



Military Despatches

Vol 26 August 2019

Technicals

The vehicular equivalent of the AK-47

What if...

Cancelled operations that could have changed history

Monte Cassino

Some lesser known facts

Otto Skorzeny

Dubbed “the most dangerous man in Europe”



For the military enthusiast

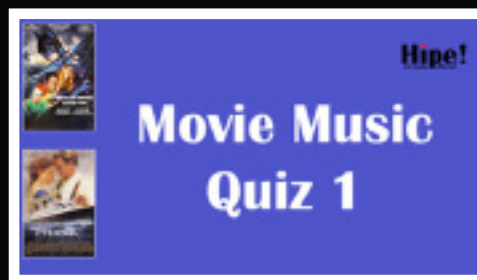


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Hipe's Wouter de Goede interviews former 28's gang boss David Williams.

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



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



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



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



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

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

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Editor's Sitrep

I must confess that I enjoy getting e-mails from our readers. And I get quite a few of them.

Most of these e-mails are complimentary and most are from readers telling me how much they enjoy the magazine. Thank you. It makes me feel as if all the work I put into this is at least appreciated.

From time to time I get an e-mail from a reader letting me know that I have made a mistake somewhere. Believe it or not, I really do appreciate these. While I am passionate about military history, I am by no means an expert on the subject. Therefore I appreciate comments from people that know a lot more than I do.

I did, however, receive a complaint from a reader. According to them; "It's too big. There's too much in it to read."

I found it a bit of a strange complaint to be honest. And there is a very simple solution to the complaint.

When I buy a newspaper or magazine, or even when I read an online magazine, I don't read it from cover to cover. I only read the articles that I am

interested in. Others I merely skim through, and some I ignore completely because they do not interest me.

So, dear reader, you've don't have to read every single word in the magazine (although I appreciate it when you do).

Being August that means we're officially in the last month of winter. I must say I'm looking forward to spring and summer. I far prefer the heat to the cold, but that's just me.

I found the article on the Victoria Cross interesting. I always believed that all the medals were made from cannons captured during the Crimean War. It seems that this is not the case. Oh well, you live and learn.

Please take a look at the article 'Veterans Online'. If you're one of our readers that lives outside of South Africa, read the article and consider joined the MOTH Cyber Shellhole. We would love to have you.

Until next month.

Matt

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Top Ten cancelled military operations

In the quest to end a war or conflict as quickly as possible, ingenious battle plans are drawn up all the time. Sometimes, these plans fall by the wayside for one reason or another. Here are ten cancelled military operations that could have changed history.

The object of any war or conflict should be to win it as quickly as possible with the least amount of casualties and damage.

Some wars and conflicts, however, last a long time. Take the war between England and France that was fought between 1337 and 1453. It was named the 100 Year War (it actually lasted 116 years).

Now I'm fairly certain that when they began this war neither side was thinking, "Let's start a war that both our unborn sons and grandsons will get a chance to fight in."

That is why people involved in a war will often come up with a plan that will shorten the war, or at least insure that their side claims victory.

Some of these plans have been nothing short of brilliant, often achieving their objective of bringing a war to an end.

Other plans, however, were not so well thought out. Often they would end up in disaster and end up giving victory to the enemy.

Many plans that have been drawn up over the years fell by the wayside for one reason or another. Some of these plans would have, if they had succeeded, changed the course of a war or conflict. Some of them would have changed history.

In this article we will look at ten such military operations that were cancelled. We will look at what the plan was, why it was never carried out, and what could have possibly happened if it had been.

10. Operation Tannenbaum

Besides being well known for their chocolates, banking and cuckoo clocks, the Swiss are also famous for their neutrality.

But in 1941 their neutrality was under serious threat. Switzerland was expecting to be invaded at any time by Germany.

They even raised the draft age to 60 in order to add more soldiers to defend their country.

Hitler promised to respect the neutrality of Switzerland, but the Swiss knew better than to trust him. After all Herr Hitler was not exactly a role model when it came to keeping promises.

Hitler even told Italian diplomats, "Switzerland possessed the most disgusting and miserable people and political system. The Swiss were the mortal enemies of the new Germany."

Why it didn't happen

This is still a mystery. German and Italian troops were poised on the border of Switzerland and were expected to go in at any time. Switzerland would be faced with the prospect of

fighting house to house warfare against a far superior force.

But Hitler never gave the operation the green light and the operation, codenamed Operation Tannebaum (Christmas Tree), never happened.

The Allies had just invaded North Africa and the Soviets were proving to be a handful.

Another problem was that basically every house in Switzerland contained at least one firearm.

Not many people realise that peaceful Switzerland is the most heavily armed country in the world.

Every Swiss male has to do compulsory military service and remains in the reserve force until a ripe old age. By law, every household in Switzerland must have an automatic rifle and ammunition.

Any invading force would have to fight for every inch of ground taken, with the Swiss taking pot-shots at them the entire time.

If it had taken place

If it was successful Germany would have a sat with a slight problem.

Most Germans did not want to see a neutral country such as Switzerland being taken over. After all, German was one of the four national languages of Switzerland.



UNDER SIEGE: The French garrison at Dien Bien Phu in Indochina was surrounded by the Viet Minh and cut off. They wanted the United States to come and rescue them.

An invasion of Switzerland could have easily led to huge internal criticism and even civil disobedience in Germany.

So much so that, according to many contemporary German reports, it would have overwhelmed many German cities, police and armed forces and would have weakened Germany.

In the end Hitler probably felt that invading Switzerland was more trouble than it was worth. Besides, he had other problems to deal with.

9. Plan Rubber

After the Vichy government was installed in France, German aircraft were now in range of South America through bases in Africa, with Brazil a trove of natural resources waiting to be taken.

The American government thought that with the Germans failing to take Moscow they may decide to take their anger

out west against Brazil.

After Pearl Harbour the US thought this plan credible enough for them to draw up plans to invade Brazil. While planning showed that most coastal cities could not be taken quickly with amphibious assaults, the US decided to make formal plans anyway. Especially after they found evidence that Brazil's dictators could side with the Nazis.

Codenamed Plan Rubber, battleships were assigned to coastal positions and divisions were assigned to beaches and cities, eerily similar to the D-Day plans. US planners believed the Brazilian military to be sufficiently weak to allow the plan to succeed. At sea, Brazil could muster two British-built battleships, two light cruisers, nine destroyers, three submarines and other small craft. In the air, Brazil had nearly 330 aircraft, but many of these were obsolete fighters and bombers.

Why it didn't happen

The plan was never put into operation. Mainly because Brazil, who had been sitting on the fence, finally decided to side with the Allies and even signed a defence pact with the US and allowed them access to air bases.

If it had taken place

The US had a right to be afraid of Brazil's Nazi sympathies. Particularly as Brazil's neighbours, Argentina was very fond of the Nazis. There was a good chance that an American invasion of Brazil would have been defeated. And, since the ruler of Brazil didn't know which side to choose, an attack on Brazil could have easily pushed them to go running to the Nazis for help. Especially with all the pro-Nazi Brazilians.

So if Plan Rubber had been initiated it would have probably led to a third front in World War II. This time in South America.

8. Operation Vulture

Operation Vulture was the name of the proposed American operation that would rescue French forces at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1954. The French garrison had been surrounded by the communist Viet Minh during the First Indochina War.

Viet Minh forces under General Võ Nguyên Giáp surrounded and besieged the French, who were unaware of the Viet Minh's possession of heavy artillery, including anti-aircraft guns.

The only way Dien Bien Phu

could be resupplied was via air-drop, and dropping and retrieving supplies became a nightmare as Viet Minh artillery shrank the effective size of the drop zone.

The French, with the encouragement of some US officials based in Saigon, pressed hard for the US to launch an overwhelming air strike to save Dien Bien Phu.

Just ten days after the start of Giap's initial assault, General Paul Ely, the French Chief of Staff, arrived in Washington to plead the French case to US policy-makers. Discussions involved General Ely, U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and Admiral Arthur W. Radford, Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The plan included as many as 98 B-29s from Okinawa and the Philippines that would drop 1,400 tonnes of bombs on positions held by the Viet Minh.

Another version of the plan envisioned sending 60 B-29s from US bases in the region, supported by as many as 150 fighters launched from US Seventh Fleet carriers, to bomb Giap's positions.

The plan included an option to use up to three small atomic weapons on the Viet Minh positions in support of the French. The Joint Chiefs of Staff drew up plans to deploy tactical atomic weapons, U.S. carriers sailed to the Tonkin gulf, and reconnaissance flights over Dien Bien Phu were conducted during the negotiations.

Radford, the top American

military officer, gave this nuclear option his backing. US B-29s, B-36s, and B-47s could have executed a nuclear strike, as could carrier aircraft from the Seventh Fleet.

Why it didn't happen

Richard Nixon, a so-called "hawk" on Vietnam, suggested that the U.S. might have to "put American boys in".

President Eisenhower made American participation contingent on British support, but London was opposed to the plan.

Eisenhower also felt that the airstrike alone would not decide the battle. He also expressed concerns that the French Air Force was insufficiently developed for this sort of operation and did not want to escalate U.S. involvement in the war by using American pilots.

Another problem was that the Soviet Union also had atomic bombs by this stage.

In the end, convinced that the political risks outweighed the possible benefits, he decided against the intervention.

If it had taken place

Nukes would have been dropped on the major communist cities, notably Hanoi. The French and the Americans believed that the Viet Minh would immediately surrender and stop the siege of Dien Bien Phu.

With a partly radiated Vietnam and the French owing the Americans a huge favour, American intervention in Vietnam a decade later would probably not have happened. This would have spared the Amer-

icans more than 58,000 deaths and possibly not seen them fighting anywhere. That is, of course, providing that the Soviet Union did not decide to use nukes of their own.

7. Operation Northwoods

After the *Revolución cubana* (Cuban revolution), conducted by Fidel Castro's revolutionary 26th of July Movement, finally overthrew the military dictatorship of Cuban President Fulgencio Batista in December 1958, the American government decided that this Castro bloke might be up to no good. Especially when Castro declared Cuba a revolutionary socialist state.

So the US Military, with a little help from the CIA, slapped together a false flag operation where they would get some loyal communists from Miami, give them some cash, weapons and proposed targets and tell them to go wild.

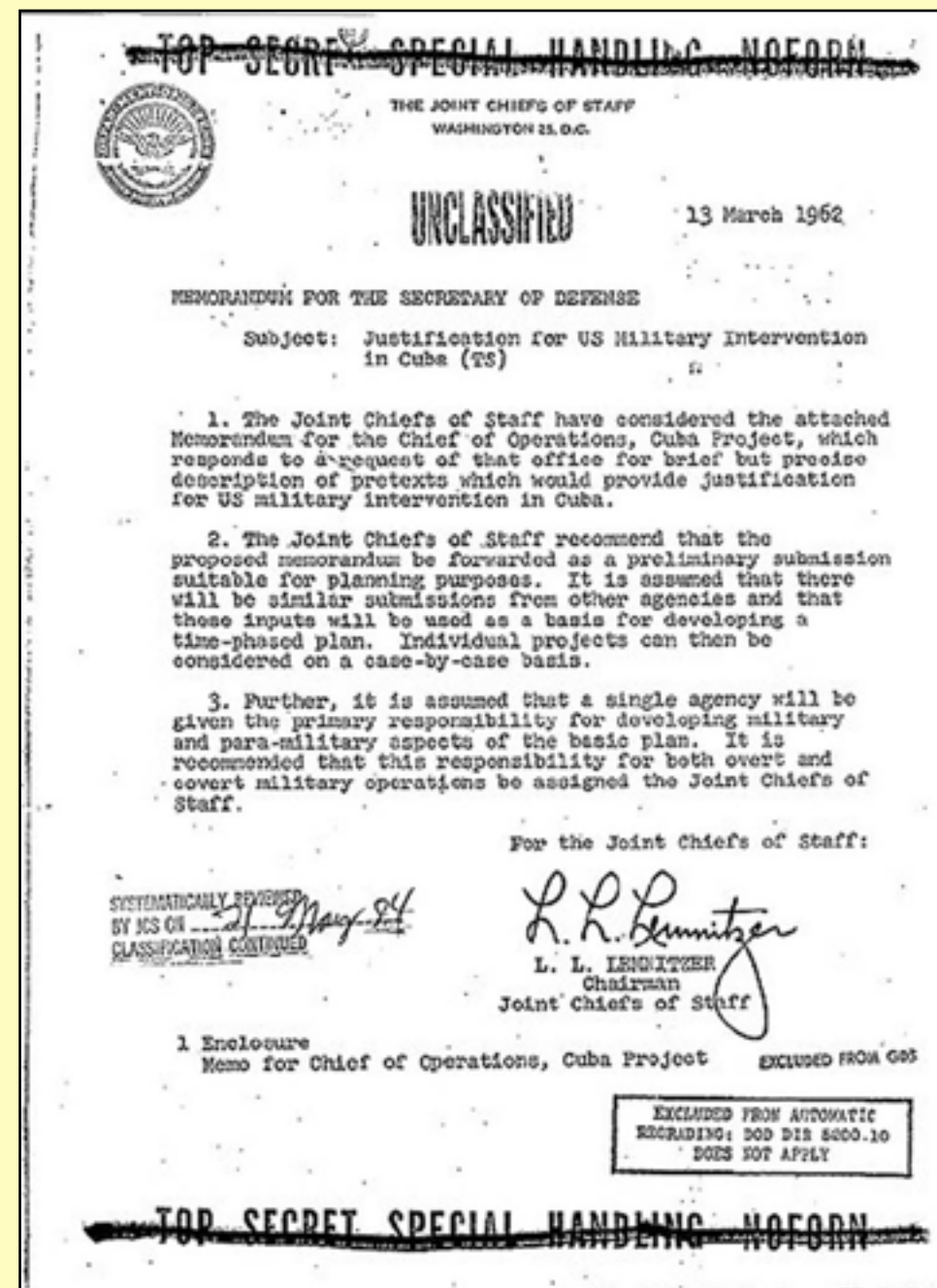
Basically they would show the world that Castro wanted to attack the United States. This would give them enough credibility to attack Cuba, perhaps with some Allied help.

Why it didn't happen

The plan was drafted by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, signed by Chairman Lyman Lemnitzer and sent to the Secretary of Defence.

When the plan was proposed to US President John F. Kennedy, he took one look at it and asked who's insane plan it was.

When the Joint Chief of Staff tried to persuade him other-



FOR YOUR EYES ONLY: The memorandum, now declassified, proposing Operation Northwood.

wise, the enraged Kennedy, still pretty mad at the CIA for using civilians in missions, simply fired Lemnitzer and the whole Northwoods plan died a quick death.

If it had taken place

According to the plans, an unprovoked attack by Cuba would make international powers side with the Americans.

With international support, the US would be free to attack

the recently formed communist nation. And with Cuba to blame, the Soviet Union couldn't exactly defend their ally.

So if Operation Northwood had taken place we would have been looking at a American/Cuba war in the early 1960s and, with the small size of its army, Cuba would have probably been defeated. And since this would have taken place before the Cuban Missile Crisis,

that whole débâcle would have been averted.

If Operation Northwood had succeeded there would have been no Cuban intervention in Angola in 1975.

6. Army of the Ocean Coasts

Napoleon was having a great time taking out Egypt and Austria until the Peace of Amiens in 1802.

Looking for a new target, his eyes turned to his old enemy, England. He began a new three-year planning binge, putting together 200,000 troops, known as known as the *Armée des côtes de l'Océan* (Army of the Ocean Coasts) or the *Armée d'Angleterre* (Army of England), and had his shipyards in France and the Netherlands start building hundreds of ships.

Why it didn't happen

The naval flotilla was initially under the energetic command of Eustache Bruix, but he soon had to return to Paris, where he died of tuberculosis in March 1805.

When Napoleon oversaw tests of the huge battleships to carry his army across the channel, many of the ships sank. This led to large losses of both men and ships.

While Paris had already started construction of a monument to celebrate the success of the conquest of England, Napoleon began to consider other methods that were not ships.

Napoleon seriously considered using a fleet of troop-carrying balloons as part of his proposed invasion force and

appointed Marie Madeline Sophie Blanchard as an air service chief, though she said the proposed aerial invasion would fail because of the winds.

Though an aerial invasion proved a dead-end, the prospect of one captured the minds of the British print media and public.

England soon got wind of the plan and prepared the coasts of England for an attack. Then, before the attack could take place, England struck first, attacking vital French harbours.

After the Battle of Trafalgar Napoleon had to divert resources to Spain and the invasion of England was called off.

If it had taken place

If it had taken place it would have been the first airborne invasion ever. Even if it was made with poorly made hot air balloons.

Presuming that didn't kill everyone, there was still the rest of England to conquer.

Leading scholars believe that 2,000 ships filled with soldiers would have been launched, wiping out any British ships in their path to London.

Considering that there were not that many British soldiers at home due to overseas fighting, they would have been outnumbered. Even with a lot of troops being recalled.

So Napoleon could have taken London and, if defeated, could have turned his attention to other British territory.

Either way, modern day maps of Europe would have probably not looked the same.

5. Huele a Quermado

In 1977 Panamanian General Omar Torrijos and American President Jimmy Carter were planning how to deal with the Panama Canal Zone, which was then under American control.

After tense negotiations Carter agreed to give the canal back to Panama in 1999, which the US ultimately did.

However, if the event had failed, Torrijos had an ace up his sleeve. If Panama couldn't have it no-one could.

Cleverly codenamed *Huele a Quemado* (Spanish for It smells like something is burning), the plan stated that if Panama didn't get the canal zone back then it would attack and destroy the thing.

Why it didn't happen

It was signed and approved in the US Congress by one vote, thus ensuring Panama the canal in 1999 and it was unnecessary for them to destroy the most valuable trade route in the world.

If it had taken place

On average a few million tonnes of shipping per year passes through the canal, serving every continent and tolls from the canal circulate back into the economy.

If the canal was blown up cargo trade would have been brought to its knees. It could have led to a recession and result in Carter losing more to Ronald Reagan in the 1980 election, and the strong possibility of the US invading Panama in retaliation.

4. Operation Vegetarian

In 1942 Britain decided that

it was time for some 'out of the box' thinking in the war against Germany.

The aptly named Operation Vegetarian was a British military plan to disseminate linseed cakes infected with anthrax spores onto the fields of Germany.

These cakes would have been eaten by the cattle, which would then be consumed by the civilian population, causing the deaths of millions of German citizens.

Furthermore, it would have wiped out the majority of Germany's cattle, creating a massive food shortage for the rest of the population that remained uninfected. Preparations were not complete until early 1944.

Why it didn't happen

Basically the UK poisoned themselves in the process. The cakes themselves were tested on Gruinard Island, just off the coast of Scotland. Because of the widespread contamination from the anthrax spores, the land remained quarantined until 1990.

Some of the military leaders still wanted to give the plan a shot, but it wasn't worth making more of the UK uninhabitable with more testing.

The five million cakes made to be disseminated in Germany were eventually destroyed in an incinerator shortly after the end of World War II.

If it had taken place

Seeing what it did to Scotland unintentionally, large parts of Germany could have seen all massive food shortages with all the cows suddenly dying from



NO SWIMMING: Gruinard Island, just off the coast of Scotland, was made uninhabitable until 1990, nearly 50 years later.

anthrax.

With Bavaria, the main target and cattle area taken out, the German population would have faced a food crisis can possibly surrendered even early than May 1945.

3. Operation Downfall

Operation Downfall was the proposed Allied plan for the invasion of Japan near the end of World War II.

The operation had two parts: Operation Olympic (the invasion of the southern island, Kyūshū,) and Operation Coronet (the invasion of the main island, Honshū).

Set to begin in November 1945, Operation Olympic was intended to capture the southern third of the southernmost main Japanese island, Kyūshū, with the recently captured island of Okinawa to be used as a staging area.

Later, in the spring of 1946, Operation Coronet was the

planned invasion of the Kantō Plain, near Tokyo, on the Japanese island of Honshū. Airbases on Kyūshū captured in Operation Olympic would allow land-based air support for Operation Coronet. If Downfall had taken place, it would have been the largest amphibious operation in history.

Japan's geography made this invasion plan quite obvious to the Japanese as well; they were able to accurately predict the Allied invasion plans and thus adjust their defensive plan, *Operation Ketsugō*, accordingly. The Japanese planned an all-out defence of Kyūshū, with little left in reserve for any subsequent defence operations.

Why it didn't happen

Estimates of US troop losses ranged from 250,000 to four million. 500,000 Purple Heart medals were actually made in preparation for the operation, a number so large that they have supplied every war that America

has been involved in since, with about 100,000 still remaining.

After President Truman saw the estimated number of American casualties he decided to go ahead and use the atomic bomb.

This resulted in Japan surrendering in September 1945, far sooner than if Operation Downfall had gone ahead.

American planners estimated that if the atomic bombs hadn't been used, the war would have lasted until at least mid-1947.

If it had taken place

If Operation Downfall had taken place it would have resulted in massive casualties, both on the American and Japanese sides.

If the American had invaded then Russia would have probably launched their own invasion on Japan from the north. Japan would have been taken over by the US, Russia, and China.

After the surrender, the Soviet Union wanted to occupy part of Japan, as it had in Germany. But they were denied this by Douglas MacArthur.

If, however, there had been an invasion and Russia had taken part, it would have been hard to say no to them. This could have led to many problems in the decades ahead.

We could have easily ended up with a West Japan and East Japan, as happened in Germany.

2. Vietnam POW Rescue

In the early 1980s the American government got wind that US POWs from the Vietnam War were still being held by

TOP TEN

Laos and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

An elite US Army unit, Delta Force, was charged with planning a rescue mission and getting the soldiers out and finally bringing them home.

Why it didn't happen

The strike was set up twice, and cancelled at the last minute twice. All because a former Vietnam vet hired American and Laotian mercenaries to go into Laos and get the missing soldiers themselves. This Vietnam vet didn't help much with his secret missions.

The vet in question was James Gordon "Bo" Gritz, a former United States Army Special Forces officer who served for 22 years, including in the Vietnam War. Gritz ran for United States president under the Populist Party in 1992 under the slogan: "God, Guns and Gritz".

His missions to free the POWs were heavily publicized, controversial and widely decried as haphazard, for instance, as some commentators stated, few successful secret missions involve bringing to the border towns women openly selling commemorative POW-rescue T-shirts.

In the book *Inside Delta Force*, CSM Eric L. Haney, a former Delta Force operator, claims that the unit was twice told to prepare for a mission in-

volving the rescue of American POWs from Vietnam.

However, both times the missions were scrubbed, according to Haney, when Gritz suddenly appeared in the spotlight, drawing too much attention to the issue and making the missions too difficult to accomplish.

If it had taken place

Delta Force, like the US Navy SEALs, has a pretty impressive success rate.

If Gritz hadn't been there, many American POWs would probably have been rescued and brought home safe and sound.

1. The Warsaw Question

During World War II the Polish capital of Warsaw had been under German occupation since 27 September 1939.

In the summer of 1944 the Polish underground resistance, led by the *Armia Krajowa* (Home Army), decided to liberate Warsaw from German occupation. The uprising was timed to coincide with the retreat of the German forces from Poland ahead of the Soviet advance.

While approaching the eastern suburbs of the city, the Red Army, under orders from Stalin, temporarily halted combat operations, enabling the Germans to regroup and defeat the Polish resistance.

The Uprising was fought for 63 days with little outside support. It was the single largest military effort taken by any European resistance movement during World War II.

The uprising had infuriated Hitler and his henchmen, who decided to make an example of the city, which they had long since selected for major reconstruction as part of their planned Germanization of Central Europe.

Their plan was simple - raze Warsaw to the ground.

Why it didn't happen

The decision tied up considerable resources which could have been used at the Eastern Front and at the newly-opened Western Front following the Normandy landings.

By the time the German had quelled the uprising and destroyed about 80% of the city, they were forced to retreat because the Russians had begun marching on Berlin.

If it had taken place

Poland would have been left without a capital at the end of the war.

Either they would have been left with a brand new city, filled with Nazi icons, or they would have had to use Kraków, the original capital of Poland, until Warsaw could be rebuilt.



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"

Special Forces - Germany

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

One of the original German special forces units were the *Brandenburgers*, formed and operated as an extension of the military's intelligence organ, the *Abwehr*, during World War II.

Members of this unit took part in seizing operationally important targets by way of sabotage and infiltration.

Being foreign German nationals who were convinced Nazi volunteers, constituent members had lived abroad and were proficient in foreign languages as well as being

familiar with the way of life in the area of operations where they were deployed.

A less well-known World War II German special forces unit were the *SS-Jäger-Bataillon 502* (502nd SS Light Infantry Battalion).

The unit was formed in June 1943 by Otto Skorzeny after an unsuccessful attempt to train members of an SS penal facility.

Skorzeny obtained permission to recruit volunteers from the *Wehrmacht*, and 100 SS personnel, 50 *Luftwaffe* and 150 Army personnel were admitted, allowing

the formation of a headquarters company and two line companies. An intensive training programme was instituted.

In September 1943, sixteen members of this unit took part in the Gran Sasso raid, which resulted in the rescue of deposed Italian dictator Benito Mussolini.

They were later placed on standby for several operations that never took place, including a proposed kidnapping of Philippe Pétain.

Kommando Spezialkräfte

Based at Calw in Baden-Württemberg in south-west Germany, the Kommando Spe-

zialkräfte (KSK) was formed in 1995 primarily to protect or rescue German nationals at risk in overseas conflicts.

Over the years the unit has expanded and now comprises more than 1,000 fully trained operators.

The impetus for forming the KSK dates back to 1994, when Germany found that it had no suitably trained force to rescue 11 of its nationals who were trapped during the Rwandan civil war. Fortunately for the Germans, help was at hand in the shape of Belgian and French paratroopers, who rescued the 11 hostages.

However, the German government was highly embarrassed by this incident and appointed a senior Army brigadier to oversee the formation and development of a new special forces unit, with an operational capacity similar to that of Britain's SAS or the United States' Delta Force.

The brigadier recognised that this force would have to be capable of rapid deployment anywhere in the world at a moment's notice. It would also have to be capable of operating in any terrain. He also knew that it would be difficult to form such a unit from scratch and, where possible, he used existing soldiers who were both experienced and mature.

Even though KSK is trained for hostage rescue missions, it is still a military unit and is used in military operations. It is not, like GSG-9, another counter terrorist force. GSG-9 is an excellent unit, but because it is

a Federal Border Guards unit it is restricted by law from operating overseas on military missions. This legal restriction also applies to other elite German police units, including the SEKs (SWAT-type units).

KSK was initially formed from soldiers of the Army's two Long Range Scout Companies, which were part of the three West German air-borne brigades' commando companies dating from the Cold War.

The unit now comprises an HQ, four commando companies, a long-range reconnaissance company, a communications company, and a logistics company. Each fighting company has four platoons, one of which specialises in hostage rescue, both within Germany and overseas.

In addition, platoons also specialise in different areas, including airborne operations, amphibious operations, ground infiltration, and arctic or mountainous warfare.

As with many other special forces units, the KSK operates on the tried-and-tested principle of four-man teams, with the long-range reconnaissance company capable of operating independently of each other. Should an emergency develop overseas involving German nationals or interests, KSK would deploy and operate under the control of the German Crisis Section and would be responsible for conducting missions such as deep penetration raids, strategic reconnaissance, hostage rescue, counter terrorist operations, peacekeeping, the

rescue and recovery of downed pilots, military crisis deterrence operations, and the defence of German or NATO territory.

KSK has the means of attack high-value targets, including enemy airfields, HQs and lines of communications, but its main operational priority is that of protecting German citizens in war or conflict zones and hostage rescue.

The KSK has more than enough trained operators to undertake low-level operations. This they aptly demonstrated in 1999, when a detachment from KSK deployed to Kosovo as a close-protection detail for high-ranking German officials. In 2001 a small force was deployed to Afghanistan following the abduction of German nationals by the Taliban. However, they were released unharmed after intense diplomatic pressure was brought to bear on the Taliban leaders.

The KSK is also known to have provided protection for German government officials taking part in G8 summits, where the VIPs attending are possible terrorist targets.

The KSK is currently organised as follows:

- HQ and Signal Company – HQ Platoon, three Signal Platoons, Long Range Recon Signal Platoon (all operators being trained in SATCOM, HF, and LOS communications).
- Commando/Long-Range Recon Company – HQ element, Long Range Recon Commando Platoon, Long Range Recon Platoon.



KSK Weapons



**Heckler & Koch
G36**



**Heckler & Koch
MP5 SD3**



**Heckler & Koch
G8 assault rifle**



**Heckler & Koch
512 12 gauge**



**Heckler & Koch
G22**



**Heckler & Koch
P8 9mm pistol**

**Heckler & Koch
P11 underwater pistol**



Each Commando Company consists of an HQ Platoon and four Commando Platoons, each specialising in different operational areas – land infiltration, air infiltration (HALO capable), amphibious operations, mountainous and arctic climate operations.

Each platoon consists of four teams of four men. One man acts as team leader, and each of the four men specialise in one of the following areas: communications, medical, explosives, or operations and intelligence. One of the four platoons is trained in conducting rescue and counter terrorist operations, with some operators trained in high-speed defensive and offensive driving. In addition, the Support Company includes a Logistics Platoon, Parachute Equipment Platoon, Maintenance and Repair Platoon, Medical Platoon and Training Platoon.

Naval Special Forces

The *Kommando Spezialkräfte Marine* (KSM) was founded in 2014 and built around the Commando Frogmen Company (*Kampfschwimmerkompanie*), the oldest German special forces unit. The KSM is based in Eckernförde and is part of the 1st Flotilla (*Einsatzflottille 1*) in Kiel.

It consists of the following elements.

- S1 - Personnel
- S2 - Intelligence
- S3 - Operations
- S4 - Logistics
- S5 - Communications

Furthermore there is the:

- Operations Support Team Air (*Einsatzgruppe Luft*)
- Diver Depot
- Vehicle Repair Squad
- Analysis & Development Group
- Special Operation Medical Support Team (SOMST)
- Commando Frogmen Company
- Commando Frogmen Teams (*Kampfschwimmereinsatzteams*, KSET)
- Operations Support Team Sea (*Einsatzgruppe See*)
- Tactics and Training Group (*Gruppe Grundlagen, Verfahren, Taktik und Ausbildung*, GVTA).

GSG-9

Grenzschutzgruppe 9 der Bundespolizei (Border Protection Group 9 of the Federal Police) are better known as GSG-9. It was formed as a response to the terrorist incident at the Munich Olympics in 1972. Arab 'Black September' terrorists broke into the Olympic village, taking a number of Israeli athletes hostage and killing others. A police rescue attempt went horribly wrong and left nine hostages, four terrorists and a policeman dead.

The loss of so many lives was put down to the fact that the German police were not prepared for dealing with hostage rescue situations, and this prompted the creation of a dedicated counter terrorist force.

Formed on 17 April 1973, GSG-9 is a paramilitary arm of the German police force.

At its peak, GSG-9 had an



The emblem of GSG-9

operational strength of almost 250 operators, but this figure has now been reduced to about 200 regular personnel because Germany now has the additional resources of the KSK and local police SEKs (SWAT teams).

The formation of these new units has put the future of GSG-9 in doubt, for some Germans take the view that GSG-9 is now redundant, arguing that the KSK can handle hostage rescue and counter terrorist operations both in Germany and overseas – and it has a legal mandate to do so.

This presents GSG-9 with a problem, as it is legally forbidden from deploying overseas on counter terrorist operations.

Members of the unit are all volunteers, either from the army or border police, and under six months of arduous training before being declared operational. In addition to the physical training, operators are expected to have a good knowledge of both police and legal matters, and great emphasis is placed on further academic studies. The failure rate among candidates is very high – only 20% of each intake is accepted.

These demanding standards have made GSG-9 an outstanding modern counter terrorist

force, and although its future path is uncertain, it has many friends around the world who greatly respect and admire their capabilities.

Mogadishu

While GSG-9 is restricted by law from operating overseas, it has broken this law from time to time. One of these occasions was the spectacular rescue mission in Mogadishu, Somalia in 1977

At 11:00 on Thursday 13 October 1977, Lufthansa flight LH 181, a Boeing 737 named Landshut, took off from Palma de Mallorca en route to Frankfurt with 86 passengers and five crew, piloted by Jürgen Schumann, with co-pilot Jürgen Vieter at the controls.

About 30 minutes later, as it passed over Marseilles, the aircraft was hijacked by four militants calling themselves "Commando Martyr Halima" – in honour of fellow militant Brigitte Kuhlmann, who had been killed in Operation Entebbe the previous year.

Their leader was a Palestinian named Zohair Youssif Akache (23, male), who adopted the alias "Captain Martyr Mahmud". The other three were Suhaila Sayeh (22, female), a

Palestinian, and two Lebanese people, Wabil Harb (23, male) and Hind Alameh (22, female). Akache (“Mahmud”) burst into the cockpit with a loaded pistol in his hand and ordered Vietor to join the passengers, leaving Schumann to take over the flight controls.

Mahmud ordered Schumann to fly to Larnaca in Cyprus but was told that they had insufficient fuel and would have to land in Rome first.

The aircraft flew to Larnaca in Cyprus, Bahrain, Dubai, and Aden before landing in Mogadishu in Somalia.

While the West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt attempted to negotiate an agreement with Somali President Siad Barre, special envoy Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski and GSG 9 commander Ulrich Wegener arrived at Mogadishu airport. A rescue operation, codenamed Feuerzauber (German term for “Fire Spell”) has been planned.

In West Germany, a team of 30 GSG 9 commandos under their deputy commander Major Klaus Blatte had assembled at Hangelar airfield near Bonn awaiting instructions. The commandos took off from Cologne-Bonn Airport on a Boeing 707 on Monday morning (17 October) planning to fly to Djibouti, within a short flying time of Somalia, while Schmidt negotiated with the Somalis.

When they were flying over Ethiopia, agreement was reached and permission was given to land at Mogadishu. The aircraft landed at 20h00 local time with all lights out to avoid detection

by the hijackers. After four hours to unload all of their equipment and to undertake the necessary reconnaissance, Wegener and Blatte finalized the assault plan, scheduled to start at 02h00 local time. They decided to approach from the rear of the aircraft in its blind spot in six teams using black-painted aluminium ladders to gain access to the aircraft through the escape hatches under the fuselage and via the doors over the wings.

In the meantime a fictitious progress report on the journey being taken by the released prisoners was being fed to Mahmud by the German representatives in the airport tower. Just after 02h00, Mahmud was told that the plane carrying the prisoners had just departed from Cairo after refuelling and he was asked to provide the conditions of the prisoner/hostage exchange over the radio.

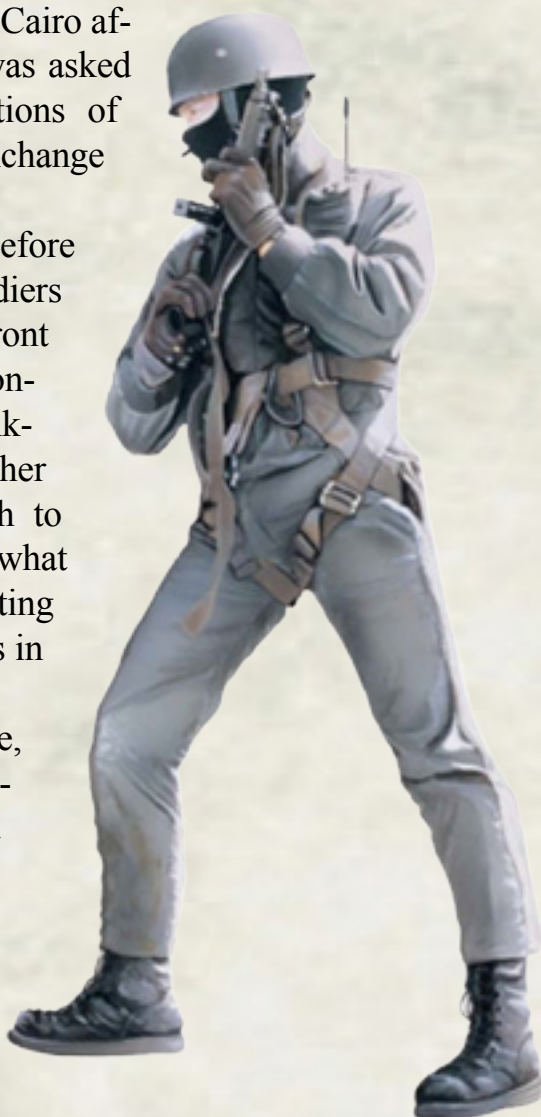
Several minutes before the rescue, Somali soldiers lit a fire 60 metres in front of the jet, as a diversionary tactic, prompting Akache and two of the other three hijackers to rush to the cockpit to observe what was going on, and isolating them from the hostages in the cabin.

At 02h07 local time, the GSG 9 commandos silently climbed up the blackened aluminium ladders and opened the emergency doors, Wegener, at the head of one group, opened

the forward door, and two other groups, led by Sergeant-Major Dieter Fox and Sergeant Joachim Huemmer stormed the aircraft by using the ladders to climb up onto the wings and opened both emergency doors at the same time.

Shouting in German for the passengers and crew to get down to the floor, the commandos shot and killed two of the terrorists (Wabil Harb and Hind Alameh), and wounded Zohair Akache and Suhaila Sayeh. Akache died of his injuries hours later.

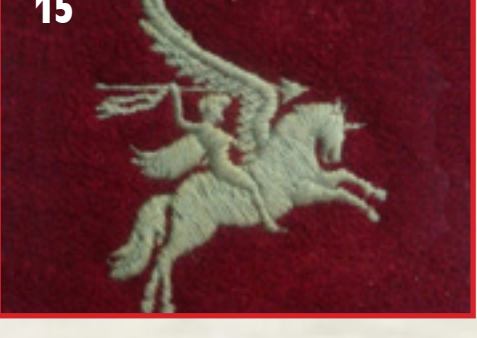
One GSG 9 commando was wounded by return fire from the terrorists. Three passengers and a flight attendant were slightly wounded in the crossfire. All 86 hostages had been rescued in a text-book operation.



Quiz

World War II Insignia

Here are 15 insignia, all from World War II. You tell us what they are, and from which country they’re from. We’ll give you a clue and tell you that seven different countries are represented here. You’ll find the answers to the quiz on page 98.



For valour

To win a Victoria Cross is no mean feat. So what does it take to win it more than once? And just how many people have managed to do it?

The Victoria Cross, often simply known as the VC, is the highest and most prestigious award of the British honours system. It is awarded for gallantry "in the presence of the enemy" to members of the British Armed Forces. It may be awarded posthumously.

It was previously awarded to Commonwealth countries, most of which have established their own honours systems and no longer recommend British honours. It may be awarded to a person of any military rank in any service and to civilians under military command although no civilian has received the award since 1879.

Since the first awards were presented by Queen Victoria in 1857, two-thirds of all awards have been personally presented by the British monarch. These investitures are usually held at Buckingham Palace.

The VC was introduced on 29 January 1856 by Queen Victoria to honour acts of valour during the Crimean War. Since then, the medal has been awarded 1,358 times to 1,355 individual recipients.

Only 15 medals, of which 11 were to members of the British Army and four were to members of the Australian Army, have been awarded since the Second World War.

The traditional explanation of the source of the metal from which the medals are struck

is that it derives from Russian cannon captured at the Siege of Sevastopol. However, research has suggested another origin for the material.

Historian John Glanfield has established that the metal for most of the medals made since December 1914 came from two Chinese cannon, and that there is no evidence of Russian origin.

VC Facts

Here is some interesting trivia about the Victoria Cross.

- The cross is inscribed 'For Valour'. Queen Victoria had this changed from the suggested 'For The Brave' as she considered all soldiers brave.
- The jeweller Hancocks of London has made all the VCs awarded.
- More than an eighth of all VCs awarded, a total of 176, are now owned by Lord Ashcroft and can be seen in the Imperial War Museum together with their own collection of 46 Victoria Crosses.
- Between 1861 and 1908, eight men had their VCs taken away after being convicted of crimes. Those crimes included theft of a colleague's medals, stealing a cow, desertion and bigamy.
- George V was strongly against forfeiture of a Victoria Cross and said that

even if a man was hanged he should wear his VC on the scaffold.

- A Royal Warrant in 1920 made it possible to award VCs to women but this has never happened.
- At any investiture the VCs are presented first, taking precedence even over knighthoods.
- Holders of the VC receive an annuity of £1,495 a year, which is free of tax.
- The first man to win the award was Mate (later Rear-Admiral) C. D. Lucas, Royal Navy, in the Baltic on 21 June 1854. An unexploded Russian shell lay on the deck of his ship during an engagement. He threw it overboard seconds before it exploded.
- In earlier years no provision was made for posthumous awards. A memorandum would appear in the London Gazette stating that the person 'would have been recommended for the Victoria Cross had he survived.' Approximately 291 posthumous awards have been made since the regulations of August 8th, 1902 sanctioned posthumous awards retrospectively to the Zulu War in 1879.
- The youngest people to be awarded the VC are Andrew Fitzgibbon and Thomas Flynn. Both were 15 years

and three months old when they won the medal.

- The oldest VC recipient was Lieutenant W. Raynor of the Bengal Veteran Establishment during the Indian Mutiny in 1857. He was 69 years old.
- Originally the Crosses were issued with crimson ribbons for soldiers and dark blue for the navy.

of respect for the lives lost during the Great War.

- At the relief of Lucknow in India the highest number of Victoria Crosses' given during one day of action was on the 16th November 1857. A total of 24 were awarded.
- At the first investiture on 26 June 1857, 62 Victo-

medal bearing her name.

- The Victoria Cross was awarded 628 times during World War I.
- During World War II the Victoria Cross was awarded 182 times.
- During World War I four South Africans were awarded the Victoria Cross. They were Private W. F. Faulds (1st Bn. S.A. Infantry), Captain W. A. Bloomfield (Scout Corps and 2nd S.A. Mounted Brigade), Sergeant F. C. Booth (BSAP attached Rhodesia Native Regiment), and Lance-Corporal W. H. Hewitt (2nd



This was changed in 1918, when the Royal Air Force was formed and one ribbon was used for all services.

- Though created in 1856 the Victoria Cross award was backdated to allow recognition for two previous years of action in the Crimean War.
- The Battle of Rorke's Drift in Natal in 1879 saw 11 Victoria Crosses' being awarded for what was classified as a single action.
- In 1921 America's Unknown Soldier from World War I was awarded the Victoria Cross. To reciprocate Britain's Unknown Soldier was awarded the American Medal of Honour. Both awards were made as a mark

of respect for the lives lost during the Great War. Queen Victoria insisted on presenting the medals herself. She had taken a keen interest throughout the procedure of creating the new

Victoria Crosses were awarded. During World War II three South Africans were awarded the Victoria Cross. They were Sergeant Q. G. M. Smythe (1st Royal Natal

Carbineers), Lieutenant G. R. Norton, MM (Kaffrarian Rifles - attached to Hampshire Regiment), and Captain E. Swales, DFC (South African Air Force - attached to R.A.F.). Captain Swales was awarded a posthumous VC.

VC and bar

Only three men have been awarded the VC twice in the history of the medal.

They were Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Martin-Leake, Captain Noel Chavasse and Captain Charles Upham.



Arthur Martin-Leake VC & Bar, VD

Arthur Martin-Leake first served in the Second Boer War as a trooper in the Imperial Yeomanry. After his year of service was completed, he stayed on in South Africa as a civil surgeon. He then joined the South African Constabulary until he was forced to return home due to his wounds.

He was 27 years old and a surgeon captain in the South African Constabulary attached

to the 5th Field Ambulance during the Second Boer War on 8 February 1902, at Vlakkfontein, when he was awarded his first VC.

His citation read:

During the action at Vlakkfontein, on the 8th February, 1902, Surgeon-Captain Martin-Leake went up to a wounded man, and attended to him under a heavy fire from about 40 Boers at 100 yards range. He then went to the assistance of a wounded Officer, and, whilst trying to place him in a comfortable position, was shot three times, but would not give in till he rolled over thoroughly exhausted. All the eight men at this point were wounded, and while they were lying on the Veldt, Surgeon-Captain Martin-Leake refused water till every one else had been served.

He received the decoration from King Edward VII at St James's Palace on 2 June 1902.

Martin-Leake qualified as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1903 after studying while convalescing from wounds. He then took up an appointment in India as Chief Medical Officer with the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

In 1912, he volunteered to serve with the British Red Cross during the Balkan Wars, attached to the Montenegrin army, and was present during the Siege of Scutari (1912-13) and at Tarabosh Mountain. He was awarded the Order of the Montenegrin Red Cross.

On the outbreak of the First World War, Martin-Leake returned to service as a lieutenant with the 5th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps, on the Western Front.

He was awarded his second VC, aged 40, during the period 29 October to 8 November 1914 near Zonnebeke, Belgium, whilst serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps, British Army.

His award citation reads:

Lieutenant Arthur Martin Leake, Royal Army Medical Corps, who was awarded the Victoria Cross on 13th May, 1902, is granted a Clasp for conspicuous bravery in the present campaign.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty throughout the campaign, especially during the period 29th October to 8th November, 1914, near Zonnebeke, in rescuing, whilst exposed to constant fire, a large number of the wounded who were lying close to the enemy's trenches.

His Victoria Cross is displayed at the Army Medical Services Museum, Aldershot, England.

He was promoted captain in March 1915, major in November the same year, and in April 1917 took command of 46th Field Ambulance at the rank of lieutenant colonel.

He died, aged 79, at High



Cross, Hertfordshire.

Noel Chavasse VC & Bar, MC

Noel Godfrey Chavasse was a British medical doctor, Olympic athlete, and British Army officer.

Chavasse was first awarded the VC for his actions on 9 August 1916, at Guillemont, France when he attended to the wounded all day under heavy fire. The full citation was published on 24 October 1916 and read:

Captain Noel Godfrey Chavasse, M.C., M.B., Royal Army Medical Corps.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty.

During an attack he tended the wounded in the open all day, under heavy fire, frequently in view of the enemy. During the ensuing night he searched for wounded on the ground in front of the enemy's lines for four hours.

Next day he took one stretcher-bearer to the advanced trenches, and under heavy shell fire carried an urgent case for 500 yards into safety, being wounded in the side by a shell splinter during the journey. The same night he took up a party of twenty volunteers, rescued three wounded men from a shell hole twenty-five yards from the enemy's trench, buried the bodies of two officers, and collected many identity discs, although fired on by bombs and machine guns.

Altogether he saved the lives of some twenty badly wounded men, besides the ordinary cases which passed through his hands. His courage and self-sacrifice, were beyond praise.

Chavasse's second award was made during the period 31 July to 2 August 1917, at Wieltje, Belgium; the full citation was published on 14 September 1917 and read:

War Office, September, 1917.

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of a Bar to the Victoria Cross to Capt. Noel Godfrey Chavasse, V.C., M.C., late R.A.M.C., attd. L'pool R.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when in action.

Though severely wounded early in the action whilst carrying a wounded soldier to the Dressing Station, Capt. Chavasse refused to leave his post, and for two days not only continued to perform his duties, but in addition went out repeatedly under heavy fire to search for and attend to the wounded who were lying out.

During these searches, although practically without food during this period, worn with fatigue and faint with his wound, he assisted to carry in a number of badly wounded men, over heavy and difficult ground.

By his extraordinary energy and inspiring example, he was instrumental in rescuing many wounded who would have otherwise undoubtedly succumbed under the bad weather conditions.

This devoted and gallant officer subsequently died of his wounds.

Chavasse died of his wounds in Brandhoek and is buried at Brandhoek New Military Cemetery, Vlamertinge. He was 32 years old.

Chavasse was the only man

to be awarded both a Victoria Cross and Bar in the First World War.



Charles Upham VC & Bar

Charles Hazlitt Upham was a New Zealand soldier who was awarded the Victoria Cross twice during World War II.

In March 1941, Upham's battalion left for Greece and then withdrew to Crete, and it was here that he was wounded in the action, from 22 to 30 May 1941, that gained him his first VC. When informed of the award, his first response was "It's meant for the men."

His citation read:

War Office, 14th October, 1941.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve of awards of the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned:

Second Lieutenant Charles Hazlitt Upham (8077), New Zealand Military Forces.

During the operations in Crete this officer performed a series of remarkable exploits, showing outstanding leadership, tactical skill and utter indifference to danger.

He commanded a forward

platoon in the attack on Maleme on 22nd May and fought his way forward for over 3,000 yards unsupported by any other arms and against a defence strongly organised in depth. During this operation his platoon destroyed numerous enemy posts but on three occasions sections were temporarily held up.

In the first case, under a heavy fire from a machine gun nest he advanced to close quarters with pistol and grenades, so demoralizing the occupants that his section was able to "mop up" with ease.

Another of his sections was then held up by two machine guns in a house. He went in and placed a grenade through a window, destroying the crew of one machine gun and several others, the other machine gun being silenced by the fire of his sections.

In the third case he crawled to within 15 yards of an M.G. post and killed the gunners with a grenade.

When his Company withdrew from Maleme he helped to carry a wounded man out under fire, and together with another officer rallied more men together to carry other wounded men out.

He was then sent to bring in a company which had become isolated. With a Corporal he went through enemy territory over 600 yards, killing two Germans on the way, found the company, and brought it back to the Battalion's new position. But for this action it would have been completely cut off.

During the following two days his platoon occupied an exposed position on forward

slopes and was continuously under fire. Second Lieutenant Upham was blown over by one mortar shell, and painfully wounded by a piece of shrapnel behind the left shoulder, by another. He disregarded this wound and remained on duty. He also received a bullet in the foot which he later removed in Egypt.

At Galatas on 25th May his platoon was heavily engaged and came under severe mortar and machine-gun fire. While his platoon stopped under cover of a ridge Second-Lieutenant Upham went forward, observed the enemy and brought the platoon forward when the Germans advanced. They killed over 40 with fire and grenades and forced the remainder to fall back.

When his platoon was ordered to retire he sent it back under the platoon Sergeant and he went back to warn other troops that they were being cut off. When he came out himself he was fired on by two Germans. He fell and shammed dead, then crawled into a position and having the use of only one arm rested his rifle in the fork of a tree and as the Germans came forward he killed them both. The second to fall actually hit the muzzle of the rifle as he fell.

On 30th May at Sphakia his platoon was ordered to deal with a party of the enemy which had advanced down a ravine to near Force Headquarters. Though in an exhausted condition he climbed the steep hill to the west of the ravine, placed his men in positions on the slope overlooking the ravine and himself went to the top with

a Bren Gun and two riflemen. By clever tactics he induced the enemy party to expose itself and then at a range of 500 yards shot 22 and caused the remainder to disperse in panic.

During the whole of the operations he suffered from dysentery and was able to eat very little, in addition to being wounded and bruised.

He showed superb coolness, great skill and dash and complete disregard of danger. His conduct and leadership inspired his whole platoon to fight magnificently throughout, and in fact was an inspiration to the Battalion.

Upham was evacuated to Egypt, now promoted to captain. He received a Bar to his VC for his actions on 14–15 July 1942, during the First Battle of El Alamein.

The citation read: War Office, 26th September, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of a Bar to the VICTORIA CROSS to:

Captain Charles Hazlitt UPHAM, V.C. (8077), New Zealand Military Forces.

Captain C. H. Upham, V.C., was commanding a Company of New Zealand troops in the Western Desert during the operations which culminated in the attack on El Ruweisat Ridge on the night of 14th–15th July, 1942.

In spite of being twice wounded, once when crossing open ground swept by enemy fire to inspect his forward sections guarding our mine-fields and again when he completely destroyed an entire truck load of

German soldiers with hand grenades, Captain Upham insisted on remaining with his men to take part in the final assault.

During the opening stages of the attack on the ridge Captain Upham's Company formed part of the reserve battalion, but, when communications with the forward troops broke down and he was instructed to send up an officer to report on the progress of the attack, he went out himself armed with a Spandau gun and, after several sharp encounters with enemy machine gun posts, succeeded in bringing back the required information.

Just before dawn the reserve battalion was ordered forward, but, when it had almost reached its objective, very heavy fire was encountered from a strongly defended enemy locality, consisting of four machine gun posts and a number of tanks.

Captain Upham, without hesitation, at once led his Company in a determined attack on the two nearest strongpoints on the left flank of the sector. His voice could be heard above the din of battle cheering on his men and, in spite of the fierce resistance of the enemy and the heavy casualties on both sides, the objective was captured.

Captain Upham, during the engagement, himself destroyed a German tank and several guns and vehicles with grenades and although he was shot through the elbow by a machine gun bullet and had his arm broken, he went on again to a forward position and brought back some of his men who had become isolated. He continued to dominate the situation until his men had beaten off a vio-

lent enemy counter-attack and consolidated the vital position which they had won under his inspiring leadership.

Exhausted by pain from his wound and weak from loss of blood Captain Upham was then removed to the Regimental Aid Post but immediately his wound had been dressed he returned to his men, remaining with them all day long under heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire, until he was again severely wounded and being now unable to move fell into the hands of the enemy when, his gallant Company having been reduced to only six survivors, his position was finally overrun by superior enemy forces, in spite of the outstanding gallantry and magnificent leadership shown by Captain Upham.

The Victoria Cross was conferred on Captain Upham for conspicuous bravery during the operations in Crete in May, 1941, and the award was announced in the London Gazette dated 14th October, 1941.

He died in Canterbury on 22 November 1994, aged 86.

Worthy contender

A man many considered to be unlucky not to be awarded a bar to his Victoria Cross was the unassuming, bespectacled World War I medical officer Harold Ackroyd VC, MC.

He was nominated for the VC not once, not twice, but on a remarkable 34 separate occasions during World War I.

Despite being deeply involved in scientific research at Cambridge, he decided to join the army in early 1915.

He was commissioned Tem-



Harold Ackroyd VC, MC

porary Lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps on 15 February 1915.

During fierce fighting for the possession of Delville Wood on 19 July 1916 Harold Ackroyd acted with such bravery that he was recommended eleven times for the award of the Victoria Cross. He was eventually awarded the Military Cross for this action.

During the third Battle of Ypres that became known as the Battle of Passchendaele. Throughout the fierce fighting of 31 July and 1 August, there were 23 separate recommendations of Ackroyd's name for the Victoria Cross.

He came through the battle unscathed but died eleven days later on 11 August in Jargon Trench on the western edge of Glencorse Wood, shot in the head by a sniper. He was 40 years old.

Harold's Victoria Cross was gazetted on 6 September 1917. A medal investiture was held outside Buckingham Palace on 26 September 1917. His widow Mabel and their five-year-old son Stephen received both the Victoria Cross and the Military Cross from King George V.

Technical tactics

Dubbed the vehicular equivalent of the AK-47, the 'technical' has become ubiquitous to insurgent warfare.

During the second half of the 20th century, the *Avtomat Kalashnikova* - better known as the AK-47 - became a symbol of third-world revolution.

From the 1980s a new symbol began to emerge. A vehicle that was soon dubbed the vehicular equivalent of the AK-47.

In professional military parlance this vehicle is known as a non-standard tactical vehicle (NSTV). In conflict-torn regions around the world it is simply known as the 'technical'.

Basically, a technical is a light improvised fighting vehicle, typically an open-backed civilian pickup truck (known in South Africa as a *bakkie*) or four-wheel drive vehicle mounting a heavy weapon.

These weapons can include a machine gun, anti-aircraft gun, rotary cannon, anti-tank weapon, anti-tank gun, ATGM, mortar, howitzer, multiple rocket

launcher, or recoilless rifle.

The term technical describing such a vehicle is believed to have originated in Somalia in the early 1990s.

Barred from bringing in private security, non-governmental organizations hired local gunmen to protect their personnel, using money defined as "technical assistance grants"; eventually the term broadened to include any vehicle carrying armed men.

However, an alternative account is given by American journalist Michael Maren, who says the term began in Somalia in the 80s, after engineers from Russian arms manufacturer Tekniko began mounting weapons on vehicles for the Somali National Movement.

Technicals have also been referred to as battlewagons, gunwagons, or gunships.

Among irregular armies, often centred on the perceived strength and charisma of war-

lords, the prestige of technicals is strong. A warlord's power is measured by how many of these vehicles he has.

Background

One of the weapons that changed the face of warfare was the machine gun.

The first practical self-powered machine gun was invented in 1884 by Sir Hiram Maxim. The Maxim machine gun used the recoil power of the previously fired bullet to reload rather than being hand-powered, enabling a much higher rate of fire than was possible using earlier designs.

During World War I the machine gun would prove just how devastating a weapon it could be. It did, however, suffer from one major drawback.

Early machine guns were heavy and this meant that they were static weapons. The solution was fairly simple - mount

the machine gun on wheels.

The Russians came up with the *tachanka*, a horse-drawn machine gun, usually a cart (such as charabanc) or an open wagon with a heavy machine gun installed in the back. A *tachanka* could be pulled by two to four horses and required a crew of two or three (one driver and a machine gun crew).

A regular civilian horse cart could be easily converted to military use and back. This made the *tachanka* very popular during the Great War on the Eastern Front, where it was used by the Russian cavalry. The use of *tachankas* reached its peak during the Russian Civil War (1917-1920s), particularly in the peasant regions of Southern Russia and Ukraine, where the fronts were fluid and mobile warfare gained much significance. With up to four horses abreast pulling a *tachanka*, it could easily keep up with cavalry units and support them with mobile firepower.

Designed and built by British inventor F. R. Simms in 1898, the Motor Scout was the first armed petrol engine powered vehicle

ever built. It was not intended for running over ploughed fields or charging but designed to provide a cover or support infantry and cavalry wherever good roads were available.

It mounted a standard mark IV Maxim machine gun above the front wheels of a quadricycle. The Maxim gun took, with its readily accessed 1,000 rounds of ammunition, the place of a second rider. The driver operated the machine gun. Simms put an iron shield in front of the car for the driver's protection.

It soon became standard practice to mount machine guns on automobiles. This led to the design of the armoured car.

The first fully armoured car was designed by the Georgian engineer Mikheil Nakashidze. His design for a machine gun armed vehicle with 4-8mm of armour, combat weight of 3,000 kg, and a road speed of 50 km/hour was accepted by the Russian War Ministry for service with the Russian Army.

However, as no Russian plant was considered capable of producing the vehicle, manufacture was subcontracted to the French company Charron, Girardot et Voigt.

History

During World War II, various British and Commonwealth units, including the Long Range Desert Group (LRDG), the No. 1 Demolition Squadron or 'PPA' (Popski's Private Army), and the Special Air Service (SAS) were noted for their exploits in the deserts of Egypt, Libya and Chad using unarmoured motor vehicles, often fitted with machine guns.

Examples of LRDG vehicles include the Chevrolet WB 30 cwt Patrol Truck and the Willys MB Jeep.

The SAS' use of heavily armed Land Rovers continued post war with their use of Series 1 Land



Rovers and later Series 11A 1968 Land Rovers in the Dho-far Rebellion. The SAS painted their Land Rovers pink as it was found to provide excellent camouflage in the desert and they were nicknamed 'Pink Panthers' or Pinkies. The SAS also used a more modern Land Rover Desert Patrol Vehicle (DPV) during the First Gulf War.

Enter the technical

During the 1950s the Soviet, US and most Western Europe armies adopted the tracked Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC). These could carry troops into battle while offering protection from small arms fire.

In 1958, however, the newly-organized *Bundeswehr* adopted the *Schützenpanzer Lang HS.30* (also known simply as the SPz 12-3), which resembled a conventional tracked APC but carried a turret-mounted 20 mm auto-cannon that enabled it to engage other armoured vehicles. The SPz 12-3 is widely considered the first purpose-built Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV).

IFVs often serve both as the principal weapons system and as the mode of transport for a mechanized infantry unit.

Wheeled IFVs did not begin appearing until 1976, when the Ratel was introduced in response to a South African Army specification for a wheeled combat vehicle suited to the demands of rapid offensives combining maximum firepower and strategic mobility.

Unlike European IFVs, the Ratel was not designed to allow mounted infantrymen to fight in concert with tanks but rather to operate independently across



TOP TO BOTTOM: A tachanka armed with a PM M1910 machine gun in the Huliaipole museum
Simms' Motor Scout in June 1899.
French Charron, Girardot et Voight 1902.



STATUS SYMBOL: The Toyota Hilux is regarded by many as the 'King of the Technicals'.

vast distances.

Irregular armies, however, are faced with the problem that they do not have access to IFVs or even APCs. They needed a vehicle that was easy to obtain, easy to maintain, and that could negotiate rough terrain. It also had to provide mobility and firepower. Enter the technical.

Technicals consist of weapons mounted on a four-wheel drive pickup truck. Many pickups have been used as technicals including Ford Ranger and Mitsubishi Triton, but the most favoured are the Toyota Hilux and Toyota Land Cruiser. They are typically fitted with heavy machine guns (especially the DShK and M2 Browning), anti-aircraft artillery (usually the ZPU or ZU-23-2), recoilless rifles (usually the SPG-9 or M40 recoilless rifle), or multiple rocket launchers (such as the Type 63 multiple rocket launcher or the M-63 Plamen).

Optional add-ons include steel plates welded on for extra defence from small arms fire.

Top of the technicals

The technical has been used extensively in civil wars and conflicts in Somalia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, Lebanon, Libya, Syria, Yemen, and many other countries.

While just about any four-wheel drive pickup truck can be converted into a technical, there is one vehicle that rules the roost - the Toyota Hilux.

So much so that the 1987 border war between Chad and Libya was dubbed the "Great Toyota War".

In 1987, Chadian troops equipped with technicals drove the heavily mechanized Libyan army from the Aozou Strip. The vehicles were instrumental in the victory at the Battle of Fada, and were driven over 150 km into Libya to raid military bases. It was discovered that these light vehicles could ride through anti-tank minefields without detonating the mines when driven at speeds over 100 km/h. The Toyota War was unusual in that the force equipped with improvised vehicles prevailed over the force equipped with purpose-built

fighting vehicles.

The Toyota Hilux is popular for a number of reasons. First of all they are readily available. They have a rigid steel frame construction, and the body is fitted on top of that. They also have a high ground-clearance, making them ideal for rough terrain.

Because everyone uses them, there are parts easily available, and mechanics everywhere know how to fix them. You will also find Hiluxes with nearly 500,000 kilometres on the clock, and they are still running. They are also incredibly tough.

An experiment conducted by British TV show Top Gear in 2006 showed just how tough they can be.

The show's producers bought an 18-year-old Hilux diesel with 305,000 kilometres on the odometer for \$1,500. They then crashed it into a tree, submerged it in the ocean for five hours, dropped it from about three metres, tried to crush it under an RV, drove it through a portable building, hit it with a wrecking ball, and set it on fire. Finally they placed it on top of a 73 metre tower block that was then destroyed in a controlled demolition. When they dug it out of the rubble, all it took to get it running again was hammers, wrenches, and Q-20. They didn't even need spare parts.

The technical is so popular that US Special Forces even drive Toyota Tacomas (the chunkier, U.S. version of the Hilux) on some of their deployments.

The technical has appeared on modern battlefields for nearly 40 years and it looks as if they're here to stay.

Keeping pace

The pace stick is more than just a symbol of authority. It is also a valuable tool for drill instructors. By Paul Els.

A pace stick is a long stick usually carried by warrant officer and non-commissioned officer drill instructors in the British and Commonwealth armed forces as a symbol of authority and as an aid to military drill.

A pace stick usually consists of two pieces of wood, hinged at the top, and tapering towards the bottom, very similar to large wooden drafting compasses used on school blackboards. They are usually shod and fitted with highly polished brass. They can open so that the tips separate at fixed distances, corresponding to various lengths of marching pace, such as “double march”, “quick march”, “step short”, etc. When opened to the correct pace length, the pace stick can be held alongside the holder’s body by the hinge, with one leg of the stick vertical to the ground, and the other leg pointing forward. By twirling the stick while marching, the stick can be made to “walk” alongside its holder at the proper pace.

Otherwise, while on parade or when marching, it is normally carried tucked tightly under the left arm and parallel to the ground, with the left hand grasping the stick near the top.

The pace stick is usually permitted to be carried off the parade ground by the regimental sergeant major

alone; however, at a particular regiment’s discretion, other sergeants and sergeant-majors or equivalent may carry a pace stick if they are qualified drill instructors.

Within the police forces of Australia, the college sergeant and drill instructors of the Australian Federal Police, the drill sergeant of the Victoria Police Academy and the academy senior protocol officer of the New South Wales Police Academy, holding the rank of senior sergeant and hence the highest senior non-commissioned officer carries the pace stick as a badge of office.

The origin of the pace stick is

claimed by the Royal Regiment of Artillery, who used a “gunner’s stick” to measure the distance between guns in the field. It appeared more like a walking stick, with an ivory or silver knob on the end, and, unlike the modern pace stick, could only be opened a fixed distance. It was quickly adopted and adapted by the Infantry as an aid to drill.

Another stick carried by soldiers is the drill cane, regimental stick or swagger stick. This is a shorter cane, with polished metal ends. Sometimes these sticks are ornamented by a mock bullet casing, half at each end of the stick; these ornaments are often chromed, or left in their natural brass, but highly polished. They are carried on parade solely as an indicator of rank and authority by senior non-commissioned officers and warrant officers, and their use is generally governed (or restricted altogether) by the regimental sergeant major.

Pace sticks can be opened to specific distances, which each measure specific things:

RSM: A Regimental Sergeant Major of the Australian Army carries his pace stick onto parade.



Military Despatches Website

“Things don’t have to change the world to be important.”

Steve Jobs



Our aim is to make the Military Despatches website easy to use. Even more important to us, we want to make the website informative and interesting. The latest edition of the magazine will be available, as will all the previous editions. More over, there will be links to videos, websites, and articles that our readers may find interesting. So check out the website, bookmark it, and pass the URL on to everyone that you think may be interested.



We are currently in the process of updating the website and giving it a fresh new look.

Remember to check it out from time to time. And we welcome your suggestions as to how to bring you the best experience.





Veterans online

The pace stick is more than just a symbol of authority. It is also a valuable tool for drill instr

Charles Alfred Evenden was a soldier, cartoonist, and author. Yet he will be best remembered as the founder of the Memorable Order of Tin Hats, the Moths.

At the outbreak of World War I he joined the Australian Army and was posted to Egypt. As a member of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps he took part in the disastrous Gallipoli campaign - a campaign that would see more than 130,000 men die and over 261,000 being wounded.

During this campaign he was badly shell-shocked and evacuated to Malta. From there he was sent back to England where he was hospitalised. At the end of the war he returned to a farming life in Australia.

His farming efforts proved to be financially unsuccessful. He thus took up newspaper work in Melbourne. After a brief period, he decided to try newspaper life in South Africa. In 1923 he arrived in Durban where he joined the staff of The Natal Mercury as its cartoonist under the *nom-de-plume* of EVO. He remained with this paper from 1924 until 1953.

According to the Dictionary of South African Biography,

one night in 1927 after he and the editor of The Natal Mercury, RJ Kingston Russell, had seen a war film, Charles was persuaded to draw a cartoon on 'remembrance'.

The official MOTH website carries a cartoon captioned *Forgetfulness* and this led to the founding of the Order.

This is confirmed by the Eastern Province Herald which describes the cartoon as follows: "a bullet- and shrapnel-riddled Allied helmet awash in the ocean. In the background a steamship passes over the horizon, leaving the forgotten, ghostly form of a veteran forlornly wading through the water."

The concepts of True Comradeship, Mutual Help and Sound Memory were to become the inspiration of a remarkable organisation of ex-front line soldiers, of all ranks, known as the Memorable Order of Tin Hats (MOTH).

Charles, as the founder of the movement and its guiding inspiration was given the title of 'Moth O' - a position he held until his death. He was also known as Moth EVO.

The membership of the MOTH movement, under EVO's vigorous direction and leadership, grew into thousands.

Men and women of two world wars, of the Second Anglo Boer War (1899-1902) and even

those of former enemy forces streamed into its ranks. All who were prepared to keep alive the memories of comradeship and self-sacrifice - the finer virtues that war brings forth - were welcomed and made at home in shell holes with colourful and meaningful names of war-time memories and occasions.

The shellholes spread to the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and to Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). Membership was extended to those who had participated in the South African Border War.

The MOTH national headquarters is situated in Warriors Gate, Durban, which is modelled on a Norman design from a photograph given to EVO by Admiral Evans-of-the-Broke. In 1948 EVO opened Mount Memory - a monument to the missing and dead of the Second World War, in the foothills of the Drakensberg mountains.

Besides the headquarters there are a number of provincial dugouts. These are:

- Cape Western
- Eastern Cape
- Free State & Northern Cape
- Kwazulu Natal
- Platinum
- Southern Kwazulu Natal

Each provincial dugout has a number of district dugouts, and they in turn have a number of shellholes under them. Members will usually join a shellhole that is close to them.



**Charles Alfred Evenden - Moth O
1894 - 1961**

There was, however, one small problem. What about those that wanted to join the Moths but lived in a country or area where there were no shellholes?

The MOTH Cyber Shellhole was formed in April 2010, specifically for qualifying members who are living abroad or in remote areas of South Africa, where there is no nearby Shellhole. Qualification for membership is listed under Annexure B of the MOTH Constitution and General Standing Orders. You can view Annexure B by clicking [here](#).

Basically, the Cyber Shellhole is open to those that served in the military and have a campaign medal.

A regular Cyber News bulletin is posted on the Cyber Shellhole web site (www.cybershellhole.org.za) where new members are welcomed, together with any other interesting news items, photos or discussion articles. Members are encouraged to communicate

with fellow Cyber members as well as with any other members of the Order.

What if you are a military veteran that served or currently serves in the military and you want to become a member? The problem is that you do not have a campaign medal.

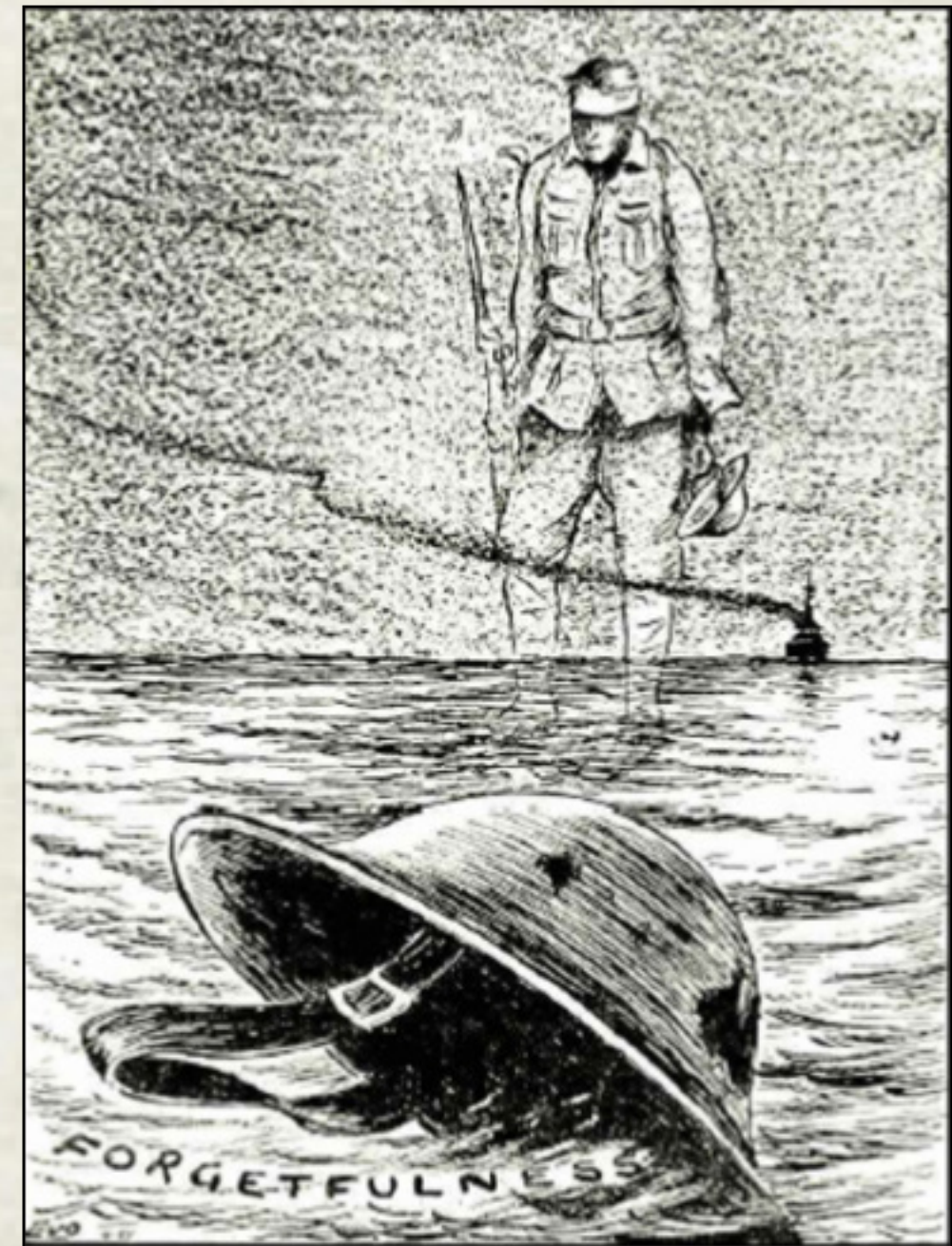
Well then you can become an affiliate member of the Cyber-shellhole.

How about if you have never served in the military. Maybe you are a family member of someone that is a military veteran (wife, husband, son, daugh-

ter, etc), or maybe you are interesting in supporting military veterans. Then you can become a Friend of the Cyber Shellhole.

If you are interested in become a member of the Memorable Order of Tin Hats and the Cyber Shellhole, or an affiliate or friend of the Cyber Shellhole, or if you want to find out more details, drop us an e-mail at matt@cybershellhole.org.za and we will be in touch.

We look forward to hearing from you.



INSPIRATION: The cartoon that was to become the inspiration behind the formation of the Memorable Order of Tin Hats.

Rank Structure - Germany

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 German Bundeswehr.

The Bundeswehr (Federal Defence) is the unified armed forces of Germany and their civil administration and procurement authorities. The Bundeswehr is divided into a military part (armed forces or *Streitkräfte*) and a civil part with the armed forces administration (*Wehrverwaltung*). The military part of the federal defence force consists of the *Heer* (Army), the *Marine* (Navy), the *Luftwaffe* (Air Force), the *Streitkräftebasis* (Joint Support Service), the *Zentraler Sanitätsdienst der Bundeswehr* (Joint Medical Service), and the *Cyber- und Informationsraum* (Cyber and Information Space Command). The rank insignia of the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Germany indicate rank and branch of service in the *Heer* (Army), *Luftwaffe* (Air Force), or the *Marine* (Navy). They are regulated by the “presidential order on rank designation and military uniform”. The ‘ZDv-37/10 – Anzugsordnung für Soldaten der Bundeswehr’ (ZDv: Zentrale Dienstvorschrift - Central Service Provision) gives the dress order and design variations. Further, the Federal Office of Equipment, IT, and In-Service Support of the Bundeswehr (*Bundesamt für Ausrüstung, Informationstechnik und Nutzung der Bundeswehr*) provides numerous details.

Heer (German Army) Mannschaften (Personnel)



Soldat
(Soldier)



Gefreiter
(Exempted Man)



Obergefreiter
(Leading Exempted Man)



Hauptgefreiter
(Principal Exempted Man)



Stabsgefreiter
(Staff Exempted Man)



Oberstabsgefreiter
(Leading Staff Exempted Man)

Unteroffiziere (Subofficers)

Unteroffiziere “ohne Portepee” (Non-commissioned officers “without swordknot”)



Unteroffizier
(Subofficer)



Stabsunteroffizier
(Staff subofficer)

Unteroffiziere (Subofficers)

Unteroffiziere “mit Portepee” (Non-commissioned officers “with swordknot”)



Feldwebel
(Field usher)



Oberfeldwebel
(Leading field usher)



Hauptfeldwebel
(Principal field usher)

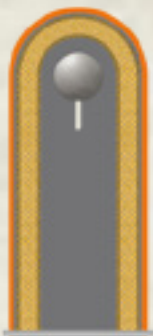


Stabsfeldwebel
(Staff field usher)



Oberstabsfeldwebel
(Leading Staff field usher)

Officer Cadet



Fahnenjunker
(Ensign esquire)



Fähnrich
(Ensign)



Oberfähnrich
(Leading ensign)

Offiziere (Officers)



Leutnant
(Lieutenant)



Oberleutnant
(Principal lieutenant)



Hauptmann
(Captain)



Stabshauptmann
(Leading captain)



Major
(Major)



Oberstleutnant
(Lieutenant colonel)



Oberst
(Colonel)



Brigadegeneral
(Brigadier general)



Generalmajor
(Major general)



Generalleutnant
(Lieutenant general)



General
(General)

Luftwaffe (German Air Force)
Mannschaften (Personnel)



Flieger
(Airman)



Gefreiter
(Exempted Man)



Obergefreiter
(Leading Exempted Man)



Hauptgefreiter
(Principal Exempted Man)



Stabsgefreiter
(Staff Exempted Man)



Oberstabsgefreiter
(Leading Staff Exempted Man)

Unteroffiziere (Subofficers)
Unteroffiziere "ohne Portepee" (Non-commissioned officers "without swordknot")



Unteroffizier
(Subofficer)



Stabsunteroffizier
(Staff subofficer)

Unteroffiziere (Subofficers)
Unteroffiziere "mit Portepee" (Non-commissioned officers "with swordknot")



Feldwebel
(Field usher)



Oberfeldwebel
(Leading field usher)



Hauptfeldwebel
(Principal field usher)



Stabsfeldwebel
(Staff field usher)



Oberstabsfeldwebel
(Leading Staff field usher)

Officer Cadet



Fahnenjunker
(Ensign esquire)



Fähnrich
(Ensign)



Oberfähnrich
(Leading ensign)

Offiziere (Officers)



Leutnant
(Lieutenant)



Oberleutnant
(Principal lieutenant)



Hauptmann
(Captain)



Stabshauptmann
(Leading captain)



Major
(Major)



Oberstleutnant
(Lieutenant colonel)



Oberst
(Colonel)



Brigadegeneral
(Brigadier general)



Generalmajor
(Major general)



Generalleutnant
(Lieutenant general)



General
(General)

Marine (German Navy) Mannschaften (Personnel)



Matrose
(Sailor)



Gefreiter
(Exempted Man)



Obergefreiter
(Leading Exempted Man)



Hauptgefreiter
(Principal Exempted Man)



Stabsgefreiter
(Staff Exempted Man)



Oberstabsgefreiter
(Leading Staff Exempted Man)

Unteroffiziere (Subofficers)

Unteroffiziere "ohne Portepee" (Non-commissioned officers "without swordknot")



Maat
(Ship's mate)



Obermaat
(Leading mate)

Unteroffiziere (Subofficers)

Unteroffiziere "mit Portepee" (Non-commissioned officers "with swordknot")



Bootsmann
(Boatswain)



Oberbootsmann
(Leading boatswain)



Hauptbootsmann
(Principal Boatswain)



Stabsbootsmann
(Staff boatswain)



Oberstabsbootsmann
(Leading staff boatswain)

Officer Cadet



Seekadett
(Sea Cadet)



Fähnrich zur See
(Ensign-at-Sea)



Oberfähnrich zur See
(Leading ensign-at-sea)

Offiziere (Officers)



Leutnant zur See
(Lieutenant-at-sea)



Oberleutnant zur See
(Principal lieutenant-at-sea)



Kapitänleutnant
(Captain-lieutenant)



Stabskapitänleutnant
(Staff captain-lieutenant)



Korvettenkapitän
(Corvette Captain)



Fregattenkapitän
(Frigate captain)



Kapitän zur See
(Captain-at-Sea)



Flottillenadmiral
(Flotilla admiral)



Konteradmiral
(Counter admiral)

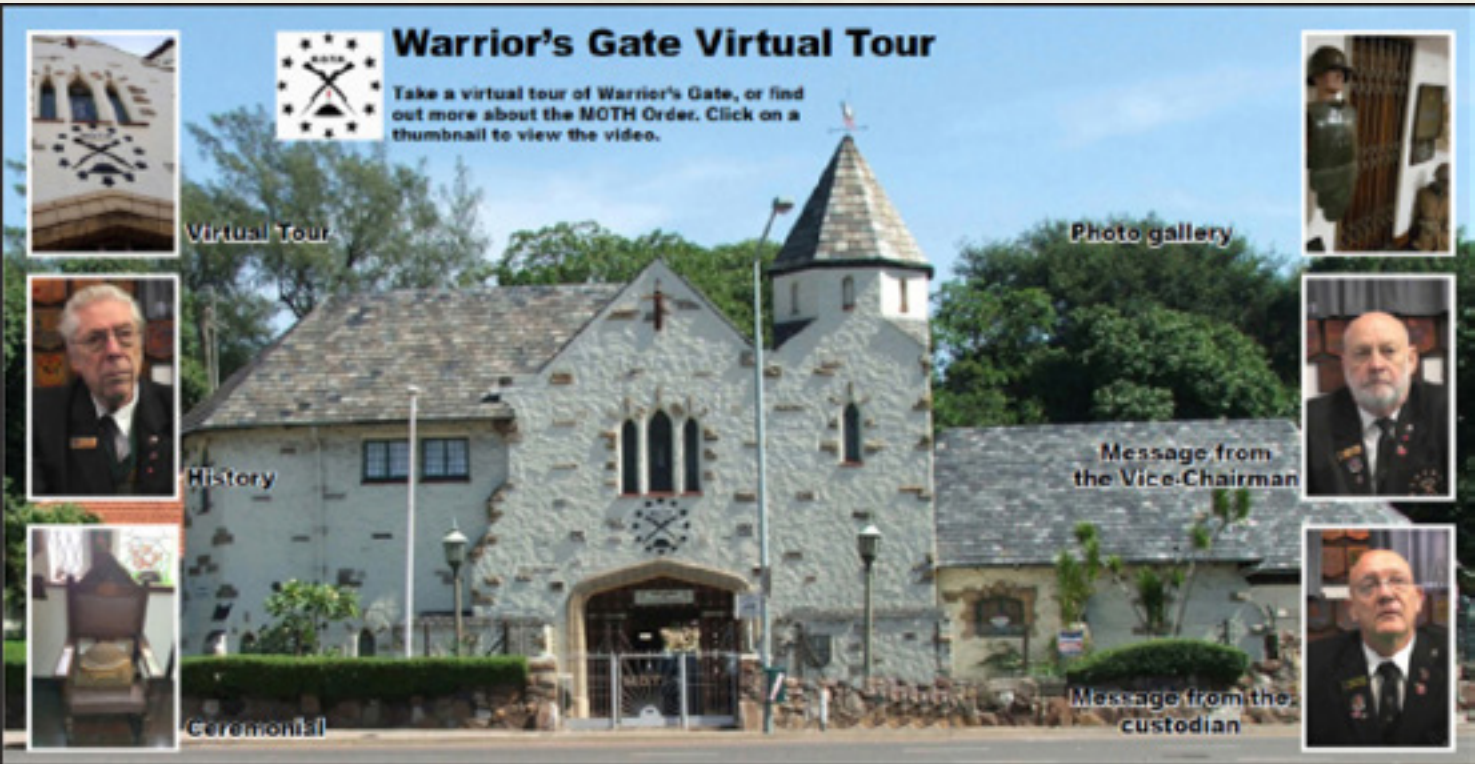


Vizeadmiral
(Vice admiral)



Admiral
(Admiral)

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



A matter of survival - Hunting Pt II

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 hunting.

I'm pretty sure that most of us are familiar with the story about David and Goliath.

For those of you that didn't pay attention during Sunday school, let me refresh your memory.

Goliath was a champion of the Philistines. He was described as a giant and, according to the Bible, stood at 2,97 metres tall (9 feet six inches). David was about 16 years old.

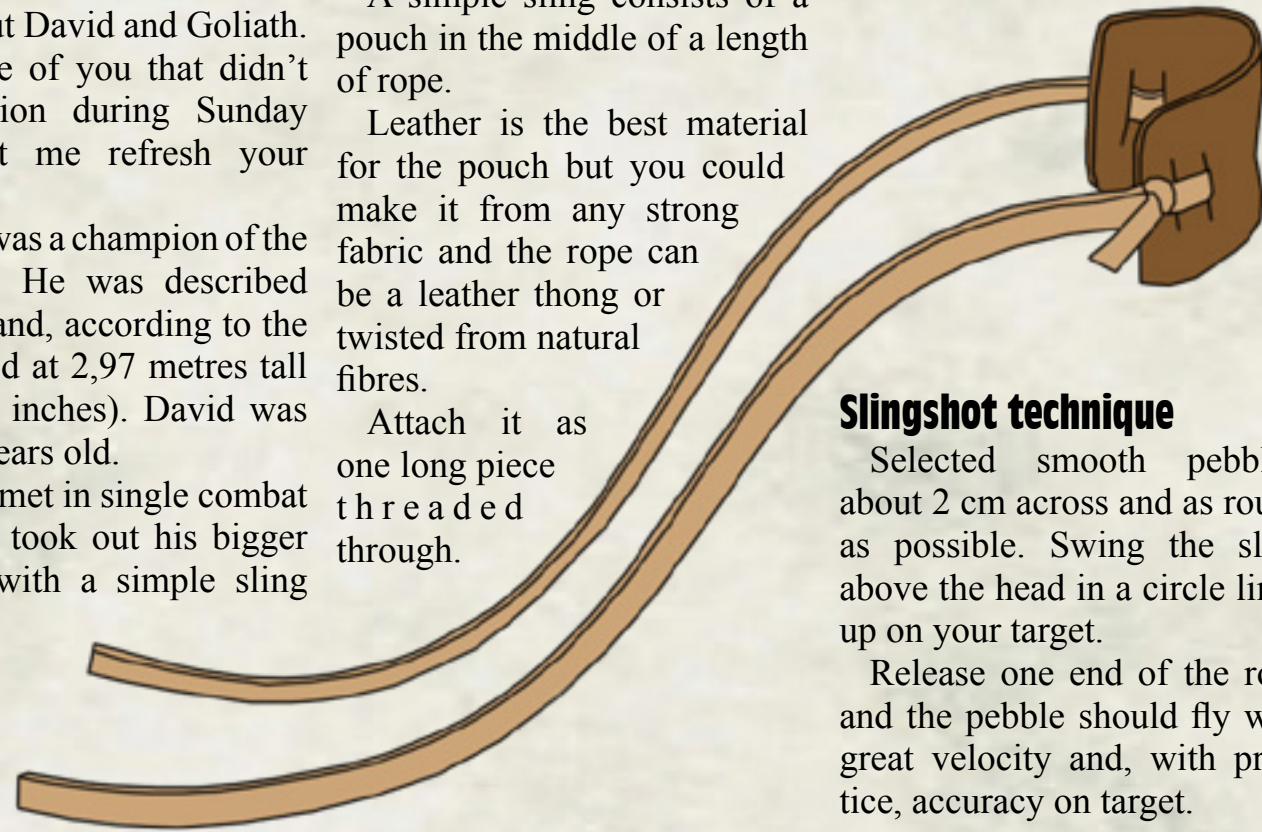
The two met in single combat and David took out his bigger opponent with a simple sling and shot.

Sling and shot

A simple sling consists of a pouch in the middle of a length of rope.

Leather is the best material for the pouch but you could make it from any strong fabric and the rope can be a leather thong or twisted from natural fibres.

Attach it as one long piece threaded through.



Slingshot technique

Selected smooth pebbles, about 2 cm across and as round as possible. Swing the sling above the head in a circle lined up on your target.

Release one end of the rope and the pebble should fly with great velocity and, with practice, accuracy on target.

Catapult

What schoolboy hasn't, at some stage, made himself a catapult? The Roman's used giant mechanical ones as devastating siege weapons.

You need a strong forked stick, preferably with some pliability, and a piece of elastic material. A piece of inner-tube from a car or bicycle tyre is idea for this.

Make a pouch for the centre of the elastic and thread or sew it into position as for the sling.

Tie the ends to each side of your forked stick and use a stone as your missile.

When using either the sling or catapult against birds, load several pebbles at once. This will give it a shotgun effect and give you more of a chance to hit your target.



Bola

A weapon that the Eskimos use against birds, the bola can be very effective.

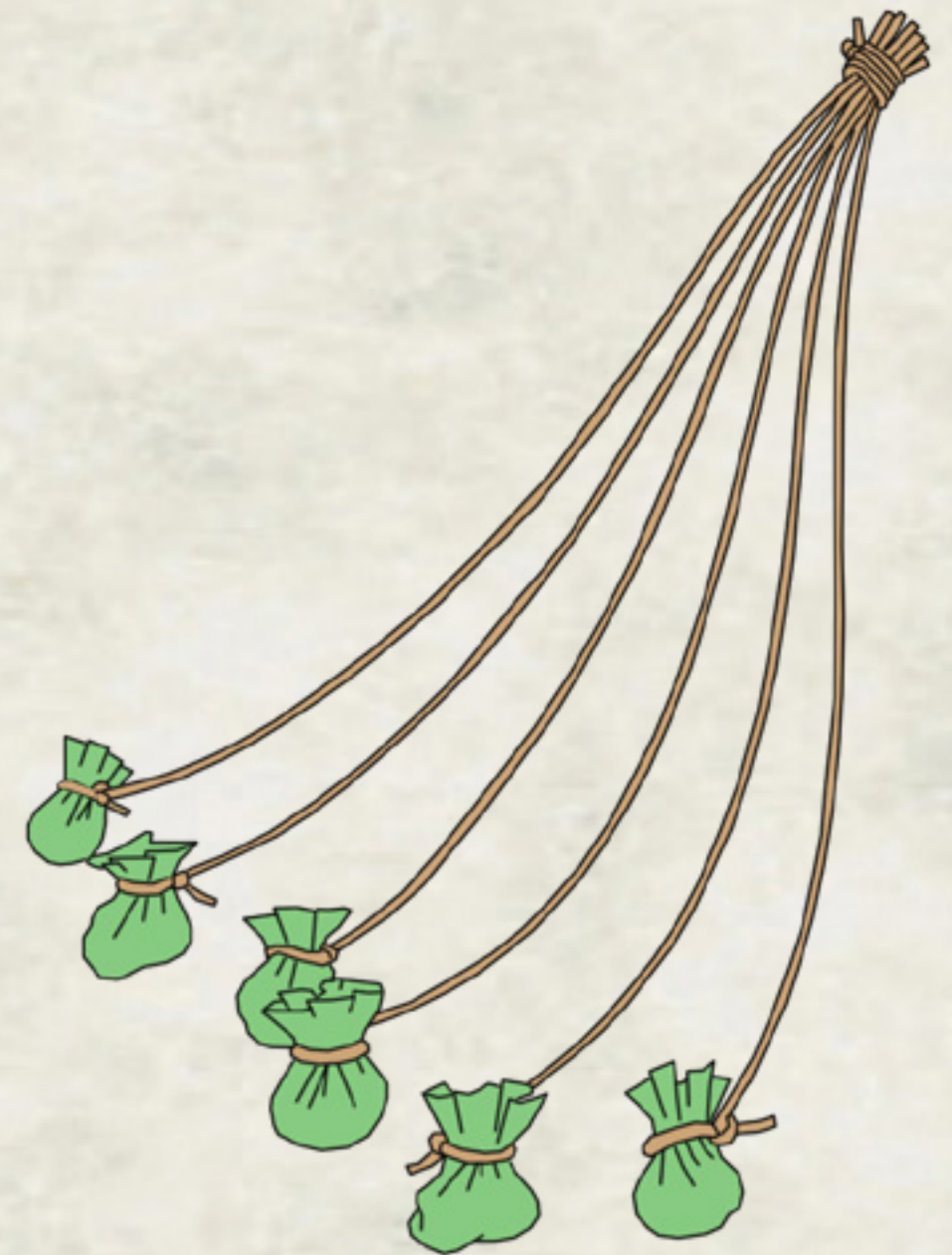
Stones are wrapped in circles of material and 90cm lengths of string is knotted around each. The other ends of the string are firmly tied together.

Held at the joined end, they are twirled around the head. When released they fly through the air, covering a wide area.

The Gauchos of South America use the same weapon and variations have been used in combat.

The bola wraps around a bird in flight or tangles around an animals legs or neck, bringing it to the ground and giving the hunter a chance to kill it.

You will need to practice with it though. The first time I attempted to use a bola I managed to get it wrapped tightly around my own neck. Not as much fun as you may think.



Spears

A staff is a good aid to walking and by sharpening one end it can be turned into a useful thrusting or throwing weapon.

A straight staff about 1.80 metres long is ideal for a jabbing spear. About 90 cm makes a more manageable throwing spear.

To make spear more effective add a point of flint, shaped to sharpness, or a flattened cone of tin set into the end.

You can also securely bind a knife onto the end of the spear. However, if you only have one knife do not risk it. It could easily be lost or damaged.





Spear thrower

A spear thrower can be made from a piece of wood and it will give greater accuracy and range.

To make the thrower choose a tree limb that is at least twice the width of your spear and with a branch stump which can become the forward slopping handle.

Split down the centre using a knife as a wedge. Gough out a smooth channel for the spear.

Make sure it is cleanly cut, leaving a solid portion as a buffer.

Experiment to match the thrower length to that of the spear and to suit your own balance.

Held at shoulder length, aim the spear at the target, bringing down the holder sharply for-

wards and then downwards.

As you move downwards the butt of the groove adds to the thrust behind the spear.

Practice makes perfect

You will need to practice making a sling, catapult, bola, spear and spear thrower.

Above all, you will need to practice using them and improving your accuracy.

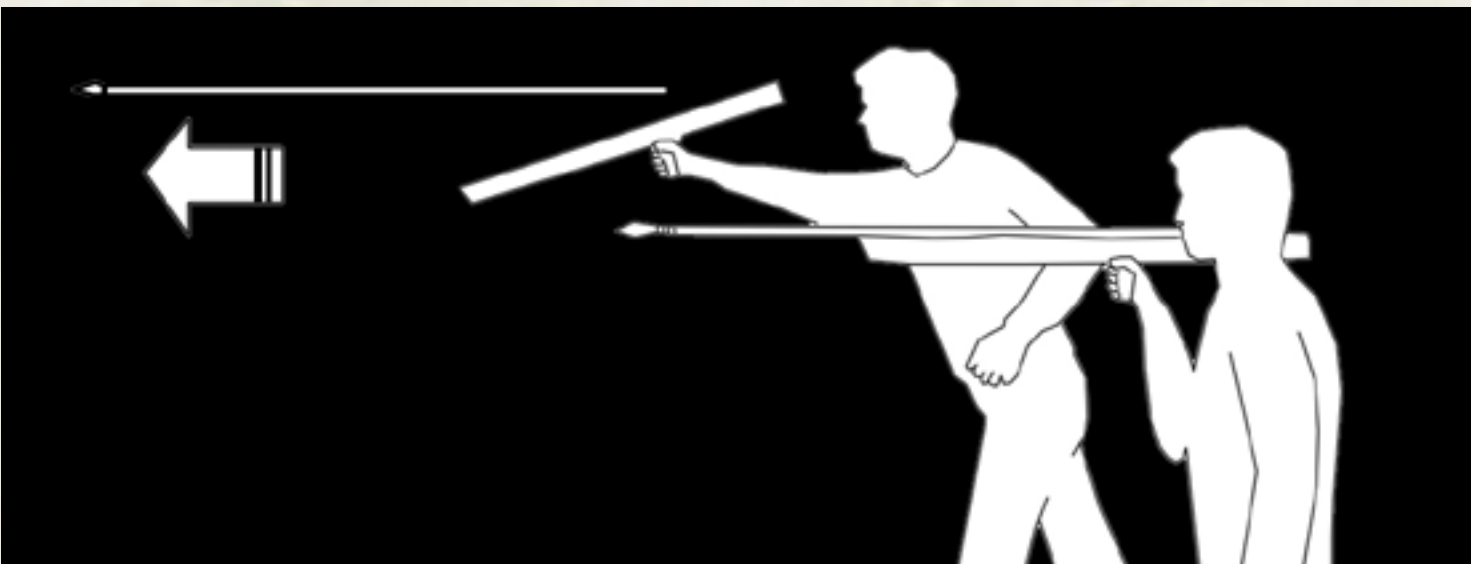
The last thing you want is to find yourself in a survival situation and then try and figure out how to do things.

When you start learning to use any of these weapons it came be very frustrating. The missiles tend to go in every direction but the one intended. The good news is that with a bit of practice and trial and error, your accuracy will improve and

you will become more proficient.



In the next issue we will look at hunting and trapping birds. We will also look at animal dangers and look at some of the dos and don'ts of hunting.



Armoured Warfare Studies Group



You are hereby cordially invited to attend the meetings of the Armoured Warfare Studies Group. The aim of the AWSG is to provide in-depth technical presentations for both layman and expert alike, as well as discussions on all aspects of Armoured Warfare, from Ancient Times to the Present. Topics will include technical discussions on the history and development of the use of armour, tanks, armoured cars, armoured trains, battleships, submarines, ground attack aircraft and helicopters as well as the use of strategy, tactics, armoured battles, personalities etc., with armour as the main focus.

Presentations confirmed are: (Note – order of presentations may vary)

Thursday 22nd August 2019: Marius vd Merwe - Operation Bagration - the destruction of the German Army Group Centre, June 1944 – 75th anniversary.

Thursday 19th September 2019: Pierre De Villiers - The Ju87G Kanonenvogel (Stuka) ground-attack/ tank-buster aircraft of WW2.

Thursday 17th October 2019: Johan vd Berg - The PzKpfw VI Tiger I – Part 2.

Thursday 21st November 2019: Marius vd Merwe – The M-4 Sherman Tank-Pt 3.

Who will benefit? Anyone interested in Military History and armoured warfare. Modellers (encouraged to bring along their models for display and demonstrations), Wargamers, Video Gamers, military veterans and serving members, researchers, students, etc. Come share your knowledge with us!

Venue: Regiment Orange River hanger, Fort Ikapa, Wingfield.

Directions: From the N1, take the M7 Jakes Gerwel Goodwood southbound. After 1,1 km, turn left (East) on the M25 Frans Conradie Drive. After 500m, turn left (North) into Townsend St at the first set of traffic lights. Follow Townsend St to Ft. Ikapa Military base. Sign in at the guardhouse. Follow the road to the 1st TJunction, turn right. Turn right again at the 2nd turn to the right and 1st right again and follow the road towards the ROR signpost.

Dress Code – Informal.

Cash bar available.

Time: 7 Pm for 7:30 (until 10:15 pm).

First meeting free of charge. R20-00 for members. Please support our hosts!

Enquiries: 082 3235542/ 082 5790386. E-mail: i2awsgct@outlook.com

Military Strength

In the second of a series of articles, we examine the small arms used by the ten strongest current military forces.

Last month we looked at the ten strongest current military forces. This month we are going to take a look at the small arms that each of these forces use, including some of those issued to special units within these military forces.



10. Germany

Total military personnel – 210,305

Heckler & Koch P8

The P8 replaced the P7 as the standard issue side arm for the *Bundeswehr* (German Armed Forces).

- Manufacturer: Heckler & Koch
- Weight: 748 g
- Length: 194 mm



- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Action: Short recoil, DA/SA, DA/DAO
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 15 round detachable box magazine

Heckler & Koch P12

The P12 is used by German Special Forces units such as KSK.

- Manufacturer: Heckler & Koch
- Weight: 789 g
- Length: 201 mm



- Cartridge: .45 ACP
- Action: Short recoil, DA/SA, DA/DAO
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 12 round detachable box magazine

Heckler & Koch P30

The P30 replaced the P7 and is used by the Military Police and special forces.

- Manufacturer: Heckler & Koch
- Weight: 748 g
- Length: 194 mm
- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum

- Action: Short recoil, DA/SA, DA/DAO
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 15 round detachable box magazine



9. Turkey

Total military personnel – 891,300

Yavuz 16

The Yavuz 16 is the primary service pistol of the Turkish Land Forces and is a Turkish-made copy of the Beretta 92F.

- Manufacturer: Unknown
- Weight: 950 g

- Length: 217 mm
- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 15 round detachable box magazine



Sarsılmaz Kılınc 2000

The Sarsılmaz Kılınc 2000 is the secondary service pistol and is a Turkish-made copy of the CZ 75.

- Manufacturer: Sarsılmaz Silah Sanayi
- Weight: 950 g
- Length: 189 mm

- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Action: Short recoil, locked breech
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 13 round detachable box magazine

Glock 17

The Glock 17 is used by infantry commando brigades.

- Manufacturer: Glock Ges. m.b.H.
- Weight: 625 g
- Length: 186 mm

- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 17 round detachable box magazine



SIG Sauer P226

The SIG Sauer P226 is used by Turkish special forces.

- Manufacturer: SIG Sauer
- Weight: 964 g
- Length: 196 mm
- Cartridge: .40 S&W
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Action: Mechanically locked,

- recoil operated (DA/SA)
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 15 round detachable box magazine





8. United Kingdom

Total military personnel – 157,500

L131A1

Adopted as the new standard issue pistol to replace the L9A1 Browning, and eventually, the SIG Sauer P226.

- Manufacturer: Glock Ges. m.b.H.
- Weight: 625 g



- Length: 186 mm
- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 17 round detachable box magazine

L105A1

Variants of the SIG Sauer P226 were purchased as an interim weapon to replace the L9A1 Browning under an Urgent Operational Requirement for use in Afghanistan. Although purchased as an interim weapon, they will continue to be used until the end of their life cycles.

- Manufacturer: SIG Sauer
- Weight: 964 g
- Length: 196 mm
- Cartridge: .40 S&W
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Action: Mechanically locked, recoil operated (DA/SA)
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 15 round detachable box magazine



7. Republic of Korea

Total military personnel – 3,699,000

K5

The standard issue pistol is the Daewoo Precision Industries K5.

- Manufacturer: S&T Motiv
- Weight: 734 g
- Length: 178 mm
- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum

- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 13 or 15 round detachable box magazine



USP9 Tactical

The USP9 Tactical is used by South Korean special forces.

- Manufacturer: Heckler & Koch
- Weight: 771 g
- Length: 194 mm
- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum



bellum

- Action: Short recoil, DA/SA, DA/DAO
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 15 round detachable box magazine



Jericho 941

The Jericho 941 is used by South Korean special forces.

- Manufacturer: Israel Weapons Industries
- Weight: 1,050 g
- Length: 207 mm
- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum

bellum

- Action: Short recoil
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 16 round detachable box magazine



6. Japan

Total military personnel – 310,457

SCK/Minebea

Made under license by Minebea, the SCK/Minebea is a Japanese-made copy of the SIG Sauer P220. It is the standard small arm of the Japan Self-Defence Force..

- Manufacturer: Minebea
- Weight: 862 g
- Length: 198 mm

- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Action: Locked Breech, Short Recoil
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 8 round detachable box magazine





5. France

Total military personnel – 426,265

MAC 50

The MAC 50 has been in service since 1953 but is being replaced by the PAMAS G1.

- Manufacturer: Manufacture d'armes de Châtellerault
- Weight: 860 g
- Length: 195 mm
- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum



- Action: Short recoil, locked breech, dropping barrel
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 9 round detachable box magazine



PAMAS G1

The PAMAS G1 entered into operational service in 1989 with the national *gendarmerie*, in 1992 with the Air Force, and in 1999 for the Army and Navy. It has replaced the MAC 50 as the standard issue pistol.

- Manufacturer: Unknown
- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 17 round detachable box magazine

- Weight: 950 g
- Length: 217 mm
- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 15 round detachable box magazine



Glock 17

The Glock 17 is used by the French special forces.

- Manufacturer: Glock Ges. m.b.H.
- Weight: 625 g
- Length: 186 mm

USP9 Tactical

The USP9 Tactical is used by French Army special forces.

- Manufacturer: Heckler & Koch
- Weight: 771 g
- Length: 194 mm
- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum



- Action: Short recoil, DA/SA, DA/DAO
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 15 round detachable box magazine



4. India

Total military personnel – 2,598,921

Pistol Auto 1A

Standard side-arm of the Indian Army, manufactured under license. It is an Indian-made copy of the Browning HP.

- Manufacturer: Rifle Factory Ishapore
- Weight: 935 g
- Length: 205 mm

- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Action: Short recoil operated
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 13 round detachable box magazine



SIG Sauer P226

The SIG Sauer P226 is the standard issue side-arm of the National Security Guard.

- Manufacturer: Unknown
- Weight: 964 g
- Length: 196 mm
- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum

- Action: Mechanically locked, recoil operated (DA/SA)
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 15 round detachable box magazine



Glock 17

The Glock 17 is used by the Indian special forces.

- Manufacturer: Glock Ges. m.b.H.
- Weight: 625 g
- Length: 186 mm

- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 17 round detachable box magazine



FN Five-Seven

The FN Five-seven is used by the Indian Special Protection Group.

- Manufacturer: FN Herstal
- Weight: 610 g
- Length: 208 mm

- Cartridge: FN 5.7×28mm
- Action: Delayed blowback
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 1,510 metres
- Feed system: 20 round detachable box magazine



3. China

Total military personnel – 2,545,000

QSZ-92

Designed by Norinco, the QSZ-92 is set to become the standard issue side-arm of the PLA.

- Manufacturer: Changfeng Machine Shop
- Weight: 760 g
- Length: 190 mm



- Cartridge: 5.8×21 mm DA-P92
- Action: Short recoil, locked breech, rotating barrel lock
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 20 round detachable box magazine

QSZ 11

The QSZ 11 is issued to officers in the PLA.

- Manufacturer: Unknown
- Weight: 600 g
- Length: 153 mm
- Cartridge: 5.8×22 DCV05

- Cartridge: 5.8×21 mm
- Action: Delayed blowback
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 20 round detachable box magazine

QX-04

The QX-04 is used mainly for police work.

- Manufacturer: Changfeng Machinery
- Weight: 930 g
- Length: 195 mm



- Action: Double action
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 8 round detachable box magazine



- Cartridge: 7.62×25 mm
- Action: Delayed blowback
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 15 round detachable box magazine



It is interesting to note that the PLA makes use of no less than 10 different types of side-arm. Besides the four mentioned above, they also use the P12, P19, LP5, CF-07, Type 84 and Type 77 pistols.



2. Russia

Total military personnel – 3,586,128

MP-443 Grach

The MP-443 Grach was adopted as a replacement for the Makarov PMM in the Armed Forces.

- Manufacturer: Izhevsk Mechanical Plant
- Weight: 950 g
- Length: 198 mm



- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Action: Short recoil, locked breech
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 18 round detachable box magazine



Makarov PMM

The Makarov and later Makarov PMM has been the main service side-arm since 1951. It is still in service.

- Manufacturer: Izhevsk Mechanical Plant
- Weight: 730 g
- Length: 161.5 mm

- Cartridge: 7.62×43 SP-16
- Action: Double action
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 6 round detachable box magazine

- Cartridge: 9×18mm Makarov
- Action: Blowback
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 12 round detachable box magazine



PSS-2 Silent

The PSS-2 silent pistol is used by the Russian special forces.

- Manufacturer: TsNIIToch-Mash
- Weight: 1 kg
- Length: 195 mm



GSh-18

The GSh-18 is another pistol that will replace the Makarov PMM in the Armed Forces.

- Manufacturer: KBP Instrument Design Bureau
- Weight: 590 g
- Length: 184 mm

- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Action: Short recoil
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 18 round detachable box magazine



1. United States

Total military personnel – 4,397,128

M17

On January 19 2017, it was announced that a customized version of the SIG Sauer P320 had won the United States Army's XM17 Modular Handgun System competition. The full-sized model will be known as the M17 and the smaller-sized carry model will be known as the M18. It will replace the M9.

- Manufacturer: SIG Sauer, Inc.
- Weight: 836 g
- Length: 203 mm
- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Action: Short recoil
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 17 round detachable box magazine



Mk 28

The Glock 17 is known as the Mk 28 and is in limited use by US Special Forces.

- Manufacturer: Glock Ges. m.b.H.
- Weight: 625 g
- Length: 186 mm

- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 17 round detachable box magazine



Mk 23

The Heckler & Koch MK 23 is known as the USSOCOM MARK 23 in the US military. It is in limited use with the US Special Forces.

- Manufacturer: Heckler & Koch
- Weight: 2.29 kg with suppressor

- Length: 421 mm with suppressor
- Cartridge: .45 ACP
- Action: Short recoil, DA/SA
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50m
- Maximum firing range: 100m
- Feed system: 12 round detachable box magazine



It is interesting to note that the US military uses no fewer than 11 different types of side-arm. Most are in limited use by their special forces. Besides the three mentioned above, they also use the M9, M11, Mk 24, Mk 25, Mk 26, Mk 27 and Mk 29 pistols. Although developed in 1911, the M1911 is still in limited service.

Although not often used in combat, the side-arm is still an important part of the military arsenal.



Otto Skorzeny

Obersturmbannführer in the Waffen-SS, war criminal, military advisor to the Egyptian Army, bodyguard to Eva Person, and possibly a member of the Israeli intelligence agency, Mossad. Otto Skorzeny was all this and more.

Otto Skorzeny was one of those larger than life characters, and he certainly looked the part. He stood at 1.92 metres (6' 4") and his face sported a deep scar on his left cheek from a fencing duel.

During World War II he specialised in guerrilla warfare and commando-style raids. He mounted numerous operations with varying degrees of success that involved either the rescue, kidnapping, assassination, or defence of numerous wartime leaders in Europe.

As a result, he became Hitler's favorite commando and dubbed "the most dangerous man in Europe" by the Allies.

Early life

Otto Skorzeny was born on 12 June 1908 in Vienna, Austria. His family, who were originally from a village called Skorzęcin in Poland, had a long history of military service.

He was regarded as a bright young man and in addition to his native German, he spoke excellent French and was proficient in English.

He was a noted fencer as member of a German-national *Burschenschaft* as a university student in Vienna. He engaged in fifteen personal combats. The tenth resulted in a wound that left a dramatic duelling scar - known in academic fencing as a *Schmiss* (German for "smite" or "hit") - on his cheek.

In 1931 Skorzeny joined the Austrian Nazi organization and soon became a member of the Nazi SA.

A charismatic figure, Skorzeny played a minor role in the *Anschluss* on 12 March 1938, when he saved the Austrian

President Wilhelm Miklas from being shot by Austrian Nazis.

Joining the military

In September 1939 Skorzeny had been working as a civil engineer when Germany invaded Poland.

He immediately volunteered for service in the *Luftwaffe* (German Air Force) as he was keen on becoming a pilot.

The *Luftwaffe* turned him down for two reasons. First of all he was just too tall, and secondly, at the age of 31, he was considered too old for aircrew training.

Skorzeny then joined the *Schutzstaffel* (SS) and became a member of Hitler's bodyguard regiment, the *Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler* (LSSAH).

Skorzeny took part in the invasion of the Soviet Union with the SS Division Das Reich and subsequently fought in several battles on the Eastern Front. I

n October 1941, he was in charge of a "technical section" of the German forces during the Battle of Moscow. His

mission was to seize important buildings of the Communist Party, including the NKVD headquarters at Lubyanka, and the central telegraph office and other high priority facilities, before they could be destroyed.

He was also ordered to capture the sluices of the Moscow-Volga Canal because Hitler wanted to turn Moscow into a huge artificial lake by opening them. The missions were cancelled as the German forces failed to capture the Soviet capital.

Unconventional warfare

In December 1942, Skorzeny was severely wounded. He was hit in the back of the head by shrapnel and was evacuated to the rear for treatment. He was awarded his first Iron Cross.

While recuperating from his injuries he was given a staff role in Berlin, where he developed his ideas on unconventional commando warfare, reading everything he could on unconventional warfare and guerrilla tactics.

Skorzeny's proposals were to develop units specialized in such warfare, including partisan-like fighting deep behind enemy lines, fighting in enemy uniform, sabotage attacks, etc.

In April 1943 Skorzeny's name was put forward by Ernst Kaltenbrunner, the new head of the RSHA, and Skorzeny met with Walter Schellenberg, head of *Amt VI, Ausland-SD* (the SS foreign intelligence service department of the RSHA).

Schellenberg charged Skorzeny with command of the

schools organized to train operatives in sabotage, espionage, and paramilitary techniques. Skorzeny was appointed commander of the recently created *Waffen Sonderverband z.b.V. Friedenthal* stationed near Berlin (the unit was later renamed *SS Jagdverband 502*, and in November 1944 again to SS Combat Unit "Centre", expanding ultimately to five battalions).

The unit's first mission, code-named Operation François, was in mid-1943. Skorzeny sent a group by parachute into Iran to make contact with the dissident mountain tribes to encourage them to sabotage Allied supplies of material being sent to the Soviet Union via the Trans-Iranian Railway.

However, commitment among the rebel tribes was suspect, and Operation François was deemed a failure.

Operation Oak

Skorzeny's next operation was anything but a failure. In fact it went on to establish his reputation.

On the night between 24 and 25 July 1943, a few weeks after the Allied invasion of Sicily and bombing of Rome, the Italian Grand Council of Fascism voted a motion of no confidence (*Ordine del Giorno Grandi*) against Mussolini. On the same day, the king replaced him with Marshal Pietro Badoglio and had him arrested.

Hitler's common procedure was to give similar orders to competing organisations within the German military. So

he ordered Skorzeny to track Mussolini, and simultaneously ordered the paratroop General Kurt Student to execute the liberation.

The raid was an overwhelming success and ten minutes after the beginning of the raid, Mussolini left the hotel, accompanied by the German soldiers.

Subsequently Mussolini was to be flown out by a meanwhile arrived Fieseler Fi 156 STOL plane. Although under the given circumstances the small plane was overloaded, Skorzeny insisted to accompany Mussolini, thus endangering the success of the mission.

After a extremely dangerous but successful lift-off, they flew to Pratica di Mare. There they continued immediately, flying in a Heinkel He 111 to Vienna, where Mussolini stayed overnight at the Hotel Imperial. The next day he was flown to Munich and on September 14 he met Hitler at the Wolf's Lair Führer Headquarters near Rastenburg.

Skorzeny's audacious plan had paid off. The Fuhrer, delighted with Skorzeny, awarded him the Knights Cross. The plan even impressed Winston Churchill.

Operation Panzerfaust

Operation Long Jump was a planned operation to assassinate the 'Big Three' - Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin - during the 1943 Tehran Conference. The plot was uncovered by Russian intelligence before its inception. Later Skorzeny de-



nied any plan existed, claiming that it was nothing more than Russian propaganda.

Unternehmen Rösselsprung (Operation Knight's Leap) was a plan in May 1944 to capture Yugoslav Partisan leader Josip Broz, better known as Tito, alive.

In October 1944, Hitler sent Skorzeny to Hungary after receiving word that Hungary's Regent, Admiral Miklós Horthy, was secretly negotiating with the Red Army. The surrender of Hungary would have cut off the million German troops still fighting in the Balkan peninsula.

Skorzeny, in a daring "snatch" codenamed Operation Panzerfaust (known as *Unternehmen Eisenfaust* (Iron First) in Germany), kidnapped Horthy's son Miklós Horthy Jr. and forced his father to resign as head of state. A pro-Nazi government under dictator Ferenc Szálasi was then installed in Hungary.

In April 1945, after German and Hungarian forces had already been driven out of Hungary, Szálasi and his Arrow Cross Party-based forces continued the fight in Austria and Slovakia.

The success of the operation earned Skorzeny promotion to *Obersturmbannführer* (Lieutenant Colonel).

Operation Griffin

Skorzeny's most infamous mission was *Unternehmen Greif* (Griffin), which was part of Hitler's last-ditch attempt at turning the tables on the Allies. His key objective required the capture of key bridges over the



SAFE AND SOUND: In this photo, taken on 12 September 1943, Otto Skorzeny (with binoculars) is shown with Mussolini shortly after arriving back in Germany.

Meuse river during the Battle of the Bulge.

Skorzeny devised a trojan horse operation which required his men to go behind enemy lines in the Belgian Ardennes dressed as American soldiers and cause maximum panic and confusion.

On 16 December 1944, Operation Griffin launched into action. Skorzeny's men cut communication wires, issued fake orders, and turned around road signs.

Paranoia set in amongst American forces as word of the German impostors spread. Some Americans fired on each other and soon GIs grilled each other on American popular culture to flush out German agents.

Many American soldiers and even Allied generals were detained at checkpoints for answering questions wrong.

Skorzeny's most infamous mission was *Unternehmen* But

the biggest confusion - and the masterstroke of the operation - came from Skorzeny himself when he let a rumour run wild within his own ranks that the real target was General Eisenhower, who was still in Paris.

Convinced of the "real" mission, two jeeps full of German agents confirmed the assassination plot to kill Eisenhower when interrogated by Americans. Back in Paris, Eisenhower spent time in protective custody while his body-double did his daily rounds.

In the end, the impostors' inability to correctly mimic "Americanisms" and U.S. Army protocol proved their undoing. Many were shot as spies for impersonating the opposing side.

By war's end, Skorzeny had received oak leaves for his Iron Cross, the highest honour awarded by the Nazis. However, his directive for his men to wear American uniforms got him in

hot water in 1947 at the Allied Dachau War Crimes trials.

On trial

Skorzeny was interned for two years before being tried as a war criminal at the Dachau trials in 1947 for allegedly violating the laws of war during the Battle of the Bulge. He and nine officers of the Panzerbrigade 150 were tried before a U.S. Military Tribunal in Dachau on 18 August 1947.

They faced charges of improper use of U.S. military insignia, theft of U.S. uniforms, and theft of Red Cross parcels from U.S. POWs. The trial lasted over three weeks. The charge of stealing Red Cross parcels was dropped for lack of evidence. Skorzeny admitted to ordering his men to wear U.S. uniforms; but his defence argued that, as long as enemy uniforms were discarded before combat started, such a tactic was a legitimate *ruse de guerre* (Ruse of war).

On the final day of the trial, 9 September, Tommy Yeo-Thomas, a former British SOE agent, testified that he and his operatives wore German uniforms behind enemy lines; the Tribunal acquitted the ten defendants. The Tribunal drew a distinction between using enemy uniforms during combat and for other purposes including deception and were unable to prove that Skorzeny had given any orders to actually fight in U.S. uniforms.

Skorzeny was detained in an internment camp at Darmstadt

awaiting the decision of a denazification court. On 27 July 1948 he escaped from the camp with the help of three former SS officers dressed in US Military Police uniforms who entered the camp and claimed that they had been ordered to take Skorzeny to Nuremberg for a legal hearing.

Skorzeny hid out at a farm in Bavaria which had been rented by Countess Ilse Lüthje, who he later married. With the help of a Nansen passport issued by the Spanish government, he moved to Madrid, where he set up a small engineering business.

Military advisor

In 1952 Egypt was taken over by General Mohammed Naguib. Skorzeny was sent to Egypt the following year by former General Reinhard Gehlen (who was now working for the CIA) to act as Naguib's military advisor. Skorzeny recruited a staff made up of former SS and Wehrmacht officers to train the Egyptian army.

He stayed on to serve as an adviser to Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser. According to some authors, he traveled between Spain and Argentina, where he acted as an advisor to President Juan Perón and as a bodyguard for Eva Perón.

Mossad agent

The Israeli security and intelligence magazine *Matara* published an article in 1989 claiming that Skorzeny had been recruited by Mossad in 1963, to obtain information on German

scientists who were working on an Egyptian project to develop rockets to be used against Israel.

Reporting on the Matara story, the major Israeli daily *Yedioth Ahronot* said that they had confirmed the story from their own senior Mossad source. Former Mossad head Isser Harel confirmed the story that former Nazis were recruited to provide intelligence on Arab countries.

After undergoing instruction and training in the Mossad's facilities in Israel, the rumoured work for Mossad included assassinating German rocket scientist Heinz Krug who was working for the Egyptian government and mailing a letter bomb which killed five Egyptians at the Egyptian military rocket site Factory 333. He also allegedly supplied the names and addresses of German scientists working for Egypt and the names of European front companies supplying military hardware to Egypt.

No confirmed source can explain Skorzeny's motives for working with Israel but he may have craved adventure and intrigue, as well as fearing assassination by Mossad.

Death

On 5 July 1975, Otto Skorzeny died at the age of 67 from lung cancer. He had two funerals, one in Madrid, and the other at his family plot in Vienna. At both, he received a full Nazi send-off with Nazi veterans giving him the Nazi salute and singing some of Hitler's favourite songs.

Huey

Probably one of the most iconic symbols of the Vietnam War, the Bell UH-1 Iroquois helicopter, better known as the Huey, first flew in 1956. It was a vehicle that was Forged in Battle.

If there was ever a soundtrack to the Vietnam War then it would surely be the distinctive thump-thump of the blades of a Huey helicopter.

Developed by Bell Helicopter to meet a United States Army's 1952 requirement for a medical evacuation and utility helicopter, the Bell UH-1 Iroquois first flew in 1956.

Powered by a single turboshaft engine, with two-blade main and tail rotors, the UH-1 was the first turbine-powered helicopter produced for the

United States military, and more than 16,000 have been built since 1960.

The Iroquois was originally designated HU-1, hence the Huey nickname, which has remained in common use, despite the official redesignation to UH-1 in 1962.

The UH-1 first saw service in combat operations during the Vietnam War, with around 7,000 helicopters de-

ployed.

In 1952, the U.S. Army identified a requirement for a new helicopter to serve as medical evacuation (ME-

DEVAC), instrument trainer, and general utility aircraft. The Army determined that current helicopters were too large, underpowered, or too complex to maintain easily.

In November 1953, revised military requirements were submitted to the Department of the Army. Twenty companies submitted designs in their

bid for the contract, including Bell Helicopter with the Model 204 and Kaman Aircraft with a turbine-powered version of the H-43.

On 23 February 1955, the Army announced its decision, selecting Bell to build three copies of the Model 204 for

evaluation with the designation XH-40.

US Army

The HU-1A (later redesignated UH-1A) first entered service with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, the 82nd Airborne Division, and the 57th Medical Detachment. Although intended for evaluation only, the Army quickly pressed the new helicopter into operational service, and Hueys with the 57th Medical Detachment arrived in Vietnam in March 1962.

The UH-1 has long been a symbol of US involvement in Southeast Asia in general and Vietnam in particular, and as a result of that conflict, has become one of the world's most recognized helicopters. In Vietnam primary missions includ-

ed general support, air assault, cargo transport, aeromedical evacuation, search and rescue, electronic warfare, and later, ground attack. During the conflict, the craft was upgraded, notably to a larger version based on the Model 205. This version was initially designated the UH-1D and flew operationally from 1963.

During service in the Vietnam War, the UH-1 was used for various purposes and various terms for each task abounded. UH-1s tasked with ground attack



or armed escort were outfitted with rocket launchers, grenade launchers, and machine guns.

As early as 1962, UH-1s were modified locally by the companies themselves, who fabricated their own mounting systems. These gunship UH-1s were commonly referred to as “Frogs” or “Hogs” if they carried rockets, and “Cobras” or simply “Guns” if they had guns.

UH-1s tasked and configured for troop transport were often called “Slicks” due to an absence of weapons pods. Slicks did have door gunners, but were generally employed in the troop transport and medevac roles.

The Army tested a great variety of experimental weapons on the UH-1; nearly anything that could be carried. The Army desired weapons with large calibres and high rates of fire, which led to the testing of a 20 mm cannon on a large mount bolted to the cabin floor.

The size of the weapon allowed very little room for movement. The Army further tested a full-size Vulcan cannon firing out the door of a UH-1. It was capable of firing 2400 rounds per minute, or about 40 rounds per second. Despite this being a significant reduction from the nearly 100 rounds per second fired by a standard Vulcan cannon, the installation proved “too kinetic” for the UH-1.

Podded versions of the M24 20 mm cannon were tested in combat over Vietnam. There was a wide variety of 7.62 mm automatic weapons tested, including different installations of the M60 machine gun. AS-10 and SS-11 missiles were tested in several different configura-



SOUND TRACK OF ‘NAM: Listen to the sound of a Huey starting up and flying.

tions. High-capacity rocket launchers were also tested, such as the XM3 launcher, which had 24 launching tubes. Press photos were taken with the XM5 and XM3 installed on the same aircraft, but this arrangement could not be used because it was more than the gross take-off weight of the aircraft.

During the war 7,013 UH-1s served in Vietnam and of these 3,305 were destroyed. In total 1,074 Huey pilots were killed, along with 1,103 other crew members.

The US Army phased out the UH-1 with the introduction of the UH-60 Black Hawk, although the Army UH-1 Residual Fleet had around 700 UH-1s that were to be retained until 2015, primarily in support of Army Aviation training at Fort Rucker and in selected Army National Guard units. Army support for the craft was intended to end in 2004.

The UH-1 was retired from active Army service in 2005. In 2009, Army National Guard retirements of the UH-1 acceler-

ated with the introduction of the UH-72 Lakota. The final UH-1 was retired in 2016.

US Air Force

In October 1965, the United States Air Force (USAF) 20th Helicopter Squadron was formed at Tan Son Nhut Air Base in South Vietnam, equipped initially with CH-3C helicopters.

By June 1967 the UH-1F and UH-1P were also added to the unit’s inventory, and by the end of the year the entire unit had shifted from Tan Son Nhut to Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, with the CH-3s transferring to the 21st Helicopter Squadron.

On 1 August 1968, the unit was redesignated the 20th Special Operations Squadron. The 20th SOS’s UH-1s were known as the Green Hornets, stemming from their color, a primarily green two-tone camouflage (green and tan) was carried, and radio call-sign “Hornet”.

The main role of these helicopters were to insert and ex-



FIREPOWER: Typical armament for a UH-1 Huey.

tract reconnaissance teams, provide cover for such operations, conduct psychological warfare, and other support roles for covert operations especially in Laos and Cambodia during the so-called Secret War.

USAF UH-1s were often equipped with automatic grenade launchers in place of the door guns. The XM-94 grenade launcher had been tested on Army aircraft before being used by the USAF. The unit was capable of firing 400 grenades per minute, up to 1,370 metres effective range.

Today, the USAF uses the UH-1N for support of intercontinental ballistic missile sites, including transport of security personnel and distinguished visitors.

On 24 September 2018, the USAF announced that the Boeing/Leonardo MH-139 (an AW-139 variant) had won a competition to replace the UH-1Ns.

US Navy

The US Navy began acquiring UH-1B helicopters from the Army and these aircraft were modified into gunships with special gun mounts and ra-

dar altimeters and were known as Seawolves in service with Navy Helicopter Attack (Light) (HA(L)-3). UH-1C helicopters were also acquired in the 1970s. The Seawolves worked as a team with Navy river patrol operations.

Four years after the disestablishment of HA(L)-3, the Navy determined that it still had a need for gunships, establishing two new Naval Reserve Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadrons as part of the newly formed Commander, Helicopter Wing Reserve (COMHELWINGRES) in 1976. Helicopter Attack Squadron (Light) Five (HA(L)-5), nicknamed the “Blue Hawks”, was established at Naval Air Station Point Mugu, California on the 11 June 1977 and its sister squadron, Helicopter Attack Squadron (Light) Four (HA(L)-4), known as the Red Wolves, was formed at Naval Air Station Norfolk, Virginia on 1 July 1976.

US Marine Corps

In 1962, the United States Marine Corps held a competition to choose an assault support helicopter to replace the Cessna O-1 fixed-wing aircraft and the Kaman OH-43D helicopter. The winner was the UH-1B, which was already in service with the Army.

The helicopter was designated the UH-1E and modified to meet Marine requirements. The major changes included the use of all-aluminium construction for corrosion resistance, radios compatible with Marine Corps ground frequencies, a rotor brake for shipboard use to stop the rotor quickly on shut-down

and a roof-mounted rescue hoist.

The UH-1E was first flown on 7 October 1963, and deliveries commenced 21 February 1964, with 192 aircraft completed.

Use by other countries

A total of 64 countries used the Bell UH-1 Iroquois or its variants. To this day, 42 countries as still using it.

One of the countries that made use of the UH-1 was Israel, and it is interesting to discover what happened what happened to 11 of these helicopters.

Israel withdrew its UH-1s from service in 2002, after thirty three years of service. They were replaced by Sikorsky UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters beginning with an initial batch of 10 delivered in 1994.

While some were passed on to pro-Israeli militias in Lebanon, eleven other UH-1Ds were reportedly sold to a Singapore-based logging company but were, instead, delivered in October 1978 to the Rhodesian Air Force to skirt the UN endorsed embargo imposed during the Rhodesian Bush War.

These 11 former Israeli helicopter were Agusta-Bell 205As, known in service as Cheetahs.

After much work these then formed No. 8 Sqn Rhodesian Air Force and took part as troop transports in the counter-insurgency fight.

One was lost in combat in September 1979, when hit in Mozambique by a RPG. At least another three were lost. The survivors were put up for sale in 1990.

UH-1H Iroquois

In November 1981 the US Army requested the development of new composite rotor blades for its UH-1H fleet. A contract for 6,000 blades was shared equally by Bell and Boeing. However the blades may be changed yet again in a new series of upgrades.

Most 'Hueys' carry a distinctive VHG antenna above the cockpit. The US Army flies a number of electronic counter-measures and electronic intelligence-gathering variants.

Although these glazed panels in the lower cockpit give the crew good downward visibility, they also made the crew vulnerable to small arms fire. Many crews in Vietnam placed armoured plates behind the glazing.

The engine is mounted above the fuselage for easier access.

The UH-1 features a two-bladed main rotor with a stabilising bar at 90 degrees to the rotor attachments.

None of the proposed upgrades has suggested replacing the all-metal tail rotor. One possibility is to move the rotor to the opposite side of the tail fin, where it would act as a tractor rather than pusher unit, to improve handling.

The UH-1's fuselage is of semi-monocoque all-metal construction. A skid at the rear protects the tail rotor in the event of a tail-down landing.

The large sliding doors on either side of the fuselage made loading and unloading troops much faster. The doors could be removed for quicker access.

CHARACTERISTICS

- **Crew:** 1-4
- **Capacity:** 1,760 kg including 14 troops, or 6 stretchers, or equivalent cargo
- **Length:** 17.40 m with rotors
- **Width:** 2.62 m (Fuselage)
- **Height:** 4.39 m
- **Empty weight:** 2,365 kg
- **Gross weight:** 4,100 kg
- **Max take-off weight:** 4,309 kg
- **Powerplant:** 1 × Lycoming

ing T53-L-11 turboshaft, (0.25 kW/kg)
1,100 shp (820 kW)

- **Main rotor diameter:** 14.63 m

PERFORMANCE

- **Maximum speed:** 217 km/h
- **Cruise speed:** 201 km/h
- **Range:** 507 km
- **Service ceiling:** 5,910 m dependent on factors such as weight, air temperature, etc
- **Rate of climb:** 8.92 m/s
- **Power/mass:** 0.15 hp/lb

ARMAMENT

- various including:
- 7.62 mm machine guns
 - 2.75 in (70 mm) rocket pods

The sabotage of a special order from Adolf Hitler saved priceless Catholic history. We examine some of the lesser-known aspects of the Battle of Monte Cassino.

On 3 September 1943 the British 8th Army landed at Reggio and six days later at Taranto. The invasion of Italy, the 'soft underbelly of Europe', had begun.

Both of these landings were uncontested by the Germans who had pulled out some time before.

The US 5th Army then landed on the west coast, further north, at Salerno on 9 September 1943, to coincide with the Italian armistice.

The move was predicted by the commander of the German forces in Italy, Field Marshal Albert Kesselring. The German 16th Panzer Division was moved to the area, backed up the the German 10th Army.

Unable to contain the Allies, the Germans withdrew to prepared positions which ran across the width of central Italy, from the mouth of the Sangro river in the east, through the Abruzzi mountain region to the mouths of the Rapido/Garigliano rivers on the west coast.

This defensive position was to be known as the Gustav Line and within its defensive line, about 160 km south east of Rome, stood the town of Cassino.

Towering above the town stood Monte Cassino, or Mount Cassino. From 529 AD Monte Cassino had been home to the Benedictine monastery. The monastery has witnessed numerous battles over the centuries and had itself been destroyed twice, having been rebuilt in the mid-1100s.

Monte Cassino was in a perfect defensive position. It dominated the surrounding countryside, including the Liri valley that ran through the mountains to the north and Route 6, the main highway linking the south to Rome. It also had a superb view of the town.

Cassino town was first bombed on 10 September 1943 when targets all along the Garigliano river were hit. It caused heavy casualties among the civilian population and many took refuge in the monastery at Monte Cassino.

Soon after the bombing, the first units of the 14th Panzer Corps that had been withdrawn from the south began to arrive at Cassino. They immediately began to dig themselves in and they fortified the town of Cassino.

The approaches to the town were mined and they flooded the countryside in front of the Rapido east of Cassino and awaited the Allied advance.

The 14th Panzer Division could barely live up to its name. They were desperately short of tanks and most of its troops were being used as infantry soldiers. They were reinforced by troops from other divisions, including men from the 1st Parachute Division.

Facing the Cassino front the Allies now had seven Commonwealth divisions, containing men from India, New Zealand, South Africa and Brazil.

There were also five American, five British, four French and three Polish divisions. A formidable force.

The Allies were convinced that the Germans were using the monastery on Monte Cassino as a strongpoint, which the Germans strongly denied.

The denial was justified. No German troops had occupied the monastery, although an artillery observation point was situated on the lower slopes of the mountain.

Yet while denying that they



BEFORE AND AFTER: The monastery at Monte Cassino (left) before it was turned into a heap of rubble (right) by Allied bombers and heavy artillery. In one air raid the Allies dropped 250 tons of bombs onto the monastery.

had occupied the monastery, they Germans were feeding information via intelligence agents that they had in fact turned the monastery into a fortress. This was due to a special order issued by Adolf Hitler.

The monastery contained priceless relics of Catholic history, including a library of over 70,000 volumes, paintings by famous masters, age-old crucifixes, historic carvings in wood and goldsmith's work.

Hitler knew that if the Allies believed that the monastery had been turned into a defensive position, the Allies would have no choice but to bomb it. He wanted all the treasures of Monte Cassino to go up in flames.

While some people may have seen this as the height of stupidity, a German officer had the following comment at the time: "Far from stupid. The decisive battle will be fought here on top of the holy mountain. We are to protect the monastery, while the other side blows it to smithereens. And Joseph Goebbels (German minister of propaganda) just has to say: Was it our shells that smashed the mon-

astery? No sir, it was the other side's."

It was actually a clever ploy. A large portion of the Italian population are Catholic. If they believed that the Allies had deliberately destroyed priceless artefacts of Catholic history, it could have turned Italian sentiment against the Allies.

Hitler's plan seemed to be working. The Allies, especially the New Zealand commander, General Freyburg, was convinced that the monastery was infested with Germans. They reluctantly agreed that it would have to be bombed. What choice did they have?

It was then that fate, some may say divine intervention, stepped in. Certain elements of the German High Command were not prepared to allow the priceless treasures at Monte Cassino to be destroyed. A bold, yet highly illegal plan was put into action.

Under the command of *Oberst* (Lieutenant Colonel) Julius Schlegel and *Hauptmann* (Captain) Maximilian Becker, members of the Hermann Göring Panzer Division and the *Luftwaffe*, began transporting

all the treasures and works of art from the monastery, out of harms way.

Over three days in October 1943 they were removed to a safer location in the north before being handed over to the Italian government.

After a mass in the basilica, Abbot Gregorio Diamare formally presented signed parchment scrolls in Latin to General Paul Conrath, to *tribuno militum* *Julio Schlegel* and *Maximiliano Becker* *medecinae doctori* "for rescuing the monks and treasures of the Abbey of Monte Cassino."

Not only had a direct order from Hitler been sabotaged, but they also used thousands of litres of fuel vital to the war effort.

It is unsure whether Schlegel was the mastermind behind the operation. Certain historians believe that it was Field Marshal Kesselring himself who planned and authorised the removal of the relics from the monastery. In any event, Kesselring would inevitably have known about it.

Unfortunately, the Allies also

became aware of what was happening. They were quick to broadcast this fact.

“This is the Allied transmitter for Southern Italy. We repeat our previous message to patriotic Italians. Unite against the bandits who are desecrating your churches and graves. At this moment the Hermann Göring Panzer Division are plundering the treasures of the monastery of Monte Cassino. Fight and stop them! One transport has already gotten away with treasures of untold value. Italian patriots, protect your property. Don’t let these bandits rob you.”

The rumours of what had been happening at Monte Cassino soon reached Berlin with the result that a Heinkel bomber was sent to Aeroporto del’ Ube outside Rome.

On board was General Wilhelm Burgdorf, chief of army personnel. The general was a man who regarded the whole world as a gigantic joke, who promoted a colonel to general with the same smile with which he handed a field marshal a cyanide pill.

General Burgdorf met with Field Marshal Kesselring. “Is it true that the sacred relics have been removed from Monte Cassino? The Allied broadcasting stations have been proclaiming from the housetops that a few days ago the Hermann Göring Panzer Division was busy plundering the monastery. It is certainly plundering of which the *Reichsmarschall* (Hermann Göring, head of the Luftwaffe) is entirely ignorant, but perhaps your intelligence officers are asleep? This is clear sabotage

of the *Führer’s* (Adolf Hitler) orders.

“The *Führer* wishes that all the stuff in the monastery should be destroyed by American bombardment. Can’t you understand what we are aiming at man? Just imagine the headlines in the gutterpress all over the world: Anglo-American gangsters destroy the West’s most precious Catholic relics.

“We can get them to smash the monastery, but the important thing for us is that the art treasures should go up in smoke at the same time. Freyberg is quite convinced that our agents are telling the truth, when they report that the monastery is being turned into an impregnable fortress, so just before they raze it to the ground, we shall see that we get a statement from the lot of black crows (priests) up there that there has never been a single German soldier inside of it. From the point of view of or propaganda that will be of tremendous importance to us.

“The only good thing to come out of this mess is that the transports have been photographed by Allied reconnaissance planes, which is grist to Freyberg’s mill. Now we must ensure that every one of those relics is safe and sound. The *Führer* is furious. You have one foot in front of a court martial Herr Marschal. The whole business will have to be twisted so that you have known all about the damned transport, otherwise the entire world will accuse us of plundering.”

In January 1944 the first battle of Monte Cassino began. The monastery was indeed reduced to rubble by Allied artillery and



VICTORY: A Polish bugler plays the *Hejnał mariacki* (St Mary’s Call), announcing the victory. The *Hejnał mariacki* is a traditional, five-note Polish anthem closely bound to the history and traditions of Kraków. It is played every hour on the hour, four times in succession in each of the four cardinal directions, by a trumpeter on the highest tower of the city’s Saint Mary’s Church. The noon performance is broadcast via radio to all of Poland and the world.

bombers. The Germans quickly moved into the ruins, turning them into natural fortifications.

The battle raged for nearly four months and needed four assaults before Monte Cassino was finally captured. It cost over 75,000 casualties on both sides. Troops from the Polish Division were the first into the ruins of the monastery.

If not for the bravery of a few senior German officers, some of the Catholic Church’s most priceless treasures would have been lost forever.



ADVANCE: Polish troops advance through the town of Cassino. Their objective is the monastery on Monte Cassino.



DUG IN: Two paratroopers from the German 1st *Fallschirmjäger* Division lay down fire on the advancing Allied troops. After the monastery was bombed, the ruins offered excellent cover for the defenders.



ARMOUR: Allied armour moves through the ruins of the town of Cassino. It was not ideal terrain for armour and it was left to the infantry to take the monastery.



Normally Kapitänleutnant Matt O'Brien is all at sea. This time, however, he's under the sea as he takes command of U-96.

Let me turn the clock back 35 years. Back to 1984 to be exact. Back then I owned a Commodore 64 8-bit home computer and it was great, as were the games that were available for it. It had a massive 64 kb of memory.

The games were all on cassettes, the same cassettes that were used for music. You plugged it into a normal television and then waited what seemed like forever for your game to load. And you couldn't save your games.

One of the games that I enjoyed was a submarine 'simulator'. The screen featured a dark blue background (the sea) and a light blue background (the air).

Your submarine was represented by a blue rectangle that was vaguely shaped like a submarine. On the surface of the sea were enemy ships in red.

You would move back and forth, firing torpedoes at the ships while trying to avoid the depth charges they were dropping. It was such fun.

Fast-forward to 2019 and I'm yet again playing a submarine simulation game. This one is simply called U-Boat.

This time, however, I'm playing on an I-7 computer with 256 GB of RAM memory and a graphics card that requires its own power supply. The game is

like watching a movie.

U-Boat is exactly what it says it is, a submarine simulator. In a nutshell, you are given command of a Type VII submarine during World War II.

Unlike other submarine games such as the Silent Hunter series, you are not in charge of the submarine itself, but rather in charge of the men controlling the submarine. You act as the U-Boat captain.

Your job is to manage the morale, discipline and trauma of the crew and make sure all the crew come back alive at the end of a mission.

You look after the physical and mental health of the crew, because if the sailors are hungry, tired and their spirit is low, there's no chance of winning even a skirmish.

The crew are also made up of individuals who each have their own individual stories and personalities and this can make for interesting situations.

Before you leave port you will be given a briefing as to your mission. It may be simply to patrol a certain area, or to find and intercept a merchant convoy.

You will also have to take on supplies from the warehouse. This will include torpedoes, fuel, food, water and any other necessary rations and equip-

ment. The last thing you want to do is run out of food or water.

The actual layout of the U-Boat is highly accurate. All the buttons, knobs and dials are there - and they work.

Each member of the crew has a specific job. Keep their morale high and they will perform well. You can get your radio operator to tune in to a nearby radio station so the crew can listen to some music.

As the captain of the boat you have to manage most things down to the finest detail. What will the crew have for meals? How long will the watches be? Should you disable unnecessary devices to keep your accumulators running for longer? If you are going to be submerged for a long time do you run on a skeleton crew, telling the others to stay in their bunks to preserve oxygen?

When running on the surface you need to keep your eyes out for enemy aircraft. If you come under attack, either by aircraft or surface ship, then the fun and games really start.

The game then goes from management to survival. The extensive damage system is a foundation of the game's survival elements. Unprecedented situations are bound to happen as the effect of received damage, testing player's creativity



and ability to stay calm. You can try to save the whole crew or leave someone behind, to save the others.

You will often have to deal with some serious situations such as flooding, fire, or vital equipment being knocked out or damaged.

During your mission you will receive assignments from the *Kriegsmarine* headquarters. They are never linear and you may receive additional orders during them or face unexpected problems.

Brave completion of assignments from the headquarters is rewarded with additional budget for the unit under your command and with acceptance of your growing reputation as a U-Boat's skipper. You will need that, to upgrade your ship and keep up with enemy's technological advances.

- Upgrade your boat for the rewarded funds.
- Buy new equipment - new torpedo types, sonar decoys,

CO2 absorbers and much more.

- Send your officers on special tasks in the headquarters to, among other things, speed up a research of new technologies.

Game's simulation elements are very realistic, but that never comes at a cost of gameplay quality. Despite extensive simulation elements, UBOAT can be played like a regular game and complex matters can be learned later to become a better skipper for the commanded unit.

Even small things like the influence of ballast in each compartment on the ship's trim (tilt) or Earth's curvature are faithfully reproduced in the game.

Perfection can be achieved in many ways. Prove your management skills and swiftly assign work to your officers to speed things up. If, on the other hand, you think that if something needs to be done, it's better to do that on your own - sit behind the periscope, hydro-

phone or 88 mm deck gun and take matters in your own hands!

The game is still in early access, so it is being improved on all the time.

It's a fun and challenging game and well worth the price.



Publisher - PlayWay S.A.

Genre - RTS

Score - 7.5/10

Price - R134.75 (on Steam)



American Sniper

Released: 2014
Running time: 132 minutes
Directed by: Clint Eastwood

Released in 2014, American Sniper is an American biographical war drama film directed by Clint Eastwood and written by Jason Hall.

It is loosely based on the memoir *American Sniper: The Autobiography of the Most Lethal Sniper in U.S. Military History* (2012) by Chris Kyle, with Scott McEwen and Jim DeFelice.

The film follows the life of Kyle, who became the deadliest marksman in U.S. military history with 255 kills from four tours in the Iraq War, 160 of which were officially confirmed by the Department of Defence.

While Kyle was celebrated for his military successes, his tours of duty took a heavy toll on his personal and family life.

Growing up in Texas, Chris Kyle (Bradley Cooper) is taught by his father how to shoot a rifle and hunt deer. Years later, Kyle has become a ranch hand and rodeo cowboy, and returns home early, to find his girlfriend in bed with another man.

After telling her to leave, he is mulling it over with his brother when he sees news coverage of the 1998 U.S. embassy bombings and decides to enlist in the Navy. He qualifies for special training and becomes a U.S. Navy SEALs sniper.

Kyle meets Taya Studebaker (Sienna Miller) at a bar, and the two soon marry. He is sent to Iraq

after the September 11 attacks. His first kills are a woman and boy who attacked U.S. Marines with a Russian made RKG-3 anti-tank grenade. Kyle is visibly upset by the experience but later earns the nickname "Legend" for his many kills.

Assigned to hunt for the al-Qaeda leader, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, Kyle is pinned down by a sniper using a Romanian PSL sniper rifle. This sniper goes by the name Mustafa and is an Olympic Games medalist from Syria. Meanwhile, the insurgents issue a bounty on Kyle.

When he returns home to a newborn daughter after his second tour, Kyle becomes increasingly distant from his family. On Kyle's third tour, Mustafa seriously injures a unit member, Ryan "Biggles" Job, and the unit is evacuated back to base. When they decide to return to the field and continue the mission, another SEAL, Marc Lee, is killed by gunfire.

Guilt compels Kyle to undertake a fourth tour, and Taya tells him that she may not be there when he returns.

On this tour he finally kills Mustafa with a shot from 1,920 metres. During his escape he is wounded and almost left behind.

After Kyle gets back, on edge and unable to adjust fully to civilian life, he is asked by a Veterans Affairs psychiatrist if he is haunted by all the things he did

in war. When he replies that it is "all the guys [he] couldn't save" that haunt him, the psychiatrist encourages him to help severely wounded veterans in the VA hospital. After that Kyle gradually begins to adjust to home life.

Years later, on February 2, 2013, Kyle says goodbye to his wife and family as he leaves in good spirits to spend time with a veteran at a shooting range. An on-screen subtitle reveals: "Chris Kyle was killed that day by a veteran he was trying to help", followed by archive footage of crowds standing along the highway for his funeral procession.



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

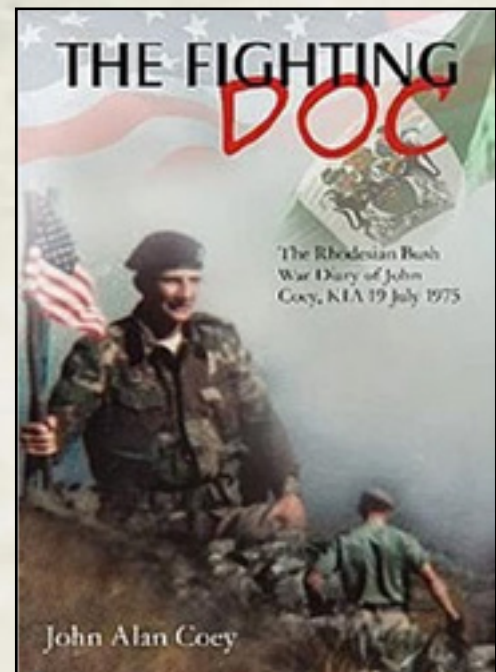
The Fighting Doc

It is Saturday afternoon, 19 July 1975, next to a dry riverbed in Rhodesia's north-eastern operational area, in a war against communist-backed guerrillas.

A Rhodesian combat medic receives an order to descend into the riverbed to attend to two critically wounded troopers, their figures seemingly lifeless on the sand. The whereabouts of the insurgents is not known. As the medic, displaying a red cross, moves in, shots ring out and he sustains a fatal head wound. That medic is 24-year-old American John Alan Coey.

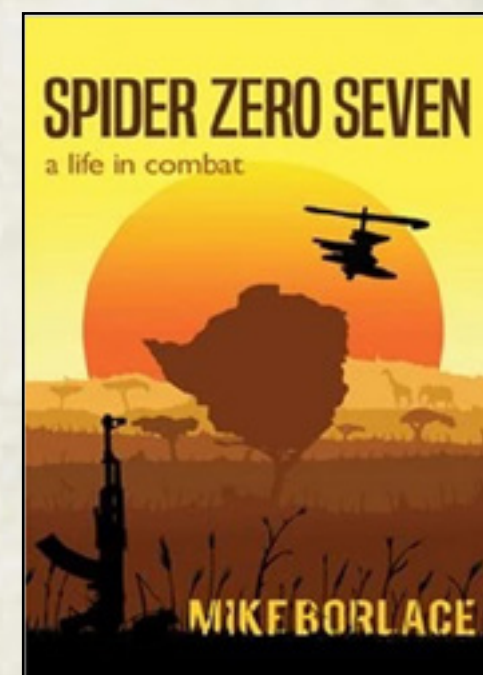
Driven by his Christian faith and an ardent belief in the threat of global communist hegemony, Coey had come to Rhodesia

to fulfil an overriding passion to help the beleaguered southern African country in its fight against what he perceived to be a communist bid to secure the sub-continent. John was a very complex individual who, right until his death, was in a permanent state of internal conflict as to his mission in life: he wishes he had a wife; he tells young American girls that they must produce strong sons who will fight the good fight; he is disillusioned by his failures; he admits he is a weak leader, virtually offering an apology for his own shortcomings; he vacillates endlessly; he admits to being unable to identify the path he needs to take to achieve his mission.

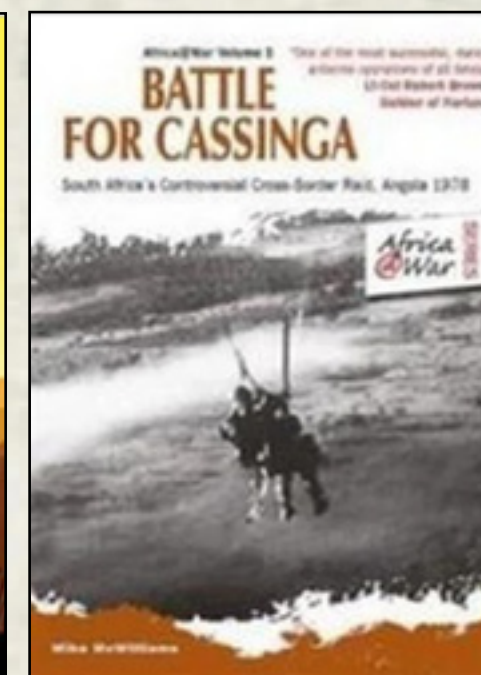


But, finally, as a combat medic - a pioneer in this concept - he finds his much sought-after destiny.

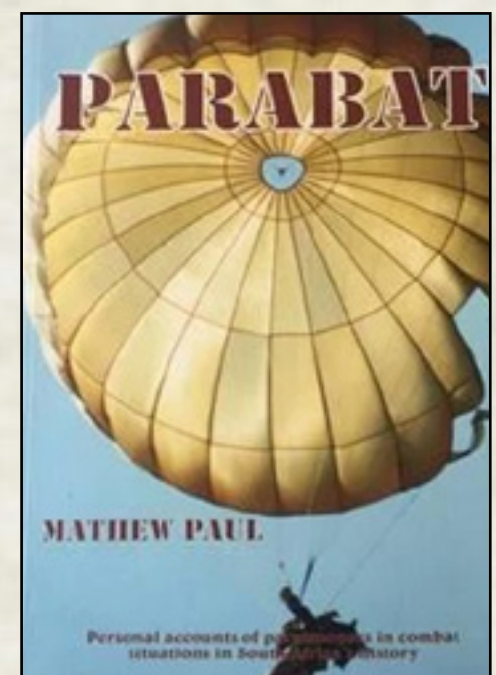
Paperback: 200 pages
Cost: R250



Spider Zero Seven
R370



Battle for Cassinga
R220



Parabat
R280

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

This month in military history

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

1 August

- **1798** - The British fleet under Lord Nelson defeats the French fleet at the Battle of the Nile, at Aboukir Bay, Egypt, thus thwarting Napoleon's conquest of the Middle East. Napoleon Bonaparte and his forces are left stranded in Egypt.
- **1900** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War General Ian Hamilton, commanding a force of about 6,000 men with twenty-six field guns, is sent to capture Commando Nek and Silkaatsnek, between Brits and Pretoria, and to cover Baden-Powell's retreat to Pretoria.
- **1901** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War the British parliament votes an additional £12,500 00 for munitions.
- **1901** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War Sir G. Lagden, formerly Resident Commissioner in Basutoland, is appointed by the British as the Commissioner of Native Affairs in the Transvaal and the 'Orange River Colony'.
- **1938** - Air Force Base Waterkloof is founded with two hangars, a runway and No's 1 and 2 Fighter-bomber Squadrons and No 3 Communication Squadron, mainly equipped with Hawker Hartebeest Aircraft. Lt. Col. H.G. Willmot is first permanent Officer Commanding.
- **1944** - The Warsaw Uprising began as the Polish Home Army, numbering about 40,000 Polish patriots, began shooting at German troops in the streets. The Nazis then sent eight divisions to battle the Poles, who had hoped for, but did not receive, assistance from the Allies. Two months later, the rebellion was quashed.
- **1946** - Andrei Vlasov, Russian general (who fought for both the Red Army and the German Wehrmacht) is executed at age 45.
- **1957** - The United States and Canada form the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD).
- **1975** - An order is issued withdrawing the remaining South African Police from Rhodesia.
- **1979** - Lieutenant Sidney Edward Watts from 1 South West Africa Squadron SWATF was killed when his private Cessna 182 aircraft crashed at Eros Airport outside Windhoek during Squadron night flying exercises. He was 28.
- **1981** - Private Rocco Bernard Du Plooy from 2 Squadron was accidentally killed while on official duty but the exact cause of his death is unknown. He was 17.
- **1982** - The Kenyan Air Force disbands following an attempted coup by non-commissioned officers in which 159 died.
- **1987** - Corporal Marius Albertus van Zyl from Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident at Oudshoorn while on weekend pass. He was 20.
- **1988** - Seaman Willem Schalk van der Merwe from SAS Rand was killed in a military bus accident in Durban. He was 19.
- **1990** - ANC and its armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) suspends armed actions after twenty-nine years.
- **1990** - Two members of the Cape Regiment were killed in a military vehicle accident at Hammersdale. The casualties were: Rifleman Johannes Jacobus Lourens (27). Rifleman Cupido Johannes Mentoer (21).
- **1992** - Corporal Michael Paul Bankenberg from Group 39 was shot dead by a fellow soldier in Queens-town. He was 21. The soldier who did the shooting then committed suicide. He was 21.
- **1993** - Two members from 3 SAI were killed when their Mamba Armoured Person-

- nel Carrier overturned near Table Mountain outside Pietermaritzburg. The casualties were: Lance Corporal L. P. Petersen (19). Lance Corporal Johnathan Mervin Thomas (20).
 - **1996** - Mohammed Farah Aidid, who has controlled much of Somalia during its civil war, dies of wounds suffered during a skirmish with another faction.
- ## 2 August
- **1900** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War Lord Roberts sends his Chief of Staff, Lord Kitchener, to take overall command of the forces engaged against Gen. De Wet.
 - **1934** - Paul von Hindenburg, German WW1 general and President of Germany (1925-34), dies of lung cancer at 86.
 - **1956** - Having held talks on the escalating crisis over control of the Suez Canal with France and the US, Britain mobilises its forces.
 - **1965** - Assistant Veldkornet N.R. Pullen from the 42 Army Air Reconnaissance Squadron was killed when his Cessna 185A crashed near Derby while on a routine low level reconnaissance training flight. He was 20.
 - **1976** - French officials disclose that France is to supply South Africa with two destroyer escorts.
 - **1982** - Lance Corporal Matheus Bambi from 32 Battalion was Killed in Ac-

- tion during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 27.
- **1983** - Rifleman Schaullum Lennox Silverton from Regiment Christiaan Beyers was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion in the Kaokoveld. He was 21.
- **1989** - Private Jacobus Petrus Du Plessis from Quartermaster General was shot dead while on duty at the Karl Kling Building in Pretoria. He was 18.
- **1989** - Rifleman Rudolph Ernst Thiel from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was accidentally killed in the Duku-Duku Forest Training area near Mtubatuba when his Unimog overturned on a gravel road during a training exercise. He was 19.
- **1990** - The Iraqi army invaded Kuwait amid claims that Kuwait threatened Iraq's economic existence by overproducing oil and driving prices down on the world market. An Iraqi military government was then installed in Kuwait which was annexed by Iraq on the claim that Kuwait was historically part of Iraq. This resulted in Desert Shield, the massive Allied military buildup, and later the 100-hour war against Iraq, Desert Storm.
- **1999** - At least twelve people are killed in rebel attacks on a police station, airport and

the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) in and around Katima Mulilo.

- **2007** - Holden Roberto, Angolan founder and leader of the FNLA, dies at 84.

3 August

- **1900** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, in a breach of neutrality, Colonel Stowe, Consul-General of the USA, allows a British Intelligence officer, carrying important papers from Milner to Kitchener, to hide from Danie Theron in his railway carriage.
- **1900** - War correspondent Ernie Pyle (1900-1945) was born in Dana, Indiana. His syndicated column offered sympathetic insights into the experiences of common soldiers during World War II. He received a Pulitzer Prize for his reports of the bombing of London in 1940 and later war reports from Africa, Sicily, Italy and France. He was killed by machine-gun fire near Okinawa in the South Pacific on April 18, 1945.



Jonas Savimbi

- **1900** - President Paul Kruger and Commandant General Louis Botha issued a proclamation in Pretoria which promised to pay those Burghers who remained active with their Commandos for damage done to their farms by the British troops.
- **1911** - An Italian, Commander Piazza, is the world's first pilot to fly a military mission he flies reconnaissance missions over Tripoli.
- **1934** - Jonas Savimbi, former leader of Unita, was born on this day in Munhango, Angola.
- **1940** - Italy begins occupation of British Somaliland.
- **1956** - An event unique in the SAAF history takes place. The SAAF squadron that was placed at the disposal of the United Nations Organisation during the Korean War, is presented with the prestigious United States presidential unit citation, awarded for 'extraordinary heroism against the armed enemy of the United Nations from November 1951 to April 1952'.
- **1974** - Lieutenant Henri Cornelius Lotz from 41 Squadron was killed when his AM-3C Bosbok crashed near Johannesburg. He was 25.
- **1978** - Captain Anthony Howard Brinkworth from 24 Squadron was Reported Missing when his Buccaneer SMk.50, flown by Captain Dries Marais, suffered a double flame-out and crashed into the sea 28 miles off Green Point near Scottburgh and exploded on impact with the water. He was 27.
- **1979** - President Francisco Macías Nguema of Equatorial Guinea is overthrown in a military coup by his nephew Colonel Teodoro Obiang Ngueme Mbasogo.
- **1980** - Two members from 32 Battalion were Killed in Action in Southern Angola when they triggered a booby trap inside an enemy bunker during Operation Vastrap. They were: Corporal Michael Christian Coetzee (26). Corporal Daniel Heinrich Grobler (20).
- **1983** - Rifleman Adriaan Jacobus Booysen Thirion from the Boksburg Commando was killed in an accidental mortar bomb explosion during operations in Southern Angola. He was 25.
- **1985** - Rifleman Mark John Littrell from 1 Parachute Battalion Died of Wounds accidentally sustained while based in the Northern Operational Area. He was 19.
- **1986** - Three members from Durban Regiment were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Durban. The casualties were: Lance Corporal Robert Dennis Sterling (26). Rifleman Trevor Reginald William Holland (24). Rifleman Eric Cornelius Koekemoer (21).
- **2004** - General Muhamed

Lamari, head of Algeria's army, resigns for health reasons.

- **2005** - The Military Council for Justice and Democracy overthrows President Taya of Mauritania in a coup, while he is in Saudi Arabia for the funeral of King Fahd.

4 August

- **1578** - A Portuguese attempt at an invasion against the Moors of Morocco is thwarted at the Battle of Alcazar-el-Kebir. King Sebastian of Portugal, the King of Fez and the Moorish pretender to the throne of Fez, are all killed.
- **1900** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War the Battle of Elands River (Brakfontein), near present-day Swartruggens, that lasted several days, starts.
- **1901** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War Lord Methuen, British general, destroys the village of Schweizer-Reneke, leaving only the church standing.
- **1907** - The French fleet bombards Casablanca, northwest Morocco, following anti-foreign outbreaks.
- **1914** - Germany invades Belgium and when London's ultimatum to Berlin to withdraw expires at midnight, Britain declares war on Germany.
- **1940** - Italy invades British Somaliland and occupies some towns in Sudan and Kenya. General Godwin-Austin and his small

garrison of British troops was unable to stop the Duke d'Acota's 25,000 soldiers who swarmed across the border.

- **1967** - Military conscription became compulsory for all White men in South Africa over the age of 16. Deferment to complete schooling or a university degree was granted, but hardly any White men were exempt from conscription.
- **1972** - Signaler Victor Donald Devenish from 23 Squadron, 2 Signals Regiment was accidentally killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Binga in Rhodesia while deployed there during Ops Falcon (Clandestine Electronic Warfare Deployment). He was 18.
- **1978** - Corporal Barend Phillippus Hendrikus Du Plessis from the South African Air Force died in H.F. Verwoerd Hospital in Pretoria from injuries sustained in a private motor cycle accident. He was 21.
- **1983** - Captain Thomas Sankara seizes power in a military coup in Burkina Faso.
- **1987** - Private Francois du Preez Smit from the Provost School was killed in a military vehicle accident at the Far North Command Headquarters Unit in Pietersburg. He was 18.
- **1988** - Staff Sergeant Marius Horn from 5 SAI was accidentally killed near Eshowe. He was 27.
- **1990** - Lance Corporal

Craig Adrian Maguire from the Army Battle School died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained in the Army Battle School training area. He was 21

- **2003** - The first 200 members of a West African peacekeeping force arrive in Liberia in an effort to stop more than two months of fighting between government forces and rebels, and allow food and medicine to enter Monrovia.

5 August

- **1815** - A peace treaty with Tripoli, which follows treaties with Algeria and Tunis, brings an end to the Barbary Wars.
- **1863** - The Alabama, an American Civil War raider, captures the Northern bark, Sea Bride, outside Table Bay. The Alabama was built during the American Civil War to prey on the mercantile shipping of the Northern states. Her captain and officers were Southerners, her crew British. The Malays composed the well-known folksong *Daar Kom Die Alibama* with reference to this ship.
- **1916** - The British navy defeats the Ottomans at the naval battle off Port Said, Egypt.
- **1971** - PW Botha, the Minister of Defence, says that

South Africa has become self-sufficient in the manufacture of arms. The country is considering exporting weapons.

- **1983** - Rifleman Johannes Jacobus Christoffel Stols from 3 SAI Support Company attached to 52 Battalion, was Killed in Action when his Buffel Troop Carrier detonated a boosted TMA-3 Cheese Mine while on patrol near Ogongo. He was 20.
- **1990** - The United States sends a Marine company into Monrovia, Liberia's capital, to evacuate US citizens because of a rebel threat to arrest Americans in order to provoke foreign intervention in the civil war.
- **1985** - Gunner Riaan Jakob Rautenbach from 61 Mechanised Battalion was accidentally killed when a 120mm Mortar Tube exploded after firing an over-boosted mortar bomb during training at Omuthiya. He was 20.
- **1986** - Four members from the Intelligence School in Kimberley were killed when



Hugo Bierman

their SAMIL 50 vehicle overturned approximately 5 km from the Unit Headquarters. The casualties were: Lance Corporal Alan Bernard Clarke (18). Lance Corporal Jacob Johannes de Jager (18). Lance Corporal Jacques Delport (18). Lance Corporal Jacobus Frans Hamman (18).

- **1998** - Otto Kretschmer, German U-boat commander, dies at 86.

6 August

- **1891** - British Field Marshall William Joseph Slim is born on this day.
- **1900** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War the Battle of Elands River takes place. British Gen. Carrington retreats to the Marico River and Zeerust, Western Transvaal, pursued for part of the way by Boer forces. He burns his baggage train and surplus supplies and retires towards Mafeking.
- **1916** - Admiral Hugo (Hendrik) Bierman, former Chief of the Navy and Chief of the SADF, is born in Johannesburg.
- **1945** - The first Atomic Bomb was dropped over the center of Hiroshima at 08h15, by the American B-29 bomber Enola Gay. The bomb detonated about 850 metres above ground, killing over 105,000 persons and destroying the city. Another estimated 100,000 persons later died as a result of radiation effects.

- **1980** - Rifleman Petrus Jacob from 35 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1980** - Rifleman Neels Jacobus Reynolds from 41 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 18.
- **1986** - Lance Corporal Jacobus Andries Cornelius Nel from the Intelligence School in Kimberley died in the Universitas Hospital after being critically injured on 05 August 1986 when his SAMIL 50 vehicle overturned 5km from the Unit Headquarters. He was 18.
- **1997** - The SA Air Force announces that Mirages will be phased out because of a cut to the defence budget.

7 August

- **1795** - The Battle of Muizenberg takes place during the Napoleonic War when British troops disembark at Muizenberg and move towards Cape Town, notwithstanding brave defence by Lieut. P.W. Marnitz and Capt. C. Kemper after De Lille vacated his position.
- **1876** - International spy Mata Hari (1876-1917) was born (as Margaret Gertrude Zelle) in Leewarden, Netherlands. Arrested by the French in 1917 as a German spy, she was tried, convicted

and sentenced to death. At her execution, she refused a blindfold and instead threw a kiss to the French firing squad.

- **1900** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War the Battle of Tygerpoort (Venterskroon) takes place between the British under Lord Methuen and the Boers under De Wet. De Wet, with the aid of Capt. Danie Theron and fourteen of his men, escapes and Methuen falls back to regroup.
- **1901** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War Lord Kitchenier publishes his most famous of what the Boers call his 'paper bombs', proclaiming that all officers of the 'late Republics still engaged in fighting and all members of their governments will be permanently banished from South Africa unless they surrender before 15 September.
- **1901** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War the Battle of Fort Mpisane, the final big battle of this war fought in the Lowveld, takes place.
- **1901** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War Commandant Manie Maritz attacks Vanrhynsdorp in the Cape Province. Many vehicles, including three laden supply wagons, are taken from the British.
- **1942** - The U.S. 1st Marine Division lands on the islands of Guadalcanal and Tulagi in the Solomon Islands. It is the first American amphibious

landing of the war.

- **1963** - The United States (US) informed the United Nations (UN) that it would suspend sales of arms to South Africa. The Security Council adopted Resolution 181 calling upon all states to cease the sale and shipment of arms, ammunition and military vehicles to South Africa. The arms embargo was made mandatory on 4 November, 1977.
- **1964** - Following an attack on two U.S. destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin off North Vietnam, the U.S. Congress approved the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, granting President Lyndon B. Johnson authority "to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression."
- **1970** - Fighting along the Egyptian-Israeli border is brought to a halt as a new 90-day cease-fire takes effect.
- **1973** - Three members from 2 SAI were killed while undergoing Driver and Maintenance training when their Bedford truck collided with an Eland Armoured Car on a narrow bridge on the Walvis Bay to Windhoek road and overturned. The casualties were: Rifleman Kenneth Frampton Beghin (18). Rifleman Christos Constatinou (18). Rifleman Ralph George Leggett (18).
- **1981** - Lance Corporal Jan Mathys de Beer from Air

Force Base Waterkloof died in the H.F. Verwoerd Hospital in Pretoria after being critically injured in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 21.

- **1983** - Two members from 202 Battalion SWATF were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. The casualties were: Rifleman S. Kavarata (21). Rifleman A.H. Katanaga (22).
- **1984** - Rifleman Johannes Hendrik Strydom from the Infantry School died from a gunshot wound sustained as a result of an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle while at the De Brug Training Area. He was 19.
- **1987** - Two members from 121 Battalion were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Ngwavuma near Pongola. They were: Rifleman Sikhumbuzo Eric Mbambo (21). Rifleman Alpheus Dumdum Mbambo (24).
- **1988** - Angola, Cuba and South Africa agreed to a formal ceasefire. Under the terms of the ceasefire and later treaty, Cuba was to withdraw its forces from Angola, and South Africa was to grant Namibia independence and withdraw its forces and elections were to be held in Angola. The treaty was signed on 22 December 1988.

ber 1988.

- **1989** - Rifleman Jacques Stefan Barkhuizen from Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident at Hopetown while on route to a tug of war competition. He was 19.

- **1990** - Just five days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, President George Bush ordered Desert Shield, a massive military buildup to prevent further Iraqi advances.
- **1991** - Commandant Frederick Marthinus Ferreira from Eastern Province Command was killed when his military vehicle was involved in a head-on collision with a civilian vehicle at Grahamstown. He was 51.
- **1998** - Terrorist bombs detonate within minutes of each other outside US embassies in buildings in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania killing more than 250 people and wounding approximately 5,000.

8 August

- **1802** - Tjaart van der Walt, frontier farmer and field commandant who played an

George H. Bush



important role in the third frontier war against the combined force of the Xhosa and Khoi-Khoi, is killed in a skirmish in the Kouga mountains, district Humansdorp.

- **1945** - Soviet Russia declared war on Japan and sent troops into Japanese-held Manchuria.
- **1960** - Dag Hammarskjöld, UN secretary-general, instructs Belgium to withdraw its troops from the Congo.
- **1963** - During Operation CAPEX (Cape Exercise), a joint training exercise involving elements of Britain's Royal Navy and both the SA Navy and Air Force, a 35 Squadron Avro MR. Mk 3 Shackleton struck high ground before crashing into the Wemmershook mountain range just outside the town of Worcester, some 96 km east of its destination. All thirteen crew members on board were killed. The casualties were: Captain Thomas Howard Sivertsen (34). Captain Jaques Guillaume Labuschagne (29). 2nd Lieutenant George James Smith (21). Lieutenant Abraham Gert Willem Coetzee (24). 2nd Lieutenant Charles Alwyn du Plooy (19). Candidate Officer Derrick Ian Strauss (19). Warrant Officer II Sydney Shields Scully (46). Flight Sergeant David Hope Sheasby (27). Lance Corporal Charl Paul Viljoen (28). Lance Corporal Marthienus

Christoffel Vorster (23). Lance Corporal Michel Adolf Brodreiss (21). Lance Corporal Matthys Johannes Taljaard (27). Air Mechanic Johannes Chamberlain (20).

- **1988** - South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha announces agreement has been reached for a cease-fire in the Angolan conflict between South Africa, Angola and Cuba. This ends twenty years of bush warfare. The treaty is formally signed at Ruacana in late August.
- **1945** - The second Atomic bombing of Japan occurred as an American B-29 bomber headed for the city of Kokura, but because of poor visibility then chose a secondary target, Nagasaki. About noon, the bomb detonated killing an estimated 70,000 persons and destroying about half the city.
- **1967** - Biafran troops, under the command of Colonel Ojukwu, have crossed the Niger River into Nigeria's Mid-Western State and are heading towards Benin City. Nigeria's leader General Yakubu Gowon, promoted since his reinstatement of Federal rule, is planning an offensive against the Biafran capital Enugu.
- **1975** - The French government has decided to supply no further continental (ground or air) armaments to South Africa. This political decision does not affect naval armaments or existing contracts.

• **1981** - Two members from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment were Killed in Action while carrying out pseudo operations in enemy territory. They were: Rifleman Mahlomola Samuel Mokoena (25). Lance Corporal I van Maleta (23).

- **1983** - Rifleman M. Frans from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action while carrying out operations against enemy forces. He was 22.
- **1983** - Two members from 40 Squadron were killed when their Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I crashed near Centurion. The casualties were: Lieutenant Leon Jacobs (22). Lance Corporal Pieter Johannes Terburgh (21).
- **1984** - Rifleman Stephanus Badenhorst from 1 Parachute Battalion died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained at the De Brug Training Area during COIN OPS Training. He was 19.
- **1985** - Bombardier Hendrik Petrus Uys from the School of Artillery was killed in a military vehicle accident near Potchefstroom. He was 20.
- **1985** - Rifleman Edwin Williams from 8 SAI died from a gunshot wound resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while he was stationed at Ondangwa. He was 23.
- **1986** - Rifleman M.C. Joao from 32 Battalion was burnt to death at Buffalo when his

house caught fire and burnt down during the night. He was 32.

- **2004** - Several military officers and civilians are arrested in Mauritania for plotting a coup.

10 August

- **1900** - British General Carrington reaches Mafeking and narrowly avoids being court-martialled for his inexplicable flight from Elands River (Brakfontein). He later explains his actions to Lord Roberts in Pretoria but a furious Roberts transfers him back to Bulawayo in Rhodesia.
- **1945** - Japan offers to surrender in World War 2 if Emperor Hirohito is permitted to keep his throne.
- **1961** - First use of the Agent Orange in Vietnam by the U.S. Army.
- **1972** - Naval Headquarters at Simon's Town announce that the second series of joint British South African exercises off the Cape Coast will begin on 14 August 1972 and will continue for seven days.
- **1973** - Leading Seaman Hendrik van der Merwe from SAS Protea was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 27.
- **1978** - Two members from 5 SAI attached to "B" Company, 2nd Platoon, 54 Battalion SWATF, were killed after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in an accidental Rifle Grenade explosion. The

casualties were: Lance Corporal Karl Paul Viljoen (22). Rifleman Johannes Gerber le Roux (18).

- **1983** - With support from Libya in their long-running civil war, Chadian insurgents overrun the outpost of Faya-Largeau in northern Chad.
- **1985** - Two members from Sector 30 SWATF were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Welinitshia. The casualties were: Corporal Albert Johan Kotze (19). Rifleman Johannes Frederik Louw (20).

11 August

- **1940** - A week before Mussolini orders General Rodolfo Graziani to invade Egypt from Libya, the British RAF raids airfields and Italian military bases.
- **1977** - Rifleman Michael Gerrard Lemmer from 2 SAI was accidentally killed during a training exercise near Otjiwarongo. He left the confines of the Temporary Base (TB) during the night and on returning, was shot dead by the Bren Gunner who mistook him for an insurgent. He was 18.
- **1982** - The South African government has released details of a South African Defence Force (SADF) raid into Southern Angola. Between two and three hundred

South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) fighters are believed to have been killed, with upwards of another hundred injured at a forward base in the Cambeno Valley. A significant amount of equipment and material was taken and destroyed, including rations originally obtained from the UN High Commission for Refugees.

- **1990** - Egyptian and Moroccan troops land in Saudi Arabia to prevent Iraqi invasion.
- **1993** - UN forces kill seven Somali gunmen who shot at a surveillance helicopter, as militias of warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid intensify an offensive against peacekeepers.
- **1998** - Congolese rebels fighting President Laurent Kabila say they are closing in on the capital, while the government rounds up Tutsis, suspected of supporting the rebellion.



Emperor Hirohito

12 August

- **1900** - The rearguard of the Boer forces under De Wet fights a running battle with Lord Methuen's British force. Methuen seizes wagons and prisoners abandoned by the Republicans, as well as one of the Armstrong guns captured at Stormberg.
- **1918** - Wing Commander Guy Penrose Gibson, VC, DSO & Bar, DFC & Bar, was the first Commanding Officer of the Royal Air Force's No. 617 Squadron, which he led in the "Dam Busters" raid in 1943, was born on this day.
- **1960** - UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld and UN troops enter rebel province of Katanga in Zaire.
- **1968** - Over 5,000 soldiers supported by tanks, armoured cars and air force units begin manoeuvres in an exercise code named Operation Subasa designed to test the ability of South African defence forces to deal with terrorist activities.
- **1970** - Rifleman Christopher Coetzee from 2 Parachute Regiment was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 21.
- **1975** - Able Seaman Hugo Johan Jacobus Bus from SAS Kimberley accidentally drowned at East London when the boat in which he was a passenger, capsized near Stoney Point during a Naval beach landing exercise. He was 23.
- **1978** - Three members from 1 Parachute Battalion were Killed in Action after walking into an enemy ambush in Southern Angola while in hot pursuit of a SWAPO/PLAN insurgent group approximately 45 men strong. The casualties were: Lance Corporal Pierre Johannes Du Bois (19). Rifleman Johannes Barend Greyling (20). Rifleman Cornelis Frederik van der Nest (20).
- **1981** - Two members from 6 SAI were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola near the Cut-line. They were: Corporal Marthinus Johannes van Staden (19). Rifleman Jacob Jacobus Blom (19).
- **1981** - Four rockets exploded in Voortrekkerhoogte (renamed Thaba Tshwane on 19 May 1998), a large military base in Verwoerdburg (now Centurion) close to Pretoria. The African National Congress (ANC) accepted responsibility.
- **1993** - US marines open fire on 3,000 Somali demonstrators protesting against the US presence in the country.

13 August

- **1900** - During the Battle of Elands River, one of Col. Hore's men, having sneaked through the besieger's lines, reaches the British lines near Mafeking and confirms that the Australians and Rhodesians are still holding out. Lord Roberts orders Kitchener to divert three brigades

from the hunt on De Wet to relieve Col. Hore.

- **1926** - Communist revolutionary and President of Cuba, Fidel Castro, was born on this day.
- **1967** - Umkhonto we Sizwe's (MK) Luthuli Detachment in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and Zimbabwean African People's Union (ZAPU) guerrillas engaged Rhodesian forces in Wankie (now Hwange) Game Reserve, near the border of Zambia and Botswana. The operation became known as the Wankie Campaign.
- **1973** - Captain Dietlof Ziegfried Weyers from 2 SAI died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while stationed at Walvis Bay. He was 31.
- **1975** - Lance Corporal Machiel Casparus Eksteen Potgieter was accidentally shot dead after being struck by a bullet resulting from the accidental discharge of a 7.62 MAG machine-gun. He was 18.
- **1980** - Rifleman Johan Calitz from 3 SAI Died of Wounds received while on patrol in the Okatopi area when his Section was ambushed by approximately 50 PLAN insurgents. He was 20.
- **1981** - Two members from SWATF were killed while returning to Sector 50 Headquarters when the privately owned civilian aircraft in which they were flying as passengers, crashed shortly after take-off from Gobabis.

14 August

- The casualties were: Colonel Jacobus Cornelius Theron (63). Lieutenant Josef Johannes Fourie (41).
- **1983** - Rifleman Gavin Viljoen from 7 SAI was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident near Phalaborwa. He was 19.
- **1984** - Two members from the South African Cape Corps were killed when their Buffel Troop carrier overturned at Eersterivier. The casualties were: Rifleman Jannie van Wyk (18). Rifleman Jan Johannes Jacobus Wildschutt (20).
- **1988** - Lance Corporal Arthur Mark Fletcher from 5 SAI died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained due to an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle while undergoing training at Henley Dam. He was 18.
- **1988** - Special Constable Andreas Ipinge from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 26.
- **1997** - Heavy fighting rages in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, between forces of the president and those of a former military ruler.
- **1998** - Rebels fighting Congolese President Laurent Kabila capture a power transformer in western Congo, sending the capital, Kinshasa, into darkness.
- **1870** - David Farragut, American Admiral who coined the phrase "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!"), dies at 69.
- **1896** - English World War I fighter pilot Albert Ball VC, DSO & Two Bars, MC was born on this day. At the time of his death he was the United Kingdom's leading flying ace, with 44 victories.
- **1900** - End of the 'first De Wet hunt'. De Wet's entire force crosses the unoccupied Olifants Nek Pass near Rustenburg and camps on the banks of the Hex River. He has achieved all his objectives: captured a train, inflicted losses on the enemy, increased his own numbers and managed to rest some of his burghers, while occupying the attention of 50,000 British troops.
- **1945** - Following the two Atomic Bomb drops and believing that continuation of the war would only result in further loss of Japanese lives, delegates of Emperor Hirohito accepted Allied surrender terms originally issued at Potsdam on 26 July 1945, with the exception that the Japanese Emperor's sovereignty would be maintained. Japanese Emperor Hirohito, who had never spoken on radio, then recorded an announcement admitting Japan's surrender,

without actually using the word. The announcement was broadcast via radio to the Japanese people at noon the next day. The formal surrender ceremony occurred later, on 2 September 1945, on board the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

- **1960** - UN peace-keeping forces finally replace Belgian troops in the Republic of Congo.
- **1974** - A sharp increase in South African defence expenditure is announced.
- **1980** - Three members from 6 SAI were Killed in Action when their patrol was ambushed by a numerically superior force of SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near Eenhana. The casualties were: Corporal Daniel Johannes Deyzel (20). Lance Corporal Avril Jewaskiewitz (19). Rifleman Christoffel Jacobus Mijburgh (20).
- **1981** - Corporal Cecil Charles McAlister from Regiment Schoonspruit,



Fidel Castro

was Killed in Action during an attack on their TB by SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near Opuwa in the Kaokoveld. He was 27.

- **1981** - Lance Corporal Wynand Spies from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was Reported Missing in Action during operations in Southern Angola while acting as part of a 3-man rearguard protecting the evacuation of two wounded personnel after an attack. He was shot and presumably killed during this rear-guard action but owing to extremely heavy and concentrated enemy fire, his body could not be recovered. After prolonged political negotiations, his remains were eventually returned to South Africa three years later. He was 20.
- **1986** - Sergeant Johannes Petrus Coetzer from 911 Battalion SWATF was killed in a private motor vehicle accident near Keetmanshoop. He was 22.
- **2004** - Germany apologises for the massacre of some 65,000 Hereros in South-West Africa (Namibia) by their soldiers during the 1904 rebellion, but rules out compensation.

15 August

- **1769** - French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) was born on the island of Corsica. Originally an officer in King Louis' Army, he rose to become Emperor amid the political chaos that

followed the French Revolution.

- **1865** - Comdt Louw Wepener (53) is killed in combat during an attack on Moshesh at Thaba Bosigo in the Free State.
- **1973** - Leading Seaman Ivan William Kearns from SAS Protea died from injuries received in a military vehicle accident near Bredasdorp on 10 August 1973. He was 26.
- **1973** - Rifleman Mark Cornelius van Heerden from 1 SAI died at Potchefstroom after contracting meningitis while on his way to participate in a military exercise in Gazankulu. He was 18.
- **1979** - Sergeant Barend Cornelius Roux from the Regiment De Wet, attached to 53 Battalion was Killed in Action in Southern Angola when his patrol was ambushed by a numerically superior force of SWAPO/PLAN insurgents just North of Oshigambo. He was 26.
- **1981** - Rifleman Melato Chamba from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action when his patrol was ambushed by a numerically superior enemy force in Southern Angola. He was 24.
- **1988** - Rifleman Brink Stander from 1 SAI was killed in a private motor vehicle accident on the Brandfort to Bloemfontein Road while he was on a weekend pass. He was 31.
- **1994** - Carlos the Jackal, freelance terrorist, is ar-

rested in Sudan and flown to Paris for trial. He is eventually sentenced to life in prison by a Paris court for the 1975 murders of two French secret agents and an alleged informer.

16 August

- **1777** - During the American Revolutionary War, the Battle of Bennington, Vermont, occurred as militiamen from Vermont, aided by Massachusetts troops, wiped out a detachment of 800 German-Hessians sent by British General Burgoyne to seize horses.
- **1780** - The Battle of Camden in South Carolina occurred during the American Revolutionary War. The battle was a big defeat for the Americans as forces under General Gates were defeated by troops of British General Charles Cornwallis, resulting in 900 Americans killed and 1,000 captured.
- **1888** - Thomas Edward Lawrence, better known as Lawrence of Arabia (1888-1935), British adventurer, soldier, and author, is born in Tremadoc, Wales.
- **1917** - In a renewed thrust of the Allied offensive launched at the end of July in the Flanders region of Belgium - known as the Third Battle of Ypres, or simply as Passchendaele, for the village that saw the heaviest fighting - British troops capture the village of Langemarck from the Ger-

mans.

- **1901** - General De la Rey protests the British mistreatment of women and children.
- **1942** - US Army Air Force planes see action for the first time in North Africa, bombing German military positions from their base in Egypt.
- **1959** - William "Bull" F Halsey, US vice-admiral (WW II Pacific), dies.
- **1979** - Rifleman Erasmus Albertus Venter from 4 SAI was killed during Operation Safraan after a fellow soldier picked up an unexploded SAAF Impala DEFA 30 mm High Explosive cannon projectile and between the two of them, attempted to take the shell apart with a Swiss Army knife. During this process, the cannon projectile exploded, killing him instantly. He was 20.
- **1980** - Lance Corporal Hendrik Jacobus van der Walt from 16 Maintenance Unit was killed at Luhebu in South West Africa when the military vehicle he was driving, overturned. He was 18.
- **1981** - Rifleman B Jacob from 101 Battalion SWATF was critically wounded on 14 August 1981 during a contact with PLAN insurgents in the Koakoveld. He succumbed to his wounds in hospital on 16 August 1981. He was 22.
- **1982** - Rifleman William Edwin van Heerden from 201 Battalion SWATF was

Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 19.

- **1986** - Lance Corporal Andre Hercoll Erasmus from the Cape Regiment was Killed in Action after suffering shrapnel wounds during a SWAPO/PLAN stand-off attack on Ruacana. He was 20.
- **1986** - Candidate Officer Christopher Hugh Snyman from 101 Air Commando Squadron was killed when his private aircraft flew into High Tension wires and crashed near Hoedspruit. He was 37.
- **1988** - Staff Sergeant Gideon van Rooyen from 2 Special Service Battalion was killed instantly when his Armoured Car overturned at the Rooisloot Training Area, crushing him in the turret hatch. He was 26.
- **1991** - Rifleman Mark William Hein from 8 SAI was accidentally shot dead while on duty in Tokoza Township by a fellow soldier who was playing around with his loaded rifle. He was 18.
- **2003** - Ugandan military ruler Idi Amin, 78, who presided over an eight-year reign of terror from 1971-1979, where an estimated 300,000 people were killed and tortured to death, dies of

multiple organ failure.

17 August

- **1901** - The ZAR Executive Council instructs Commandant-General Louis Botha to investigate and, if necessary, to punish Assistant Commandant-General Tobias Smuts for the burning of Bremersdorp, because his actions were not according to the 'customs of civilized warfare'.
- **1940** - The Italian invasion of British Somaliland, which began on August 4, is complete. The Royal Navy successfully evacuated British troops via the port of Berbera. There is now little to stop the Italians controlling the southern entrance to the Red Sea. Meanwhile the 5th Indian Division, newly arrived in East Africa, is deployed along the Sudan-Abyssinia and Sudan-Eritrea border as part of the Sudan Defence Force, and a revolt is started in Abyssinia by



Carlos the Jackal

those loyal to the Emperor, Haile Selassie.

- **1943** - During World War II in Europe, the Allies completed the conquest of the island of Sicily after just 38 days. This gave the Allies control of the Mediterranean and also led to the downfall of Benito Mussolini and Italy's eventual withdrawal from the war. However, the Germans managed to evacuate 39,569 troops, 47 tanks, 94 heavy guns, over 9,000 vehicles and 2,000 tons of ammunition back to the Italian mainland from Sicily.
- **1962** - The South African Minister of Defence, J.J. Fouché, announces that the striking power of the Defence Force has been increased twenty-fold as compared with two years earlier, while that of Navy is to be increased ten-fold in the next few years.
- **1962** - Two members from 17 Squadron were killed when their Alouette II Helicopter flew into High Tension Cables in Du Toit's Kloof and crashed in flames. The crew were: Lieutenant Keith Lynford Martin (22). Sergeant Andrew Robert Foote (39).
- **1963** - Captain Richard William Davies from 40 Squadron was killed when his AT-6 Harvard, Serial No. 7322 struck High Tension Cables and crashed near Benoni. He was 27.
- **1977** - Lance Corporal George Allen Deacon from

2 Field Engineer Regiment was killed in an accidental explosion at Okalongo. He was 19.

- **1977** - Two members, one from 5 Squadron and the other from 8 Squadron were killed when their Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I crashed at Riemvasmaak Bombing Range near Upington while carrying out a night bombing exercise. The crew were: Major James McFarlane Wilson Kerr (30). Major Barry Leonard Moody (38).
- **1981** - Two members from 4 Field Regiment were killed in Military Vehicle accident at Oshivello. The casualties were: Lance Bombardier Henri Victor Louis Olver (19). Gunner Dirk Jacobus Loubser (20).
- **1988** - Special Constable Filimon Ndevaumba from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 29.
- **1990** - Two members from Eastern Transvaal Command were killed when their Samil 20 vehicle overturned at Pafuri. The casualties were: Rifleman Agus Mlahlekm Khoza (28). Rifleman Mphakati Isaiah Mkhombo (age unknown).
- **1991** - Major Harper Martin Geldenhuys from 32 Battalion was accidentally killed at Pomfret while making a

video of a C-47 Dakota as it was taking off from the runway. He was standing on the end of the runway and as the aircraft passed overhead, the aircraft tail wheel struck him on the head, killing him instantly. He was 26.

18 August

- **1914** - Germany declares war on Russia while President Woodrow Wilson issues his Proclamation of Neutrality.
- **1957** - The first two Avro Shackleton Mk III anti-submarine aircraft arrive in South Africa.
- **1979** - Rifleman Glen Colin Coppard from 4 SAI was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion when he stepped on the device while assisting with a wounded soldier. He was 20.
- **1979** - Three members from 3 SAI were Killed in Action in Southern Angola when they triggered a Soviet POMZ-2M anti-personnel picket mine during clearing operations inside an enemy base. The casualties were: Corporal Johannes Petrus Maritz (20). Lance Corporal Frank Nienaber (21). Rifleman Joseph Benjamin Ruben Jordaan (20).
- **1981** - Rifleman Gavin Dickenson Elliott from 5 SAI died from multiple shrapnel wounds accidentally sustained when a 90mm High Explosive Shell exploded. He was 22.
- **1982** - Two members from

44 Parachute Pathfinder Company and one member from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment were Reported Missing approximately 40 miles inside Matabeleland during Operation Drama, a clandestine mission in Zimbabwe. All three men have no known grave and remain unaccounted for. The casualties were: Staff Sergeant Peter David Berry (33). Sergeant Robert Trevor Beech (27). Sergeant John Andrew Wessels (24).

- **1982** - Private Wynand van Rhyn from the South African Medical Corps, attached to 2 Military Hospital, Wynberg was Reported Missing when he failed to return after going hiking alone on Table Mountain. His body was later located by other hikers the following day and recovered. It appeared that he had lost his way and in the dark, fallen and broken his leg and had subsequently died from shock and exposure during the night. He was 19.
- **1993** - Sergeant M. Dube from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was accidentally killed when his parachute failed to deploy while carrying out a freefall parachute jump. He was 35.
- **1998** - Congolese rebels send President Laurent Kabila's troops fleeing as they advance to within 200 km of the capital, now deprived of electricity.

19 August

- **1901** - At Graaff-Reinet, P.J. Fourie, J. van Rensburg and L.F.S. Pfeiffer are executed by a British firing squad for treason and the murder of British troops.
- **1940** - First flight of the B-25 Mitchell medium bomber.
- **1942** - Dieppe Raid. An Allied force of 7,000 men carry out a large daytime raid against German positions at the French seaport of Dieppe. Aided by tanks and aircraft, the commando force—made up of approximately 5,000 Canadians, 2,000 British soldiers, and a handful of American and Free French troops—gained a foothold on the beach in the face of a furious German defense. During nine hours of fighting, the Allies failed to destroy more than a handful of their targets and suffered the death of 3,600 men. More than 100 aircraft, a destroyer, 33 landing craft, and 30 tanks were also lost.
- **1944** - The 6th Division entered Florence, Italy and was active there until 1945.
- **1968** - Nigeria's Federal troops have launched a major offensive against multiple targets in Biafra. Despite claims of 2,000 people being massacred, the leader of the Nigerian military government, General Yakubu

Gowon, has stated that his troops are 'behaving correctly.'

- **1976** - Lance Corporal Carlos Alberto Correia Pinto Ribeiro from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was Reported Missing in South Eastern Angola during a contact with enemy forces between Luenge and Coutada de Mucusso. He was driving a Unimog loaded with a ton or more of High Explosive. The South African Force was ambushed while the company was returning to Buffalo. His vehicle was hit by a Soviet RPG-7 Anti-Tank Rocket causing the explosive cargo to detonate. He has no known grave and remains unaccounted for. For administrative purposes, he was officially declared dead in 1983. He was 25.
- **1982** - Rifleman R. Moses from 101 Battalion SWATF was killed in a military vehicle accident in Northern Owamboland. He was 24.
- **1984** - Corporal Albert Ryan from 32 Battalion died of injuries sustained in a private

Rudolph Hess



motor vehicle accident at Port Shepstone. He was 25.

- **1987** - Rudolf Hess, German Nazi official (Deputy Fuhrer who dramatically escaped to Britain in 1941, sentenced to life in Spandau Prison), commits suicide at 93.
- **1988** - Lance Corporal Raymond Victor Jagga, an Ops Medic from the Central Medical Command was assigned to F Squadron School of Armour and attached to 61 Mechanised Brigade. He was Killed in Action when his Ratel was struck by two rockets. He was 19.
- **1988** - Gunner Jaco Petrus van der Merwe from 10 Artillery Brigade was Reported Missing after he went swimming in the Cunene river and disappeared. It is thought that he was taken by a crocodile. He has no known grave and remains unaccounted for. He was 20.
- **1993** - Lance Corporal Douglas Gardiner Scott from 1 Special Service Battalion was killed when two Rooikat armoured cars were involved in a collision and overturned at Deduza. He was 18.

20 August

- **1955** - Simultaneous attacks by Algerian rebels against French targets in the Constantine district of Algeria have resulted in over 500 deaths and 200 wounded. At the same time nationalists have taken to the streets in Morocco. The attacks

and demonstrations mark the second anniversary of the French deposition of the Sultan of Morocco, Siyyidi Mohammed V ibn Youssef, in favour of Muhammad Ben Aarafa.

- **1968** - Approximately 200,000 Warsaw Pact troops and 5,000 tanks invade Czechoslovakia to crush the "Prague Spring"—a brief period of liberalization in the communist country.
- **1975** - Trooper Leon William Bessinger from the Prince Alfred's Guard was killed in a military vehicle accident near Peddie in the Eastern Cape. He was 26.
- **1977** - Two members from 40 Squadron were killed when their AT-6 Harvard crashed while carrying out a routine general flying sortie. The aircraft went into a spin from which the pilot was unable to recover and the aircraft crashed near Delmas. The casualties were: Captain Keith Neil Smith (27). 2nd Lieutenant Paul Christopher Sarbutt (24).
- **1978** - Private Jacobus Johannes Etienne Bothma from the Defence Headquarters Personnel Unit died from a gunshot wound to the neck, accidentally sustained in a shooting incident while he was on duty in Pretoria. He was rushed to 1 Military Hospital but succumbed to his injuries the same day. He was 19.
- **1988** - Lance Corporal Brian Albert Hoy from Regiment

Noord Transvaal was accidentally killed after being crushed in the Commanders turret when his Ratel overturned approximately 40km South of Ruacana. He was 26.

- **1995** - Liberia's main warring factions signed a peace accord calling for a ceasefire after more than five years of civil war and the start of democratic rule in one year.
- **1998** - US military forces attack a chemical plant in Sudan and what they describe as a terrorist camp in Afghanistan. Said to be linked with terrorists, the attacks are in response to the bombings of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania 13 days earlier.
- **1998** - Zimbabwe intervenes in the Democratic Republic of Congo to support the regime against a rebellion. The last Zimbabwean soldiers withdraw at the end of 2002. Troops from Angola, Namibia, Chad, and Sudan also intervened to support the Kinshasa regime.

21 August

- **1863** - During the American Civil War, William Quantrill led 450 irregular Confederate raiders on a pre-dawn terrorist raid of Lawrence, Kansas, leaving 150 civilians dead, 30 wounded and much of the town a smoking ruin. In 1862, Quantrill had been denied a Confederate commission by the Confed-

erate Secretary of War, who labeled Quantrill's notions of war as 'barbarism.'

- **1900** - The Battle of Bergendal, near Vanwyksvlei, starts. Gen. Joachim Fourie's men force the 11th Hussars to retreat at 20.00, with 7 killed, 3 missing, presumed dead, and 26 wounded.
- **1918** - The Second Battle of the Somme begins.
- **1912** - Lord Roberts, commander-in-chief of the British forces during the 3rd Anglo-Boer War, congratulates Gen. Louis Botha on his appointment as honorary general in the British army.
- **1939** - The Soviet Union and Germany sign the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact, a 10-year non-aggression treaty, with a secret addendum, to partition Poland.
- **1940** - Leon Trotsky, Russian Marxist revolutionary, political theorist and founder of the Red Army, assassinated at 62 by an ice-pick wielding Ramón Mercader.
- **1965** - Air Mechanic James Roland Bolzern from 3 Satellite Radar Station died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained in a shooting incident at Mafeking. He was 24.
- **1973** - Four members from 85 Advanced Flying School were killed when an Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I was involved in a mid-air collision with another Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I during a training exercise near Pietersburg. The casualties

were: Captain Christiaan Lemmer Smith (29). 2nd Lieutenant David Lanian James Snadden (22). Captain Frans Reitz van Zyl (29). 2nd Lieutenant Clifford Yates (23).

- **1976** - Rifleman Dale Robert Whitter from 2 SAI died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained at the Farm "Woodholme No. 202". He was 18.
- **1978** - Rifleman Jacobus Alwyn van der Berg from the Kaffrarian Rifles died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained at Oshakati due to the accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 25.
- **1980** - The United States and Somalia sign an agreement giving US naval and air forces access to military facilities in the East African country in return for American military aid.
- **1981** - Rifleman Jan Jacobus Minnie from the Infantry School was accidentally killed when he inadvertently used a dud high explosive mortar bomb as a hammer, causing the device to explode, killing him instantly. He was 18.
- **1986** - Staff Sergeant Johannes Petrus van Niekerk from Sector 20 Headquarters Intelligence Section

died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained at Rundu. He was 32.

- **1987** - Rifleman C.A. Augusto from 32 Battalion died from causes unknown while stationed at Buffalo. He was 27.
- **1994** - The last French troops pull out of Rwanda, ending their controversial humanitarian mission.
- **1998** - Angolan troops enter the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) war on Laurent Kabila's side.

22 August

- **1864** - The first Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field is signed by 12 countries. The international treaty, known as the Geneva Convention, also guarantees the neutrality of members of the Red Cross and is honoured in South Africa.
- **1922** - Michael Collins, Irish



Michael Collins

nationalist leader, killed in ambush by anti-treaty forces during the Irish Civil War at 31.

- **1934** - General Herbert Norman Schwarzkopf Jr (1934-2012) was born on this day. While serving as Commander-in-chief, United States Central Command, he led all coalition forces in the Gulf War in 1990/1991.
- **1979** - Rifleman Barend Gabriel Bester from 1 SAI died of wounds in 3 Military Hospital in Bloemfontein after being struck in the chest by a piece of shrapnel in an accidental hand grenade explosion at the General De Wet Training Range. He was 19.
- **1980** - Two members from 4 SAI were Killed in Action when their Section was ambushed by SWAPO/PLAN insurgents between Eenhana and Oshigambo whilst sweeping the road for landmines. The casualties were: Rifleman Pieter Jacobus De Beer (19). Rifleman Andries Petrus Wiese (19).
- **1984** - Private Udo Louis Gevers from the South African Intelligence Corps attached to Sector 20 Headquarters was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Kavangoland. He was 20.
- **1974** - Two members from the School of Artillery were killed in a private motor vehicle accident on the Potchefstroom to Johannesburg road while on weekend pass when their vehicle was involved in a head-on collision with another vehicle while overtaking. The casualties were: Lance Bombardier Michael David Loxton (18). Gunner Joseph Spedding Baggott (18).
- **1976** - Rifleman Reinhard Walter Klingenberg from Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident at Three Sisters while on Weekend Pass. He was 19.
- **1976** - Two members from 1 Reconnaissance Commando were Killed in Action during a patrol near the Okavango river when the Wolf vehicle in which they were traveling detonated a landmine and overturned killing Sergeant Soeiro instantly and crushing Staff Sergeant Roxo underneath. The casualties in this incident were: Staff Sergeant Francisco Daniel Roxo HC (43). Sergeant Ponciano Gomes Silva Soeiro (35).
- **1978** - Eight members from 1 Special Service Battalion, one member from 2 Special Service Battalion and one member from the South African Medical Corps were

man missionary, Reverend C.A. Daniel Heese murdered, because he may have witnessed the atrocity.

Killed in Action during the early hours of the morning when the Bungalow in which they were sleeping at Katima Mulilo received a direct hit from a Soviet GRAD-P 122mm High Explosive Katyusha Rocket. The casualties were: Trooper Kevin John Biggs (18). Private Willem Hendrik Christoffel Britz (18). Trooper Hendrik Willem De Lange (18). Trooper Dennis Michael Elworthy (20). Trooper Gerhardus Petrus Erasmus (18). Trooper Laurie Johannes Lesch (19). Trooper Jan Jurgens Rotschutte (20). Trooper Gideon Johannes Smit (18). Trooper Willem Stephanus Smuts (19). Trooper Abraham Daniel van der Merwe (18).

- **1980** - Rifleman Helgard Brink Colling from SWA SPES (SWATF) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1981** - Rifleman Antonio Catamba from 32 Battalion died from a gunshot wound sustained during a shooting incident at Buffalo. He was 42.
- **1994** - Eugene Bullard, the only black pilot in World War I, is posthumously commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

24 August

- **1814** - During the War of 1812, Washington, D.C.,

was invaded by British forces that burned the Capitol, the White House and most other public buildings along with a number of private homes. The burning was in retaliation for the earlier American burning of York (Toronto).

- **1951** - The Mau Mau rebellion starts in Kenya.
- **1973** - Private Waldemar Adriaan Nelson from the Technical Service Corps was accidentally killed in a military vehicle accident in Bloemfontein. He was 19.
- **1980** - Lance Corporal Daniel Langman from 41 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 26.
- **1981** - Rifleman Adao Joaquim from 32 Battalion was accidentally killed by friendly fire during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 26.
- **1981** - Two members from 1 SAI were Killed in Action during the attack on "Target Yankee" in Southern Angola during Ops Protea. The casualties in this incident were: Rifleman Florence Cornelius Smit (18). Rifleman Martinus Godfrey Stapelberg (19).
- **1986** - Sapper Leon Bryan Kuyler from 1 Construction Regiment died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained in a shooting incident at the Unit while he was on Guard Duty. He was 20.
- **1986** - Lance Corporal Conrad du Bois Nelson from the Intelligence School in Kimberley succumbed to injuries in the Universitas Hospital after being critically injured on 05 August 1986 when his SAMIL vehicle overturned 5km from the Unit Headquarters. He was 18.
- **1987** - Rifleman Maliphathwe Godfrey Ndela from 21 Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident in Soweto. He was 21.
- **1988** - Gunner William Faul van Niekerk from the Witwatersrand Command Intelligence Section was killed in a military vehicle accident at Doornkop. He was 19.
- **1991** - Two members from 113 Battalion were killed when their water tanker vehicle overturned at Tzaneen. The casualties were: Lance Corporal John Sidney Shisari (26). Rifleman Milleon Bullus Khoza (31).

25 August

- **1911** - Võ Nguyên Giáp (1911-2013) was born on this day. Giáp was a general in the Vietnam People's Army and a politician. He is considered one of the greatest military strategists of the 20th century.
- **1966** - Candidate Officer G.A.K. Howson from 41

Squadron was killed when his Cessna 185D crashed near Krugersdorp while on a low level reconnaissance flight. He was 23.

- **1976** - Sergeant José Correia Pinto Ribeiro from 1 Reconnaissance Commando was killed in a military vehicle accident while evacuating battle casualties to a hospital in South West Africa. He was 27.
- **1978** - Rifleman Johannes Hendrik De Jager from 5 SAI was killed in a private motor vehicle accident 5km outside Ladysmith on the Colenso Road. He was 19.
- **1981** - One member from 17 Squadron and one member from 87 Helicopter Flying School were Killed in Action when their Alouette III Helicopter Gunship was shot down by enemy 14,5mm anti-aircraft fire about 500m from the target area while providing close-air support operations over Mongua in Southern Angola just prior

23 August

- **1901** - A group of eight surrendered Boer prisoners of war are shot by the Bushveld Carbineers and a Ger-

Eugene Bullard



to the launch of Ops Protea in Angola. The crew were: Lieutenant Johannes Gysbertus Roos (24). Sergeant Clifton Stacey (21).

- **1981** - Captain Louis Harmse from 1 SAI was Killed in Action during Ops Protea in Southern Angola during enemy bunker clearing operations. He was 27.
- **1981** - Lance Bombardier Hendrik Abraham Johannes Grobler from 4 Artillery Regiment was Killed in Action in Southern Angola during Ops Protea. He was 20.
- **1988** - Trooper Owen Leon Wolfaardt from 1 Special Service Battalion was killed when his armoured car overturned during an exercise at the General de Wet Training Area. He was 20.
- **1988** - Special Constable Tsaanda Mbunguha from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 27.
- **1989** - Signaller Andre' Rousseau from 2 Signals Regiment died in the Klerksdorp Hospital from injuries received in a motor vehicle accident at Sannieshof. He was 20.
- **1991** - Rifleman Ambros Nijanyana Sekonjela from 21 Battalion was Killed in Action after being shot dead by persons unknown at Mandelaview during a riot-related incident while he was on

foot patrol in Katlehong. He was 21.

26 August

- **1944** - French General Charles de Gaulle enters Paris, which had formally been liberated the day before. As he entered the Place de l'Hotel, French collaborationists took a few sniper shots at him.
- **1966** - The People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), the armed wing of SWAPO, fought in a battle against South African occupying forces at Omugulugwombashe in northern South West Africa (Namibia).
- **1974** - A Defence Bill is passed in South Africa laying down penalties for any person or organization inciting anyone to avoid military service.
- **1976** - Two members of Bravo Group were killed when their Unimog overturned near Rundu. They were: Rifleman Harry Albert Bekker (19). Rifleman Andries Jacobus Pretorius (19).
- **1978** - Lance Corporal Francois Louw from the South African Cape Corps was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Ruacana. He was 21.
- **2011** - John McAleese, British SAS Trooper, Team leader during 1980 Iranian Embassy Siege, dies aged 62.

27 August

- **1914** - German Togo is occupied by British and French

troops.

- **1916** - Romania declares war on Austria-Hungary, formally entering World War I. Romanian troops cross the border of the Austro-Hungarian Empire into the much-contested province of Transylvania.
- **1945** - US troops land in Japan after Japanese surrender.
- **1965** - Air Mechanic Johann Andre' Venter from Central Flying School Dunnottar was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed on the farm "Rusplaas" near Piet Retief while on a routine low level navigation exercise. He was 17.
- **1969** - Israeli commando force penetrates deep into Egyptian territory to stage mortar attack on regional army headquarters in Nile Valley of Upper Egypt.
- **1974** - 2nd Lieutenant Albertus Stephanus Gouws from 4 Squadron was killed when his Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I crashed near Potchefstroom while on a routing training exercise. He was 21.
- **1975** - Rifleman Gert Antonie Senekal from 2 SAI was Killed in Action during the attack to capture the town of Pereira D'Eca (Ongiva) in Southern Angola during Ops Savannah. He was 19.
- **1977** - Ordinary Seaman (Diver) Barry Juan Moolman from SAS Donkin accidentally drowned during a diving training exercise at Port Elizabeth. He was 27.
- **1979** - Rifleman Frans Lilun-

gwe from Sector 70 Headquarters SWATF was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 23.

- **1979** - Louis Mountbatten, 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma, British naval officer and statesman, last Viceroy of India (1947), is assassinated by an IRA bomb on his boat in Ireland at 79.
- **1981** - Two members from 5 SAI were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces near Ongiva in Southern Angola during Ops Protea. The casualties were: Rifleman David Nicolas Janse van Rensburg (20). Rifleman Ettienne Marius Snyman (19).
- **1983** - two members attached to 54 Battalion were killed in action. The casualties were: Rifleman Joseph Wayne Muller (20). Rifleman David Prins (24).
- **1985** - Rifleman Jan Buijense from the North West Command Maintenance Unit died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained at Potchefstroom as a result of an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 21.
- **1988** - Lance Corporal Gary Lamb from 1 SAI, attached to 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was shot dead by a fellow soldier during an argument while they were stationed at Lohatla. He was 19.
- **1990** - Rifleman Jose' Joaquim from 201 Battalion SWATF was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was

24.

- **1992** - Former commander of the Simon's Town naval base Dieter Gerhard is released from prison where he has been serving a life sentence since 1983 after being convicted of acting as an agent for the Soviet Union. He is deported to Switzerland.
- **1993** - Colonel Pieter Jacobus Bakkes from the South African Military Health Service died from cancer in 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria. He was 49.

28 August

- **1940** - The South African Air Force flying out from Kenya bombs Italian bases in Somaliland.
- **1941** - SS General Franz Jaekeln marched more than 23,000 Hungarian Jews to bomb craters at Kamenets Podolsk, ordered them to undress, and riddled them with machine gun fire. Those who didn't die from the spray of bullets were buried alive under the weight of corpses that piled atop them. All told, more than 600,000 Jews had been murdered in Ukraine by war's end.
- **1974** - Rifleman Albino Moreira Christello from 11 Commando Regiment was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident 140km East of Rundu. He was 18.
- **1980** - Two members from

41 Battalion were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. They were: Rifleman Jacob Fredericks (18). Rifleman Joseph van Rensburg (19).

- **1981** - A member from 6 SAI and a member from the South African Medical Corps were both Killed in Action while on patrol in Southern Angola. The casualties were: Lance Corporal Petrus Kruger (20). Lance Corporal Mark Anthony Plateel (19).
- **1981** - Rifleman Domingos Paulo from 32 Battalion died from a gunshot wound sustained in a shooting accident at Fort Doppies in the Caprivi Strip. He was 32.
- **1983** - Rifleman Jorge Namibi from 32 Battalion was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident while in pursuit of an enemy patrol in Southern Angola. He was 28.
- **1990** - Rifleman Laurens Stef Mdaka from the Kru-



Roger Bushell

ger National Park Commando was critically injured in a military vehicle accident at Letaba Bridge on 17 August 1990. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries on 28 August 1990. He was 25.

29 August

- **1792** - In one of the worst maritime disasters, 900 men drowned on the British battleship Royal George. As the ship was being repaired, a gust of wind allowed water to flood into open gun ports. The ship sank within minutes.
- **1848** - The Battle of Boomplaats, where the British under Governor Harry Smith conquer the Voortrekkers under Commandant Andries W. Pretorius, takes place.
- **1973** - Constable M.C. Mancini from the South African Police was Killed in Action during a contact with insurgents when his patrol was ambushed at Mount Darwin, Rhodesia. He was 22.
- **1974** - Lance Corporal Stephanus Marais from 1 Reconnaissance Commando drowned in a diving accident in Mossel Bay Harbour during a Training Exercise. His body was recovered the following day. He was 19.
- **1985** - Sergeant Petrus Cornelius Frederick Du Plessis Cohen from the Soutpansberg Military Area Provost Unit was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Messina. He was 27.

- **1985** - Lance Corporal Marcell Stephen Lombard from 2 Field Engineer Regiment was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 29.
- **1986** - Sapper Willem Jacobus Coad from 1 Construction Regiment was killed when the water tanker vehicle he was driving, overturned at Komatipoort. He was 18.
- **1987** - Corporal Kirk Hendriksen from 5 SAI was killed when he accidentally fell off a moving train while trying to prevent a prisoner in his custody from escaping. He was 22.
- **1987** - Rifleman Cornelis Dilman from 1 Special Service Battalion died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained during a shooting incident in Northern Owamboland. He was 26.

30 August

- **1900** - General Ben Viljoen releases about 2,000 British prisoners of war from the camp at Nooitgedacht.
- **1910** - Squadron Leader Roger Joyce Bushell (1910-1944) was a South African-born British military aviator, who became famous as the organiser of a mass escape from a German prisoner of war camp in 1944 was born on this day. The film *The Great Escape* was based on this event.
- **1977** - Corporal Johannes Jacobus Basson from Reg-

iment Mooi River Died of Wounds after being grievously burned during a mortar bomb attack by SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near Etale Base. He was 19.

- **1978** - Rifleman Howard D'Arcy Remington from Infantry School was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned near Oshivello during a night pursuit of SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in the Tsumeb area. He was 20.
- **1978** - Rifleman Jacobus Paulus Jansen from Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident in Oudtshoorn when his vehicle was involved in a head-on collision with a delivery truck in Victoria Street. He was 18.
- **1980** - Lance Corporal Willem Hendrik Smit from 2 SAI was Killed in Action while searching as Kraal in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1980** - Rifleman Jose Cabinda from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola, just north of Rundu. He was 23.
- **1980** - Private Herman Nico Booysen from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed in a motorcycle accident between Stilfontein and Klerksdorp while on leave. He lost control of his motor cycle and hit a lamp post. He was thrown clear of his motorcycle but was struck by another motor-

cycle and killed instantly. He was 19.

- **1982** - Corporal Josef Johannes de Beer from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed in a private motorcycle accident at Christiana. He was 19.
- **1982** - Rifleman Reginald Chivovo from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was killed when his parachute failed to open during a practice jump at Phalaborwa. He was 23.
- **1986** - Private Andrew Morris Byrd from the South African Medical Corps was killed in a self-inflicted shooting accident. He was 20.
- **1990** - Rifleman Tears Mashile from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was killed while carrying out helicopter insertion training near Madimbo. He accidentally became entangled in the rappelling ropes when the helicopter got airborne and fell to his death. He was 25.
- **1998** - Troops allied with the government of Congo capture the strategic port town of Matadi from rebel forces trying to oust President Laurent Kabila.
- **1988** - South African troops are withdrawn from Angola.

31 August

- **1900** - Commandant Danie Theron captures a train and 30 soldiers at Klip Station, near the present-day Soweto.
- **1942** - The British army under General Bernard Law Montgomery defeats Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps in the Battle of Alam al-Halfa in Egypt, thereby stopping the German offensive in North Africa.
- **1965** - Air Mechanic (Pilot Under Training) Johannes Jurie Delpont was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed near Ermelo during a solo night navigation exercise. He was 21.
- **1976** - Captain Jack Steven Cloete from the Danie Theron Combat School was killed when his military vehicle overturned at Wolmaranstad. He was 36.
- **1977** - Rifleman George Frederick Morkel Langenhoven from 4 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident at Alldays. He was 18.
- **1979** - Sapper Leon Lambert from 2 Field Engineer Regiment, attached to 5 Military Works Unit at the Army Battle School in Lohatla, was

accidentally killed when the Bedford truck in which he was traveling as a passenger, overturned 30km outside Vryburg on the Lothatla to Vryburg road after the vehicles front tyre burst. He was 18.

- **1979** - 2nd Lieutenant Frederick Francois de Wit from 2 Signal Regiment was accidentally killed at Carolina in a non-military related incident. He was 23.
- **1980** - Rifleman Izak Gabriel Du Plessis from Noordvaal Commando was killed in a private motor cycle accident while on duty. He was 24.
- **1981** - The US vetoes a UN Security Council resolution criticising South Africa for raids in Angola.
- **1983** - Rifleman Pieter Frederik van Eeden from 1 SAI was accidentally killed at the General De Wet Training Terrain in Bloemfontein when he picked up an unexploded 40mm High Explosive "Snotneus" grenade in the veld. While he was handling the device, it exploded, killing him instantly. He was 19.





QUIZ

World War II Insignia

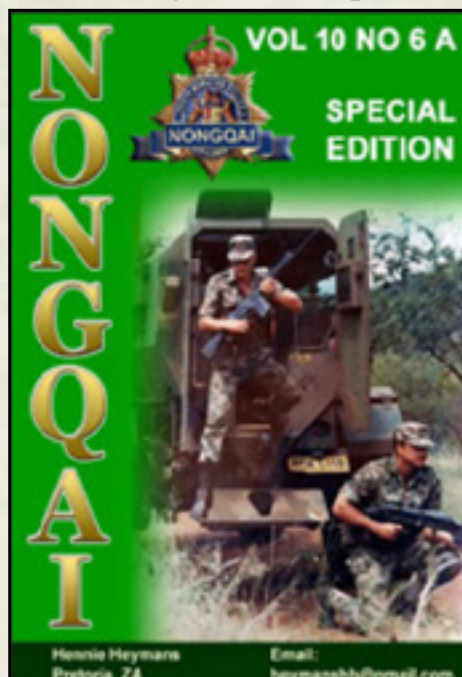
1. Heer (Army) - Germany.
2. Polish Forces - Poland.
3. Soviet Army - Russia.
4. Royal Air Force - Britain.
5. Fallschirmjäger (Paratroopers) - Germany.
6. US Army Air Force - USA
7. Afrikakorps - German.
8. 1st Free French Division - France.
9. Union Defence Force - South Africa.
10. Royal Army Medical Corps - Britain.
11. Schutzstaffel (SS) - Germany.
12. British Combined Operations - Britain.
13. United States Marine Corps - USA.
14. Luftwaffe (Air Force) - Germany.
15. British Airborne - Britain.



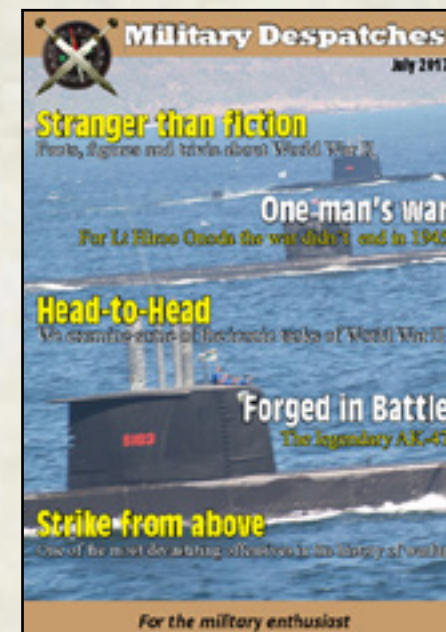
Useful links

Every month we will be featuring a few useful links to military websites, newsletters and on-line magazines. Stuff that we think our readers will appreciate.

Here are two of our favourites. The first one is Nongqai, the unofficial police newsletter for veterans of the former South African Police Force and for those interested in Police History. The second is Jimmy's Own, the official newsletter of the South African Signals Association. Click on the magazine covers to go to the respective websites.



Military Despatches Website



"Things don't have to change the world to be important."

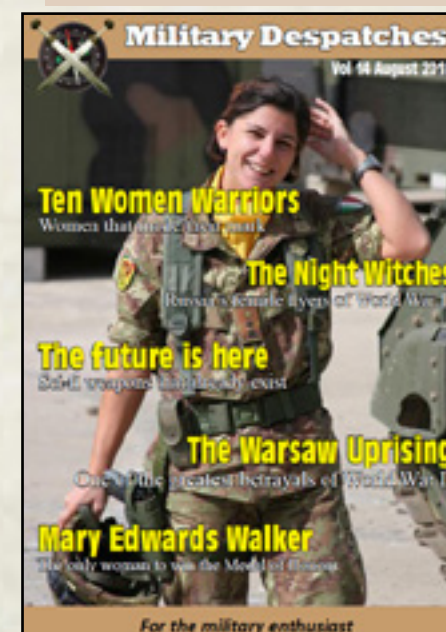
Steve Jobs



Our aim is to make the Military Despatches website easy to use. Even more important to us, we want to make the website informative and interesting. The latest edition of the magazine will be available, as will all the previous editions. More over, there will be links to videos, websites, and articles that our readers may find interesting. So check out the website, bookmark it, and pass the URL on to everyone that you think may be interested.

We are currently in the process of updating the website and giving it a fresh new look.

Remember to check it out from time to time. And we welcome your suggestions as to how to bring you the best experience.



Hipe!

media

E-mail
editor@hipe.co.za



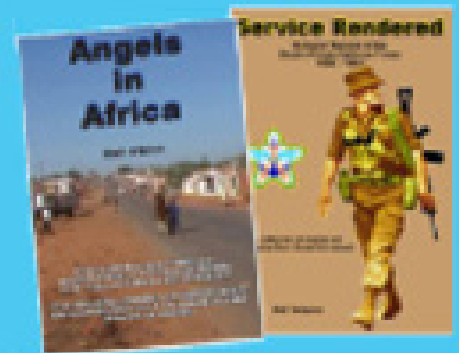
Online Magazines

Flip book magazines with pages that can be turned.



E-books

Produced in any electronic format required.



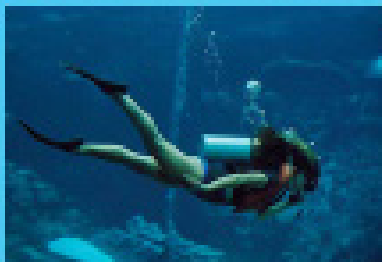
2D & 3D Animation

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.