavia.
- 13 June**
- **1900** - The "Boxer Rebellion" begins in China.
 - **1917** - Major German bomber raid on London's East End, 162 die, including 18 children at the Upper North Street School.
 - **1942** - World War II Britain loses 230 tanks in desert battles.
 - **1942** - Peenemunde: First V-2 rocket reaches 1.3 km.
 - **1944** - First V-1 raid: one of ten missiles fired strikes London, six die.
 - **1951** - UN forces reach Pyongyang, Korea.
 - **1956** - Last British troops leave Suez Canal base, turning the waterway over to

Egypt after operating it for seventy-four years.

- **1970** - P.W. Botha announces that South Africa is establishing a new submarine base at Simonstown at a cost of \$7.7 million.
- **1973** - Captain Anthonie Johannes Brits from 8 Squadron was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed near Bloemfontein during a routine training flight. He was 28.
- **1993** - Twenty Somalis are killed and fifty more wounded when Pakistani members of the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping forces fire into a crowd of demonstrators protesting UN attacks on warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid..

14 June

- **1775** - The first U.S. Military service, the Continental Army consisting of six companies of riflemen, was established by the Second Continental Congress. The next day, George Washington was appointed by a unanimous vote to command the army.
- **1912** - The headquarters of the defence force of the Union of South Africa is founded in Pretoria.
- **1917** - General John J. Pershing and his staff reach Paris.
- **1940** - The Nazis open concentration camps at Auschwitz and Oranienburg.
- **1944** - First B-29 raid on Japan; 60 bombers hit the steel works on Honshu.

- **1952** - Keel laid for the USS 'Nautilus' (SSN-571), the first nuclear powered submarine.
- **1979** - Rifleman Lloyd Matthew Marthinus Kasoor from the South African Cape Corps was killed in a military vehicle accident at Grootfontein. He was 20.
- **1982** - Falklands: Argentines surrender to Britain, ending the 74 day war.
- **1985** - The SA Defence Force attacks alleged ANC homes and offices in Gaborone, Botswana, in Operation Plecksy. Twelve or thirteen people are killed.

15 June

- **1864** - General Robert E Lee's home, Arlington, becomes a US military cemetery.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Sergeant J. Rogers of the SA Constabulary earns a Victoria Cross near Thaba Nchu.
- **1915** - After the 1914 Rebellion, General Christiaan de Wet is found guilty of high treason in the High Court, Bloemfontein, and sentenced to six years' imprisonment and a fine of £2000. Within a few months the fine had been paid from voluntary contributions.
- **1934** - At a meeting in Rome Hitler meets Mussolini for the first time.
- **1940** - The Germans capture Verdun.
- **1962** - 2nd Lieutenant Johan Andries De Bruine from 1 Squadron was killed in when his Canadair CL13B Sabre crashed near Pienaarsriver. He was 23.
- **1964** - Last French troops leave Algeria.
- **1974** - Minister of Defence P.W. Botha announces during a press visit to the Caprivi Strip that the Defence Force has taken over protection of the country's northern borders as a full military operation, replacing the police in the area.
- **1975** - Rifleman Rumai Tete-ko from Alpha Group (Later 31 Battalion) was killed after being attacked and trampled to death by an enraged Buffalo while on Patrol in Southern Angola. He was 22.
- **1978** - Bombardier Christo Loots from 4 Artillery Regiment was killed at Oshakati after being struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 19.
- **1981** - Rifleman Peter Andre Clifford Meyers from 6 SAI was accidentally killed

after suffering severe head injuries when he fell 10m from a slide during training at Grootfontein. He was 26.

- **1984** - Ciskei's former Commander of the Armed Forces, Major-General Charles Sebe, brother of President Lennox Sebe, is sentenced to twelve years' imprisonment after being found guilty of incitement to public violence.
- **1988** - A meeting between the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) and the SADF takes place, with a main objective to discuss alternative national service. In August Minister of Defence Magnus Malan broke off relations with the ECC.
- **1993** - Rifleman Johan Cloete from 8 SAI died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained in a shooting incident at Boskop. He was 21.

16 June

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Start of the 'scorched earth' policy. Lord Roberts issues a proclamation warn-

Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini



ing the Republican forces that houses in the vicinity of Boer activities will be burnt and the inhabitants made prisoners of war.

- **1911** - The City of Fez, Morocco, is occupied by the French army.
- **1953** - Soviet tanks crush workers' protest in East Berlin.
- **1955** - Abortive coup against President Juan Peron of Argentina.
- **1957** - French offensive in Algeria.
- **1965** - Civil war starts in Chad.
- **1975** - The Simon's Town agreement on naval cooperation between Britain and South Africa is formally ended by mutual agreement after 169 years.
- **1976** - Rifleman Clifford Donald Holland from the Durban Light Infantry was killed at Ruacana when he was struck by bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 19.
- **1977** - Rifleman Stephen Jones from Regiment Schoonspruit died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained at the Oshivello Training Area. He was 27.
- **1984** - Rifleman Johann Jacobus Hurter from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 24.
- **1984** - Special Sergeant N. Nghifino from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Divi-

sion (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 32.

- **1992** - Two members from 117 Infantry Battalion were killed when their Military Vehicle was involved in a head on collision with civilian vehicle at Mankweng. They were: Corporal Sedi-ma Johannes Lebepe (25). Rifleman Kgabo Theophilus Kubjana (25).
- **2006** - Up to 5,000 children still serve in the Ugandan armed forces even though they are officially banned from enlisting, a senior UN official said.

17 June

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: "Steinaecker's Horse", an irregular unit of about fifty mercenaries in British service, using Black armed tribesmen and operating from Swaziland, damages a bridge near Kaapmuiden. The rail traffic to Delagoa Bay is interrupted for about fourteen days.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: President M.T. Steyn appoints judge J.B.M. Hertzog as general.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British politician David Lloyd George denounces the concentration camp policy.
- **1940** - France asks Germany for terms of surrender.
- **1940** - Operation Ariel: Last British and Allied troops evacuated from France.

- **1942** - World War II: The first American expeditionary force lands in Africa.
- **1945** - Final Japanese defensive line on Okinawa breached.
- **1963** - Field Marshal Sir Alan Francis Brooke, Viscount Alanbrooke, dies at the age of 79.
- **1965** - Vietnam: First B-52 raid, 50 km north of Saigon.
- **1967** - China becomes world's fourth thermonuclear power.
- **1975** - The British Minister of State for Defence says that the ending of the Simon's Town Agreements means an end to all the military co-operation between Britain and South Africa.
- **1977** - Private Johannes Albertus Erasmus from 11 Squadron was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 19.
- **1978** - Rifleman (Mrs) Heyletta Swanepoel from the Bronkhorstspuit Commando collapsed and died after suffering a fatal heart attack while on official duty at the Zonderwater Shooting Range at Cullinan. She was 40.
- **1979** - 2nd Lieutenant Samuel Walters Coetzee from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces. He was 20.
- **1980** - Rifleman M Tjisota from 37 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 20.
- **1982** - Two members of 5

Reconnaissance Regiment were Killed in Action during a Contact with Enemy Forces. They were: Sergeant Lloyd Mziwandile Mbele (28). Lance Corporal Oiva Shilongo (22).

- **1982** - Special Constable A. Ndawedapo 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.
- **1984** - Trooper Andre van Neel from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 19.
- **1985** - Rifleman Juston King from 6 SAI was killed in Private Vehicle Accident at Uitenhage while returning to his Unit from a leave pass to clear out on completion of his National Service. He was 21.
- **1987** - Two members from the Central Flying School at Dunnottar were killed when their AT-6 Harvard, Serial No. 7048 crashed on the farm Rietkuil, 10km South East of Delmas during a training sortie. The casualties were: Captain Bruce Matthew Nelson (26). Captain Ricardo Henrico Vergottini (26).
- **1989** - Rifleman Neill Knight from 4 SAI collapsed and died while at Rooikop Base, Walvis Bay. The Post Mortem revealed that he was suffering from a brain

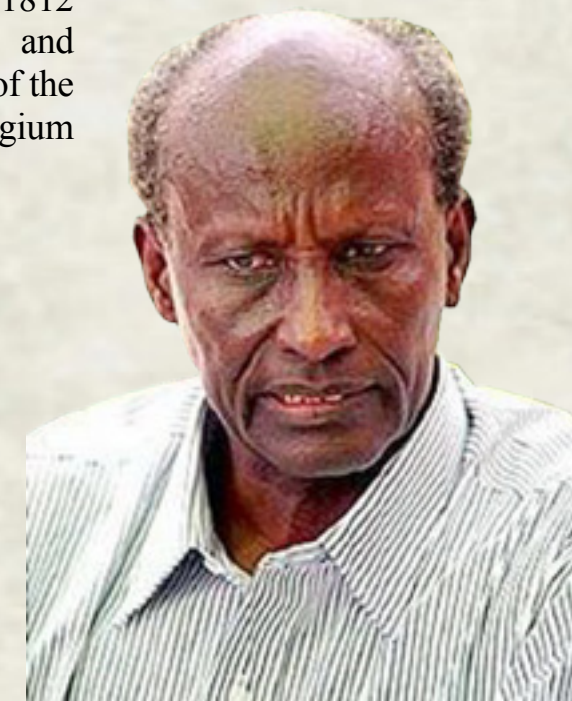
tumour. He was 20.

- **1993** - United Nations (UN) troops storm the headquarters of Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid in Mogadishu, but he is not there.
- **1997** - Sierra Leone's military leader, Johnny Paul Koroma, is sworn in as head of state and pledge to restore peace to the war-weary West African nation.
- **1998** - USS 'Missouri' (BB-63) is dedicated as a war memorial, Pearl Harbour..

18 June

- **1812** - After much debate, the U.S. Senate voted 19 to 13 in favor of a declaration of war against Great Britain, prompted by Britain's violation of America's rights on the high seas and British incitement of Indian warfare on the Western frontier. The next day, President James Madison officially proclaimed the U.S. to be in a state of war. The War of 1812 lasted over two years and ended with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium on December 24, 1814.

Mohammed Farah Aidid



- **1815** - On the fields near Waterloo in central Belgium, 72,000 French troops, led by Napoleon, suffered a crushing military defeat from a combined Allied army of 113,000 British, Dutch, Belgian, and Prussian troops.
- **1823** - The British Army adopts trousers for infantry, in lieu of breeches & gaiters.
- **1940** - Hitler and Mussolini confer in Munich, discuss the imminent surrender of France and plans for an invasion of Switzerland.
- **1940** - Winston Churchill says "this was their finest hour".
- **1942** - Dr. Bernard Whitfield Robinson becomes the first black officer in the U.S. Navy.
- **1945** - William "Lord Haw-Haw" Joyce is charged with treason.
- **1974** - Marshal of the Soviet Union Georgi Zhukov, dies at the age of 78.

- **1975** - Two members from Infantry School accidentally drowned at Gamkaskloof. They were: Rifleman Gabriel Johannes Erasmus (19). Rifleman Gerhard Joshua Franzen (19).
 - **1983** - Rifleman Johan Steyn from 3 SAI died from a gunshot wound accidentally self-inflicted while at Potchefstroom. He was 18.
 - **1984** - Rifleman Paulus Hausiku from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 20.
 - **1985** - Private Kurt Preuss from the Technical service Corps was killed when struck by a bullet resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 21.
 - **1987** - Five members from 32 Battalion were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces near Evale in Southern Angola during Operation Radbraak. The casualties were: Corporal Bernard Sokola (34). Lance Corporal Joao Vocolo (32). Rifleman Joao Goncalves (38). Rifleman Paulus Kapinga (22). Rifleman Lituya Ntjamba (19).
 - **1988** - Special Warrant Officer Daniel Katapotle from the SWA Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 37.
- 19 June**
- **1864** - The Alabama, American raider, is sunk outside Cherbourg harbour, France, by the U.S.S. Kearsarge.
 - **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Buller enters Volksrust, the first town in the ZAR to fall into his hands.
 - **1948** - USSR blocks access to West-Berlin: Berlin Blockade begins.
 - **1953** - Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed by electrocution at Sing Sing Prison in New York. They had been found guilty of providing vital information on the atomic bomb to the Soviet Union during 1944-45.
 - **1968** - Candidate Officer Alwyn Johannes Botha from Regiment Molopo was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident 11 kilometres from Zeerust. He was 18.
 - **1973** - 2nd Lieutenant Hendrik Willem Alberts from 4 Squadron was killed when his Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I crashed near Masito while engaged in Operation Brolly Tree 3, a training exercise that was being carried out in the Zeerust area. He was 23.
 - **1975** - Sergeant Daniel Johannes Labuschagne from 19 Squadron was killed in a military vehicle accident in Rhodesia. He was 30.
 - **1975** - Rifleman Diederick Johannes Vorster from Services School was accidentally killed when struck by a bullet resulting from the

accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while he was stationed at Oshakati. He was 19.

- **1976** - Corporal Robert Sheppard Gibbon from 1 Special Service Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 19.
- **1979** - Two members from 8 SAI were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Oshivello. They were: Rifleman Daniel Johannes Mocke (19). Rifleman Gerritt Franchois Roos (19).
- **1980** - Rifleman Jacobus Frederick van den Bergh from 53 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action when his patrol was ambushed by SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near Etale Base. He was 19.
- **1985** - Private Johannes Philippus Prinsloo from 101 Base Workshops was killed in a military vehicle accident at Bagani. He was 20.
- **1987** - Lance Corporal Gerhardus Christiaan Meyer from the Technical Service Corps was killed in a military vehicle accident at the Army Battle School at Lohatla. He was 24.
- **1987** - Rifleman Adriaan Gerhardus Riekert from the Brakpan Commando was killed in a military vehicle accident in Brakpan. He was 24.
- **1987** - Rifleman Willem Uithaler from the South African Cape Corps was killed after being struck bullet resulting from the acciden-

tal discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while at the Touw's River Training Area. He was 23.

- **1992** - Warrant Officer 1 Johannes Jacobus Fourie from 10 Engineer Squadron was critically injured in a military vehicle accident on 15 June 1992. He was admitted to the Pietersburg Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries on 19 June 1992. He was 45.
- **1992** - The Goldstone Commission recommends that the 32nd Battalion "should not again be used for peacekeeping duties anywhere in South Africa". The Commission's Tokoza Committee says that the battalion has committed acts of violence against residents of the Phola Park squatter camp.

20 June

- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The British execute P.W. Kloppert, a Cape rebel, by hanging. Cloete claimed that he was not a rebel because he had Orange Free State citizenship.
- **1939** - Heinkel He-176 rocket plane flies for first time, at Peenemunde.
- **1941** - The U.S. Army Air Corps is reorganized as the Army Air Forces.
- **1963** - Cold War: Washington-Moscow "hot line" established.
- **1963** - Air Mechanic Robert Henry Mentis died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while stationed at

Voortrekkerhoogte. He was 17.

- **1968** - Candidate Officer Pieter Frans Jurgens was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed near Dunnottar while on a routine training flight. He was 19.
- **1973** - The Minister of Defence denies that South African troops are supporting Portuguese armed forces in Mozambique, as alleged by FRELIMO.
- **1983** - Trooper Jan Hendrik de Lange from 2 Special Service Battalion was killed after being struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 17.
- **1984** - Two members from the 2nd Battalion Transvaal Scottish accidentally drowned while their patrol was crossing the Cunene River near the Ruacana Falls.

They were: Rifleman Arthur Hendrik Boshoff (21). Rifleman Leslie George Wasas (21).

- **1984** - Special Constable Blasius Kutenda from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
- **1987** - Rifleman K. Tjihote from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1988** - Rifleman Ian Michael Webb from 6 SAI died in hospital at Tsumeb after sustaining severe head injuries

Ethel and Julius Rosenberg



when the right front tyre of a SAMIL truck burst causing the driver to lose control approximately 5km past the Tsumeb turn-off. He was 20.

21 June

- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: "In a letter to St John Broderick, Secretary of War, Lord Kitchener declares, 'It was a mistake to regard the Boers as a civilized race which could ever be an asset to the British Empire: they are uncivilized Africander savages with a thin White veneer ...' He asks the cabinet to endorse a scheme that will allow the permanent banishment of all Boers who at any time have fought against Britain, as well as their families... He suggests the Fiji Islands in the South Pacific."
- **1919** - Scapa Flow: Germans scuttle over 400,000 tons of warships.
- **1942** - World War II: The Second South African Division under Major-General H.B. Klopper surrenders and the German force under General Rommel captures 25 000 Allied troops, under whom 10 722 South Africans at Tobruk on the coast of Libya.
- **1948** - Berlin Airlift begins.
- **1967** - Air Mechanic Adam Hendrik Schoeman from 1 Squadron was accidentally killed at AFB Pietersburg after he was sucked into the engine air intake of a Canadair C13L Sabre while setting the fuel pumps during a

- full engine run. He was 19.
- **1977** - Rifleman Raymond Ward from the SWA SPES was killed in a military vehicle accident while travelling to De Aar. He was 24.
- **1979** - Two members from 32 Battalion were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola near Beacon 32. They were: 2nd Lieutenant Willem Adriaan de Vos (19). Rifleman S. Mukonda (27).
- **1980** - Corporal Petrus Johannes Badenhorst from 5 SAI was critically wounded on 20 June 1980 in an explosion while doing evening "Klaarstaan" in the Ops Room at Concor Base, east of Ruacana. He succumbed to his wounds and resultant blood loss in the early hours of 21 June. He was 20.
- **1980** - Corporal Willem Adriaan Finnie from 41 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents. He was 18.
- **1982** - Bombardier Dirk Hero Onne Hassebroek from 84 Motorised Brigade was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident in Sector 70. He was 23.
- **1982** - Three members from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. They were: Special Constable Paulus Antonius (20). Spe-

cial Constable Immanuel Kavulu (29). Special Constable Theophillus Ndevelo (26).

- **1983** - Sergeant Terrence Moffat Atkinson from 1 Construction Regiment was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Musese in Western Kavango. He was 56.

22 June

- **1939** - World War II: France surrenders to Germany eight days after the German forces invaded the country.
- **1940** - About 10,000 Afrikaner women, led by Mrs H.C. Steyn, march to the Union Buildings to protest about the South African involvement in World War II on the side of Britain. The women protested against South Africa's participation in World War II on the side of Britain and requested that South Africa should withdraw from the war.
- **1941** - Starting at 3:15 am Operation Barbarossa begins, as some 3.2 million German soldiers plunged headlong into Russia across an 2,987 kilometre front, in a major turning point of World War II. At 7 am that morning, a proclamation from Hitler to the German people announced, "At this moment a march is taking place that, for its extent, compares with the greatest the world has ever seen..."
- **1942** - The heaviest single day's loss of life in Australian military history; 845

soldiers and 208 civilians aboard the Japanese prisoner-of-war ship 'Montevideo Maru' was sunk by the American submarine 'Sturgeon' (SS 187) in the South China Sea.

- **1944** - Russians begin "Operation Bagration", the Destruction of German Army Group Centre.
- **1945** - Okinawa secured: 110,000 Japanese troops, 100,000 civilians, 17,520 US troops died.
- **1955** - Soviets shoot down US patrol plane over the Bering Sea.
- **1984** - Rifleman Andries Kees from the South African Cape Corps died from gunshot wounds accidentally sustained. He was 18.
- **1985** - Corporal Johannes Gobe from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-line. He was 29.
- **1987** - Airman John Liam Corrigan from the Lowveld Airspace Control Sector was accidentally shot dead by a visitor at Mariepskop while he was on guard duty. He was 20.
- **1990** - Signaller Ronald Leon Wheeler from Group 10 was killed in a military vehicle accident at Umkomaas. He was 20.
- **1993** - The UN resumes food distribution in Mogadishu, Somalia, ten days after fighting between UN troops and those of warlord Mohammed

Farah Aidid halt.

- **2003** - A US Marine is killed and eight other service members are injured by errant bombs dropped by a US B-52 Stratofortress in Djibouti, the United States' only base in Africa.

23 June

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British forces advance. General Clements reaches Winburg. General Hamilton enters Heidelberg after a slight skirmish. General Clery joins Buller at Standerton.
- **1902** - Field-cornet Salmon van As is executed by a firing squad after being found guilty by a British Court Martial of murdering Captain Richard Miers.
- **1940** - Hitler orders prepa-

rations for an invasion Switzerland.

- **1942** - Rommel breaks the Gazala Line and drives on Egypt.
- **1970** - Two members from 42 Squadron were killed when their Cessna 185A crashed at Vaal River near Potchefstroom after flying into High Tension Wires. The aircraft crew were: 2nd Lieutenant Johan van Sittert (21). Candidate Officer Petrus Johannes van Deventer (22).
- **1974** - Lieutenant Freddie Johannes Zeelie from 1 Reconnaissance Commando was Killed in Action while engaged on anti-insurgent operations in Southern Angola. He was the first South African soldier to be Killed in Action during the Border War. He was also the only

Erwin Rommel



member of Special Forces to ever receive the Louw Wepener Decoration. He was 22.

- **1980** - Sergeant Jacobus Daniel Cilliers from 17 Squadron was Killed in action when his Alouette III was shot down by an RPG-7 anti-tank rocket during the later stages of Ops Sceptic. He was 23.
- **1982** - A Defence Amendment Bill provides for a re-organisation of the defence system intended to give the South African Defence Force (SADF) adequate manpower to deal with almost every conceivable threat.
- **1984** - Corporal Johannes Christiaan Theunissen from 7 SAI was Killed in Action. He was 21.
- **1994** - Some 2,500 French troops head into Rwanda to protect civilians, the first outside forces sent there since UN. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali appealed for international involvement to stop the genocide.
- **1997** - In the Central African Republic, soldiers fire on foreign peacekeepers in the third major rebellion since May.

24 June

- **1916** - World War I: The first Battle of the Somme begins. It lasted five months and the death toll of more than 1 million resulted in an allied advance of 125 square miles. Many SA troops were killed

in action.

- **1917** - Russian Black Sea fleet mutinies at Sebastopol.
- **1940** - France signs an armistice with Italy.
- **1945** - Victory parade in Red Square in Moscow.
- **1978** - Private Anton Nel from 1 Satellite Radar Station at Mariepskop died from head injuries received in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 20.
- **1980** - Private Michael Johannes Range from the South African Defence Force Institute (SADFI/SAWI) in Pietersburg was killed when the military vehicle in which he was travelling, overturned. He was 18.
- **1983** - Corporal George Louis Steytler from 1 Parachute Battalion Died of Wounds after being critically wounded in the head when his Patrol TB was attacked by a FAPLA/Cuban force while in an area approximately 38km from Cahama. He succumbed to his wounds while on the Casevac helicopter ferry flight back to AFB Ondangwa. He was 19.
- **1997** - Defence Minister Joe Modise warns that the proposed R1, 4 billion cut in the defence budget could seriously disrupt the defence force's ability to function and to contribute to the fight against crime.

25 June

- **1677** - Governor Johan Bax of the Cape, who waged war against the Hottentot (Khoi-

Khoi) Chief Gonnema from 1676, concludes 'a good, lasting peace'.

- **1862** - Custer's Last Stand. 250 men of the US 7th Cavalry, under General George Armstrong Custer, are attacked by between 2,000 and 4,000 Indian Braves near the Little Bighorn River. Only one scout and one horse on the US side survive the battle.
- **1940** - Hitler tours Paris, taking in the Eiffel Tower, Napoleon's Tomb, and the Opera.
- **1941** - Finland declares war on the Soviet Union.
- **1942** - World War II: General Sir Claude Auchinleck becomes commander of the British Eighth Army in North Africa.
- **1942** - World War II: British Air Force stages 1,000-bomber raid on Bremen, Germany.
- **1942** - Eisenhower takes command of U.S. forces in Europe.
- **1950** - The Korean War breaks out. Nearly 90,000 North Korean soldiers and hundreds of Russian-built T-34 tanks cross the border into South Korea. South Africa, as one of the founding members of the United Nations, decide to assign a fighter squadron to the UN forces to help defeat North Korea. The Korean War claimed the lives of thirty-six SA Air Force members.
- **1960** - Corporal Petrus Cornelius van der Merwe of the South African Air Force was

killed when his Defence Flying Club Piper Cub crashed and burnt out near Pretoria while on a routine general flying training flight. He was 24.

- **1972** - Rifleman Arno Roesstroff from 1 SAI was killed after being struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 19.
- **1979** - Gunner Jeffrey James Mitchell from 4 Artillery Regiment died in 1 Military Hospital after suffering extensive burns accidentally sustained when a fuel tank exploded at the Regiment in Potchefstroom. He was 20.
- **1980** - Two Members from Central Flying School Dunottar were killed when their AT-6 Harvard crashed 1,6 kilometres North of Dunottar while carrying out simulated instrument flying. They were: Lieutenant Donald Gordon Stanbury (22). Candidate Officer Lloyd Douglas Liebenberg (19).
- **1981** - Lance Corporal Frederick Aspelting from North West Command was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident, at Oudtshoorn. He was 19.
- **1981** - Corporal Johan Cornelius Du Toit from Regiment Langenhoven was Killed in Action in Southern Angola. He was 24.
- **1981** - Staff Sergeant Willem Marthinus Roothman from the South African Corps of Military Police was killed in a military vehicle accident in

Oudtshoorn while on a call-out to investigate a case. He was 41.

- **1981** - Signaler Dirk Jacobus Venter from 84 Signals Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 22.
- **1982** - Two members from 32 Battalion were accidentally shot dead by own forces in a friendly fire incident near Evale in Southern Angola during Operation Groenslang. They were: Corporal James Conroy (20). Rifleman Antonio Pedro Manuel (32).
- **1983** - Leading Seaman George Edward Wellington Ford from the 1st Marine Brigade, South African Marines was killed in a military vehicle accident while on deployment in Eastern Caprivi. He was 20.
- **1988** - Angolan, Cuban, South African and United States officials meet in Cairo, in search of independence for Namibia in tandem with a withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.
- **1991** - The last Soviet troops leave Czechoslovakia.

Boutros Boutros-Ghali



26 June

- **1917** - First American combat troops arrive in France.
- **1934** - Germany and Poland sign a non-aggression pact.
- **1939** - Polish anti-aircraft gunners down a German plane that had "strayed" over the Hela Peninsula.
- **1977** - Gunner Willem Christiaan Lentink from 14 Artillery Regiment was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident in Pretoria. He was 20.
- **1977** - Rifleman Christiaan Hendrik van der Westhuizen from the Witwatersrand Rifles was killed when he accidentally fell off the back of a moving Unimog. He was 21.

27 June

- **1905** - Mutiny in the Russian battleship 'Potemkin'.
- **1918** - First use of parachutes to escape an aircraft in combat: two German air-

- men jump.
- **1941** - The Germans capture Bialystok.
- **1942**- As the Eighth Army abandons Mersa Matruh, North Africa, Rommel's forces claim to have captured another 6,000 British troops.
- **1944** - American troops liberate Cherbourg from the Germans.
- **1950** - North Korean troops reach Seoul, as the Security Council calls on UN members to aid South Korea and Truman orders USAF & USN into action.
- **1950** - US sends 35 military advisers to South Vietnam.
- **1971** - The Chairman of Armscor announces that under an agreement with a French aviation company, Mirage III and F jet fighters will be built in South Africa with the help of French personnel.
- **1976** - First women cadets enter the Air Force Academy.
- **1977** - Private Hendrik Johannes Naude from 42 Squadron was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 18.
- **1980** - Rifleman Nicolaas Johannes Kruger from 25 Field Squadron was Killed in Action when he stepped on and detonated a boosted anti-personnel mine near Okatope in Northern Owamboland. He was 20.
- **1985** - Rifleman J. Filimon from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 23.
- **1986** - Rifleman Frikkie Carolus from the South African Cape Corps died from a gunshot wound sustained during the accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle at De Aar. He was 26.
- **1988** - 2nd Lieutenant Muller Meiring of 61 Mechanised Battalion was Killed in Action North East of Calueque. He was 19.
- **1988** - Eleven members of the SADF were Killed in Action during a retaliatory air strike by Angolan Air Force MiG-23 aircraft on SADF positions near the Calueque Dam after SADF Artillery had accurately bombarded Cuban and FAPLA positions in the town of Techipa on 26 and 27 June 1988 causing heavy casualties. The casualties were: Lieutenant Noah Tucker of 8 SAI (23). Corporal Ewert Phillipus Koorts of 8 SAI (19). Lance Corporal Johannes Reinhard Gerhardus Holder 8 SAI (19). Rifleman Johannes Mattheus Strauss Venter of 8 SAI (19). Rifleman Thomas Benjamin Rudman of 8 SAI (20). Rifleman Phillipus Rudolph Marx of 8 SAI (19). Rifleman Andries Stephanus Johannes Els of 8 SAI (19). Trooper Michael John van Heerden of 8 SAI (19). Lance Corporal Wynand Albert van Wyk of 1 SSB (19). Trooper Gregory Scott of 2 SSB (19). Trooper Emile Erasmus of 10 Armoured Car Squadron (20).
- **1990** - Lance Corporal C

Chimongaia from 201 Battalion Died from Natural Causes at Omega. He was 27.

- **1995** - SA signs a protocol of intent on military cooperation between the Ministry of Defence of South Africa and the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic.

28 June

- **1914**- Archduke Frans Ferdinand, Austrian heir to the throne, and his wife are shot and killed by a student in Sarajevo. This leads to World War I.
- **1919** - The signing of the Treaty of Versailles formally ended World War I.
- **1942** - British 8th Army in North Africa retreats from German attack to El Alamein.
- **1942** - North Africa. General Rommel and his *Panzer-armee Afrika* capture Fuqa.
- **1965** - President Johnson orders US ground forces to Vietnam.
- **1975** - Private Gerhard Erasmus Smith De Beer from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident in Grootfontein. He was 18.
- **1976** - Three British mercenaries, Andrew McKenzie, John Barker and Costas Georgiou and an American, Daniel Gearhert, are sentenced to death in Luanda for their part in the Angolan civil war.
- **1986** - Rifleman Geelbooi Zamblenzini Mthimunye from 115 Battalion was murdered at Weltevrede after being attacked by persons un-

known and burned to death. He was 20.

29 June

- **1913** - Bulgarian troops initiate hostilities with Serbia in Macedonia, triggering the Second Balkan War.
- **1944** - Bobriusk: Soviets encircle portions of German Army Group Centre.
- **1945** - Operation Olympic: President Truman set the invasion of Japan for 1 November.
- **1949** - US troops withdraw from Korea after World War II.
- **1965** - Lieutenant Lourens Benjamin Schlesinger from 1 Squadron was killed near Louis Trichardt when his Canadair CL13B Sabre suffered a suspected bird strike. He failed to eject from the aircraft before it struck the ground, exploding on impact. He was 24.
- **1965** - Captain Peter Maxwell from Central Flying School Dunnottar, a veteran of the Korean War, was killed instantly when his AT-6 Harvard crashed at Potchefstroom Airfield after the left wing of the aircraft struck the ground when he attempted to execute a roll at low level. He was 42.
- **1966** - North Vietnam: US bombs fuel storage facilities.
- **1970** - US/ARVN end two month military offensive into Cambodia.
- **1977** - Rifleman M. Makehe from 34 Battalion (Later 202 Battalion) SWATF was

Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 22.

- **1982** - Lance Corporal Jacobus Johannes Gerhardus van Staden from 61 Base Workshops was accidentally killed when he was crushed between two military vehicles during a vehicle recovery operation at Tsumeb. He was 22.
- **1985** - Rifleman H. Andreas from 101 Battalion SWATF died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while in Northern Owamboland. He was 23.
- **1988** - Rifleman Christiaan Fick from 1 SAI was critically injured in a private vehicle accident and died later that day. He was 19.

30 June

- **1851** - The Battle of Viervoet, in the British-Basotho War, takes place. The British under Warden suffers a reverse.
- **1917** - Greece declares war on the Central Powers.
- **1934** - "The Night of Long Knives": Hitler's "blood purge".
- **1936** - Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia appears before the League of Nations to appeal for help following Italy's invasion of Ethiopia and his exile.
- **1941** - Leading German Protestant clergymen congratulate Hitler on the invasion of the Soviet Union.
- **1960** - The Belgian Congo becomes the independent Republic of the Congo, with

Joseph Kasavubu as president and Patrice Lumumba as prime minister. Civil war soon erupts.

- **1962** - The French Foreign Legion leaves Algeria for the last time.
- **1980** - Corporal Theo Bence van Niekerk from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment died from a gunshot accidentally sustained while at Fort Doppies, Caprivi Strip. He was 22.
- **1986** - Rifleman L.N.D. Jonas from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a Contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola near the Cut-line. He was 26.
- **1988** - The SA Defence Force claims that 200 Angolan and Cuban troops died in a clash at Calueque earlier in the week.
- **1988** - Zimbabwe foils a South African commando attempt to rescue five alleged South African agents awaiting trial for bomb attacks against the ANC in Zimbabwe.
- **1989** - Sudanese military leader Omar Hassan al-Bashir topples the civilian administration of Sadeq al-Mahdi.
- **1992** - Four members from 9 SAI were killed when their Samil 20 vehicle overturned at Middelrust. The casualties were: Sergeant Clinton Donavan Elliot (25). Lance Corporal Cleston Beukes (19). Rifleman Jacobus Adams (24). Rifleman Aubrey John Ruiter (19).



QUIZ

SADF Stuff answers

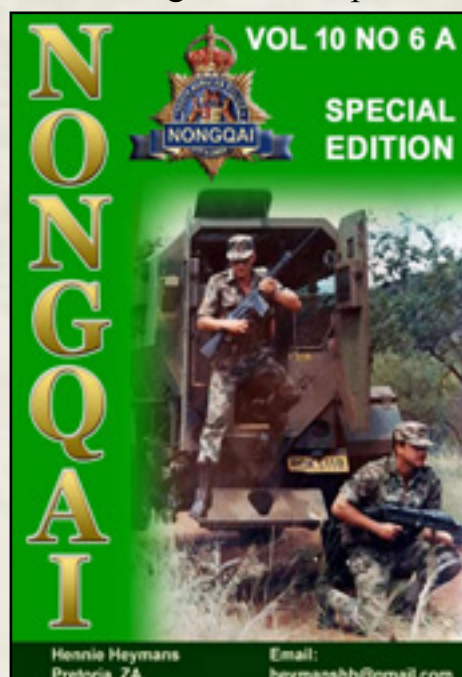
- 1967.
- Skirmishing.
- A DD1 (Defence Document 1).
- Elephant virgins.
- A 'Flossie'.
- A 'killick'.
- An Eland-60 armoured car.
- A slang expression for Com Ops.
- A member of the army. Refers to the often unavailability of washing facilities. The expression; "Everywhere the army goes, the pong goes," was the origin of this.
- The military wing of SWAPO. It stood for 'People's Liberation Army of Namibia'.
- Slang term for a padre. It is Afrikaans for 'Soul Mechanic'.
- SADF issued underpants.
- Vorster Orrel.
- Varkpan.
- Toilet paper.
- A stick with a wedge shaped tip used to probe for land-mines.
- A term used to signify the end of a smoke break.
- 1 Signal Regiment.
- Physical Training Instructor (PTI) badge.
- Star 9 mm pistol. The standard issue side arm.
- Marksman badge. Also known as a 'skiet bakkie'.
- 1 Military Hospital.
- Midshipman. Navy equivalent of a Candidate Officer.
- Army Gymnasium.
- State President's Guard.
- Three South African Infantry Battalion (3 SAI).



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.



24 issues

375 articles

1,668 pages

Over 100,000 monthly readers in 32 countries

Happy Second Birthday Military Despatches



Hipe!

media

E-mail
editor@hipe.co.za



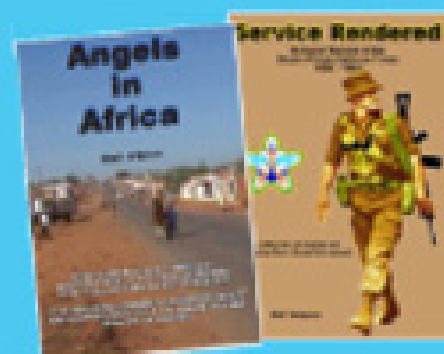
Online Magazines

Flip book magazines with pages that can be turned.



E-books

Produced in any electronic format required.



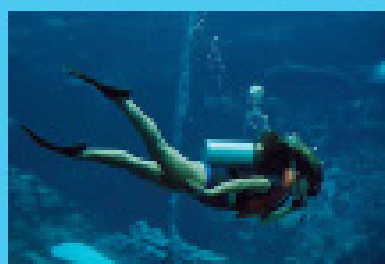
2D & 3D Animation

Produced in any video format.



Video Production

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



Still Photography

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