



Military Despatches

Vol 28 October 2019

Head-to-Head

Modern assault rifles

Down and dirty

Hand to hand combat in the World War I trenches

Oops, we misplaced a nuke

Ten times the USA lost a nuclear weapon

Forged in Battle

The M4 Sherman tank



For the military enthusiast



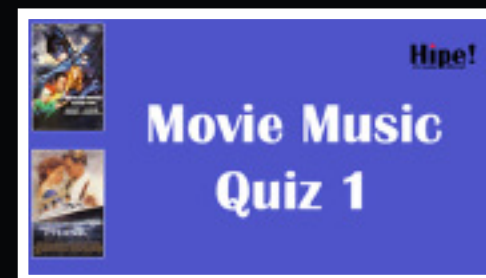
Click on any video below to view



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



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



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.



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

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.



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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Elite Forces insignia

This month's quiz is simple. We show you 15 insignia, you tell which regiment or unit they are.



Editor's Sitrep

Can you believe that in three months time it's Christmas again. So where exactly did 2019 go?

They say that confession is good for the soul. Well I have a confession to make. I spend way too much of my time watching YouTube videos.

I may, for example, be sitting in front of my computer working when I spot a five minute video on YouTube about the Siege of Stalingrad. Surely I can spare a few minutes to quickly watch it.

The problem with YouTube is that it sucks you in. While you're watching the video there is a list of other recommended videos. You spot another video that you "just have to watch". The next thing you know, you've lost three hours of your life.

One of the YouTube channels that I came across, and that I've been watching, is called "Teens React".

What they do is take a group of teens, aged 13 to 18, then play them a song from the 70s, 80s or 90s. The teens then have to identify the song, as well as the artist.

They may, for example, play them a song such as 'Sweet Dreams Are Made Of This'.

Now that song is a classic. How can anyone not know that song?

Yet maybe two out of ten of them will be able to give you the title of the song. And you'll be lucky if one of them knows the artist.

Then again you have to remember that the song was a hit for The Eurythmics back in 1983. In my mind that was only a few years ago. But actually it was 36 years ago. At least two decades before any of these teens were even born.

Then you start to think about other things that happened some time ago. Yet they to us it felt like it wasn't all that long ago. Take Operation Savannah for instance. Can you believe that it was 44 years ago? And can you believe that national service ended 26 years ago.

And here I am wondering where 2019 went. Hell, where did the last 40 years go.

Until next month then.

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Front Cover

This month's front cover is not a real photograph but a screen grab from the PC game ARMA 3, which we reviewed in the second edition of the magazine.



Ten times the US lost or accidentally dropped a nuclear device

Most of us have an awareness of the destruction and devastation a nuclear weapon can inflict. It would be natural to assume that security around nuclear weapons would be very tight. So how exactly did the United States manage to lose or accidentally drop at least 32 of them?

Let's be honest, at some stage all of us have lost or misplaced something. It could be your glasses, car keys, or even your wallet. But how exactly do you go about losing a nuclear weapon?

On 6 August 1945 the world saw just how devastating a nuclear weapon could be when the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima.

Three days later, on 9 August 1945, the US dropped another atomic bomb on the city of Nagasaki. The two bombings killed between 129,000 and 226,000 people. These remain the only use of nuclear weapons in armed conflict.

Modern nuclear weapons make the atomic bombs that were dropped in 1945 look like firecrackers.

No fewer than ten countries are known to have, or had, nuclear weapons. South Africa produced six nuclear weapons in the 1980s, but dismantled them in the early 1990s.

Knowing how destructive a nuclear device can be, it would be natural to assume that security around such devices would be extremely tight. Well that's not always the case.

The US Department of Defence has officially recognized

32 incidents where nuclear weapons have either been lost or dropped by accident. And these are just the ones that they are willing to admit to.

Other countries, such as Russia, China, India and Pakistan, have not been so forthcoming.

The United States even has a code word for incidents where a nuke is lost or dropped by accident. It's called "Broken Arrow".

Broken Arrow refers to an accidental event that involves nuclear weapons, warheads or components that does not create a risk of nuclear war. These include:

- Accidental or unexplained nuclear detonation
- Non-nuclear detonation or burning of a nuclear weapon
- Radioactive contamination
- Loss in transit of nuclear asset with or without its carrying vehicle
- Jettisoning of a nuclear weapon or nuclear component
- Public hazard, actual or implied

I remember watching a movie, titled *Broken Arrow*, where a US Air Force pilot, played by John Travolta, steals two nuclear bombs. Upon discovering that the US Military actually has a code word for the incident, a

young liaison officer remarks, "I don't know what's scarier, losing nuclear weapons, or that it happens so often there's actually a term for it."

Here then are ten "Broken Arrow" incidents were the United States has lost or accidentally dropped nukes.

10. British Columbia crash

On 14 February 1950, a Convair B-36, Air Force Serial Number 44-92075 assigned to the 7th Bomb Wing at Carswell Air Force Base (AFB), crashed in northern British Columbia on Mount Kologet after jettisoning a Mark 4 nuclear bomb.

This was the first such nuclear weapon loss in history. The B-36 had been en route from Eielson Air Force Base near Fairbanks, Alaska to Carswell AFB in Fort Worth, Texas, more than 4,800 kilometres southeast, on a mission that included a simulated nuclear attack on San Francisco.

The plan for the 24-hour flight was to fly over the North Pacific, due west of the Alaska panhandle and British Columbia, then head inland over Washington state and Montana.

Here the B-36 would climb to 12,000 metres for a simulated bomb run to southern Cali-



BRITISH COLUMBIA CRASH: A Convair B-36 from the same Bomber Wing as the one that jettisoned a Mark 4 nuclear bomb.

fornia and then San Francisco, it would continue its non-stop flight to Fort Worth, Texas. The flight plan did not include any penetration of Canadian airspace.

The plane carried a Mark 4 atomic bomb, containing a substantial quantity of natural uranium and 2,300 kg of conventional explosives. According to the USAF, the bomb did not contain the plutonium core necessary for a nuclear detonation.

Seven hours into the flight, three of the six engines began shooting flames and were shut down, and the other three engines proved incapable of delivering full power.

The crew decided to abandon the aircraft because it could not stay aloft with three engines out of commission while carrying a heavy payload. The atomic bomb was jettisoned and detonated in mid-air, resulting in a large conventional explosion

over the Inside Passage.

The USAF later stated that the fake practice core on board the aircraft was inserted into the weapon before it was dropped.

The plane had been in constant radio contact with Strategic Air Command headquarters at Offutt AFB, Nebraska, and within minutes of the bailout the Royal Canadian Air Force launched Operation Brix to find the missing men. Poor weather hampered search efforts; nevertheless 12 of the 17 men were eventually found alive.

Canadian authorities were never told that the aircraft was carrying a nuclear weapon.

9. Goldsboro B-52 crash

The Goldsboro B-52 crash was an accident that occurred near Goldsboro, North Carolina, on 24 January 1961.

A B-52 Stratofortress, carrying two 3-4-megaton Mark 39 nuclear bombs, broke up

in mid-air while flying over the town of Goldsboro. In the process it dropped its nuclear payload onto the unsuspecting town of civilians.

The pilot in command, Walter Scott Tulloch, ordered the crew to eject at 2,700 metres. Five crewmen successfully ejected or bailed out of the aircraft and landed safely, another ejected but did not survive the landing, and two died in the crash.

The first bomb that descended by parachute was found intact and standing upright as a result of its parachute being caught in a tree. The second bomb plunged into a muddy field at around 310 m/s and disintegrated without detonation of its conventional explosives.

At the time everyone was assured that there was never any danger of the bombs detonating.

Information newly declassified in 2013 showed that one of the bombs came very close to detonating.

8. B-47 disappearance

On 10 March 1956 Boeing B-47 Stratojet took off from MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, in the United States for a non-stop flight to Ben Guerir Air Base, Morocco.

Because of the distance the Stratojet would have to refuel twice from airborne tankers.

After descending through solid cloud cover to begin the second refuelling, at 4,300 metres, suddenly lost radio contact with its tanker. They were never heard from again.

Despite an extensive search, no debris or bodies were ever found, and the crash site has never been located. It's last known location was "somewhere over the Mediterranean Sea".

The plane was carrying Mk 15 thermonuclear bombs which would have added up to a combined 3.4 megatons.

To this day the location of the aircraft, crew and the nukes remains unknown.

7. Tybee Island mid-air collision

On 5 February 1958 a B-47 bomber was on a simulated combat mission from Homestead Air Force Base in Florida. It was carrying a single 3,400 kg Mk 15 nuclear bomb.

At about 02h00 the B-47 collided with an F-86 fighter jet that had just taken off from a nearby air base. The F-86 pilot ejected and his plane crashed.

The damaged B-47 remained airborne, plummeting 5,500 metres from 12,000 metres when Major Richardson regained flight control.

The crew requested permission to jettison the bomb, in order to reduce weight and prevent the bomb from exploding during an emergency landing. Permission was granted, and the bomb was jettisoned at 2,200 metres while the bomber was traveling at about 370 km/h.

The crew did not see an explosion when the bomb struck the sea off Tybee Island near Savannah, Georgia. They man-



BIG BANG: A Mk 15 nuclear bomb. These could cause an explosion similar to those at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

aged to land the B-47 safely at the nearest base, Hunter Air Force Base.

Starting on 6 February 1958, the Air Force 2700th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron and 100 Navy personnel equipped with hand-held sonar and galvanic drag and cable sweeps mounted a search.

On 16 April the military announced the search had been unsuccessful. Based on a hydrological survey, the bomb was thought by the Department of Energy to lie buried under two to five metres of silt at the bottom of Wassaw Sound.

In 2004, retired Air Force Lt. Colonel Derek Duke claimed to have narrowed the possible resting spot of the bomb down to a small area approximately the size of a football field.

He and his partner located the area by trawling in their boat with a Geiger counter in tow. Secondary radioactive

particles four times naturally occurring levels were detected and mapped, and the site of radiation origination triangulated. Subsequent investigations found the source of the radiation was natural, originating from monazite deposits.

To date this nuclear bomb is still missing.

6. Thule accident

In 1960, the USAF Strategic Air Command (SAC) began Operation Chrome Dome, a Cold War airborne alert program devised by General Thomas S. Power to fly nuclear-armed Boeing B-52 Stratofortress bombers to the borders of the Soviet Union.

The flights were scheduled to ensure that twelve bombers were aloft at all times. These bombers gave SAC offensive capability in the event of a Soviet first strike, and provided a significant Cold War nuclear

THULE INCIDENT: A B-52G Stratofortress, similar to the one that crashed at Thule Air Base.



deterrent.

Beginning in 1961, B-52 bombers also secretly flew as part of the "Hard Head" mission over Thule Air Base. The objective of "Hard Head" was to maintain constant visual surveillance of the base's strategically important Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS), which provided early warning of Soviet missile launches.

If the communication link between North American Aerospace Defence Command and the base was severed, the aircraft crew could determine if the interruption resulted from an attack or a technical failure.

The monitoring mission started when the designated aircraft

reached a way-point at 75°0'N 67°30'W in Baffin Bay and entered a figure-eight holding pattern above the air base at an altitude of 11,000 metres.

On 21 January 1968 a United States Air Force (USAF) B-52 bomber was patrolling near Thule Air Base in the Danish territory of Greenland.

The aircraft was carrying four B28F1 thermonuclear bombs on a Cold War "Chrome Dome" alert mission over Baffin Bay when a cabin fire forced the crew to abandon the aircraft before they could carry out an emergency landing at Thule Air Base.

Six crew members ejected safely, but one who did not have an ejection seat was killed

while trying to bail out. The bomber crashed onto sea ice in North Star Bay, Greenland, causing the conventional explosives aboard to detonate and the nuclear payload to rupture and disperse, which resulted in radioactive contamination.

The United States and Denmark launched an intensive clean-up and recovery operation, but the secondary stage of one of the nuclear weapons could not be accounted for after the operation was completed.

USAF Strategic Air Command "Chrome Dome" operations were discontinued immediately after the accident, which highlighted the safety and political risks of the missions.

Safety procedures were re-

viewed and more stable explosives were developed for use in nuclear weapons.

In 1995, a political scandal resulted in Denmark after a report revealed the government had given tacit permission for nuclear weapons to be located in Greenland, in contravention of Denmark's 1957 nuclear-free zone policy.

Workers involved in the clean-up program have been campaigning for compensation for radiation-related illnesses they experienced in the years after the accident.

5. The Mars Bluff incident

On 11 March 1958, a U.S. Air Force Boeing B-47E-LM Stratojet from Hunter Air Force Base operated by the 375th Bombardment Squadron of the 308th Bombardment Wing near Savannah, Georgia, took off at approximately 16h34 and was scheduled to fly to the United Kingdom and then to North Africa as part of Operation Snow Flurry.

The aircraft was carrying nuclear weapons on board in the event of war with the Soviet Union breaking out. Air Force Captain Bruce Kulka, who was the navigator and bombardier, was summoned to the bomb bay area after the captain of the aircraft, Captain Earl Koehler, had encountered a fault light in the cockpit indicating that the bomb harness locking pin did not engage.

As Kulka reached around the bomb to pull himself up, he



IT HAPPENED HERE: A sign in Mars Bluff, South Carolina, gives information about the incident which took place in 1958.

mistakenly grabbed the emergency release pin.

The Mk 6 nuclear bomb dropped to the bomb bay doors of the B-47 and the weight forced the doors open, sending the bomb 4,600 metres down to the ground below.

Two sisters, six year old Helen and nine year old Frances Gregg, along with their nine year old cousin Ella Davies, were playing 180 metres from a playhouse in the woods that had been built for them by their father Walter Gregg, who had served as a paratrooper during World War II. The playhouse was struck by the bomb.

Its conventional high explosives detonated, destroying the playhouse, and leaving a crater about 21 metres wide and 11 metres deep. Fortunately, the fissile nuclear core was stored elsewhere on the aircraft.

All three girls were injured by the explosion, as were Wal-

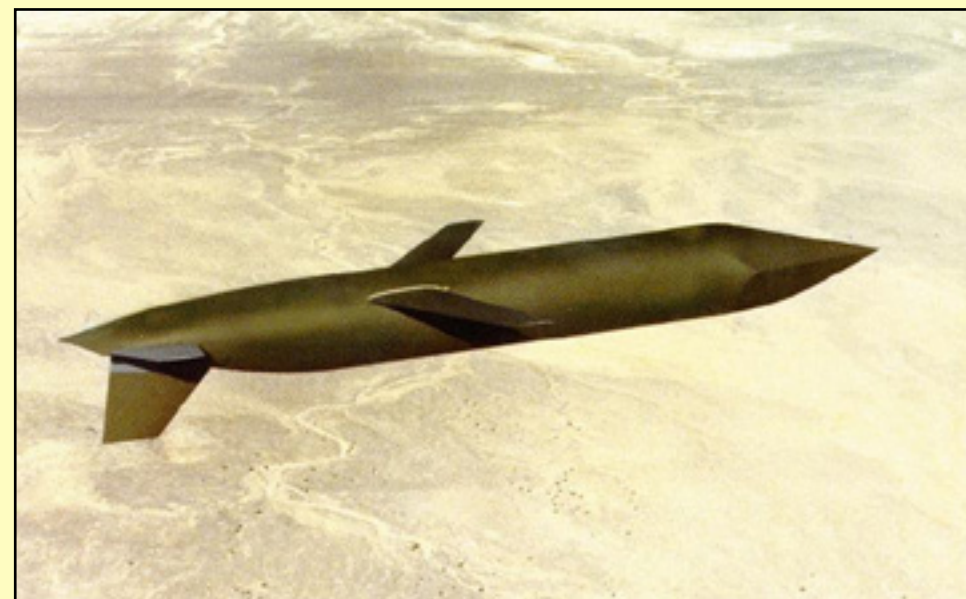
ter, his wife Effie and son Walter, Jr. Seven nearby buildings were damaged.

The United States Air Force (USAF) was sued by the family of the victims, who received US\$54,000, equivalent to \$468,934 in 2018. The incident made domestic and international headlines.

The crater is still present today, although overgrown by vegetation, and is marked by a historical marker; however, access to the site is limited because it is located on private property with no public access road.

4. Bent Spear at Minot

During the Cold War, the United States was stockpiling nuclear weapons, just in case they were caught in a conflict with the Soviet Union. After World War III never happened, the government was left with a surplus of weapons they had no



JUST CRUISING: A AGM-129A Advanced Cruise Missile.

idea of what to do with.

When nuclear bombs become out of date they're kept in a bunker called a 'Weapon's Graveyard'.

On 29 August 2007 a group of men at the Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota were gathering 12 supposedly dead AGM-129A missiles to deliver them to a weapon's graveyard on a B-52 bomber. From the outside, all of the weapons looked the same.

The men had no idea that half of the missiles were in fact nuclear warheads, because they had never been labelled properly. Collectively, those missiles had the power of ten Hiroshima bombs.

Those warheads flew for about 36 hours before anyone had any idea that they were nuclear. During this period, the warheads were not protected by the various mandatory security precautions for nuclear weapons. The incident caught the attention of the National Security

Council and they realised just how bad security checks were, even after all these years.

This incident was not a 'Broken Arrow' one, but rather one referred to as a 'Bent Spear' incident.

Bent Spear refers to incidents involving nuclear weapons, warheads, components or vehicles transporting nuclear material that are of significant interest but are not categorized as Broken Arrow. Bent Spear incidents include violations or breaches of handling and security regulations.

What makes this incident scary is that there are still so many nuclear weapons lying around that the government has no idea where many of them are.

3. Savage Mountain crash

On 13 January 1964 a B-52D bomber was returning to Georgia from Massachusetts after an earlier Chrome Dome airborne alert to Europe.

Near Meyersdale, Pennsylvania, on a path east of Salisbury, Pennsylvania the pilot had to make altitude changes to evade severe turbulence.

The vertical stabilizer broke off and the aircraft was left uncontrollable as a result. The pilot ordered the crew to bail out, and the aircraft crashed. The wreckage of the aircraft was found on the Stonewall Green farm.

The two nuclear bombs being ferried were found "relatively intact in the middle of the wreckage", and after Fort Meade's 28th Ordnance Detachment secured them, the bombs were removed two days later to the Cumberland Municipal Airport.

What was meant by "relatively intact" is anyone's guess, but it certainly doesn't sound very reassuring.

2. Philippine Sea incident

In November 1965 the aircraft carrier USS Ticonderoga departed from the US Naval Base Subic Bay in the Philippines.

On 5 December, 31 days later, they were carrying out exercises when a US Navy Douglas A-4E Skyhawk attack aircraft of Attack Squadron 56 (VA-56) was lost at sea. The aircraft was carrying a B43 nuclear bomb.

While being rolled from the number two hangar bay to the number two elevator the attack jet fell over the side.

The pilot, Lieutenant (junior grade) Douglas M. Webster; the

TOP TEN

aircraft, Douglas A-4E BuNo 151022 of VA-56; and the B43 nuclear bomb were never recovered from the water which was said to be 4,900 metres in depth.

The accident was said to occur 109 kilometres from Kikai Island, Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan.

It was not until 1989, 24 years later, that the Pentagon revealed the loss of the one-megaton bomb.

The revelation inspired a diplomatic inquiry from Japan requesting details. Understandably, Japan are rather wary when it comes to nuclear weapons.



RECOVERED: The B28RI nuclear bomb, recovered from 870 metres of water, on the deck of the USS Petrel.

1. Palomares B-52 crash

On 17 January 1966 a B-52G bomber left from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina, carrying four type B28RI hydrogen bombs on a Cold War airborne alert mission named Operation Chrome Dome.

The flight plan took the aircraft east across the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea towards the European borders of the Soviet Union before returning home. The lengthy flight required two mid-air refuellings over Spain.

At about 10h30, while flying at 9,450 metres, the bomber commenced its second aerial refuelling with a KC-135 out of Morón Air Base in southern Spain. The B-52 pilot, Major Larry G. Messinger, later recalled:

“We came in behind the tanker, and we were a little bit fast,

and we started to overrun him a little bit. There is a procedure they have in refueling where if the boom operator feels that you're getting too close and it's a dangerous situation, he will call, "Break away, break away, break away." There was no call for a break away, so we didn't see anything dangerous about the situation. But all of a sudden, all hell seemed to break loose."

The planes collided, with the nozzle of the refueling boom striking the top of the B-52 fuselage, breaking a longeron and snapping off the left wing, which resulted in an explosion that was witnessed by a second B-52 about a two kilometres All four men on the KC-135 and three of the seven men on the bomber were killed.

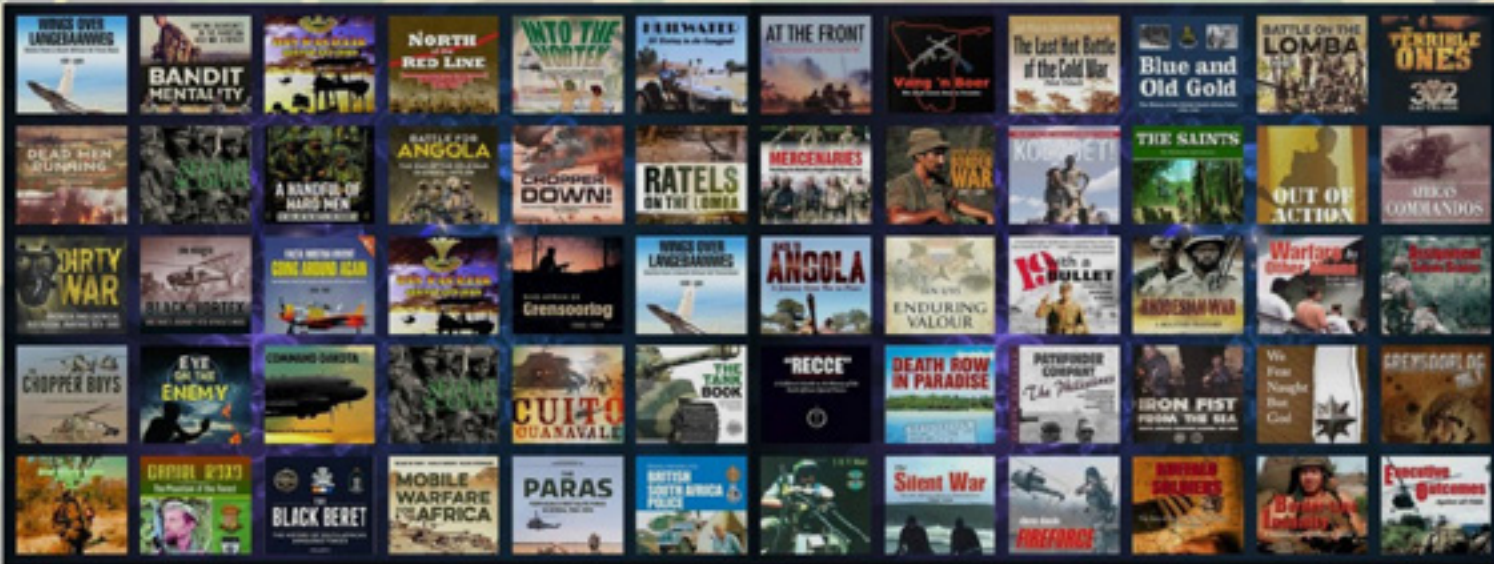
The aircraft and hydrogen bombs fell to earth near the

fishing village of Palomares,, in the Almeria province of Andalucía, Spain.

Three of the weapons were located on land within 24 hours of the accident - the conventional explosives in two had exploded on impact, spreading radioactive contamination, while a third was found relatively intact in a riverbed.

The fourth weapon could not be found despite an intensive search of the area - the only part that was recovered was the parachute tail plate, leading searchers to postulate that the weapon's parachute had deployed, and that the wind had carried it out to sea.

A total of 2.6 square kilometres was contaminated with radioactive material. This included residential areas, farmland (especially tomato farms) and woods.



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 - Greece

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

The Greek Special Forces Directorate lives by the motto “Those who dare, win”. Its special forces are amongst the most modern in the world, and they are capable of mounting land, sea and air operations on an impressive scale. The Hellenic Special Forces Organisation was formed in Egypt following the Battle of Crete in May 1941, which forced the Hellenic Government to flee Greece and reform in the Middle East. In order to retake Crete, the Hellenic Army formed a number of new military units that

were capable as operating as commandos against the occupying German and Italian forces. One of these units was the Company of the Chosen Immortals, which was established in 1942, under the command of Major Sephanakis.

Although only 200 strong when formed, this unit operated in North Africa with the British SAS and soon gained a reputa-

tion for its raiding techniques. The unit was renamed the Sacred Company, a title that had been used on four prior occasions within the Greek Army.

Following their success in North Africa the Sacred Company redeployed to Italy and the Dodecanese where they fought many successful actions until their disbandment at the end of World War II.

During the Greek Civil War (1945-50), many ex-members of the Sacred Company fought as a raiding force in a very similar manner to the British SAS and SBS. In 1946 a new Mountain Raiding Warfare Company was formed to deal with armed communist companies that were active in the mountain areas.



Eventually its operational strength grew to 40 companies, which remained active right up until the end of the war in 1950. After the civil war ended, the Greeks decided to retain a special forces capability and, with American help, set about creating a parachute school at Aspropyrgos of Attica, near Athens.

In addition to airborne forces, the Greeks also set up specialist maritime units that operate under the command of the Special Forces Directorate in Thessaloniki.

13th Special Operations Command

The 13th SOC traces its descent to the 13th Infantry Regiment, formed in November–December 1913 as part of the enlargement and re-organization of the Hellenic Army after the Balkan Wars.

On 22 May 1988 the 13th Amphibious Raider Regiment was formed, assuming the overall command of the various hitherto independent amphibious raider units, i.e. the A Amphibious Raider Squadron at Rhodes, the C Amphibious Raider Squadron at Chios, and the various Special National Guard Detachments on other Aegean islands.

Following the Imia crisis of 1996, the newly formed elite Z Amphibious Raider Squadron was added to the Regiment, and in 1998 the Army’s oldest fully professional and most elite formation, the Special Paratroopers Detachment, came under its command.

In 2001, the 13th Amphibious Raider Regiment was re-organ-

ized, being expanded into the brigade-level 13th Special Operations Command and receiving the honorary title “Sacred Band” after the World War II-era Greek special forces unit.

In 2002, the 13th Communications Company and the 13th Engineering Company were added as specialized support units.

The unit forms part of the 1st Infantry Division, which groups together the Army’s special and rapid reaction forces.



13th Special Operations Command

The 13th Special Operations Command “Sacred Company” is structured as follows:

- Alpha Amphibious Raider Squadron
- Gamma Amphibious Raider Squadron
- Eta Amphibious Raider Squadron
- Theta Amphibious Raider Squadron
- Iota Amphibious Raider Squadron
- 13th Signal Company

1st Raider/Paratrooper Brigade

The nucleus of the Raider units was the Sacred Squadron (*Ieros Lochos*), a Free Greek unit of commandos attached to the Allied 1st Special Air Service (1 SAS) Brigade during the Second World War. Its members consisted of mainly officers and NCOs who had fled to North Africa after the fall of Greece to Axis forces.

After its formation in 1942, the Sacred Squadron, along with a unit of Free French troops and British commandos, formed the basis of L Detachment, a component of the SAS which specialised in hit-and-run raids on Axis airfields, ports and fuel dumps throughout North Africa.

The Sacred Squadron was later transferred to the Greek theatre of operations, where they recaptured several eastern Aegean islands from Axis forces.

After the liberation of Greece from German occupation, a proposal was made for the reformation of the Hellenic Armed Forces under British guidance. This proposal included the establishment of a small, highly trained, special warfare unit.

When the Greek Civil War broke out in 1946, the Greek Government decided to form a special warfare unit, primarily to help Greek royalist capture territory which was still in the hands of communist-inspired guerrillas.

The Mountain Raider Companies or LOK (*Lochoi Oreinōn Katadromōn*), were formed on 20 January 1947 and began operations almost immediately in Greece’s mountainous terrain.

Beta Raider Squadron was



RAIDERS: Members of the 1st Raider/Paratrooper Brigade on a training exercise.

formed at Vouliagmeni, Athens in August 1947 and took part in Civil War operations in Thessaly, Central Greece, Epirus, West Macedonia and Euboea.

Delta Raider Squadron was established at the port city of Volos, Thessaly in December 1947 and operated in all regions of Greece during the Civil War. Epsilon Raider Squadron was formed in April 1949 and took part in Civil War operations until December 1949.

By 1949, the LOK squadrons were so successful against the communist insurgents that the Raider Forces Command was expanded to two brigades. Gamma Raider Squadron, also formed in 1949, was re-designated as an amphibious-capable unit in 1963, while Alpha Raider Squadron, disbanded at the end of the Civil War, was reactivated in 1968, and later re-formed as an amphibious unit in 1974, after the Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

In the late 1960s, the Greek Central Intelligence Service (KYP), and the CIA became secretly involved with train-

ing and arming the Lokatzides. A tool of the KYP and CIA, a LOK detachment played a part in the 1967 Greek coup d’état by storming and securing the Army General Staff buildings at Chologos, Athens.

After the fall of the Papadopoulos regime, and the establishment of a democratic republic in 1975, the LOK were dismantled and re-formed as the Raider Forces, and placed under the command of the Hellenic Army’s Special Forces Command.

A further restructuring of the Greek Army in 1996 saw the amalgamation of all Raider Forces regiments into the current Brigade formation.



1st Raider/Paratrooper Brigade

The 1st Raider/Paratrooper Brigade is structured as follows:

1. 480th Signal Battalion
2. 1st Raider Regiment
 - Beta Raider Squadron
 - Delta Raider Squadron
 - Epsilon Raider Squadron
 - 14th Signal Company
3. 2nd Paratrooper Regiment
 - 1st Paratrooper Squadron
 - 2nd Paratrooper Squadron
 - 18th Signal Company
4. 13th Special Operations Command “Sacred Company”
5. Special Paratrooper Unit
6. Zeta Amphibious Raider Squadron

Members of ETA (the HALO/HAHO-qualified Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) unit) and Z’ MAK, the Amphibious reconnaissance formation, are all professional NCOs and Officers.

They are the Brigade’s contribution to the Defence Ministry’s DESAA (*Diakladiko Epiheirisiako Stratigeio Amesias Antidrasis*), the Multi-Branch Operational Rapid Response Command, along with the Hellenic Navy’s DYK, and the Hellenic Air Force’s 31 MEE. The formation is also known as Force Delta (*Dynami Delta*).

1st Infantry Division

The 1st Infantry Division is a historic and elite division of the Hellenic Army. It was founded in 1897 as an infantry division and has fought in all major conflicts in which Greece has been involved. During the Balkan Wars, it acquired the sobriquet “Iron Division” (*Sidirá Merarchia*).

It is currently headquartered in Veroia, Macedonia. Despite

its title, it is no longer a conventional infantry division, but a formation comprising the various special forces of the Hellenic Army - a role similar to that once held by the now disbanded 3rd Special Forces Division.

The emblem depicts a *tsarouhi*, the traditional footwear of the *Evzones*, and a bayonet.

The motto of the I Infantry Division is "(Like The) Wind", the traditional battle cry of Greek infantrymen when attacking the enemy.



1st Infantry Division

The 1st Raider/Paratrooper Brigade is structured as follows:

1st Infantry Division, based at Veroia, Macedonia

- 1st Signal Battalion
- Division HQ Company
- 1st Raider/Paratrooper Brigade, based at Rentina, Macedonia**
 - 1st Raider Regiment
 - 2nd Paratrooper Regiment
 - 13th Special Operations Command - based in and around Athens, Attica
 - 480th Signal Battalion
 - Special Paratrooper Unit
 - Zeta Amphibious Raider

Squadron 32nd Marines Brigade, based at Volos, Thessaly

- HQ Company
- 32nd Engineer Company
- 32nd Light Air Defence Battery
- 32nd Signal Company
- 32nd Armoured Squadron - with a total of 17 Leopard 1A5 tanks
- 505th Marine Infantry Battalion
- 521st Marine Infantry Battalion
- 575th Marine Infantry Battalion
- 32nd Field Artillery Battalion - with a total of 12 M109 howitzer
- 32nd Support Battalion

71st Airmobile Brigade, based at Nea Santa, Macedonia

- HQ Company
- 71st Engineer Company
- 71st Light Air Defence Battery
- 71st Signal Company
- 71st Support Battalion
- 595th Airmobile Infantry Battalion
- 596th Airmobile Infantry Battalion
- 601st Airmobile Infantry Battalion
- 116th Airmobile Artillery Battalion

1st Army Aviation Brigade, based at Stefanovikio, Thessaly

- HQ Company
- 307th Aviation Technical Group
- 17th Signal Company
- 1st Army Air Battalion
- 2nd Army Air Battalion
- 3rd Army Air Battalion
- 1st Attack Helicopter Battalion
- 2nd Attack Helicopter Battalion

- 4th Army Aviation Helicopter Battalion

Underwater Demolition Command

The Underwater Demolition Command, abbreviated as DYK and known until 2001 as the Underwater Demolition Unit, is the Greek Navy's elite special warfare unit.

Several diver teams (OYK) of MYK have been deployed on numerous occasions.

They were deployed during the first Gulf War in 1991, providing assistance for the naval embargo against Saddam Hussein, boarding 217 suspect vessels.

In 1996, the OYK were involved in the Imia crisis when Turkish commandos infiltrated the Greek rocky island of Imia. Small OYK teams dispersed in on a neighbouring islet to acquire Turkish targets with the order to eliminate them if the pending political solution to the crisis and withdrawal of Turkish forces would fail.

The DYK is organized into sections called Underwater Demolition Teams, commonly known in their abbreviated form as OYK, that specialize in a particular area.



1st Infantry Division

Straight Shooting

Every month we will feature two or three modern firearms that are used by the world's counter-terrorist units. This month we feature the Steyr GB, Browning HP, and Glock 17.



Steyr GB

- Designer: Hannes Kerpplinger and Hermann Schweighofer
- Designed: 1968
- Manufacturer: LES, Inc., Steyr Mannlicher
- Weight unloaded: 845 g
- Weight unloaded: 1,285 g
- Length: 216 mm
- Barrel length: 136 mm
- Cartridge: 9×19 mm Parabellum
- Action: Gas-delayed blowback
- Rate of fire: 40 rounds per minute
- Muzzle velocity: 336 m/s
- Type of fire: Semi-automatic, double action
- Feed system: 18 round detachable box magazine
- Sights: Open, non-adjustable with luminous inserts
- Sight radius: 16.4 cm

ventional safety. Instead, it has a lever on the slide that lowers the hammer on a loaded chamber. With the hammer lowered, the firing pin is locked in place and will not move until the hammer is cocked either by pulling the trigger, double-action mode, or manually with the thumb, single-action mode.

The Steyr GB is a very strong and reliable weapon with excellent ergonomically features incorporated into its design. This allows for it to be accurate and comfortable to shoot. The safety system prevents there being any catches to be released before firing. Simply point the weapon and pull the trigger.

The gas system of the GB allows for any type of 9x19 mm ammunition to be used. It also cushions the recoil, adding to the weapon's firing comfort and increasing its accuracy in rapid fire. The sight system includes luminous dots that are simply aligned in a row to allow for aiming in low light conditions. The squared off and checkered front of the trigger guard add to the comfort of a two handed grip.

One of the drawbacks of the GB is that it is relatively large, which makes it somewhat difficult to shoot for people with small hands and limits its concealment. Several Austrian and US police agencies issue or use the Steyr GB.

The GB was designed as a replacement pistol for the Austrian military, a competition it lost to the Glock 17, and as such was intended for a very rugged environment where overall size was not a major consideration.

The gas-delayed blowback feature of the GB was developed from a World War II German design for a simple semi-automatic rifle, the VG-1.

The gas-delay system of the GB uses the barrel as a stationary piston with the slide acting as a moving cylinder through bleed holes in the barrel, and while the gas pressure is high, prevent the slide from opening until the bullet has left the barrel and pressures have reached a safe level.

The advantages of this type of system are its mechanical simplicity and a self-regulating feature. The system uses only the pressures generated by the firing round and automatically varies itself to match them, regardless of bullet weight or velocity.

Browning Hi-Power

The Browning Hi-Power was the last design of John M. Browning and contained all the improvements he had developed from his earlier work.

The barrel is locked into the slide of the Browning by ribs on the top of the barrel engaging slots in the slide. When the slide moves to the rear, the barrel is cammed downward by a slot in the underside of the barrel engaging a cam in the frame.

This cam-slot arrangement allows the Browning to be simple and rigid in design. There is normally a magazine safety in the Browning that prevents the hammer from being released by the sear if the magazine is not fully seated in the weapon.

The double-column design on the Browning's magazine allows the weapon to have a large number of rounds available while still being manageable in size.

Standard Hi-Powers are based on a single-action design. Unlike modern double-action semi-automatic pistols, the Hi-Power's trigger is not connected to the hammer.

If a double-action pistol is carried with the hammer down with a round in the chamber and a loaded magazine installed, the shooter may fire the pistol either by simply squeezing the trigger or by pulling the hammer back to the cocked position and then squeezing the trigger.

In contrast, a single-action pistol can only be fired with the hammer in the cocked position;



this is generally done when a loaded magazine is inserted and the slide cycled by hand.

In common with the M1911, the Hi-Power is therefore typically carried with the hammer cocked, a round in the chamber and the safety catch on (a carry mode often called cocked and locked in the United States or "made ready" in the UK, or sometimes called condition one).

The pistol has a small number of design issues. The standard trigger pull is heavy, especially for a single-action pistol. This disadvantage is a consequence of the Hi-Power's magazine disconnect safety, which was initially added to the model to meet the requirements of the French military in 1935. The standard Hi-Power magazine safety is connected to the trigger and is released by a plunger pressing on the surface of the magazine. This action of the plunger on the magazine adds tension to the trigger pull, and the required force to operate this feature adds resistance as well.

- Designer: John Browning, Dieudonné Saive
- Designed: 1914–1935
- Manufacturer: Fabrique Nationale (FN); John Inglis & Co.; Browning Arms
- Weight unloaded: 810 g
- Weight unloaded: 1 kg
- Length: 197 mm
- Barrel length: 119 mm
- Cartridge: 9×19 mm Parabellum
- Action: Short recoil
- Rate of fire: 40 rounds per minute
- Muzzle velocity: 335 m/s
- Type of fire: Semi-automatic
- Feed system: 13 or 15 round detachable box magazine
- Sights: Open, non-adjustable
- Sight radius: 15.9 cm

Glock 17



The Glock 17 is a polymer-framed, short recoil-operated, locked-breech semi-automatic pistol that entered Austrian military and police service by 1982 after it was the top performer in reliability and safety tests.

Despite initial resistance from the market to accept a perceived "plastic gun" due to both unfounded durability and reliability concerns, as well as fears that its use of a polymer frame might circumvent metal detectors in airports, Glock pistols have become the company's most profitable line of products as well as supplying national armed forces, security agencies, and police forces in at least 48 countries.

The Glock 17 uses a modified Browning cam-lock system adapted from the Hi-Power pistol. The firearm's locking mechanism uses a linkless, vertically tilting barrel with a rectangular breech that locks into the ejection port cut-out in the slide.

During the recoil stroke, the barrel moves rearward initially locked together with the slide about 3 mm until the bullet leaves the barrel and chamber pressure drops to a safe level.

A ramped lug extension at the

base of the barrel then interacts with a tapered locking block integrated into the frame, forcing the barrel down and unlocking it from the slide.

This camming action terminates the barrel's movement while the slide continues back under recoil, extracting and ejecting the spent cartridge casing.

Glock pistols lack a traditional on-off safety lever, which Glock markets as an advantage, especially to police departments, as the user is able to fire immediately without separately manipulating a safety. Instead, the pistols are designed with three independent safety mechanisms to prevent accidental discharge. The system, designated "Safe Action" by Glock, consists of an external integrated trigger safety and two automatic internal safeties: a firing pin safety and a drop safety.

Glock pistols incorporate a number of features intended to enhance reliability in adverse conditions, such as utilizing advanced metal coatings, "stub" slide guides instead of true frame rails, and an unusual cocking mechanism wherein the trigger is partially responsible for cocking the striker.

By relying partially on force from the shooter's trigger finger to cock the striker, a Glock effectively reduces the load on the recoil spring as the slide moves forward into battery, whereas almost all other striker-fired pistols on the market rely fully on the recoil spring to cock the striker.

The German half dozen

While about 334,000 South Africans fought in World War II, with many of them paying the ultimate sacrifice, not all of them fought on the side of the Allies.

Germany invaded Poland on 1 September 1939. Two days later, on 3 September, Great Britain declared war on Germany.

On the eve of World War II, the Union of South Africa found itself in a unique political and military quandary.

South African Prime Minister J.B.M. Hertzog wanted to remain neutral. Hertzog was the leader of the pro-Afrikaner and anti-British National Party.

The National Party had joined in a unity government with the pro-British South African Party of Jan Smuts in 1934 as the United Party.

Hertzog's problem was that as the Union of South Africa was part of the British Commonwealth, it was constitutionally obligated to support Great Britain against Nazi Germany.

A short but furious debate unfolded in South Africa, especially in the halls of power in the Parliament of South Africa. It pitted those who sought to enter the war on Britain's side, led by Smuts, against those who wanted to keep South Africa neutral, led by Hertzog.

On 4 September 1939, the United Party caucus refused to accept Hertzog's stance of neutrality in World War II and deposed him in favour of Smuts. Upon becoming Prime Minister, on 6 September Smuts declared South Africa officially at war with Germany and the

Axis.

About 334,000 men volunteered for full-time service in the South African Army during the war - including some 211,000 white, 77,000 black and 46,000 coloured and Indian servicemen.

Yet not every South African that fought in World War II did so on the side of the Allies.

Here are six South African-born men that actually fought on the side of the Germans. In essence, they fought against the country of their birth.

Panzer ace

Georg Grüner was born on 9 August 1915 in what was then German South West Africa (now Namibia).

In 1936 he joined the German Army and would go on to become a highly decorated Major in the *Wehrmacht* during World War II.

The thing is that when he joined the German Army the territory he was living in was no longer called German South West Africa.

After World War I the territory came under the control of Britain and then was made a South African League of Nations mandate.

So technically Grüner was living in South Africa in 1936 and was a de-facto South African.

He took part in the Invasion

of Poland (being awarded the Iron Cross 2nd Class in October 1939), and in the Battle of France.

He then served on the Eastern Front, partaking in Operation "Barbarossa", and was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves in November 1941, while serving with 1/ Panzer Regiment 33 "Prinz Eugen".

Grüner was killed during the Battle of the Korsun-Cherkassy Pocket on the 11 March 1944, while commanding I/ Panzer Regiment 2.

After his death he was posthumously promoted to Major and awarded the Oak Leaves to his Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross.

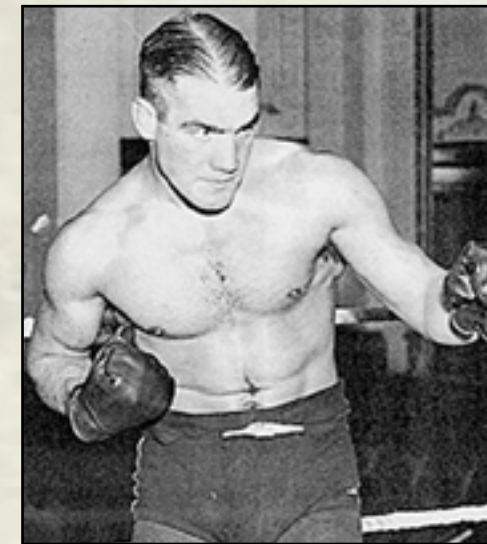
His other awards include the Iron Cross 1st Class (July 1941), the Wound Badge, Eastern Front Medal and the German Cross in Gold (October 1941).

The tank destroyer

Wilhelm Joswig was reputed to have been born in Johannesburg on 2 February 1912.

He apparently held both German and South African citizenship but in World War II he chose to fight on the side of the Germans.

He joined the *Luftwaffe* and served with the *Sturzkampfgeschwader 2 "Immelmann"* on the Eastern Front against the Soviet Union.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Georg Grüner, Wilhelm Joswig, Robey Leibbrandt, Wolfgang Schenck, and Robert Menge.

He was wounded on at least three occasions and was shot down on the 15 July 1941, a few days after the commencement of Operation "Barbarossa".

His Stuka was hit by flak and he had to make a forced landing near Smolensk. He was captured by the Russians but by a stroke of good luck was liberated a few days later by advancing German forces.

Joswig was the fourth highest *Luftwaffe* tank destroyer ace of World War II, and was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross in February 1944.

During his career he flew 820 missions in which he is credited with the destruction of 88 tanks, a submarine, 13 bridges, two trains and two aerial victo-

ries. He died on 7 July 1989 at the age of 77.

The boxing paratrooper

Sidney Robey Leibbrandt was born on 25 January 1913 in Potchefstroom, in the Transvaal.

His father was of German descent and had fought with the Afrikaner forces in the Second Boer War. He went on to become a sergeant major in the South African Army.

In 1914 on the outbreak of World War 1, he had objected to an order to invade German South-West Africa in a military campaign against the imperial German forces there, stating that it was his belief that "Germans should not war against

Germans".

In the late 1920's Robey Leibbrandt established himself as an accomplished pugilist. Leibbrandt represented South Africa at the 1934 Empire Games and won the light heavyweight bronze medal.

He also represented South Africa at the Berlin Olympics in 1936, competing in the light heavyweight class. He was not able to fight the bronze medal bout to Francisco Risiglione and finished fourth.

He became South African heavyweight champion on 31 July 1937 in Johannesburg, beating Jim Pentz.

Following his stay in Germany for the 1936 Berlin Olympics, during which he had been

deeply impressed with Adolf Hitler, Leibbrandt returned to Berlin in 1938 to study at the Reich Academy for Gymnastics, and remained when World War 2 began in 1939.

He subsequently volunteered with the *Wehrmacht*, with which he became the first South African to be trained as a *Fallschirmjäger*, and a glider pilot.

Leibbrand was subsequently seconded to the *Brandenburgers* sabotage training course for irregular warfare agents at *Abwehr II* (*Abwehrschool* “*Quenzgut*”) near Brandenburg an der Havel, west of Berlin.

After Leibbrandt had completed his irregular warfare training he was assigned by the *Abwehr* to take part in ‘*Operation Weissdorn*’ (Operation Hawthorn), a plan for a coup d’état against the Government of South Africa led by Prime Minister Jan Smuts, which had taken South Africa into the war as a part of the British Empire.

Leibbrandt left Germany on 5 April 1941 under the agent code-name Walter Kempf. He landed on the Namaqualand coast north of Cape Town.

Once back in South Africa Leibbrandt made contact with what he hoped would be pro-Nazi elements among the Afrikaner populace known as the *Ossewabrandwag*, but its leader Johannes Van Rensburg was found to be unsympathetic to his mission.

He subsequently drummed up support with the use of fiery rhetoric and political campaigning, all the while training recruits in the black art of bomb-making.



LUFTWAFFE ACE: Adolf Galland was one of the Luftwaffe’s top aces. Robert Menge often flew as Galland’s wingman.

Leibbrandt’s group launched a series of small-scale guerrilla warfare operations against infrastructure targets, dynamiting power lines and railway tracks, and cutting telephone and telegraph cables.

During an engagement with South African Army troops in late 1942, Leibbrandt was recognised, and consequently became a fugitive. He was captured in Pretoria in late December 1942 after a tip-off given to the authorities.

On 11 March 1943 the court sentenced him to death, but to avoid making Leibbrandt a martyr and risk increasing pro-Nazi sympathies among the Afrikaners, the sentence was commuted to life imprisonment by Prime Minister Jan Smuts.

Following the coming to power of the Afrikaans Nationalist Party in 1948, Leibbrandt was granted amnesty. Leibbrandt died on 1 August 1966 at Ladybrand from a heart attack. He was 53 years old.

Galland’s wingman

Robert Menge was born on 29 September 1913 in Windhoek in the former German Southwest Africa.

A former policeman Menge joined the *Luftwaffe* in 1936. Menge served in the Spanish Civil War flying Bf 109 Ds with 1./J88 mostly from the La Cenia. He is credited with four victories during the campaign gaining his first over an I-16 Rata on the 23 July 1938.

Following his service in Spain he was posted to 5./186(T). He joined 5./JG 77 on 1 September 1939 and later served with this unit in Norway. He gained his first victories of World War 2 claiming two RAF Hampdens, on 12 April 1940 around Kristiansand.

On 13 August 1940 he shot down four Blenheims raiding Aalborg airfield in Denmark. He emerged the top scorer of the Norwegian campaign, his score standing at 17 prior to his transfer to the Channel Front. Menge was commissioned and transferred to

3./JG 26 on 5 December 1940.

He flew as *Rotenflieger* (Wingman) to the respected Luftwaffe ace *Oberstleutnant* Adolf Galland. On 5 December, *Oberfeldwebel* Menge was badly wounded in aerial combat Spitfires over Folkestone but was able to return to his base in France.

He was back in action on 4 April when he shot down a Spitfire over the English coast on a *freie jagd* with Galland.

On 14 June 1941, 3./JG 26 took off from Audembert to intercept the British Circus No. 12. As they were climbing they were bounced by RAF Spitfire fighters. Newly commissioned Lieutenant Menge was shot down and killed while flying a Bf 109 E-7 by Squadron Leader “Jamie” Rankin of 92 Squadron RAF.

Robert Menge was credited with 19 victories. He recorded four victories during the Spanish Civil War. All his World War II victories were recorded over the Western front.

Luftwaffe ace

Wolfgang ‘Bombo’ Schenck, was born on 7 February 1913 in Windhoek, German South West Africa, the son of a farmer.

On the death of his mother in 1923, Wolfgang and his sister moved back to Germany to live with family in Berlin.

In 1934 he returned to South West Africa to work on a coffee plantation.

Already an ‘A’ certificate pilot, he joined the *Luftwaffe* in December 1936 as an officer-cadet, and was posted to II./JG 132 ‘Richthofen’ in Jüterbog in 1938.

This unit was renamed *I Gruppe, Zerstörergeschwader 1* (ZG 1—1st Destroyer Wing) and

it was with 1. Staffel that Schenck took part in the Polish campaign during September 1939, and in the Norwegian campaign during spring 1940.

He flew Bf 100 Ds (which he led in the early invasion of the Soviet Union), and served as *Gruppenkommandeur* of *Zerstörer Geschwader 1* from March - August 1942.

Schenk was awarded the Knight’s Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves and was to command SG2 and Kampfgeschwader 51(a bomber wing) from December 1944 - February 1945, flying the ME262 jet fighter-bomber.

He was credited with 18 victories, having flown over 400 missions.

He passed away in March 2010 at Marburg, in Hessen, Germany at the age of 97.

Rommel’s aide-de-camp

Heinz Werner Schmidt was born in South Africa to German parents in 1916, and at a very young age he moved around Africa with his family.

He was a dual national with a German citizenship in addition to his South African one. Leaving South Africa at the age of four he regarded himself as German above all and was swept up with the rest of the country in the euphoria of Nazism. When war broke out he decided to join the German Army.

As he was “South African-born” he was therefore considered, in line with military logicity, an expert on Africa. Already a veteran of the Polish Campaign, Schmidt joined Rommel’s staff in March 1941 from Eritrea.

Schmidt, by his own admission, was surprised that General Rommel took him on as his advisor as he really did not have a depth knowledge of Africa, however been the only officer in Rommel’s inner circle of officers with a smattering of African heritage he found himself the only man for the job, and he happily took it on. He became Rommel’s aide-de-camp.

He was present during a number of battles in Egypt and later Tunisia and, at one point in the war, he found himself in command of *Wehrmacht* units directly engaging South African Army units. In fact Schmidt played a key role in overrunning the South African positions on 23rd November 1941 during the Battle of Sidi Rezegh.

Schmidt survived the war and like many *Wehrmacht* officers sought sanctuary outside wore torn Germany. Fortunately for Heinz the very Nazi sympathetic National Party came to power in South Africa in 1948, three short years after the end of World War II.

He now chose to embrace his South African citizenship and return to his birthplace, South Africa to re-start his life.

Schmidt moved to the suburb of New Germany, outside Durban. He started two companies which are now household brands in South Africa, Pineware and Gedore tools. He also wrote a book on his experiences titled “With Rommel in the Desert.”

He died in 2007 at the age of 90.

Editor’s Note: Thanks to Rev Ralph Thornley for the information on Heiz Schmit. It was the inspiration for this article.

This may hurt...

According to South African law we can use force to defend ourselves and anyone else, as long as the force is not excessive. Ryan Murphy looks at a possible solution.

The last thing you want is to wake up in the early hours of the morning to discover that there is an intruder in your home. Unfortunately, South Africa is not Shangri La and it happens far more than we would like.

Now in cases like these you need to be able to defend yourself and your family. But this is where it gets tricky.

At some stage most of our readers served in the military. Most of us know how to use a firearm. And many of us actually own a firearm.

So the logical thing to do if you wake up to find an intruder in your bedroom is to take your firearm and double tap him in the chest.

Surely it's your legal right to do so? Well yes - and no. And if that doesn't make sense, I did say that it gets tricky.

According to South African law, the defender has the right to use force, but not excessive force, to thwart an attack. Now I'm no legal expert, but I reckon that shooting someone in the chest would be considered excessive force.

The law does say, however, that if the intruder(s) are armed and threatening to kill or seriously harm you or others then you are within your rights to defend yourself.

Self-defence action must be

relative to the circumstances of the attack, according to the Constitutional Court. If an intruder is armed with a knife - and acting in a way where they look set to use it - you must use appropriate force.

Unfortunately, this is a grey area we are still struggling to clarify as a country. Opening fire on someone armed with a knife could be argued as "excessive force". However, with each case judged on merit, you may be able to use "the reasonable person"

defence.

Courts apply this defence to ask if a "reasonable" person in the same position would have acted in such a way. It considers:

- Foreseeable risk of harm an intruder's actions creates versus the consequence of a your defensive actions.
- The extent of the risk created by an intruder.
- Likelihood such risk will actually cause harm to others.
- Alternatives of lesser risk, and the costs of those alternatives.

In a frightening case of a home invasion, it can be argued you took all four points into consid-

eration before using "reasonable force". This is what the police will want answers for once an incident has concluded.

If you do subdue someone during a home invasion, you aren't allowed to shoot them if you've already restrained them. Likewise, if you see them running out of the front door and away from your property holding stolen goods, you cannot open fire. Even if they are armed.

It literally comes down to all the previous factors: If they are armed with firearms, and acting in an aggressive and life-threatening manner, you are allowed to shoot.

Most of the so-called "experts" will tell you that during a home invasion you should remain calm and co-operate with the intruders. This, of course, is far more difficult than it sounds.

Ultimately, using armed force should be a last-ditch attempt to preserve your family's lives. However, given the utterly nerve-shredding nature of these situations, it is easier said than done. Making a judgement in the heat of the moment is a tough call.

Let's say, for example, that you wake in the early hours of the morning and there is an intruder standing in your bedroom. It's fairly dark, but you can see that the person has something

in their hand. You think that it's a firearm, so you pull your own firearm from beneath the pillow and shoot him.

You then discover that what he had in his hand was actually your cellphone that he was intending on stealing. According to the law you've just shot an unarmed defenceless man. You will probably end up being charged with murder.

The fact that he was in your bedroom doesn't seem to enter into the matter.

The law says I can use force, as long as it's not excessive and, ideally, not lethal. I decided to look at a few non-lethal options.

Pepper spray is often recommended as a solution. The problem that I have with this is that you need to get close enough to your attacker to use the pepper spray.

This can be hazardous to your health if the person is armed with a knife or a club. You can bet money on it that the person is not going to stand there idle while you spray pepper into his face.

The same thing counts for a stun gun. Once again you need to get close enough to the attacker to use it.

I came upon a possible solution in the form of the T4E HDR .50. The HDR stands for Home Defence Revolver.

As the name suggests, it is a revolver. Instead of firing bullets, it uses disposable CO2 cartridges to fire .50 calibre solid nylon balls known as Skull Breakers.

The rounds weigh 1.5 g each and are slightly smaller than paintballs. Unlike normal paintballs these are solid balls and will not break on impact.

There are also Pepper Ball rounds that can be used. Pepperball Rounds are filled with powdered pepper spray that burst on impact, effectively immobilizing your attacker or target, causing temporary blindness, difficulty breathing and severe disorientation.

Each round contains high levels of capsaicin and other enhancing agents that primarily affects the eyes, causing closure and severe pain and loss of breath.

When an attacker is hit with a pepperball, the body's reaction is immediate. The eyes shut automatically, causing temporary blindness, and you will be unable to see. The mucus membranes of the mouth, nose, eyes and respiratory airways react defensively to the capsaicin burn, producing tears, a running nose, saliva and coughing as the irritated cells in the airways and lungs try to rid themselves of the chemicals.

The actual revolver looks similar to a .357 Magnum. At 675 grams, it has a nice weight to it.

Six balls are loaded into a revolving magazine. The CO2 cartridge, which weighs 12 g, is inserted into the handle of the revolver. The cartridge is not activated until you push the knob at the bottom of the handle. This punctures the cartridge and activates it. Each cartridge will give you about 18 shots.

The textured frame surfaces give you a secure grip even in stress situations, and a trigger blade safety prevents accidental firing if you should ever drop the gun. It has Picatinny rails on the top and bottom, so you can fit a Red-Dot or laser sight.

The T4E HDR .50 will set you back about R2,650.

I purchased one of the revolvers and my other half was delighted when I told her that I was going to allow her to shoot me.

We went outdoors and I was wearing a paintball face mask. To protect myself I wore five tee-shirts. I took a piece of thick cardboard and folded it in half to protect my chest. Then I put a thick jersey on over it.

I had fitted a laser sight to the bottom of the revolver, so my other half had no problem with aim. I had loaded two solid rounds and two pepperball rounds. I told her to go ahead and shoot. My mistake!

I've been shot with paintball rounds before and they hurt. But nothing compared to this. It dropped me to my knees and by the next day I had a bruise the size of a soup plate.

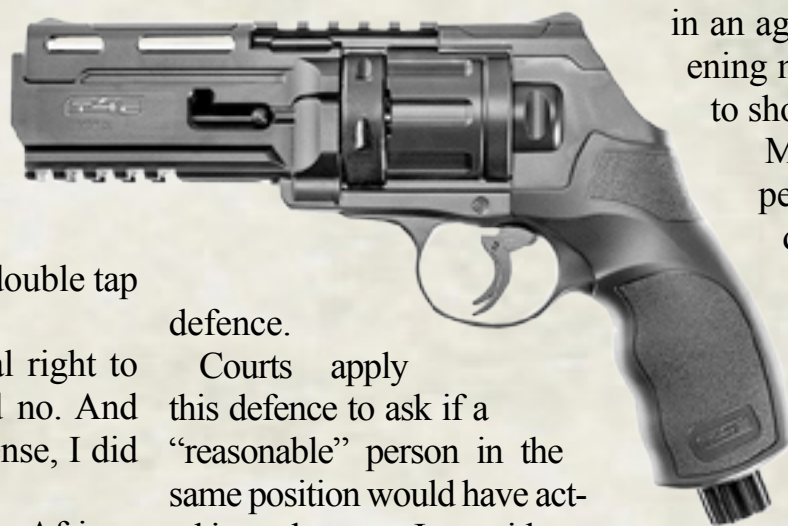
Obviously enjoying herself, my dearly beloved hit me with the second round in the chest.

When I finally got back to my feet and stopped calling my other half names that a sailor would have paid money to learn, it was time to test the pepperball round.

This didn't hurt half as much because the round burst on impact. Then the pepper hit me. It dropped me to the ground and for at least the next 15 minutes I lost all interest in life.

I couldn't see, my eyes were on fire, I was battling to breathe, and I was coughing and puking..

Would I recommend the HDR .50 for home protection? Most definitely. Just don't listen to my other half when she recommends that your other half try it out on you. Trust me on this one.



Down and dirty

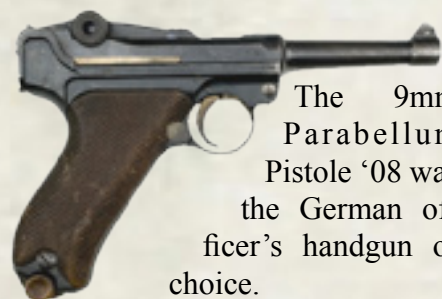
When involved in hand-to-hand fighting in the trenches of World War I, troops needed an extra edge.

Throughout World War I, assaults on enemy positions almost inevitably ended in hand-to-hand combat in the confined spaces of trenches and dugouts. In these circumstances the normal rifle was not ideal.

Pistols and revolvers were the ideal weapon, but normally it was only officers that carried them. Grenades were also useful and the design of early grenades, although not entirely satisfactory, soon improved dramatically.

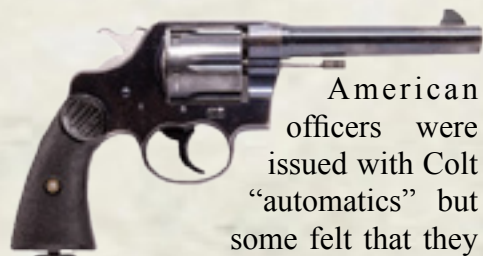
Individual soldiers had to improvise and they armed themselves with expedient weapons such as knives and axes, which were chosen for their ability to disable or kill at a single stroke.

Luger P08



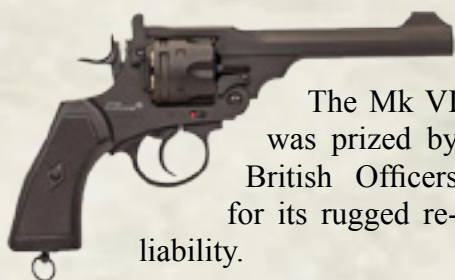
The 9mm Parabellum Pistole '08 was the German officer's handgun of choice.

Colt New Service



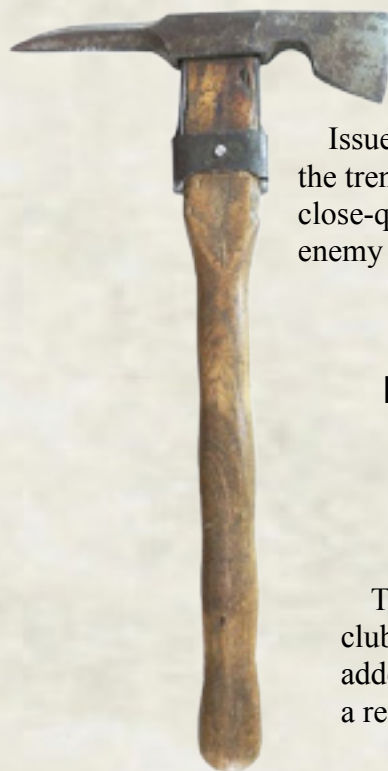
American officers were issued with Colt "automatics" but some felt that they were likely to jam. Most preferred the last revolver produced for the US Army—the .45-caliber Colt New Service.

Webley & Scott Mk VI



The Mk VI was prized by British Officers for its rugged reliability.

Trench axe



Issued to British troops as a general purpose tool, the trench axe was widely employed as a weapon in close-quarter fighting during raids and assaults on enemy positions.

Nailed cosh



The simplest trench-fighting weapons were clubs and truncheons, often with nails or spikes added to increase their lethality, and usually with a retaining loop.

German "Ersatz" knife bayonet



Short, double-edged bayonet, developed privately to fit the Mauser Gew'98 rifle.

Stielhandgranate



The handle of the German stick grenade gave the thrower a significant range advantage. It became one of the Stormtroopers' iconic weapons.

Winchester Trench Gun



The American M1897 pump-action shotgun with its six-round magazine was useful for clearing trenches.

Trench shovel



Sharpened along the sides, this short-handle shovel could inflict serious wounds. It could even remove a person's head from their shoulders.

French trench knife



This was a simple stabbing and slashing weapon with a double-edged blade, a steel cross-guard, and an unadorned wooden grip.

American "Knuckle-Duster" trench knife



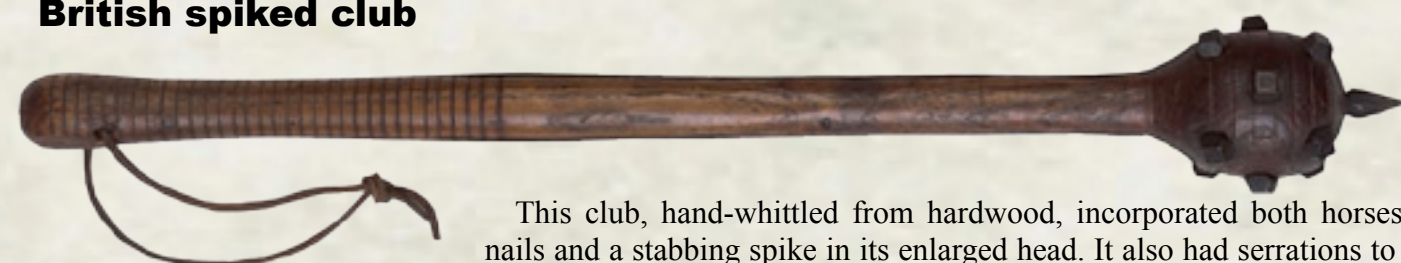
This combination weapon's conical pommel nut was designed to puncture the human skull. The spiked knuckle-duster made a punch potentially lethal, while the blade was used to slash or stab.

No. 36 Mills Bomb

Grenades became more effective when reliable time-fuses became available. The British Mills Bomb, with its "pineapple" casing filled with a TNT-based explosive called Baratol, was the first of its type, and was widely copied.



British spiked club



This club, hand-whittled from hardwood, incorporated both horseshoe nails and a stabbing spike in its enlarged head. It also had serrations to improve the grip, and a wrist strap for security.

Stick out your tongue and say "Ah"

Anyone that did National Service in the old SADF will surely remember their medical examination.

Anyone that did National Service in the South African Defence Force must remember those hectic first few days.

Besides being put into companies and platoons, getting issued with your kit, and getting to know your corporal, there was also the fun of the medical examination. It wasn't something that you could really forget, was it?

The following are personal recollections of some of those that do remember their medicals. They are taken from the book "Service Rendered", which was written by Military Despatches' editor Matt Tennyson.

Mel was 18 when he reported for national service and his medical examinations is still something he laughs about.

"I was in the July intake and went to 2 Field Engineering Regiment at a place called 'Lekkerdril' in Bethlehem. I wasn't there an hour when I decided that I didn't think I was going to like this national service thing.

"My corporal was an Afrikaans boy from some hick town in the Free State. He didn't like English guys and, because I was from Durban, he liked me even less. According to him people from Durban could only do two things. Surf and smoke

dagga. This was a load of crap because I had never surfed in my life.

"Anyway, we had to go for these medical exams. I think a bunch of retards could have organised it better. We had to go from office to office where different people checked us out. To speed up the process we all had to strip down to our underpants. Now this was really fun because this was Bethlehem in the middle of winter.

"Before being called up the furthest I had ever been away from Durban was a day trip to Port Shepstone. Back in Durban when the temperature reached 18 degrees I put on a jersey. On the day we did our medical it was minus three. I was blue with cold.

"I remember going into this one office and there was this old auntie in a nurse's kit. She looked like she was about 80 years old. I was hoping that she wasn't going to try and give me the kiss of life or something. Jeez bru, no problems to this old goose. She sticks her hand down the front of my underpants, grabs me by the nuts, and she tunes me "cough." She could have at least warmed her hands first. Cough! It was so cold that I couldn't even breathe.

"Then we went to another office and there was this army

doctor. I'm sure that this oke did his degree through a correspondence course and that half of his lessons got lost in the post. I stood in front of him while he poked and prodded away at me. Then he took his freezing stethoscope and stuck it all over me, just making me that little bit colder.

"He took this form and asked me some questions, ticking off my answers. Then he asked me if I suffered from any diseases or medical conditions. I told him that I sometimes suffered from eczema. What does this idiot write down on the form? He writes there that I suffer from epilepsy. I pointed out his mistake and told him that it was eczema and not epilepsy that I suffered from. I then had to explain what eczema was to him. What sort of a doctor was this oke?

"Finally we had to go and receive our 'shots'. The best part of this was that this was done in the hall. It was about 600 metres away from the offices where we had been doing everything until then. Now you must realise that we were still dressed in only a pair of underpants and we had to walk this distance exposed to the elements. Halfway to the hall and I was numb. I still remember thinking 'Great, my first day in the army and I'm going to die

of hypothermia.'

"Inside the hall was a line of tables and each table was manned by a medic. You went down the line, stopping at each table to get an injection. Jeez bru they injected you against everything known to man. Cholera, polio, VD, rabies, tetanus, yellow fever, scarlet fever and a couple of other colours thrown in as well.

"Because of the cold, the injections hurt like hell. As if all this wasn't bad enough our corporal took childish delight that afternoon in punching us on the arm at every opportunity. Only one thing stopped me from beating the crap out of my corporal that day. The fact that he was twice my size."

The SADF used a medical classification system to determine the medical condition of a conscript. These were as follows:

- **G1K1:** Medically fit. The conscript could be used in combat.
- **G2K1:** Medically fit but wore glasses or a hearing aid. The conscript was considered fit for combat duties.
- **G2K2:** As above but with the exception that the conscript was not considered fit for combat duties.
- **G3K3:** This classification meant that the conscript suffered from an intermittent condition such as asthma, etc. and was not considered fit for combat duty.
- **G4K4:** These were conscripts with serious medical conditions. The SADF regarded them as 'oxygen thieves' and they were usually utilised as clerks and

store men.

- **GT:** Temporary deferment of national service due to medical conditions.
- **G5GP:** Conscripts in this category were regarded as being of no use to the SADF and they were given a medical discharge.

Of course it was during the medical and psychological tests when a fair number of conscripts were deemed to be medically or psychologically unfit for military service. They were then given a discharge and released from all military commitments. Naturally many of the conscripts tried their utmost to obtain a medical discharge.

While many tried for a medical discharge there were those rare individuals that although suffering from a condition that would have warranted a discharge, tried everything in their power to pass the medical.

Derek was 19 and was a medic attached to 8 South African Infantry Battalion. He remembers one youngster who was determined to be classified as at least G2K1.

"We had this one guy who suffered from bad eyesight. When I say bad, I mean real bad. Even with his glasses he was as blind as a bat. Now he wanted to go into a combat unit and there was no ways that he wanted to become a store man or a clerk.

"He had an elder brother who was doing his national service at One Military Hospital at the time. Back in those days we used a simple eye chart to test eyesight. There were rows of letters that were fairly large in

the top row and then became smaller as you went down the rows. You stood on a line, used your hand to cover one of your eyes, and read from the chart. Everyone used the same chart and this guy got hold of a copy of it from his brother.

"He studied it until he knew it off by heart. When it was time to have his eyes tested he took his place on the line and covered his left eye. We had an army nurse who was a PF and held the rank of sergeant.

"Okay," she told him, "can you read the top letter for me."

"He stood there and rattled off each row of letters and at the end he said, "and right at the bottom it says in very small print 'Printed by 1 Military Printing Unit, Pretoria.'"

"He turned and smiled at the sister, obviously proud of himself.

"My, my," the sister shook her head, "you do have exceptional eyesight young man. The part where it says 'Printed by 1 Military Printing Unit' is actually on the back of the chart. Now let me get another chart and we'll try it again shall we."

Of course faking a psychological problem was a lot easier, or so some conscripts thought. Yet the SADF had seen it all before. They could usually spot a fake from a mile off. If the medical staff at a unit were unsure of whether a person was faking it or not, said person was usually sent through to One Military Hospital in Pretoria for observation.

They had a special ward at One Mil that handled the psychiatric patients. If memory serves me correctly it was Ward 22.

Of course there were the odd few who managed to slip through the net and obtain a discharge on psychological grounds.

I have my doubts as to the truth of the following story because I heard it from at least 10 different people who swore that it happened at their unit. Personally I think it is one of those urban legends, or should that be military legends?

Anyway, it's quite a funny story so I decided to include one version of it. This particular version comes from a person who was a basic training instructor at Personnel Services School in Pretoria.

"When a new intake arrived the first few days would be taken up with admin. There was a pile of forms that had to be completed. Then there were the medical and psychological tests, and finally they would be issued with their kit.

"I remember that in this one particular intake there was this guy who seemed to be on his own mission. While the rest of the recruits were standing in line he would be wandering around on his own. He seemed to have this obsession with paper.

"He would pick up any piece of paper that he could see, read it, and then throw it down again. He would even scratch in the dustbins for paper.

"You could say or do what you liked to this guy, nothing seemed to work. When asked what his problem was, he would just give you this blank look and tell you that he was 'looking for the paper.' If you asked him what paper he was

looking for, he would just say 'the paper.' We tried everything without success.

"It was decided to send him through to One Military Hospital for further observation and evaluation. He continued with his escapades at One Mil. Even when he went before the psychologist for his testing all he did was pick up papers from the desk, read them, and then put them back on the desk. All the psychologist could get out of him was the fact that he was looking for the paper.

"They finally came to the conclusion that this boy wasn't playing with a full deck of cards and decided to give him a medical exemption from military service.

"When he was given his discharge papers he gave a broad smile and said, 'Now these are the papers I was looking for.'

As I said, an amusing story but I doubt whether it was true.

Some of the conscripts did not have to fake psychological problems. Many of them received discharges because they really did have problems.

Colin was 19 when he did his basic training at 5 South African Infantry Battalion in 1976. He tells the following story.

"We had a guy in our section that was a real nut case. From the first day we could see that this guy was really different.

"First of all he had this permanent crazy look in his eyes. And he would come right up to you and stare at you with big smile on his face. It wasn't a friendly smile though. It was a scary smile and it always unnerved me.

"He never spoke to any of us,

even if you asked him a direct question. He would just stare at you and smile. Not that he never spoke, mind you. At night he would sit on his bed for the whole night, talking to someone none of us could see.

"Another charming think he used to do was to just drop his pants and relieve himself. No matter where he was. Nothing out corporal did seemed to have any effect on him. He would just stare at the corporal and smile.

"After only three days the doctor at our camp decided to send him to One Military Hospital. Our corporal and our company commander thought that this guy was faking it just to try and get a discharge. Even the doctor thought that this guy was trying it on.

"I wasn't convinced that he was faking. There was just something about this guy that gave me the creeps. My biggest fear was that at some stage this guy would be given a rifle. All of us in our section were really happy when this guy was sent away.

"Anyway, we later heard that this spent some time at One Military Hospital before he was given a discharge. I often wonder what eventually happened to him. Or what was wrong with him in the first place."

If you would like to receive a free electronic copy of the book "Service Rendered", send an e-mail with the heading Service Rendered to editor@hipeco.za and we will send you a copy.

Elite Forces Insignia

Here are 15 cap or beret badges from Special Forces and elite units from around the world. You tell us what the unit is, and from which country they're from. You'll find the answers to the quiz on page 94.



Rank Structure - Greece

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 Hellenic Armed Forces (Greece).

The Hellenic Armed Forces (*Ellinikés Énoples Dynámis*) are the combined ground, naval and air forces of Greece. They consist of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, the Hellenic Army, the Hellenic Navy, and the Hellenic Air Force. The civilian authority overseeing the Hellenic Armed Forces is the Ministry of National Defence.

Hellenic Army

The Hellenic Army (*Ellinikós Stratós*), formed in 1828, is the land force of Greece. The army is headed by the chief of the Hellenic Army General Staff (HAGS), which in turn is under the command of Hellenic National Defence General Staff (HNDGS). The motto of the Hellenic

Under Greek law, all men over 18 years of age must serve in the Armed Forces for a period of nine months. Women can serve in the Greek military on a voluntary basis, but cannot be conscripted. Military personnel was estimated at approximately 105,000 in 2018. Greece is an EU and NATO member.

Army is *Eleútheron tò Eúpsy-chon* (Freedom Stems from Valour). The Hellenic Army is also the main contributor to, and “lead nation” of, the Balkan Battle Group, a combined-arms rapid-response force under the EU Battlegroup structure.



Ypodekaneas
(Lance Corporal)



Dekaneas
(Corporal)



Lochias
(Sergeant)



Epilochias
(Staff Sergeant)



Archilochias
(Master Sergeant)



Anthypaspistis
(Warrant Officer)

Officers



Dokimos efedros aksiomatikos
(Officer Designate)



Anthypolochagos
(Second Lieutenant)



Ypolochagos
(Lieutenant)



Lochagos
(Captain)



Tagmatarchis
(Major)



Antisyntagmatarchis
(Lieutenant Colonel)



Syntagmatarchis
(Colonel)



Taxiarchos
(Brigadier General)



Ypostratigos
(Major General)



Antistratigos
(Lieutenant General)



Stratigos
(General)



Hellenic Air Force

The Hellenic Air Force (Aeroporia) is the air force of Greece. During the period of monarchy between 1935–1973 the force was known as the Royal Hellenic Air Force (Ellinikí Vasilikí Aeroporia).

The Hellenic Air Force is one of the three branches of the

Hellenic Armed Forces and its mission is to guard and protect Greek airspace, provide air assistance and support to the Hellenic Army and the Hellenic Navy, as well as the provision of humanitarian aid in Greece and around the world.



NCO's & Warrant Officer



Sminitis
(Aircraftman)



Yposminias
(Corporal)



Sminias
(Staff Sergeant)



Episminias
(Master Sergeant)



Archisminias
(Chief Master Sergeant)



Anthypaspistis
(Warrant Officer)

Officers



Anthyposminagos
(Pilot Officer)



Yposminagos
(Flying Officer)



Sminagos
(Flight Lieutenant)



Episminagos
(Squadron Leader)



Antisminarchos
(Wing Commander)



Sminarchos
(Group Captain)



Taxiarchos
(Air Commodore)



Ypopterarchos
(Air Vice Marshal)



Antipterarchos
(Air Marshal)



Pterarchos
(Air Chief Marshal)

Hellenic Navy

The Hellenic Navy (*Polemikó Naftikó*) is the naval force of Greece, part of the Hellenic Armed Forces. The modern Greek navy has its roots in the naval forces of various Aegean Islands, which fought in the Greek War of Independence. The total displacement of the fleet is approximately 150,000

tons and it is the 22nd largest Navy in the world by total number of vessels. The HN also operates a number of naval aviation units.



NCO's & Warrant Officer



Naftis
(Seaman)



Diopos
(Leading Seaman)



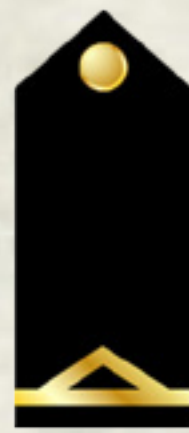
Kelefstis
(Chief Petty Officer)



Epikelfstis
(Senior Chief Petty Officer)



Archikelestis
(Master Chief Petty Officer)



Anthypaspistis
(Chief Petty Officer)

Officers



*Simaioforos Epikouros
Axiomatikos*
(Officer Designate)



Simaioforos
(Ensign)



Anthypoploiarchos
(Sub Lieutenant)



Ypoploiarchos
(Lieutenant)



Plotarchis
(Lieutenant Commander)



Antiploiarchos
(Commander)



Ploiarchos
(Captain)



Archiploiarchos
(Commodore)



Yponavarchos
(Rear Admiral)

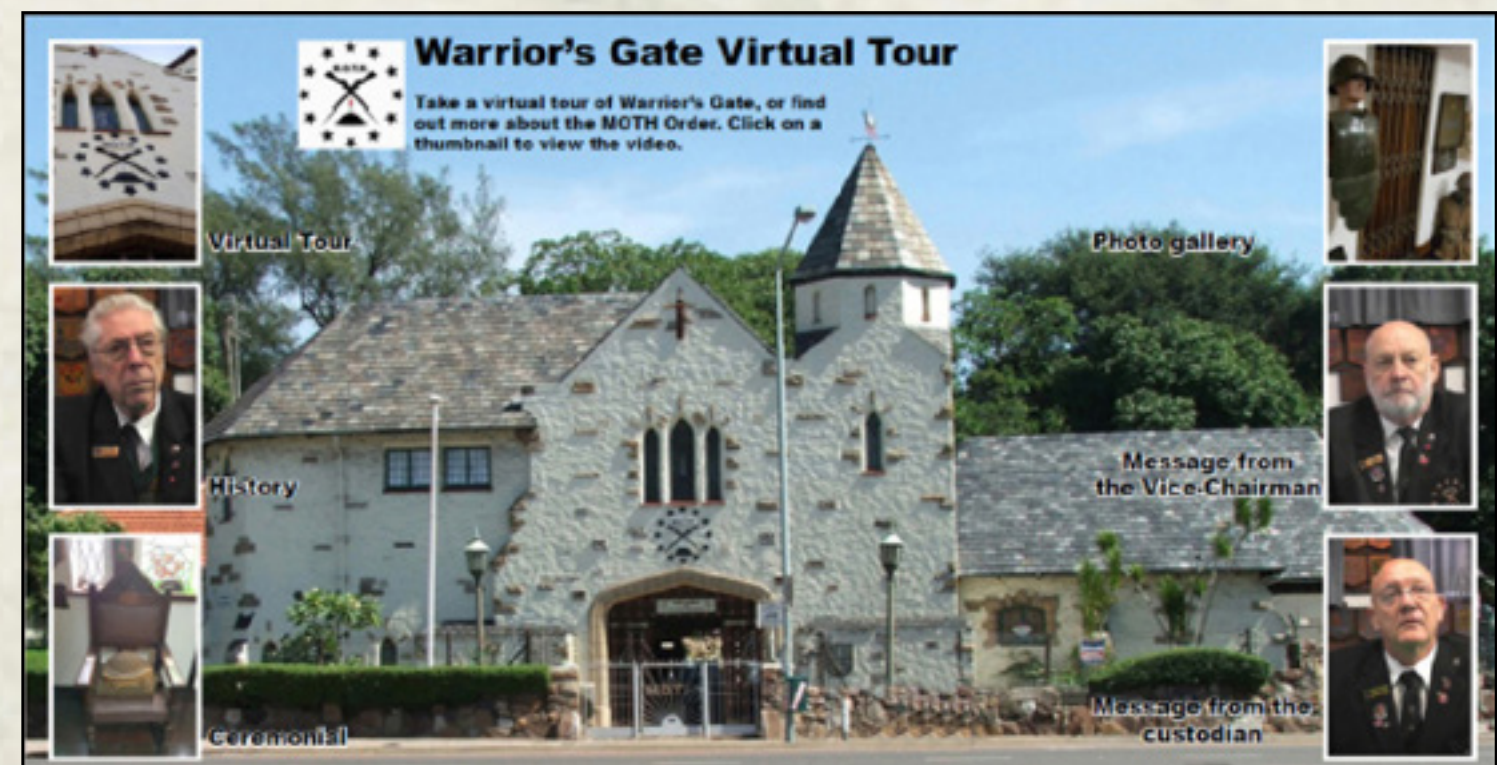


Antinavarchos
(Vice Admiral)



Navarchos
(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 III

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

Chicken is very versatile and can be cooked in many ways. Most of us eat chicken and more than a few of us don't mind the odd bit of fried chicken from the local take-away franchise.

In a survival situation most birds and fowls are edible. All you need to know is how to go about catching them.

Running noose

A noose attached to a long pole is an effective way of pulling down roosting birds from lower branches.

Make a not of roosting and nest sites, remembering that droppings will help guide you to them.

If the are within reach return stealthily on nights when there is sufficient light to see them.

Slip the noose over the bird and pull, tightening the noose and pulling down the bird at the same time.

Stalking waterfowl

You can get up close by getting in the water and camouflaging yourself around the head with reeds and other vegetation. Use caution to approach an area where fowls nest or are regularly seen.

Bear in mind that some larger

water birds, such as geese and swans, can be ferocious in defence of themselves.

Seagulls

Seagulls can be caught by wrapping food around a stone and throwing it into the air.

The gull swallows the bait while still on the wing, swallowing the stone with it.

The change in weight causes the bird to fall to the ground.

Be ready to dispatch the birds as soon as it hits the ground.

Obviously you should try this technique when the bird is over land.

Animal dangers

Few animals are likely to attack you unless it's in self-defence. Most of them will be far more concerned about getting out of your way (after all, you are trying to eat them).

The good news is that there is little chance of encountering really large animals such as elephants, rhinos, hippopotamus or the larger big cats unless you're really in the wilds or in a game reserve.

Nevertheless, avoid making camp on a trail, or close to an animal watering place.

Hippos, for example, leave

the river at night to feed. If you are on his path between his feeding place and the river then you will find yourself in serious trouble.

While on the subject of rivers and the like, crocodiles should be given a wide berth unless they are very small. Just bear in mind that if there is a small crocodile around, Mommy Croc will probably not be far away. And believe me, she will not be too amused if she thinks you are threatening her little offspring. They make look slow and lethargic, but crocodiles can move very quickly when they need to.

Any of the large horned animals is likely to be able to wound you with its horns before you can reach it with a weapon.

Some animals can deliver a powerful kick with their hooves. But it's not just hooved animals that can kick. Ostriches can kill with a single kick.

Hyaenas tend to hunt in packs. Although basically cowardly, they are very powerful and, as scavengers, are attracted to camp sites. They will probably turn tail and run, but drive them off rather than try to tackle them.

Monkeys seem cute and can



AND THE SEAGULL'S NAME WAS...: While they may not taste as good as chicken, seagulls are edible.

often be encountered. Make no mistake, while they may appear cute, the have sharp teeth and will become aggressive if they feel threatened.

Larger apes such as baboons can easily kill a man, but they are rarely aggressive and will usually give you plenty of warning to back off. Like monkeys, they can get aggressive if they feel they are being threatened.

If you are bitten by any animals, make sure that the bite is thoroughly cleaned. All could cause tetanus and some mammals, including bats, can carry rabies.

While many people have a fear of snakes, they are rarely a threat unless you accidentally come into contact with them. Most of them will try and avoid contact with you, but not all of them.

The puff adder, for instance, is lazy and expects you to go around it rather than the other way around.

They like to lie in the sun, often on a trail, and because of their colour they are often well camouflaged. It's easy not to see them and step on them by mistake and they will strike.

Always check your clothing, bedding and equipment for any reptile or insect visitors.

Occasionally a snake or centipede may slide into bed with you, attracted by your body warmth. Case have been known of people waking to find an unwelcome visitor nestling in an armpit or even more intimate places.

Try to remember, and it's not always that easy, that they are not attacking you. Move gently and calmly to free yourself from them.

Lastly, be careful of following any wounded animal into dense high grass or bush. They are hurt and confused and will often turn and attack.

Next month we'll look at handling and preparing the kill.



Military Strength

In the forth of a series of articles, we examine the assault rifles used by the ten strongest current military forces.

Last month we looked at submachine guns used by the ten strongest current military forces.

This month we are going to take a look at the assault rifles 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 HK417

The HK417 is intended for use in roles where the penetrative power, stopping power, and range of the 7.62×51mm cartridge are required. It has been adopted for service by a number of armed forces, special forces, and police organizations.

- Manufacturer: Heckler & Koch
- Weight: 5.8 kg
- Length: 1,082 mm stock extended; 965 mm stock collapsed



- Cartridge: 7.62×51 mm NATO
- Action: Gas-operated short-stroke piston, rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: 600 rpm
- Effective firing range: 600 metres
- Feed system: 10 or 20 round detachable box magazine

Heckler & Koch G36

Standard assault rifle of the German Army since 1997, replacing the old G3. The G36 will be replaced by a new standard service rifle, possibly the HK433.

- Manufacturer: Heckler & Koch
- Weight: 3.63 kg
- Length: 999 mm stock extended; 758 mm stock folded



- Cartridge: 5.56×45 mm NATO
- Action: Short-stroke piston, rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: 750 rpm
- Max firing range: 2,860 metres
- Feed system: 30 round detachable box magazine or 100 round C-Mag drum magazine

Heckler & Koch HK416

Special forces only. HK416 A5 designated as 'G38'. HK416 A7 designated as 'G95'

- Manufacturer: Heckler & Koch
- Weight: 2.950–3.850 kg
- Length: 690–1,037 mm stock extended
- Cartridge: 5.56×45 mm NATO



- Action: Gas-operated short-stroke piston, rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: 850 rpm
- Effective firing range: 300 metres
- Feed system: 10, 20, 30 round detachable STANAG magazine; 100-round detachable Beta C-Mag

Heckler & Koch G3

Was the standard rifle of the West German army; last active use was in the War in Afghanistan. Since then, all weapons are in reserve.



- Manufacturer: Heckler & Koch
- Weight: 4.38 kg
- Length: 1,025 mm
- Cartridge: 7.62×51 mm NATO

- Action: Roller-delayed blowback
- Rate of fire: 500–600 rpm
- Effective firing range: 3200–400 metres
- Feed system: 20, 30, or 40 round detachable box; 50 round and 100 round drum magazine



9. Turkey

Total military personnel – 891,300

The Turkish make use of a wide variety of assault rifles. No fewer than 15 to be precise. These include everything from the AK-47 and AKM to the M16 and M4A1.

Steyr AUG

AUG A2 variant in use by Special Forces Command.

- Manufacturer: Steyr Mannlicher
- Weight: 3.6 kg
- Length: 790 mm
- Cartridge: 5.56×45 mm NATO



- Action: Gas-operated, rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: 680–750 rpm
- Effective firing range: 300 metres
- Feed system: 30 or 42 round detachable box magazine

Tavor TAR-21

This Israeli-designed rifle is in use by Special Forces Command in the VIP protection role.

- Manufacturer: Israel Military Industries
- Weight: 3.27 kg
- Length: 720 mm
- Cartridge: 5.56×45 mm NATO

- Action: Long-stroke gas-operated, rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: 750 rpm
- Effective firing range: 550 metres
- Feed system: 30 round detachable box STANAG Magazine



Heckler & Koch G3

Primary service/battle rifle. G3A7 and G3A7A1 variants still widely in use. Produced under license by MKEK. Being replaced by MPT-76.

- Manufacturer: MKEK
- Weight: 4.38 kg
- Length: 1,025 mm
- Cartridge: 7.62×51 mm NATO

- Action: Roller-delayed blowback
- Rate of fire: 500–600 rpm
- Effective firing range: 3200–400 metres
- Feed system: 20, 30, or 40 round detachable box; 50 round and 100 round drum magazine



MPT-76

This is set to replace the G3 and AKM as the standard assault rifle. It is a copy of the Heckler & Koch HK417.

- Manufacturer: MKEK
- Weight: 5.8 kg
- Length: 1,082 mm stock extended; 965 mm stock collapsed
- Cartridge: 7.62×51 mm NATO

- Action: Gas-operated short-stroke piston, rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: 600 rpm
- Effective firing range: 600 metres
- Feed system: 20 round detachable box magazine



8. United Kingdom

Total military personnel – 157,500

SA80

Standard issue assault rifle. A shortened carbine, the L22A2, is used primarily by vehicle and helicopter crews for self-defence.

- Manufacturer: RSAF Enfield
- Weight: 4.98 kg
- Length: 785 mm
- Cartridge: 5.56×45 mm NATO

- Action: Gas-operated, rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: 610–775 rpm
- Effective firing range: 300–400 metres
- Feed system: 30 round detachable box STANAG Magazine



L119A2

Used by the pathfinder group of the Parachute Regiment, UKSF, the Royal Military Police Close Protection Unit and 43 Commando Royal Marines.

- Manufacturer: Colt Canada
- Weight: 3.9 kg
- Length: 1,006 mm stock extended; 929.8 mm stock collapsed

- Cartridge: 5.56×45 mm NATO
- Action: Gas-operated, rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: 700–900 rpm
- Effective firing range: 400 metres
- Feed system: 30 round detachable box STANAG Magazine



LWRC M6

The M6A2 UCIW (Ultra Compact Individual Weapon) model of the LWRC M6 has recently been adopted in limited numbers by the UK Special Forces.

- Manufacturer: LWRC
- Weight: 3.31kg
- Length: Not known
- Cartridge: 5.56×45 mm NATO

- Action: Rotating bolt, selective fire
- Rate of fire: 700–900 rpm
- Effective firing range: Not known
- Feed system: 30 round STANAG-compliant magazine





7. Republic of Korea

Total military personnel – 3,699,000

K2

Standard-issue assault rifle. Partially being replaced by K2C1.

- Manufacturer: S&T Motiv
- Weight: 3.26 kg
- Length: 980 mm stock extended; 730 mm stock collapsed
- Cartridge: 5.56×45 mm NATO

Heckler & Koch HK416

Used by Special Forces.

- Manufacturer: Heckler & Koch
- Weight: 2.950–3.850 kg
- Length: 690–1,037 mm stock extended
- Cartridge: 5.56×45 mm NATO
- Action: Gas-operated short-stroke piston, rotating bolt



- NATO
- Action: Gas-operated, rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: 750 rpm
- Effective firing range: 600 metres
- Feed system: Various STANAG Magazines



- Rate of fire: 850 rpm
- Effective firing range: 300 metres
- Feed system: 10, 20, 30 round detachable STANAG magazine; 100-round detachable Beta C-Mag



6. Japan

Total military personnel – 310,457

Howa Type 89

Standard issue to front line units.

- Manufacturer: Howa
- Weight: 3.5 kg
- Length: 916 mm
- Cartridge: 5.56×45 mm NATO
- Action: Gas-operated
- Rate of fire: 750 rpm



- Effective firing range: 500 metres
- Feed system: 20 or 30 round detachable STANAG magazine

Howa Type 64

Used by second line troops, but is being replaced by the Type 89.

- Manufacturer: Howa
- Weight: 4.4 kg
- Length: 990 mm
- Cartridge: 7.62×51 mm NATO
- Action: Gas-operated tilting bolt



- Rate of fire: 500 rpm
- Effective firing range: 400 metres
- Feed system: 20 round detachable box magazine



5. France

Total military personnel – 426,265

FAMAS

The FAMAS remains the standard-issue service rifle of the French military. Scheduled to be phased out of service in the mid 2020s.

- Manufacturer: GIAT Industries
- Weight: 3.61 kg
- Length: 757 mm
- Cartridge: 5.56×45 mm NATO



- Action: Lever-delayed blowback
- Rate of fire: 900–1,000 rpm
- Effective firing range: 300 metres
- Feed system: 25 round detachable box magazine

Heckler & Koch HK416

The HK416F will replace the FAMAS as the standard-issue assault rifle beginning in 2017. 102,000 weapons have been ordered.

- Manufacturer: Heckler & Koch
- Weight: 2.950–3.850 kg
- Length: 690–1,037 mm stock extended
- Cartridge: 5.56×45 mm NATO



- NATO
- Action: Gas-operated short-stroke piston, rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: 850 rpm
- Effective firing range: 300 metres
- Feed system: 10, 20, 30 round detachable STANAG magazine; 100-round detachable Beta C-Mag

FN SCAR

Used by French Army’s special forces.

- Manufacturer: FN Herstal
- Weight: 3.29 kg
- Length: 787 mm stock extended, 533 mm stock folded
- Cartridge: 5.56×45 mm NATO
- Action: Gas-operated long-stroke piston, rotating bolt



- Rate of fire: 625 rpm
- Effective firing range: 300 metres
- Feed system: 20 round detachable STANAG box magazine

M16A2

Used by French Army’s special forces.

- Manufacturer: Colt’s Manufacturing Company
- Weight: 3.40 kg
- Length: 1,003 mm
- Cartridge: 5.56×45 mm NATO
- Action: Gas-operated, rotating bolt



- Rate of fire: 700-950 rpm
- Effective firing range: 550 metres
- Feed system: 20 round detachable STANAG box magazine



4. India

Total military personnel – 2,598,921

The Indians make use of 12 different assault rifles from a variety of countries.

FN F2000

Standard assault rifle of SPG.

- Manufacturer: FN Herstal
- Weight: 3.6 kg
- Length: 688 mm
- Cartridge: 5.56×45 mm NATO
- Action: Gas-operated, rotating bolt



- Rate of fire: 850 rpm
- Effective firing range: 5000 metres
- Feed system: 30 round detachable STANAG box magazine

SIG SG 550

Standard assault rifle of NSG.

- Manufacturer: Swiss Arms AG
- Weight: 4.05 kg
- Length: 998 mm stock extended, 772 mm stock folded
- Cartridge: 5.56×45 mm NATO
- Action: Gas-operated, rotating bolt



- Rate of fire: 700 rpm
- Effective firing range: 100-400 metres
- Feed system: 5, 20, or 30 round detachable box magazine

Tavor TAR-21

Standard Special Forces assault rifle.

- Manufacturer: Israel Military Industries
- Weight: 3.27 kg
- Length: 720 mm
- Cartridge: 5.56×45 mm NATO
- Action: Long-stroke gas-operated, rotating bolt



- Rate of fire: 750 rpm
- Effective firing range: 550 metres
- Feed system: 30 round detachable box STANAG Magazine

FN SCAR

Used by special forces including NSG, Para SF, MARCOS and SFF.

- Manufacturer: FN Herstal
- Weight: 3.29 kg
- Length: 787 mm stock extended, 533 mm stock folded
- Cartridge: 5.56×45 mm NATO
- Action: Gas-operated long-stroke piston, rotating bolt



- Rate of fire: 625 rpm
- Effective firing range: 300 metres
- Feed system: 20 round detachable STANAG box magazine



3. China

Total military personnel – 2,545,000

QBZ-95

Standard service rifle used by the PLA.

- Manufacturer: Norinco
- Weight: 3.25 kg
- Length: 745 mm
- Cartridge: 5.8×42 mm DBP87
- Action: Short-stroke piston, rotating bolt



- Rate of fire: 650 rpm
- Effective firing range: 400 metres
- Feed system: 30 round detachable box magazine; 75 round detachable drum

QBZ-03

In service with second line PLAGF units.

- Manufacturer: Norinco
- Weight: 3.5 kg
- Length: 950 mm with stock extended, 725 mm with stock folded
- Cartridge: 5.8×42 mm DBP87
- Action: Gas operated, rotating bolt



- Rate of fire: 700-750 rpm
- Effective firing range: 500 metres
- Feed system: 30 round detachable box magazine

QBZ-95B

Short version of the QBZ-95, used by Special Forces.

- Manufacturer: Norinco
- Weight: 2.9 kg
- Length: 609 mm
- Cartridge: 5.8×42 mm DBP87
- Action: Short-stroke piston, rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: 800 rpm



- Effective firing range: 400 metres
- Feed system: 30 round detachable box magazine; 75 round detachable drum



2. Russia

Total military personnel – 3,586,128

AK-74M

Main service rifle of Russian Ground Forces. It is an improved AK-74 with a synthetic folding stock

- Manufacturer: Tula Arms Plant
- Weight: 2.7 kg
- Length: 950 mm with stock extended, 725 mm with stock folded
- Cartridge: 5.45×39 mm



- Action: Gas-operated, rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: 700-735 rpm
- Effective firing range: 300-400 metres
- Feed system: 20 or 30 round AK-74 or 45 round RPK-74 detachable box magazine or 60 round casket magazine

AK-12

It has been adopted by the Russian Ground Forces in January 2018 under the Ratnik program.

- Manufacturer: Kalashnikov Concern
- Weight: 3.3 kg
- Length: 945 mm with stock extended, 725 mm with stock folded
- Cartridge: 5.45×39 mm



- Action: Gas-operated, long stroke gas piston, rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: 600-700 rpm
- Effective firing range: 500-600 metres
- Feed system: 30 round detachable box magazine, 60 round casket magazine, 96 round drum magazine

AK-15

It has been adopted by the Russian Ground Forces in January 2018 under the Ratnik program.

- Manufacturer: Kalashnikov Concern
- Weight: 3.3 kg
- Length: 945 mm with stock extended, 725 mm with stock folded
- Cartridge: 7.62×39 mm



- Action: Gas-operated, long stroke gas piston, rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: 600-700 rpm
- Effective firing range: 500-600 metres
- Feed system: 30 round detachable box magazine, 60 round casket magazine, 96 round drum magazine

AN-94

Limited usage by special forces units and the 51st Airborne Regiment.

- Manufacturer: Izhmash
- Weight: 3.85 kg
- Length: 943 mm with stock extended, 728 mm with stock folded
- Cartridge: 5.45×39 mm
- Action: Gas-operated



- Rate of fire: 600 rpm
- Effective firing range: 700 metres
- Feed system: 30 or 45 round AK-74 compatible box magazines; 60 round casket magazines



1. United States

Total military personnel – 4,397,128

M16

Standard service rifle.

- Manufacturer: Colt’s Manufacturing Company
- Weight: 3.4 kg
- Length: 1,003 mm
- Cartridge: 5.56×45 mm NATO
- Action: Gas-operated, rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: 700-950 rpm



- Effective firing range: 550 metres
- Feed system: STANAG magazine 20 round detachable box magazine; 30 round detachable box magazine; Beta C-Mag 100

M4

Standard service rifle, replacing the M16.

- Manufacturer: Colt’s Manufacturing Company
- Weight: 3.01 kg
- Length: 838 mm
- Cartridge: 5.56×45 mm NATO
- Action: Gas-operated, rotating bolt



- Rate of fire: 700-950 rpm
- Effective firing range: 500 metres
- Feed system: 30 round box magazine or other STANAG magazines

Heckler & Koch HK416

Used by Delta Force.

- Manufacturer: Heckler & Koch
- Weight: 2.950–3.850 kg
- Length: 690–1,037 mm stock extended
- Cartridge: 5.56×45 mm NATO
- Action: Gas-operated short-stroke piston, rotating bolt



- Rate of fire: 850 rpm
- Effective firing range: 300 metres
- Feed system: 10, 20, 30 round detachable STANAG magazine; 100-round detachable Beta C-Mag

SIG MCX

Used by Joint Special Operations Command.

- Manufacturer: SIG Sauer
- Weight: 2.61 kg
- Length: 730 mm stock folded, 908 mm stock unfolded
- Cartridge: 5.56×45 mm NATO
- Action: Short-stroke gas-operated piston, rotating bolt



- Rate of fire: 900 rpm
- Effective firing range: 503 metres
- Feed system: 30 round detachable STANAG box magazine



The Heckler & Koch HK416 is gaining popularity with many armed forces around the world.

Josef 'Sepp' Dietrich

Veteran of World War I, SS Commander in World War II, Adolf Hitler's chauffeur and bodyguard, and German politician. While respected and admired by many, others had a different opinion. This was Sepp Dietrich

Josef "Sepp" Dietrich was born on 28 May 1892 in Hawangen, near Memmingen in the Kingdom of Bavaria, German Empire.

There is not much information on his early life but it is known that he left primary school to become a butcher's apprentice.

In 1911 he joined the Bavarian Army with the 4. Bayerische Feldartillerie-Regiment "König" (4th Bavarian Field Artillery Regiment) in Augsburg.

World War I

At some stage Dietrich left the Bavarian Army but returned to service in August 1914, fighting with several artillery units.

During the spring of 1918, he served in one of the only German units equipped with German-made A7V tanks, before finishing the war as a crewman with captured British tanks.

Dietrich earned the rare First World War Tank Combat Badge, and was one of the few re-

cipients to fight in the Second World War.

He was promoted to *Gefreiter* (corporal) in 1917 and awarded the Iron Cross 2nd class. In 1918 he was promoted to *Unteroffizier* (sergeant). Last Bavarian army record lists Dietrich as recipient of Iron Cross 1st class.

Interwar period

After the war, in 1919, Dietrich joined the Bavarian Police and rose rapidly in rank due to his experience as an NCO during the war.

He gained additional military experience by simultaneously joining the *Freikorps "Oberland."* He took leave from his police duties at various times to join the *Freikorps* on campaigns, including fighting the Poles in Upper Silesia.

Dietrich was with the *Freikorps* when it participated in the 9 November 1923, "Beer Hall Putsch" in Munich, and this doesn't seem to have damaged his civil career, as he was promoted to police captain the next year.

From this early start, Dietrich became acquainted with many leading Nazi party personalities, although he didn't join the NSDAP until 1 May 1928, becoming an SS member four days later.

He had left the police during 1927, and forged a new career as an SS leader and National Socialist politician (gaining a seat in the *Reichstag* from 1932-1945).

In his free time, he indulged his passions of hunting and auto racing, earning a reputation as a sportsman.

Even as he immersed

himself in politics, soldiering was Dietrich's goal, and he was able to attain a semi-military status by heading Hitler's bodyguard detachment from 1929 onward.

With the National Socialist ascension to power on 30 January 1933, this force was reorganized on 17 March, with 117 carefully selected volunteers forming the SS-Staff Guard "Berlin."

This was the origin of the unit which expanded throughout 1933, and on 13 April 1934, received the title "*Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler*" (LAN).

Later that year, the force was ordered to take part in the murder of SA leaders during the "Night of the Long Knives. Dietrich had gained first-hand experience of the darker side of Nazi politics.

World War II

The SS-LAH developed into a motorized infantry regiment, but it was soon apparent that Dietrich's leadership qualities far exceeded his tactical abilities.

He was a proud man, and it took until 1938 before he accepted the outside influence of Hausser to bring the parade-perfect SS-LAH to a state of combat competence.

Highly-experienced professional officers were assigned to assist Dietrich for the remainder of the war, beginning with Willi Bittrich and Wilhelm Keilhaus.

This arrangement, later in-

volving younger officers such as Max Wünsche and Rudolf Lehmann, proved highly successful. While Dietrich served as a public figure, and often personally intervened in combat at crisis spots, his staff officers quietly directed the military operations of the unit.

Dietrich, seemingly a flawed leader from an outside point of view, always received the highest admiration and respect from the men of the SS-LAH, with many of his subordinate commanders having served in the unit since 1933.

They recognized his limitations but never questioned his personal courage, demonstrated in both wars, and appreciated the constant concern he showed for the welfare of his men.

His admirers were quick to point out that Dietrich was the living embodiment of the traditional Prussian system in which a revered commander such as Blücher or Hindenburg owed his success to his chief of staff.

Dietrich commanded the SS-LAH as a reinforced regiment in Poland and France. It was small division by the time it fought in Greece and then the Soviet Union during 1941.

He won the Knight's Cross on 5 July 1940, and the Oakleaves to it on the last day of 1941. During 1942, SS-LAH expanded into a full armoured division, and Dietrich won the Swords to his Knight's Cross with Oakleaves on 16 March

1943, for his unit's distinguished role in the Kharkov campaign.

After this, during the late spring of 1943, Dietrich left his division to begin forming the headquarters of the I SS-Panzer Corps *Leibstandarte*, which was to include the SS-LAH and its new sister division, *SS Hitlerjugend*.

Heer (Army) staff officer Fritz Kraemer transferred to the Waffen-SS to become the corps chief of staff, and he and Dietrich developed a fine working relationship.

The corps fought in Normandy from June 1944, and Dietrich was awarded the Diamonds to his Knight's Cross with Swords and Oakleaves on 6 August 1944. This was the second and final such decoration within the Waffen-SS.

Days earlier, on 1 August, he had joined Hausser as the second Waffen-SS man to attain the rank of SS-(Four-Star) General (*SS-Oberstgruppenführer*). In recognition of his lengthy experience in armoured warfare, his military SS rank was honorarily listed as "*Panzer-Generaloberst der Waffen-SS*."

Dietrich took command of the *Heer* 5th Panzer Army in Normandy on 9 August 1944. A month later, on 14 September, he was ordered to form the 6th Panzer Army, based around the I and II SS-Panzer Corps.

Kraemer joined him again as chief of staff for the rest of the war, as the army, retitled the



6th SS-Panzer Army, fought in the Ardennes and then in Hungary.

In March 1945 Dietrich's 6th Panzer Army and the LSSAH spearheaded Operation Spring Awakening, an offensive in Hungary near Lake Balaton aimed at securing the last oil reserves still available to Germany.

Despite early gains, the offensive was too ambitious in scope and failed. After that failure, the 6th SS Panzer Army (and LSSAH) retreated to the Vienna area.

As a mark of disgrace, the Waffen-SS units involved in the battle were ordered by Hitler to remove their treasured cuff titles. Dietrich did not relay the order to his troops.

Shortly thereafter, Dietrich's troops were forced to retreat from Vienna by Soviet Army forces. Dietrich, accompanied by his wife, surrendered on 9 May 1945 to the U.S. 36th Infantry Division in Austria.

Assessment

Dietrich had the complete confidence of the Führer because of his plain-speaking loyalty; the old political fighter was one of Hitler's favourites. He therefore enjoyed much lavish publicity, numerous decorations and a rapid series of promotions.

Dietrich often took gambles, much to the dislike of the OKW, such as when he sent the Leibstandarte division "charging into Rostov" without orders "purely to gain a prestige

victory".

Once Dietrich was promoted to a Corps command he was at least assisted by competent staff officers transferred from the army; still, the army command had to take some pains to keep him in line.

By 1944 there were clear signs that he had been elevated above his military competence. He reportedly had never been taught how to read a military map. Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt considered him to be "decent but stupid" and was especially critical of Dietrich's handling of the 6th Panzer Army in the Ardennes. Even Dietrich's principal staff officer conceded that he was "no strategic genius".

Dietrich's long, personal acquaintance with Hitler allowed him to be more frank than other senior officers in his interactions with Hitler. He was reported by a fellow general to have "railed against the Führer and [his] entourage" with promises to let Hitler know that he was "leading us all to destruction".

War Crimes

Dietrich was tried as Defendant No. 11 by the U.S. Military Tribunal at Dachau ("United States of America vs. Valentin Bersin et al.", Case No. 6-24), from 16 May 1946 until 16 July 1946.

On that day he was sentenced to life imprisonment in the Malmedy massacre trial for his involvement in ordering the execution of U.S. prisoners

of war.

Due to testimony in his defence by other German officers, his sentence was shortened to 25 years. He was imprisoned at the Landsberg Prison in Bavaria. Dietrich served only ten years and was released on parole on 22 October 1955.

He was re-arrested in Ludwigsburg in August 1956. He was charged by the *Landgericht München I* and tried from 6 to 14 May 1957 for his role in the killing of SA leaders during the Night of the Long Knives in 1934.

He was sentenced to 19 months for his part in that purge and returned to the U.S. military prison at Landsberg.

He was released due to a heart condition and circulation problems in his legs on 2 February 1958. By then he had already served almost his entire 19 month sentence.

Later life

Upon his release from prison he took an active part in the activities of HIAG, an organization and lobby group of former Waffen-SS members. Founded by former high-ranking Waffen-SS personnel, it campaigned for the legal, economic and historical rehabilitation of the Waffen-SS, with limited success.

On 21 April 1966 Dietrich died of a heart attack. He was 74 years old. Six thousand people, including many former SS men, attended his funeral.



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M4 Sherman Tank

Although nicknamed the 'Tommycooker', 'Ronson' and 'The Burning Grave', the M4 Sherman was the most widely used medium tank by the United States and Western Allies in World War II. It proved to be reliable, relatively cheap to produce, and available in great numbers.

When the Germans invaded France in May 1940 the consequent tank actions were closely observed by various US Army agencies.

From their observations the Americans learned that the next generation of medium tanks had to have at least a 75 mm gun as their main armament, but this presented them with problems as their next

tank generation, already being produced in prototype form, was armed with only a 37 mm gun of the type already seen to be obsolete.

The new design became the Medium Tank M3, and was rushed into mass production in a factory meant for the earlier M2.

While the Medium Tank

M3 was being rushed into production, a new design of medium tank with a turret-mounted 75 mm main gun was being pushed through the drawing board stages.

To save time this was to use the same basic hull and suspension as the M3, but the upper hull was revised to accommodate the gun turret.

The first example of the new tank was rolled out in September 1941 as the Medium Tank T6 and proved to be a very good design.

The upper hull was cast, and this not only provided added protection but sped up production, at that time a definite asset.

The new weapon was rushed into production as the Medium Tank M4, with a 75 mm main gun and co-axial 7.62 mm ma-



chine-gun, 7.62 mm bow gun and 12.7 mm gun for anti-aircraft defence.

This baseline model had minimum and maximum armour thickness's of 15 mm and 76 mm respectively.

It proved to be an excellent fighting platform and went on to be one of the war-winning weapons of the Allies, being constructed in thousands.

By the time the production lines stopped rolling in 1945 well over 40,000 had been made, and the type was built in a bewildering array of marks, sub-marks and variants of all kinds.

It would take a magazine on its own to even attempt a complete listing of all the numerous versions, but suffice to say that once in service the M4 series was fitted with different, more powerful engines, up-gunned to even more powerful 75 mm, 76 mm, and even 105mm main weapons, and developed into numerous 'specials' such as engineer tanks, assault tanks, tank destroyers, flamethrowers, bridging tanks, recovery vehicles, rocket launchers, self-propelled artillery carriages, anti-mine vehicles and so on, which were produced from scratch or improvised in the field.

Gradually the M4 series became the T-34 of the Western Allies. The British army purchased large numbers of M4s or took them over as part of the Lend-Lease programme.

To the British the M4 was the General Sherman (or simply Sherman) and they too added their variations to the long list of M4 specials. ne of the best

known of these was the 1944 Sherman Firefly, which had a 17-pdr main gun.

The first Shermans went into action with the British at El Alamein in October 1942.

Thereafter the Sherman was the most numerous tank in British army service for the rest of World War II.

Drawbacks

The M4 had many drawbacks and was far from being the ideal battle tank. It was often left behind in firepower as the German tank guns increased in power and calibre, and the armour thickness's and arrangement were frequently found wanting.

Indeed many field improvisations had to be used to beef up the armour, these including the simple expedient of using stacked sandbags.

The silhouette was too high for comfort and the interior arrangements far from perfect.

Another problem frequently encountered was that with so many variants in use spares were often not available and engine interchangeability was frequently impossible, causing considerable logistical troubles.

One of the main problems with the M4 was that it made use of gasoline engines. Petrol is far more flammable than diesel, which most other tanks used.

This meant that the M4 would often ignite and burst into flames went it received a direct hit, offering the crew little chance to bail out.

Because of its propensity to catch fire, the Sherman soon

gained several nicknames.

The Germans nicknamed the M4 the 'Tommycooker'. Tommy was the German nickname for a British soldier.

The British nicknamed it the 'Ronson'. The Ronson was a popular cigarette lighter than, in their ads, guaranteed to "light up the first time, every time."

Even the Free Poles had a nickname for the M4. They called it "The Burning Grave".

It was in the summer of 1944, in the fields and hedgerows of Normandy, that the M4 Sherman would face its biggest challenge against far superior German armour.

First up was the German Panzer V, also known as the Panther. It is considered one of the best tanks of World War II for its excellent firepower and protection, although its reliability was less impressive.

It used the 7.5 cm KwK 42 L/70 main gun and its armour was up to 100 mm thick. With a speed of 55 km/h it was also much faster than the Sherman.

The Germans has as many as 4,800 Panthers deployed.

Even more impressive was the *Panzerkampfwagen VI Tiger Ausf. E* often shortened to Tiger.

The Tiger I gave the German Army its first armoured fighting vehicle that mounted the 8.8 cm KwK 36 gun (not to be confused with the 8.8 cm Flak 36), a main gun that could knock out any armoured target.

The Sherman's 75mm and 76mm guns just could not pierce the mighty Tiger tank's frontal armour even at short range while the latter could

M4 Sherman Tank



- Designer: U.S. Army Ordnance Department
- Designed: 1940
- Manufacturer: American Locomotive Company, Baldwin Locomotive Works, Detroit Tank Arsenal, and various others
- Weight: 30.3–38.1 tonnes
- Length: 5.84 metres
- Width: 2.62 metres
- Height: 2.74 metres
- Crew: 5 (commander, gunner, loader, driver, assistant driver/bow gunner)
- Armour: 12.7 mm minimum, up to a maximum of 177.8 mm
- Main armament: 75 mm gun M3 (90–104 rounds), or 76 mm gun M1A1, M1A1C, or M1A2 (71 rounds), or 105 mm howitzer M4 (66 rounds)
- Secondary armament: .50 calibre Browning M2HB machine gun (300–600 rounds), 2×.30 calibre Browning M1919A4 machine guns (6,000–6,750 rounds)
- Engine: Continental R975 -C1 or -C4 9 cylinder radial gasoline engine, 350 or 400 hp (261 or 298 kW) at 2,400 rpm
- Transmission: Spicer manual synchromesh transmission, 5 forward and 1 reverse gears
- Suspension: Vertical volute spring suspension (VVSS) or horizontal volute spring suspension (HVSS)
- Fuel capacity: 522 litres
- Operational range: 161 kilometres on road
- Speed: 35 km/h on road

The Germans fielded up to 1,835 Tiger and King Tiger tanks. The problem for them was that they were up against some 40,000 Allied Shermans.

It also helped that the Allied air forces enjoyed a huge aerial superiority over the virtually beaten German Luftwaffe. Working in tandem with well-coordinated Allied infantry, artillery, and air forces, the plentiful and trusty Shermans were able to vanquish most German armoured formations simply by ganging up on them in overwhelming numbers when all else failed.

Post World War II

While the U.S. Army replaced the M4 in 1957, it still remained in service with a number of other countries. In fact 42 other countries used the M4.

Post World War II the M4 saw action in Korea, the Middle East, Greece, India-Pakistan, South America and Africa. The last time the M4 was used in action was during the Iran-Iraq War from 1980 to 1983.

While it may never have been the best tank of the war, the M4 Sherman was the most widely used medium tank by the United States and Western Allies. It proved to be reliable, relatively cheap to produce, and available in great numbers.

It was, for the Western Allies, the tank that helped defeat Germany. Besides that, it was a weapon that was forged in battle.

vanquish the Shermans with impunity from greater distances.

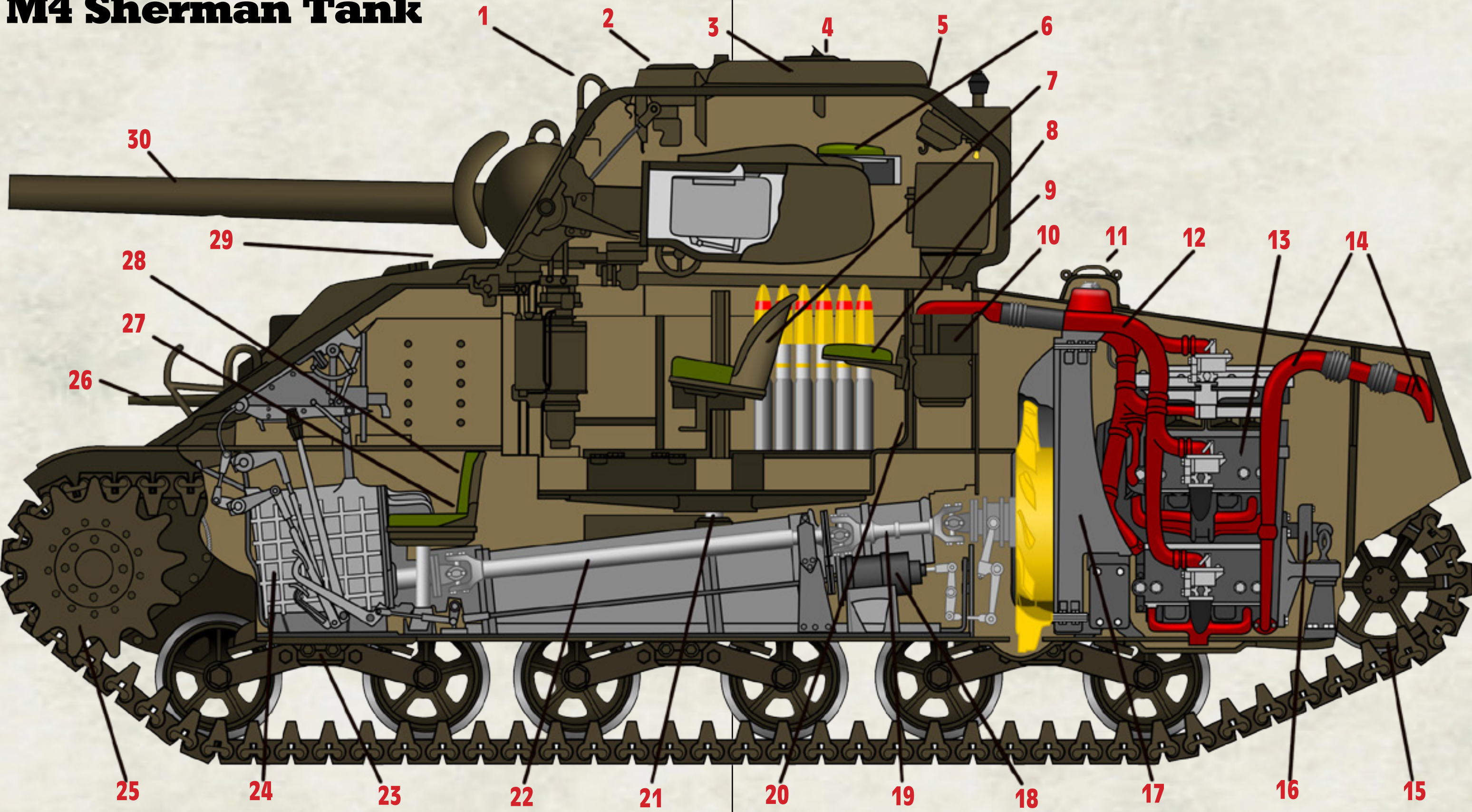
Another drawback was that, unlike the German tanks and the Soviet-built T-34 medium tank, the Sherman made a far more visible target in combat because of its height.

After August 1944, produc-

tion of the Tiger I was phased out in favour of the Tiger II. Named the *Panzerkampfwagen Tiger Ausf. B*, it was also known as the *Königstiger* or King Tiger.

Armed with the 8.8 cm KwK 43 L/71 and up to 185 mm of armour, it was a formidable weapon.

M4 Sherman Tank



- | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Lifting ring | 9. Turret | 17. Radiator | 25. Main drive sprocket |
| 2. Ventilator | 10. Air cleaner | 18. Generator | 26. M1919A4 machine gun |
| 3. Turret hatch | 11. Radiator filler cover | 19. Rear propeller shaft | 27. Driver's seat |
| 4. Periscope | 12. Air cleaner manifold | 20. Turret basket | 28. Machine gunner's seat |
| 5. Turret hatch race | 13. Power unit | 21. Slip ring | 29. Drivers hatch |
| 6. Turret seat | 14. Exhaust pipe | 22. Front propeller shaft | 30. 75 mm gun |
| 7. Gunner's seat | 15. Track idler | 23. Suspension bogie | |
| 8. Turret seat | 16. Single water pump | 24. Transmission | |

In September 1942 a group of 10 British commandos and two Norwegians carried out a raid on a power plant in Norway. While the mission was a success, only four of the raiders would ever make it back home.

After the British Expeditionary Force had been evacuated from Dunkirk in Operation Dynamo in 1940, the Prime Minister Winston Churchill called for a force to be assembled and equipped to inflict casualties on the Germans and bolster British morale.

Churchill told the joint Chiefs of Staff to propose measures for an offensive against German-occupied Europe, "They must be prepared with specially trained troops of the hunter class who can develop a reign of terror down the enemy coast".

A staff officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Dudley Clarke, had submitted a proposal to General Sir John Dill, the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, who approved Clarke's proposal.

Three weeks later, the first commando raid took place. The raiders failed to gather any intelligence or damage any German equipment but killed two German sentries.

No. 2 Commando was a commando unit of the British Army. The original No. 2 Commando, unlike the other commando units, was formed from British volunteers and was always intended to be a parachute unit.

On 22 June 1940, No. 2 Commando was turned over to parachute duties and on 21 November, was renamed the 11th Special Air Service Battalion and eventually 1st Parachute Battalion.

After its renaming as the 11th Special Air Service Battalion, a second No. 2 Commando was formed. This new No. 2 Commando was under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Augustus Charles Newman.

Their first action was when two Troops supported No. 3 Commando in the Vaagso Raid (Operation Archery) in December 1941, followed by the St Nazaire Raid in March 1942.

The next action involving men of No. 2 Commando was Operation Musketo. The objective was to destroy the Glomfjord power

plant, south of Narvik, which supplied an aluminium plant in the area.

Glomfjord power station was built at the end of Glomfjord in 1918 on a plateau dropping straight down to the sea. The plant comprised three buildings, the longest was the machinery hall, the middle building housed the control room and offices and the last building was three-storeys and known as the apparatus house.

It was a hydroelectric power station supplied by two water pipes coming down the mountain from inland lakes. Apart from the aluminium factory, the station supplied power to local villages.

The Mission

Two officers and eight men from No. 2 Commando and two Norwegian corporals from the Norwegian Independent Company 1, part of the Special Operations Executive were selected for Operation Musketo.

The raid was commanded by Captain Graeme Black, from Ontario in Canada and the second in command, Captain Joseph Houghton. The other men from No. 2 Commando were Company Sergeant Major Miller Smith, Lance Sergeant Richard O'Brien, Lance Bombardier William Chudley and privates John Fairclough, Cyril Abram, Eric Curtis, Reginald

Makeham and Fred Trigg. The two Norwegian corporals were Erling Djupdraet and Sverre Granlund.

Before leaving for Norway, the team trained for a fortnight on a large country estate in Scotland. During the planning the commandos were supposed to be picked up after the raid by a Short Sunderland flying boat but this was cancelled before the mission, due to the risk to the aircraft and the party was to head for neutral Sweden instead.

Each man was issued with special equipment, including a silk map of Norway and Sweden, a rice paper map of Russia and Norwegian Kroner notes. They also carried two compasses (one sewn into each collar tab) a hacksaw blade, a fighting knife and a Colt M1911 pistol. The only other small arm taken was a suppressed Sten gun, carried by Captain Houghton.

Travelling to the target

To transport the raiders across the North Sea, a Minerve-class submarine, Junon, belonging to the Free French Navy was used, under the command of Commander Querville.

Junon was selected because in silhouette it had the appearance of a German U-boat, which could be advantageous if sighted on the surface.

The submarine left the Orkney Islands at 11h40 on 11 September 1942, under escort in British waters by HMS Sturgeon, Tigris and Thunderbolt.

Junon crossed the North Sea undetected and near Glomfjord, rose to periscope depth and discovered that a fishing

boat was trailing them. The boat crash-dived but this sighting does not appear to have compromised the operation.

The commander of the raid, Captain Black, had decided against a frontal assault since he suspected any German defences would expect one. The submarine entered the Bjaerangsford just south of Glomfjord on 15 September.

The Raid

The submarine settled on the bottom of the fjord until darkness and surfaced at 21h15 to put the commandos ashore by dinghy.

Reaching the shore, they hid their dinghy under some stones and moss, then set out across the mountains to Glomfjord, reaching the Black Glacier undetected.

Houghton and Granlund, a Norwegian, went ahead to reconnoitre the area before the party began to climb the mountain.

At one stage they had to traverse a near vertical rock face before reaching the summit. The commandos did not know that their presence was suspected.

A German topographical party was in the area and its commander, Leutnant Wilhelm Dehne, had spotted some unidentified figures above the Glomfjord. Later he discovered some Player's cigarette packs and the remains of a camp.

Fortunately for the commandos, his route back to Glomfjord took him away from their new camp overlooking the power station.

Resting in their hideout for the following day, the commandos went over their plan of attack and withdrawal from the area. They left their encampment at 20h00 on 17 September, to begin the attack.

On their approach they detected a small craft on the fjord. Fearing they would be spotted, they decided to postpone the action and return to camp.

By dawn they had not been able to reach their hideout; while they were in an exposed location they still decided it would be best to stay put until nightfall.

Reaching their hideout again on the night of the 18th. At this point however, the commandos were running short on supplies and Black ordered the attack to proceed the following night, 19/20 September, no matter what.

The commandos were divided into two groups for the attack. One group consisting of Lance Sergeant O'Brien, Lance Bombardier Chudley and Private Curtis were to attack two high-pressure water pipes 2.1 metres in diameter, leading from the top of the mountain into the plant.

Reaching their objective, they planted plastic explosives in a round pattern to blow a 0.91 metre hole in the pipes.

Attaching a 30-minute delayed fuse, they waited to hear the sound of explosives going off inside the plant, which was the signal to activate their fuse.

The other nine commandos had set out for the rear of the power plant; seven entered the machinery hall, leaving two commandos on guard.

The commandos in the power station discovered that the Germans had left the control room and only a Norwegian engineer was on duty.

Sergeant Smith and Private Fairclough were detailed to plant their explosives amongst the machinery in the power house and the other commandos located the area where the Norwegian work force worked and slept.

The workers were gathered up and ordered to leave the station via an access tunnel over 1.6 kilometres long, which was the only land route between the station and the villages in the fjord.

On their approach to the tunnel, a German guard was killed by Granlund and another managed to run off down the tunnel to raise the alarm.

As to delay German reinforcements, the commandos left smoke bombs inside the tunnel.

By this time the commandos in the station had set their plastic explosives with 10-minute delay fuses on both turbines and generators.

Capture

Upon hearing the explosions at the power plant, O'Brien's group detonated their explosives and both groups withdrew to the hills, just as German reinforcements were arriving at the plant.

The Germans were unwilling to enter the tunnel, fearing it might be booby trapped and used boats belonging to the villagers to bypass the tunnel and reach the station.

Granlund had pressed on ahead of the main group trying to find a foot bridge to aid their escape. He found a mountain hut occupied by three Norwegians whom he asked for directions; the best they could do was draw him a map.

Granlund left to look again but returned to the hut soon after, being unable to find it

in the dark at the same time as Houghton and the other Norwegian, Djupdraet.

Unknowingly while Granlund had been away two Germans had arrived at the hut and were busy questioning the occupants. In the ensuing fight, one of the Germans was killed and the other wounded. Djupdraet was also wounded, stabbed in the stomach with a bayonet.

The remaining commandos arrived at the scene and administered first aid to Djupdraet.

His wound was so severe that they decided to leave him behind to get treatment.

The remaining commandos now split into two groups to evade German search parties and made their way further up the mountain.

One group, consisting of O'Brien, Granlund, Fairclough and Trigg, went north around the mountains. The second group of Black, Houghton, Smith, Chud-



COMMANDOES: A group of British commandos after returning from a raid.

ley, Curtis, Abram and Makeham, took the southern route.

The second group were discovered by the Germans who opened fire, wounding Houghton in the right arm. Surrounded, they were forced to surrender.

The O'Brien group split up, Granlund setting off by himself; they eventually reached Sweden without further incident and all four were repatriated by aircraft to RAF Leuchars.

Djupdraet died of his wounds in hospital, three days after the raid. The other seven prisoners of war were sent to Germany.

The unwounded prisoners were sent to Colditz Castle and put into the solitary confinement, where Black managed to make contact with Flight Lieutenant Dominic Bruce RAF (known as The Medium Sized Man) giving him and others their names which were passed on to MI5 in London. Bruce was the last British person to speak to Black;

On 13 October 1942 they were taken to the *SS-Reichssicherheitshauptamt* (RHSA)

headquarters in Berlin, where they were interrogated one by one by Obergruppenführer Heinrich Müller.

They remained in Berlin until 22 October, when they were taken to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

On the following day, 23 October, they were shot in the back of the neck and their bodies cremated.

These commandos were the first to die under the Commando Order issued on 18 October 1942 by Adolf Hitler, which called for the execution of all captured commandos.

The official German story given to the Red Cross was that the seven men had escaped and not been recaptured.

Aftermath

The raid was considered a great success as it seemed likely that the power station would be closed for the duration of the war.

After returning to the United Kingdom and a debriefing, O'Brien was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and Trigg and Fairclough were

awarded Military Medals.

Granlund was killed in February 1943, along with one British and four Norwegian commandos as part of Operation Seagull, when the Norwegian submarine HNoMS Uredd sank off the Norwegian coast.

Trigg was killed in Italy and is buried at the Cassino memorial; O'Brien and Fairclough survived the war.

On 15 November 1945, Black was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and Houghton the Military Cross backdated to 22 November 1942.

Black and Houghton and the other five men of Operation Muskatoon are commemorated on the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp memorial plaque and the Brookwood Memorial.

The Brookwood memorial is for men and women of the British and Commonwealth armies who died during the Second World War and have no known grave.

The German commander in Norway, Generaloberst Nikolaus von Falkenhorst, was captured after the war and tried by a British military court, for his part in carrying out the Commando Order.

Found guilty on all eight charges of urging the forces under his command to kill men captured in commando raids or handing prisoners of war over to the *Sicherheitsdienst* (SD) for execution, he was sentenced to death, which was later commuted to life imprisonment.

He was released in 1953 and died in 1968.

The Glomfjord power station at the end of Glomfjord in Norway.



The last time Admiral-General Supreme Commander O'Brien tried his hand at Blitzkrieg he lost badly. This time he manages to lose the entire war.

Last month I reviewed Blitzkrieg Anthology, a game that was released back in 2003. This month it's more of the same.

Two years after Blitzkrieg was launched, Blitzkrieg II saw the light of day. It was the follow-up to the original game, and what a follow-up it was.

The graphics were improved and many of the small bugs of the original were ironed out. The game features many new features and units over its predecessor.

Look, don't expect the same graphic quality the you will get from any of the modern games. That being said, Blitzkrieg II is still a great game to play.

As in the original game you get to play three different campaigns as either the Americans, Germans, or Soviet Union.

Each campaign is divided up into four chapters which, in total, give you 68 different missions.

The German campaign begins in France, 1940, where the player is put in command of German offensive forces in an effort to conquer France. Here, you may use the signature Blitzkrieg strategy. The second chapter is set in the North Africa Campaign, which ends with the capture of Tobruk by Axis forces. The third is in the So-

viet Union, during Case Blue. And finally, the fourth chapter is staged in the Ardennes during the Battle of the Bulge, 1944.

The American campaign has its first three chapters in the Pacific theatre, where you lead your forces against the IJA (Imperial Japanese Army) and IJN (Imperial Japanese Navy) in a number of missions beginning shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbour. The final chapter of the American campaign is set in the German Ruhr in 1945, during the invasion of Germany.

The Soviet Campaign begins shortly after Operation Barbarossa, going through the five years of the war against Germany eventually ending with the Soviet victory at the Battle of Berlin. At the end of each campaign, a short cinematic plays.

Line of sight has been improved in Blitzkrieg II. In other words you can only see enemy that your units on the map can see. If, for example, enemy infantry are hiding inside a building you will not be see them until they open fire on you.

Likewise if enemy tanks or artillery is behind a building or on the other side of a hill you will only be able to see them when your units can. This is where your units can. This is where scouts and reconnaissance aircraft can be invaluable.

At the start of a mission you

will be given a briefing as to your objective or objectives. These are varied and can include both offensive and defensive missions.

For example with an offensive mission you may have to break through an enemy strong point, capture a bridge, and then hold the bridge until reinforcements arrive.

A defensive mission may see you having to hold key points and stop them falling into enemy hands.

In the American campaign there is one mission where you have to capture Japanese coastal guns and then destroy patrol boats sitting in the bay. The problem is that you start with only a few elite airborne units that are parachuted into the map.

It's basically a stealth mission and if you are discovered you find yourself facing a superior force that is heavily armed. In other words, if you are discovered it's mission over - try again.

At the start of each mission you are given certain units to begin with. These could be armour, artillery, infantry or aircraft. You normally have the option of calling in reinforcements. But you can't just call up whatever type of reinforcements you would like. The type



of reinforcements will be determined by the mission. And you only get a certain amount of reinforcements. Once those are used that's it.

You will have to plan your missions carefully. If you're using tracked armour, choose your route carefully. Unsuitable terrain means that they could become bogged down or throw a track. This makes them sitting targets.

It makes good sense to have engineers close enough to assist. They can dig a vehicle out if it becomes bogged down and can replace thrown tracks. Engineers can also clear mine fields.

Another problem is that your armour, artillery or even infantry units can run out of ammunition. So it's not a bad idea to have some ammo trucks nearby to resupply them.

Choose your reinforcements carefully. In one mission that I played I had to defend two factories. I was expecting an attack

by armour and infantry. I had armour, infantry and anti-tanks guns, all entrenched and dug in, to repel any attack.

The enemy used long-range artillery to soften me up. Then used bombers and dive bombers to attack me from the air. I had not selected any anti-aircraft guns among my reinforcements. So I was unable to touch his aircraft which bombed me back into the stone age.

The game can be played on various levels of difficulty. There is also a versatile map editor with which you can create your own maps and individual battles.

An added bonus is the mod editor. With this you can modify units and vehicles, or even create your own. You can even create your own missions and campaigns, extending the playability of the game. The good news is that there are still a number of on-line websites where you can download quite a number of mods.

Besides the original game, Blitzkrieg II Anthology comes with two add-ons - Fall Of The Reich and Liberation.

For the price, Blitzkrieg II is a game well worth buying and it will run on almost any computer.



Publisher - Nival.

Genre - RTT

Score - 8/10

Price - R55 (on Steam)



Flags of our Fathers

Released: 2006
Running time: 132 minutes
Directed by: Clint Eastwood

Flags of Our Fathers is a 2006 American war film directed, co-produced, and scored by Clint Eastwood and written by William Broyles Jr. and Paul Haggis.

It is based on the 2000 book of the same name written by James Bradley and Ron Powers about the 1945 Battle of Iwo Jima, the five Marines and one Navy corpsman who were involved in raising the flag on Iwo Jima, and the after effects of that event on their lives.

As three US servicemen – Marine Private First Class Ira Hayes, Private First Class Rene Gagnon, and Navy Corpsman John “Doc” Bradley – are feted as heroes in a war bond drive, they reflect on their experiences via flashback.

After training at Camp Tarawa in Hawaii, the 28th Marine Regiment 5th Marine Division sails to invade Iwo Jima. The Navy bombards suspected Japanese positions for three days.

The next day, February 19, 1945, the Marines land in Higgins boats and LVTs. The beaches are silent and Private First Class Ralph “Iggy” Ignatowski wonders if the defenders are all dead before Japanese heavy artillery and machine guns open fire on the advancing Marines and the Navy ships. Casualties are heavy, but the beaches are secured.

Two days later, the Marines

attack Mount Suribachi under a rain of Japanese artillery and machine gun fire, as the Navy bombards the mountain. Doc saves the lives of several Marines under fire, which later earns him the Navy Cross. The mountain is eventually secured.

On February 23, the platoon under command of Sergeant Hank Hansen reaches the top of Mount Suribachi and hoists the United States flag to cheers from the beaches and the ships. Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal, who witnesses the flag raising as he lands on the beach, requests the flag for himself. Colonel Chandler Johnson decides his 2nd Battalion deserves the flag more. Rene is sent up with Second Platoon to replace the first flag with a second one for Forrestal to take. Mike, Doc, Ira, Rene, and two other Marines (Corporal Harlon Block and Private First Class Franklin Sousley) are photographed by Joe Rosenthal as they raise the second flag. Of the eight men in the squad, only three survive the battle: Doc, Ira, and Rene.

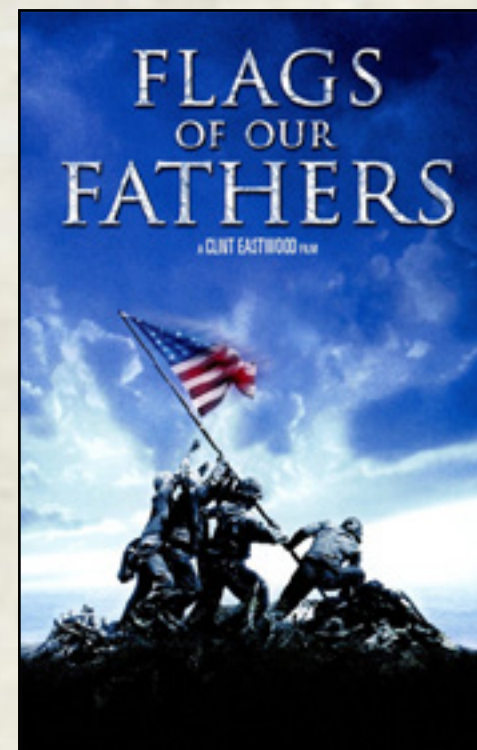
After the battle, the press gets hold of Rosenthal’s photograph. It is a huge morale booster and becomes famous. Rene is asked to name the six men in the photo; he identifies himself, Mike, Doc, and Franklin, but misidentifies Harlon as Hank. Rene eventually names

Ira as the sixth man, even after Ira threatens to kill him for doing so.

Doc, Ira, and Rene are sent home as part of the seventh bond tour. When they arrive to a hero’s welcome in Washington, DC, Doc notices that Hank’s mother is on the list of mothers of the dead flag raisers. Ira angrily denounces the bond drive as a farce. The men are reprimanded and the three agree not to tell anyone that Hank was not in the photograph.

After the war, the three survivors return to their homes, each battling with their own personal demons.

A good movie, well worth watching.



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

Against All Odds

On 4 August 1991 a rescue ship is talking to a person on the bridge of the fast sinking Oceanos.

They are trying to establish the position of the ship, but the person has no idea.

“What is your rank,” the rescue ship asks

“I’m the guitarist”

In August 1991, excited holiday-makers boarded the Oceanos at East London for the trip of a lifetime. Despite treacherous weather, the captain ordered the ship to set sail for Durban. And so began the ill-fated voyage.

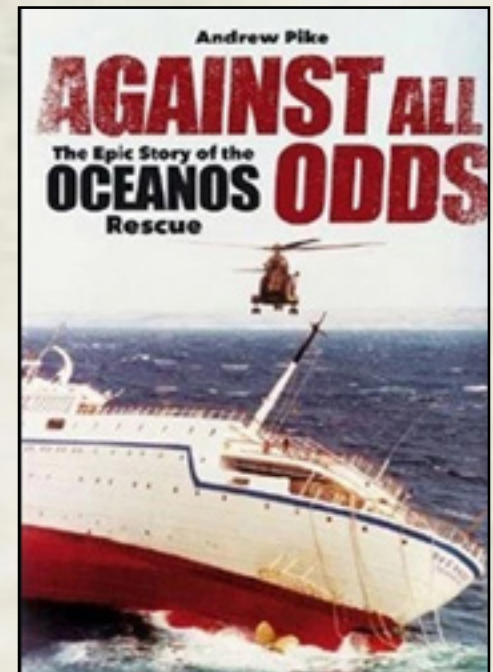
Hurricane force winds and giant rogue waves aggravated the hostile storm. Soon the ship started taking water. Panicked senior crew members scrambled into lifeboats leaving the ship’s evac-

uation to the on-board entertainers.

Women and children clambered aboard lifeboats which were launched into terrifying seas, leaving their husbands behind, unsure if they would see each other again. After all the operational lifeboats had been utilised, 221 passengers and junior crew were left stranded on the rapidly sinking ship.

During this catastrophe the South African Air Force embarked on their biggest air rescue ever, with helicopter crews and Navy divers risking everything to evacuate the remaining passengers.

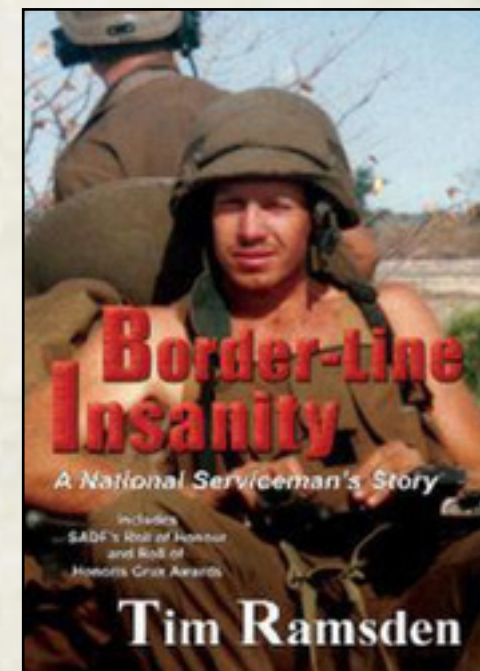
In Against all Odds, maritime lawyer Andrew Pike recreates the compelling drama and extraordinary heroism of the greatest mar-



itime rescue in history.

Five members of the SA Navy were decorated for their part in the rescue.

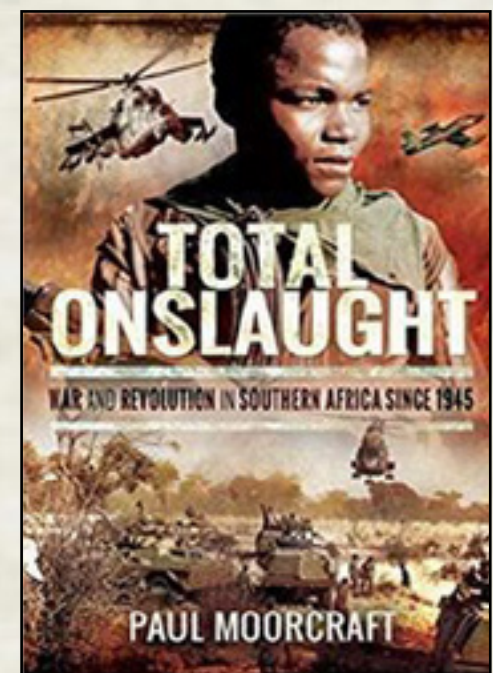
Paperback: 242 pages
Cost: R250



Border-line Insanity
R300



Bat out of Hell
R360



Total Onslaught
R600

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

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

1 October

- **1756** - Battle of Lobositz: Prussians defeat the Austrians.
- **1880** - John Philip Sousa becomes director of the Marine Corps Band.
- **1918** - British and Arab forces liberate Damascus from the Turks.
- **1936** - Francisco Franco named leader of Spanish Nationalists.
- **1938** - Hitler's troops occupied the Sudetenland portion of Czechoslovakia. In an effort to avoid war, the leaders of Britain and France had agreed to cede the German-speaking area to Hitler, who later broke the agreement and occupied all of Czechoslovakia.
- **1941** - The Royal New Zealand Navy is established.
- **1942** - Maiden flight of the Bell P-59 Airacomet, the first US jet fighter.
- **1943** - Allied forces liberate Naples.
- **1946** - Twelve Nazi leaders were sentenced to death at the International War Crimes Tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany.
- **1952** - The British colonial government in Kenya enact emergency measures to combat the growing threat from the Mau Mau.
- **1955** - The USS 'Forrestal' (CVA-59), the first super-carrier, is commissioned. It serves until 1993.
- **1957** - B-52 bombers begin full-time flying alert in case of USSR attack, which continues until the early 1990s.
- **1958** - Captain A.P. Barnard from 1 Locating Battery, South African Artillery was killed in a private motor vehicle accident between Johannesburg and Potchefstroom. He had been authorised to travel to Potchefstroom using his private transport to attend an official training course. He was 29.
- **1974** - Staff Sergeant Willem Jacobus Burger from D Squadron, 2 Special Service Battalion was accidentally shot dead by own forces in an ambush 7 miles East of Katima Mulilo at Hippo Island, Eastern Caprivi. He was 29.
- **1976** - France confirms that it is selling two new combat submarines to South Africa, to help SA to protect the oil route round the Cape in the face of Soviet naval escalation in the Indian Ocean.
- **1982** - Lance Corporal Edmond Jaime Leon Guillaume from the South African Medical Corps Headquarters Unit died after taking an overdose of pills while stationed in Grootfontein. He was 20.
- **1983** - Rifleman Quinton Clive Oosthuizen from 203 Battalion SWATF was killed

in a military vehicle accident in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.

- **1983** - Rifleman Samuel Wilhelm van Rooyen from Infantry School was critically injured in a private motor vehicle accident near Cape Town on the 29 September 1983 and succumbed to his injuries in the Tygerberg Hospital on 1 October 1983. He was 18.
- **1987** - Transkei Defense Force topples Transkei Bantustan leader George Matanzima, but denies coup.
- **1992** - The USS 'Saratoga' (CV-60) accidentally fires missiles at a Turkish destroyer in the Aegean. Five people are killed.

2 October

- **1187** - Saladin captures Jerusalem, ending 88 years of Christian rule.
- **1851** - Marechel de France, Ferdinand Foch, is born.
- **1895** - Colonel Ruth Cheney Streeter, USMC, first director of the USMC Women's Reserve is born.
- **1912** - Captain Eric Charles Twelves Wilson, Somaliland Camel Corps, is born on this day. He was awarded a VC "Posthumously" but was later discovered to be a prisoner of war.
- **1935** - Mussolini's Italian troops invaded Abyssinia, beginning an occupation

lasting until 1941.

- **1941** - Operation Typhoon: Germans initiate an offensive to take Moscow.
- **1942** - Rabaul: U.S. air raid damages Japanese light cruiser 'Yubari' and other shipping.
- **1943** - Japanese sub 'Ro-103' sinks USS 'Henley' (DD-391) off Finschhafen, New Guinea.
- **1944** - Polish "Warsaw Uprising" suppressed by the Nazis.
- **1984** - Rifleman M. Kamwanga from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 22.
- **1988** - Large Turkish force raids Kurdish areas of Iraq.
- **1990** - James Elvin Nicholas Cruise was killed instantly and two others injured when he opened a parcel bomb that had been delivered to the computer company in Durban where he worked. It was known that the company worked with Trade Unions and other anti-apartheid organisations.
- **1992** - Gunner Marlon Patrick Dammert from 14 Artillery Regiment was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Nietverdiend after one of the tyres burst, causing the driver to lose control. He was 20.
- **1993** - Captain Charles Sergei Keith Rudnick from 85 Combat Flying School was killed when his Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I (Fal-

con 5) crashed during an air show display at Lanseria. He was 34.

- **1995** - Muziwendoda Mdluli of the National Intelligence Agency is found shot dead in his car in Silverton, Pretoria. He was investigating the possible involvement of fellow-agents in the failed Comoros Islands coup.

3 October

- **1882** - German field marshal Gunther von Kluge is born on this day.
- **1899** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War the British War Office informs the White colonies that they can contribute volunteers, preferably infantry.
- **1904** - Indigenous races in German South-West Africa rise against German troops.
- **1904** - France and Spain sign a treaty to divide Morocco.
- **1910** - Adolph Gysbert (Sailor) Malan, SA fighter pilot during WWII and later national president of the Torch Commando, is born in Wellington.
- **1921** - The Unknown Soldier sails from France aboard USS 'Olympia'.
- **1928** - Accidental sinking of the French submarine 'Ondine', 42 die.
- **1952** - Britain explodes its first atom bomb on the Montebello Islands, Australia.

• **1955** - Soviet battleship 'Novorossiisk' (ex-Italian 'Giulio Cesare') mined in the Baltic, many die.

• **1977** - Rifleman Michiel Daniel Johannes Mentz from the 2nd Battalion Regiment Bloemspruit was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-line in Northern Owamboland. He was 31.

• **1977** - Signaler Michael David Bosch from the South African Corps of Signals was killed in a military vehicle accident near Pretoria. He was 18.

• **1977** - Rifleman Gary John Fisher from the Army Ordnance Corps died from an accidental gunshot wound to the head, apparently self-inflicted while he was stationed at Messina. He was 21.

• **1979** - Captain (Navigator) Johannes Jacobus Strydom from 24 Squadron SAAF, attached to 5 Squadron Rhodesian Air Force, was Killed in Action together with his



Sailor Malan

Rhodesian Air Force Pilot, Air Lieutenant Kevin Peinke when their Rhodesian Air Force Canberra was shot down by enemy Anti-Aircraft Fire while attacking enemy targets near Chimoio in Mocambique during Operation Miracle. He was 28.

- **1984** - Trooper I. Unkongo from 202 Battalion SWATF was killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 20.
- **1985** - 21st Space Shuttle Mission: 'Atlantis' makes the first all-military space flight.
- **1986** - Soviet Yankee-class sub sinks off North Carolina, three die.
- **1987** - Sub Lieutenant Gavin John Sholto Douglas from the Strikecraft SAS P.W. Botha was killed during the 1987 floods in Natal. He was 22.
- **1987** - Lieutenant Adriaan Hodgson Hind from "C" Squadron 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was Killed in Action during Ops Modular when his Ratel 90 was hit by a 100mm round fired from a Russian T-55 tank. He was 19.
- **1987** - General Magnus Malan acknowledges that South Africa has troops in Angola.
- **1989** - Panamanian Defense Force attempts a coup against Manuel Noriega.
- **1990** - After 45 years of Cold War division, East and West Germany were reunited as the Federal Republic

of Germany.

- **1993** - At least twelve US army soldiers are killed in Mogadishu, the Somali capital, in a fifteen-hour battle with supporters of Somali warlord General Mohamed Farah Aidid. The incident becomes known as 'Black Hawk Down' after two US Black Hawk helicopters were shot down.

4 October

- **1836** - Pieter Arnoldus (Piet) Cronjé, politician, military leader and general during Second Anglo-Boer War, is born in Colesberg.
- **1903** - Ernst Kaltenbrunner, Nazi criminal, who was executed 1946, was born on this day.
- **1939** - Last Polish troops surrender to the Germans.
- **1940** - Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini meet at Brenner Pass in the Alps, where the Nazi leader seeks Italy's help in fighting the British.
- **1943** - The Island of Corsica became the first French territory in Europe freed from Nazi control as Free French troops liberated the city of Bastia.
- **1944** - Aircraft off USS 'Ranger' (CV-4) raid German bases in Norway, sink or damage eight ships.
- **1950** - The UN consents to a US-backed invasion of North Korea. A squadron of the SA Air Force formed part of the United Nations forces.

- **1977** - Lieutenant John Melville Purdon from 11 Squadron was Reported Missing after his Cessna 185A failed to return from a routine low level cross-country training flight. The aircraft wreck was later located at Rysmiersbult near Potchefstroom and his body was successfully recovered. He was 22.
- **1983** - Rifleman Jan Ignatius Rigaard from Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident approximately 50km from Murraysburg while traveling on the Richmond to Beaufort West road. He was 20.
- **1992** - The Mozambique government and RENAMO rebel leaders sign an historic peace accord, and a ceasefire to end the sixteen-year civil war in the southeast African state.
- **1993** - Russian tank-soldiers loyal to President Boris Yeltsin shelled the Russian White House, crushing a hard-line Communist rebellion. Yeltsin then fired Vice-president Alexander Rutskoi and jailed other opposition leaders.
- **2013** - Vietnamese general and politician Võ Nguyên Giáp died on this day at the age of 102.

5 October

- **1816** - Shawnee Indian Chief Tecumseh was defeated and killed during the War of 1812. Regarded as one of

the greatest American Indians, he was a powerful orator who defended his people against white settlement. When the War of 1812 broke out, he joined the British as a brigadier general and was killed at the Battle of the Thames in Ontario.

- **1863** - Torpedoboat CSS 'David' damages USS 'New Ironsides' with a spar torpedo off Charleston.
- **1899** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War Western Australia offers military assistance to Britain.
- **1943** - US aircraft & ships raid Japanese positions on Wake Is, leading to the execution of American civilians held prisoner.
- **1966** - The South African Military History Society is formed.
- **1969** - Cuban defector flies an MiG-17 undetected to Homestead Air Force Base in America.
- **1971** - The Prime Minister, B.J. Vorster, announces at the National Party Congress incidences on the border of Zambia and the Caprivi Strip. He reminds the Congress of his previous warnings that South Africa will not tolerate the incursion of communist trained terrorists into South African territory and that they will be pursued to the land from where they came.
- **1973** - Trooper Daniel Petrus Boshoff from 1 Special Service Battalion was killed when his Eland 90 Ar-

moured Car overturned during military training exercises at the General De Wet Training Range. He was 18.

- **1976** - Corporal Marius Pieter De Swardt from the 1st Battalion Regiment De La Rey was accidentally killed after being struck by a bullet during a shooting incident at Grootfontein. He was 26.
- **1977** - Rifleman Brian Alan Ross from the Rand Light Infantry was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion at a waterhole near Etale Base in Northern Owambo-land. He was 21.
- **1986** - Former U.S. Marine Eugene Hasenfus was captured by Nicaraguan Sandinistas after a plane carrying arms for the Nicaraguan rebels (Contras) was shot down over Nicaragua.
- **1986** - The London Times reports Israel is stocking nuclear arms.

6 October

- **1935** - Italian troops capture Adua, Abyssinia.
- **1939** - Hitler announces he had no intention of making war on Britain and France.
- **1940** - During World War II in Europe, German troops invaded Romania to take seize strategic oil fields.
- **1943** - Himmler demands acceleration of the "Final Solution".
- **1944** - The 6th SA Armoured Division, having reached the

watershed of Castiglione dei Pepoli in Italy, pushes forward to take Monte Vigese and Monte Sanco during World War II.

- **1944** - Soviet troops enter Hungary and Czechoslovakia.
- **1949** - "Tokyo Rose" (Iva Toguri d'Aquino) was sentenced in San Francisco to 10 years imprisonment and fined \$10,000 for treason. She had broadcast music and Japanese propaganda to American troops in the Pacific during World War II. She was pardoned by President Gerald Ford in 1977.
- **1951** - Stalin announces Russia has the atom bomb.
- **1973** - The Egyptians and Syrians launch surprise attacks on Israel on Yom Kippur day, catching Israel almost totally by surprise.
- **1978** - Rifleman Anton Wicht Cloete from 11 Commando Regiment was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Etale Base. He was 18.

Boris Yeltsin



- **1981** - Egyptian President Anwar Sadat is shot to death by extremists while reviewing a military parade, eleven years and one day after his inauguration. At least eight other people are also killed in the attack.
- **1982** - Lance Corporal Petrus Johannes Jakobus De Wee from the South African Cape Corps accidentally drowned. His body was eventually located and recovered on 8 October 1982. He was 20.
- **1986** - Major Benjamin Terblanche from 51 Battalion was critically wounded by shrapnel in a friendly fire Mortar Bomb incident at Ruacana on 05 October 1986. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria but succumbed to his wounds on 06 October 1986. He was 30.
- **1994** - South African National Defence Force soldiers go on strike.
- **1916** - Gefreiter Adolf Hitler is wounded on the inner left thigh by a shell fragment during the Battle of the Somme.
- **1923** - Irma Grese, the 'Witch of Belsen', was born on this day.
- **1935** - League of Nations declares Italy the aggressor in Ethiopia.
- **1940** - During World War II in Europe, German troops invaded Romania to take seize strategic oil fields.
- **1943** - U.S. carriers and cruisers raid Wake Island.
- **1956** - Israeli foreign minister Golda Meir says the UN failure to resolve the Suez Crisis means they must take military action.
- **1971** - SWAPO claims it was not responsible for placing landmines in the Caprivi Strip and that the guerrillas were not operating from Zambia, but from inside Namibia.
- **1976** - Candidate Officer Charles Robert Dickens from the School of Armour was killed when his Eland 90 Armoured Car overturned while travelling on the road between the De Brug Training Area and Bloemfontein. He was 18.
- **1985** - Palestinian terrorists seized the Italian passenger ship Achille Lauro carrying about 440 persons, threatening to blow it up if Israel did not free 50 Palestinian prisoners. Leon Klinghoffer, an elderly wheelchair-bound American, was murdered.

7 October

- **1854** - Gen. Christiaan Rudolph de Wet, chief commandant of the Free State forces during Second Anglo-Boer War, is born on the farm Leeuwkop, near Smithfield, Orange Free State.
- **1899** - Tension continues between the British and the Boers in South Africa, and the British Army is ordered to mobilise.
- **1899** - Sir Redvers Buller is appointed Commander-in-Chief in South Africa.

- **1990** - Gulf War: Israel begins handing out gas masks to its citizens.
- **2001** - US invades Afghanistan.
- **2003** - At least one-fifth of South Africa's military is infected with the virus that causes AIDS, and Defence Minister Mosiuoa Lekota states that 'the South African National Defence Force is no longer accepting HIV positive people into their ranks'.

8 October

- **1890** - American fighter pilot Ace Eddie Rickenbacker was born in Columbus, Ohio on this day. He commanded the first U.S. aero unit to take part in World War I and was credited with 26 victories, becoming America's leading Ace. He was awarded the Medal of Honour.
- **1895** - Argentine soldier, putschist, president Juan Peron was born on this day.
- **1912** - Montenegro declares war on Turkey, initiating the First Balkan War.
- **1916** - The German 'U-53' sinks five ships off Nantucket.
- **1918** - During World War I in the Argonne Forest in France, U.S. Sergeant Alvin C. York single-handedly took out a German machine-gun battalion, killing over a dozen and capturing 132. He was later awarded the Medal of Honour and the French Croix de Guerre.
- **1967** - Ernesto "Che"

Guevara, 39, professional revolutionary, is executed.

- **1980** - Rifleman Gert Johannes Alwyn Barnard from 4 SAI attached to 37 Battalion suffered severe heat exhaustion and was to be medically evacuated at night from Ruacana. He was loaded aboard a Kudu aircraft flown by Lieutenant Mel Pienaar after the aircraft had been refueled. Shortly after take-off, the aircraft suffered total engine failure and crashed. He was fatally injured and died 30 minutes later. He was 20.
- **1982** - Captain William Robert McIntosh from 4 Reconnaissance Regiment was accidentally killed when his parachute failed to open during a practice jump at Langebaan. He was 30.
- **1983** - Rifleman Klaas Hausiku from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 21.
- **1987** - Gunner Anthony Wayne de Villiers of 4 SAI attached "Q" Battery was accidentally killed during Ops Modular in Southern Angola. He was 20.
- **1987** - Trooper Frederick de Jager from 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was Killed in Action during Ops Modular. He was 19.
- **1988** - Rifleman Moleko Ivan Khumoeng from 21 Battalion was killed after being accidentally struck by a Buffel Troop Carrier

while on duty at a night road block. He was 25.

- **1998** - Taliban forces from Afghanistan raid Iranian border posts.

9 October

- **1899** - Francis William Reitz, former president of the OFS and now Secretary of State in the ZAR, hands the ultimatum, which result in the outbreak of the Second Anglo-Boer War, to Sir William Conyngham Greene, the British Agent in Pretoria.
- **1899** - Sir George White, who arrived in Cape Town on 3 October and in Durban on 7 October, proceeds to Ladysmith, where he takes command over the British forces in Natal.
- **1914** - General Salomon Gerhardus (Manie) Maritz rebels against General Smuts' order to invade German South-West Africa, goes over to enemy side and hands over as prisoners to the Germans those of his men who remained loyal to the SA government.
- **1914** - Germans capture Antwerp, as Belgians & British withdraw.
- **1915** - Belgrade surrenders to Austro-German forces.
- **1942** - Guadalcanal: Marines encircle Japanese 4th Inf Regt.
- **1950** - United Nations (UN) forces, led by the First Cav-

alry Division, cross the 38th parallel in South Korea and begin attacking northward towards the North Korean capital of Pyongyang. A division of the SA Air Force participated in this war.

- **1962** - Algerian-Moroccan border fighting, 130 die.
- **1963** - French air force gets nuclear weapons.
- **1968** - Defence Minister PW Botha announces that a missile base for experimental tests and launchings is to be established on the Zululand coast about 150 miles north of Durban.
- **1974** - Oskar Schindler dies at the age of 66.
- **1978** - Sub-Lieutenant Christo Bosman from the South African Navy Minesweeper SAS Walvisbaai was Reported Missing approximately 7 nautical miles West of Walvis Bay while the vessel was carrying out minesweeping operations up the West Coast. It appears that his foot became entangled in a cable that was holding a marker buoy and

Irma Grese



he was dragged overboard. He has no known grave and remains unaccounted for. He was 24.

- **1978** - Gunner Andre Johan van der Bergh from 14 Artillery Regiment died in the Katima Mulilo Sickbay after contracting pneumonia. He was 20.
- **1982** - Applications for parole by the thirty-four mercenaries involved in the Seychelles attempted coup are refused. Most are due to be released in January 1983.
- **1985** - General Constand Viljoen, Chief of South Africa's Armed Forces admits on television that the military, without government authority, has flaunted the Nkomati Accord by supporting RENAMO.
- **1985** - The hijackers of the Achille Lauro cruise liner surrender after the ship arrives in Port Said, Egypt.
- **1987** - Two members of 53 Battalion, one of them an Ops Medic attached to the Unit, were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned North of Ogongo. They were: Rifleman John Ferreira (19). Rifleman Johannes Andries Le Roux (18).
- **1990** - Saddam Hussein threatens to hit Israel with a new missile.
- **1993** - Somali warlord General Mohammed Farah Aidid offers a cease-fire with US and UN forces in Somalia.

10 October

- **1896** - An attack by Rhodesian Colonial forces on the major stronghold during the Mashona Rebellion, Mashayombe's kraal, ends inconclusive. Though the kraal was destroyed and the rebels scattered, they came together again later.
- **1918** - British Gen. Sir Edmund Allenby enters Jerusalem, on foot.
- **1926** - Opening of SA War Memorial at Delville Wood.
- **1954** - Ho Chi Minh entered Hanoi, Vietnam, after the withdrawal of French troops, in accordance with armistice terms ending the seven-year struggle between Communist Vietnamese and the French.
- **1976** - Rifleman Richard Charles Palmer from the Natal Carbineers was accidentally killed after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds when a rifle grenade exploded prematurely after being fired. He was 25.
- **1976** - Corporal Jan Hendrik van Brandis from 2 SAI accidentally drowned during a river crossing while on patrol near Rundu. He was 19.
- **1980** - Lieutenant Steven Volkersz from 2 Squadron was reported missing when his Atlas MB326KM Impala Mk II was shot down by a shoulder-launched Soviet SA-7 Grail Surface-to-Air Missile some 20km South West of Mupa. He has no known grave. He was 23.
- **1980** - Rifleman Anthony

Hayton from the Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident on the National Road approximately 20km from Durban. He was 18.

- **1985** - US jet fighters force an Egyptian airliner carrying hijackers of cruise ship Achille Lauro to land in Italy, where the hijackers are arrested.
- **1988** - Rifleman Maphakela George Molokomme from 116 Battalion was killed instantly at the 116 Battalion Training area at Messina after being struck by lightning while sheltering under a tree during a thunderstorm. He was 27.
- **1998** - Rebels use a missile to shoot down a jetliner carrying forty civilians in eastern Congo, claiming it was ferrying government troops to the besieged town of Kindu.
- **2012** - Basil L. Plumley, Command Sgt Maj, US Army, veteran of three wars and five combat jumps, hero of the Ia Drang Valley, dies at the age of 92.

11 October

1899 – The Anglo-Boer War, the war between the British Empire and the two Boer republics, the Transvaal and Orange Free State, breaks out.

1939 - Albert Einstein warned President Franklin D. Roosevelt that his theories could lead to Nazi Germany's development of an atomic bomb. Einstein suggested the U.S. develop its

own bomb. This resulted in the top secret "Manhattan Project."

1944 - Japan announces it will "fight to the last man, woman, child, weapon, and piece of equipment."

1945 - Chinese civil war begins: Chiang Kai-Shek vs. Mao Tse-Tung.

1971 - Lewis "Chesty" Puller, iconic US Marine with five awards of the Navy Cross, plus a DSC, dies on this day at the age of 73.

1982 - At the 1 SAI Mechanised Leadership Wing at Oshivello, soldiers were undergoing familiarisation training on foreign weapons used by insurgents. During one of these lectures, a soldier accidentally detonated a Soviet hand grenade killing five members. They were: Candidate Officer Casper Willem Johannes Geustyn (20). Candidate Officer Paul Stephanus Venter (19). Lance Corporal Alan Rodger Jones (18). Lance Corporal Jacobus Theodorus Meyer (19). Lance Corporal Edgar Sydney Wessels (19).

1983 - Private Werner Eugene Kriel from SAMS attached to No.1 Military Hospital was killed in a military vehicle accident at Potgietersrus. He was 20.

1988 - Former United States army analyst Thomas Dolce pleads guilty before a US court to supplying a wide range of defence secrets to South Africa between 1979 and 1983.

1989 - Lance Corporal Hermanus Swanepoel van der Merwe from 93 Ammunition Depot was critically injured in a mili-

tary vehicle accident on 25 September 1989 16km outside Jan Kempdorp while carrying out Military Police duties. He died from his injuries at the Universitas Hospital in Bloemfontein on 11 October 1989. He was 20.

1991 - Lance Corporal David John Boyd from Group 36 was killed in a military vehicle accident at Ladybrand. He was 19

12 October

- **1851** - The Irish 69th Regiment is accepted into the New York State Militia.
- **1860** - British & French troops capture Peking.
- **1870** - American Civil War General Robert E Lee dies at the age of 63.
- **1899** - The first shots of the Second Anglo-Boer War are fired at Kraaipan, about 50 kilometres south of Mafeking, where General De la Rey attacks the armoured train, Mosquito. Lieutenant Nesbit and thirty-four soldiers surrender the next morning.
- **1914** - First Battle of Ypres begins.
- **1914** - Off Easter Island, Graf von Spee concentrates the largest German naval squadron ever seen outside the North or Baltic Seas; two armoured cruisers, seven protected cruisers, and three colliers.
- **1942** - US aircraft sink two Japanese destroyers near Guadalcanal.

Constand Viljoen

- **1943** - Fifth Air Force begins a series of air raids on Rabaul.
- **1944** - German army withdraws from Athens.
- **1963** - Air Corporal Hermanus Pieter Bodenstein from the School of Technical Training died from head injuries sustained in a private motor vehicle accident 8km from Middelburg on the Hendrina Road. He was 25.
- **1972** - Race riot aboard the USS 'Kitty Hawk' (CV 63), results in 46 injured.
- **1975** - Trooper David Barand Le Roux from 1 SSB was Killed in Action when his Eland 90 Armoured Car detonated a landmine near Luiana in Southern Angola during Operation Karen 2 that was launched to clear SWAPO/PLAN bases in South-Eastern Angola prior to the launch of Operation Savannah. He was 20.
- **1984** - Unsuccessful IRA attempt to assassinate PM Margaret Thatcher. Five people are killed.
- **2000** - Islamist suicide boat attack on the USS 'Cole'



(DDG-67) at Aden. 17 people are killed and 40 wounded.

13 October

- **1307** - Simultaneous arrest of all Knights Templar in France - the original "Friday the Thirteenth".
- **1775** - The United States Navy was born after the Second Continental Congress authorized the acquisition of a fleet of ships.
- **1914** - Pro-German Boer insurrection in South Africa.
- **1918** - Gefreiter Adolf Hitler is temporarily blinded in a mustard gas attack near Ypres.
- **1943** - Italy declared war on its former Axis partner Germany after the downfall of Mussolini and collapse of his Fascist government.
- **1944** - Red Army liberates Riga from the Germans.
- **1973** - Rifleman Michael Wulfsohn from the Cape Town Highlanders was accidentally killed when he fell off the back of a moving Bedford Troop Carrier just north of Ondangwa. He was 19.
- **1982** - Private D.S. Bedenhann from the Technical Service Corps died from an R1 Rifle gunshot wound apparently self-inflicted while he was on weekend pass. It is believed he was suffering serious depression at the time of the incident and no foul play was suspected. He was 19.
- **1983** - Special Warrant Of-

ficer Immanuel Hendjala from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 36.

- **1983** - Private Johannes Mattheus Strauss from the Technical Service Corps was found dead. It is suspected that he may have taken his own life. No foul play was suspected as at the time of his death, nobody had been in the area where his body was found. He was 18.
- **1985** - Corporal Johan Schoeman from 5 SAI was Killed in Action after he was ambushed and stabbed to death by persons unknown while on foot patrol in Kwazakele Township during unrest in the area. He was 19.
- **1987** - First operational use of dolphins by the US Navy, in the Persian Gulf.
- **1988** - Rifleman John Rex from the 2nd Battalion South African Cape Corps died at the Rooiberg Training Area when he accidentally stepped on an unexploded 40mm "Snotneus" High Explosive Grenade. He was 20.
- **1988** - Special Constable Thomas Kastodiu from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 27.

- **1992** - Minister of Foreign Affairs Pik Botha warns Unita leader Jonas Savimbi in Angola that South Africa will withdraw support for Unita if he decides to resume the Angolan civil war.

14 October

- **1066** - The Norman Conquest began with the Battle of Hastings in which King Harold II of England, the last of the Saxon kings, was defeated and killed by William of Normandy's troops.
- **1882** - Irish revolutionary Eamon De Valera was born on this day.
- **1890** - Dwight D. Eisenhower, US Army Five-star general and Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe during World War II, was born on this day. He would go on to become President of America.
- **1899** - Start of the siege of Mafeking under Col. Robert Baden-Powell by the Boer forces.
- **1933** - Nazi Germany announced its withdrawal from the League of Nations and stated it would take no further part in the Geneva Disarmament Conference.
- **1941** - US Navy Admiral Husband Kimmel warns of possible surprise attack on Pearl Harbour.
- **1943** - Attempted mass escape from Sobibor Concentration Camp.
- **1943** - US Army Air Force bombs Schweinfurt.
- **1944** - German Field Mar-

shal Erwin Rommel, famous German commander of German forces in North Africa, suspected of complicity in the 20 July plot against Hitler, is visited at home by two of Hitler's staff and given the choice of public trial or suicide by poison. He chooses suicide and dies on this day.

- **1947** - U.S. Air Force Captain Chuck Yeager became the first man to break the sound barrier, flying in a rocket-powered research aircraft.
- **1970** - Commandant Johannes Frederick "Doons" van Heerden from 24 Squadron was killed when his Hawker Siddeley Buccaneer S-50 crashed on the weapons range West of Bloemfontein while carrying out a low level "retarded bomb" sortie. He was 34.
- **1977** - Lieutenant Phillipus Lodewyk Le Roux from the Delmas Commando was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 48.

15 October

- **1815** - Napoleon Bonaparte arrived on the Island of St. Helena beginning a British-imposed exile following his defeat at the Battle of Waterloo.
- **1899** - The siege of Kimberley starts.
- **1914** - Montenegro declares war on Bulgaria.
- **1917** - World War I spy

Mata Hari was executed by a French firing squad at Vincennes Barracks, outside Paris.

- **1917** - USS 'Cassin' (DD-43) torpedoed by German 'U-61' off Ireland.
- **1942** - Japanese aircraft off 'Zuikaku' sink the USS 'Meredith' (DD 434) off San Cristobal.
- **1943** - British Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham is appointed First Sea Lord of the Admiralty and Chief of the Naval Staff.
- **1945** - Pierre Laval, the former premier of Vichy France, was executed for collaborating with Nazi Germany during World War II.
- **1946** - Nazi leader Hermann Goering committed suicide by swallowing poison in his Nuremberg prison cell just hours before his scheduled hanging for war crimes.
- **1978** - Corporal James Barnard Phillander from the South African Cape Corps was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1981** - Two members from 4 SAI were killed in an accidental hand grenade explosion in Northern Owamboland. They were: Rifleman Thomas Johannes Ferreira (20). Rifleman Martin Johannes Lodewyk Kruger

van Niekerk (19).

- **1981** - Three members from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment were Reported Missing while carrying out an operation against the Harare-Beira railway line near Doeroi in Mocambique, some 300 miles from the South African border. It would appear that there was a premature detonation while they were laying their demolition charges that killed them instantly. The casualties were: Lieutenant Alan Gingles (28). Rifleman B. Michael (24). Rifleman F. Tombo (25).
- **1982** - Rifleman Piet Bhayana from 111 Battalion accidentally drowned during a river crossing while on patrol in the Kruger National Park. He was 21.
- **1982** - Corporal Servaas de Kock from 1 Parachute Battalion was accidentally killed while on weekend pass when his private vehicle was involved in a collision with an extra heavy articulate vehicle. He was 20.
- **1981** - Two US surveillance planes arrive over Egyptian airspace to demonstrate increased US support for Egyptian and Sudanese se-

Chuck Yeager



curity against any hostile moves by Libya.

- **1987** - Thomas Sankara, head of the Military Council of the Revolution in Burkina Faso, is assassinated in a military coup and replaced by Captain Blaise Compaoré.
- **1989** - Lance Corporal Joseph Montslo Moletsane from 115 Battalion was accidentally killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned during a patrol in Mamelodi. He was 25.
- **1997** - Rebels, backed by foreign troops, enter Brazzaville in the Republic of Congo, ending President Pascal Lissouba's four-month struggle to remain in power.
- **2002** - The Sudanese government signs a temporary cease-fire with Sudan's main rebel group, the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), so that peace talks could resume. The agreement calls for both sides to avoid impeding international relief efforts for civilians affected by the nineteen-year-old civil war.

16 October

- **1853** - The Crimean War began after the Turkish Ottoman Empire declared war on Russia, Britain, France and portions of Italy allied with the Turks against Russia. It became the first war observed up close by newspaper reporters and photographers. One of the battles was immortalized

in Tennyson's poem, *The Charge of the Light Brigade*. Amid poor sanitary conditions, disease killed many wounded French and British troops. British nurse Florence Nightingale then pioneered modern-style sanitation methods, saving many lives.

- **1899** - Boer Gen. P.A. Cronje shells Mafeking, causing only one casualty. After the bombardment, Silas Molemo, a spokesman for the Barolong tribe, visits magistrate Bell, informing him: "Never mind this, we will stick with you and see it through."
- **1900** - Republican forces under Gen. J.B.M. Hertzog attack Jagersfontein and release all prisoners in the gaol before they retire.
- **1916** - T. E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) arrives in Cairo with a British fact-finding mission whose purpose is to recommend ways of supporting the Arab revolt against the Ottoman Empire.
- **1916** - Oswald Boelcke, German air ace with 40 victories, is killed in action at the age of 25.
- **1926** - Chinese troop ship sinks in the Yangtze. 1,200 die.
- **1939** - First German air raid on the British Isles in WW II, against naval installations at Rosyth, as the RAF downs one attacker.
- **1940** - First black American promoted to general: Benjamin

Oliver Davis, Sr.

- **1940** - Nazis establish the Warsaw Ghetto.
- **1946** - Ten former Nazi leaders were hanged by the Allies following their conviction for war crimes at Nuremberg, Germany.
- **1962** - Missile Crisis: JFK learns of Soviet missiles in Cuba.
- **1963** - Lieutenant Henry Andre' Botha from 17 Squadron was killed when his Alouette III Helicopter crashed near Dullstroom in heavy fog while on a flight from Pilgrimsrest to Pretoria. He was 20.
- **1964** - China detonated its first nuclear bomb at the Lop Nor test site in Sinkiang.
- **1969** - Two members from 24 Squadron were Reported Missing when their Hawker Siddeley Buccaneer S-51 disappeared over the sea 30km east of the Tugela River Mouth while carrying out night exercises. The crew were: Major Stephanus Sebastiaan Odendaal (31). Major Peter Webb (28).
- **1973** - Rifleman Raymond Fourie from 4 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident on the Ventersdorp to Randfontein Road. He was 19.
- **1981** - Rifleman Alfredo Samba from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 32.
- **1981** - Israeli general and former Minister of Defence

Moshe Dayan died at the age of 66.

- **1982** - Rifleman Barend Jacobus Christoffel Strydom from 7 SAI accidentally drowned at Phalaborwa. He was 19.
- **1986** - Captain Fred Turner from 32 Battalion was killed in private motor vehicle accident at Paternoster. He was 25.
- **1986** - Two members from the Sasolburg Commando were killed in a military vehicle accident at Deneysville while returning from a military funeral. They were: Commandant Wallace Goosen (56). Captain Christiaan Johannes Cloete (34).
- **1987** - Three members from 4 Artillery Regiment were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Mariental while trying to avoid a head-on collision with a civilian delivery vehicle. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant George Michael Howard (20). Lance Bombardier Peter Mansfield (19). Gunner Sean Rene Biet (20).
- **1988** - Rifleman Nicolaas Johannes Wolmarans from the Bethal Commando was killed when he was struck down by a civilian vehicle while carrying out road block duty on the Delmas / Kriel Road. He was 32.
- **1988** - 2nd Lieutenant Riaan Frans Janse van Vuuren from Sector 20 Headquarters Unit SWATF was killed in a Private Motor Vehicle

Accident while on leave. He was 19.

- **1990** - US forces in the Persian Gulf reach 200,000.
- **1992** - The Goldstone Commission reports the finding of a secret operational centre run by Military Intelligence and seizes plans to destabilise the ANC.
- **2005** - William Allan, last Australian combat veteran of WW I, dies at the age of 106.

17 October

- **1777** - During the American Revolutionary War, British General John Burgoyne and his entire army of 5,700 men surrendered to American General Horatio Gates after the Battle of Saratoga, the first big American victory.
- **1781** - British General Lord Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown.
- **1917** - First British air raid over Germany.
- **1933** - Albert Einstein arrives in the United States as a refugee from Nazi Germany.
- **1944** - The Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle in history, took place off the Philippine Islands, during World War II in the Pacific. The battle involved 216 U.S. warships and 64 Japanese ships and resulted in the destruction of the Japanese Navy including the Japanese

Battleship Musashi, one of the largest ever built.

- **1948** - Thirty-one SA pilots participate in the air-lift to provide food and fuel to West Berlin. The operation continued for seven months.
- **1973** - Egyptian and Israeli forces clash in the Sinai desert in fierce fights.
- **1977** - West German commandos storm a hijacked Lufthansa jetliner in Mogadishu, Somalia, freeing all 86 hostages. Three Palestinian hijackers are killed.
- **1977** - Corporal Karel Christiaan Strydom from the Klein Karoo Commando was accidentally killed in a shooting incident at Nkurenkuru near Rundu. He was 33.
- **1977** - Sapper Johannes Hercules Viljoen from 2 Field Engineer Regiment was killed after being struck by a bullet resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle near Kwando. He was 19.
- **1981** - Lieutenant F.T. Edeling from 102 Battalion SWATF accidentally

Moshe Dayan



- drowned at Epupa Falls during operations in Southern Angola. He was 23.
- **1982** - Corporal Adam Johannes Barends from the South African Cape Corps was killed in a private motor vehicle accident on the Grabouw to Botrivier road. He was 24.
 - **1983** - Rifleman Tian van Jaarsveld from 8 SAI was a member of a patrol that was in the process of checking their kit just outside the base at Okalongo prior to heading out on a patrol. It was during this process that a RPG-7 anti-tank rocket carried by another soldier was accidentally discharged and he was critically wounded. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria where he sadly succumbed to his wounds later in the day. He was 19.
 - **1983** - SA forces attack an apartment block in Maputo, Mozambique, close to President Samora Machel's suburban residence, injuring five people. The SA Defence Force says the building housed offices from which the ANC was planning a series of attacks in South Africa.
 - **1984** - Special Constable Elifas Ipinge from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 28.
 - **1985** - Attempted military coup in Guinea-Bissau.
 - **1992** - In Angola's first multi-party election, the MPLA wins 53.74% of the vote for the 233-seat parliament, and Unita 34.10%. Unita accuses the MPLA of rigging the election results, withdraws its troops from the joint army and threatens to return to civil war.
- ### 18 October
- **1912** - Italo-Turkish War ends.
 - **1941** - Russian spy Richard Sorge arrested in Tokyo.
 - **1945** - The Nuremberg War Crimes Trial began with indictments against 24 former Nazi leaders including Hermann Göring and Albert Speer. The trial lasted 10 months, with delivery of the judgment completed on October 1, 1946. Twelve Nazis were sentenced to death by hanging, three to life imprisonment, four to lesser prison terms, and three were acquitted.
 - **1946** - The Special Service Battalion of the Defence Force of the Union of South Africa is dissolved, and gymnasiums for the army, air force and navy established.
 - **1968** - Lieutenant John Andrew Zimmerman from Central Flying School Dunottar was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed near Devon while on a routine training flight. He was 21.
 - **1978** - Rhodesian forces

- launch a raid against ZIPRA guerrillas in a wide area around Chimoio, Mozambique.
- **1980** - Sergeant Jonathan Sykes from the Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident on the National Road near Ladysmith. He was 30.
 - **1984** - Rifleman Domingos Antonio from 32 Battalion was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned near Buffalo. He was 24.
 - **1986** - Special Constable Simon Daniel from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 29.
 - **2001** - Four Osama bin Laden followers convicted in the 1998 bombings of two US embassies in Africa are sentenced in New York to life without parole.

19 October

- **1812** - Napoleon begins his retreat from Moscow.
- **1915** - Russia and Italy declare war on Bulgaria.
- **1925** - The War of the Dog: A stray dog initiates a ten day border incident between Greece & Bulgaria.
- **1950** - UN forces enter Pyongyang, capital of North Korea.
- **1951** - British troops seize Suez canal zone in a swift dawn raid.

- **1952** - Airman Caspar Willem Petrus Nel from Air Force Station Congella suffered fractured vertebrae when he was dumped by a large wave while playing in the sea during March 1952. He was re-admitted to the Sanitarium Hospital in Durban on 15 Oct 1952 after complications had set in but he unfortunately died following surgery. He was 20.
- **1954** - Britain and Egypt sign Suez Canal agreement. British will withdraw troops over next twenty months.
- **1986** - President Samora Machel of Mozambique is killed in an air crash in eastern South Africa shortly after 21:00. Thirty-four people die in the disaster.
- **1987** - British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher criticises the ANC, calling it "a terrorist organisation".
- **1987** - US warships destroy Iranian oil platforms in Persian Gulf.
- **1977** - Three crew members of 15 Squadron "A" Flight and one passenger from the SAAF 250 Air Defence Artillery Group (250 ADAG) were killed when their Super Frelon Helicopter 303 crashed in the mountains on the farm "Leyden" at Sheepmoor near the border of Mocambique and Swaziland while flying in dense fog and mist. The casualties were: Commandant Gert Hermanus Jacobus Strydom van Rooyen (35). Captain Don Bezuidenhout (31). 2nd Lieutenant Dawid Petrus Burger (21). Sergeant Willem Adriaan Jacobus van der Merwe (33).
- **1979** - Rifleman Deon Botha from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was killed in a military vehicle accident at Mariental. He was 20.
- **1979** - Sapper Gerhardt Wagener from the South African Engineer Corps was killed after being accidentally run over by a military vehicle at Bossiespruit. He was 19.
- **1980** - Major John Kendrick Murphy from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment (former member of the Rhodesian SAS and Selous Scouts) was killed when his parachute failed during a practice training jump at Westonaria. He was 37.
- **1980** - Two members of 32

- Battalion were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Buffalo. They were: Lance Corporal Alfred Jose Mindo (34). Rifleman Jaquin Francisco (24).
- **1981** - Corporal Peter Andrew Chapman from 8 SAI was Killed in Action when his Buffel Troop Carrier detonated a boosted landmine in Northern Owamboland. He was 20.
 - **1983** - Rifleman Joao Augusto from 32 Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident at Linus Shashipapo. He was 19.
 - **1983** - Private Johan Beyers Human from the South African Medical Corps was killed instantly when his private motor vehicle overturned near Bloemhof. He was attached to the Army Battle School at the time and was travelling from Lohatla to Pretoria on leave pass when the accident occurred. He was 20.
 - **1986** - Rifleman Christiaan

20 October

- **1899** - British forces dislodge the Boers at Talana Hill in Natal.
- **1944** - During World War II in the Pacific, General Douglas MacArthur set foot on Philippine soil for the first time since his escape in 1942, fulfilling his promise, "I shall return."
- **1944** - US First Army secures Aachen.
- **1952** - Emergency proclaimed in Kenya due to Mau Mau rebellion.

Samora Machel



Marthinus Arnoldus Adam Venter from Regiment Oos Rand was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Ellisras. He was 20.

- **1987** - Trooper Herman Ziemkendorf from 2 Special Service Battalion was killed when his Eland 90 armoured car overturned at Siftersnek near Zeerust during training exercises in the area. He was 19.
- **1989** - Lance Corporal Pieter Johannes Klue from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed in a private motor vehicle accident on the old Warmbaths Road near the Wonderboom Military Base. He was 19.

21 October

- **1805** - The Battle of Trafalgar took place between the British Royal Navy and the combined French and Spanish fleets. The victorious British ended the threat of Napoleon's invasion of England. British naval hero Admiral Horatio Nelson was mortally wounded aboard his ship Victory.
- **1899** - The Boer forces are defeated by the British at the Battle of Elandslaagte.
- **1914** - Battle of Warsaw: Germans defeat the Russians.
- **1942** - Eight American and British officers land from a submarine on an Algerian beach to take measure of Vichy French to the Operation Torch landings.
- **1952** - Jomo Kenyatta is arrested in Kenya when the British forces defeat the Mau-Mau.
- **1960** - HMS 'Dreadnought' is launched, Britain's 1st nuclear submarine.
- **1967** - The Egyptian navy sinks the Israeli destroyer Eilat off Sinai, killing forty people.
- **1982** - Corporal Donald Craig Clerk from 1 Special Service Battalion Died from a gunshot wound resulting from an accidental discharge of the fellow soldiers rifle while based at Oshakati. He was 20.
- **1983** - Four members of 5 Reconnaissance Regiment were Reported Missing after being captured during the night of 20/21 October 1983 while carrying out pseudo operations against enemy forces during Operation Slyk. It is presumed that they were subsequently executed by their captors. They have no known grave and remain unaccounted for. The four casualties were: Corporal D. Dula (27). Corporal R. Mhlinga (29). Rifleman Frans Mkoshi (26). Rifleman Manuel Shikondau (33).
- **1996** - The UN reports that over 200,000 Hutu refugees are fleeing into the hills to escape the conflict between the Zaire military and Tutsi.
- **2003** - Veteran French war journalist Jean Helene is shot dead in cold blood in Abidjan in the Ivory Coast by a police officer.

22 October

- **1847** - Gen. Jacobus Hercules (Koos) de la Rey, also

known as 'The Lion of Western Transvaal' because of his brave leadership during the Anglo-Boer War, is born on the farm Doornfontein in the Winburg district, Orange Free State.

- **1859** - Spain declares war on the Moors in Morocco.
- **1944** - Japanese naval forces converge on Leyte.
- **1954** - West Germany joins NATO.
- **1962** - President John F. Kennedy appeared on television to inform Americans of the existence of Russian missiles in Cuba. The President demanded their removal and announced a naval quarantine of Cuba. Six days later, the Russians announced they would remove the weapons. In return, the U.S. later removed missiles from Turkey.
- **1968** - SA signs treaty with Greece concerning the graves of members of the armed forces of the Commonwealth in Greek territory.
- **1986** - Corporal Pieter Johannes Jacobus Meisenheimer from the Army Gymnasium was killed when the Bedford Water Tanker he was driving, overturned at Heidelberg. He was 20.

23 October

- **1642** - Edgehill, first battle of the English Civil War.
- **1901** - General Redvers Buller is dismissed as officer in command of the British forces, probably because of his defeat in the Battle of Spioenkop in 1900.

- **1942** - The Second Battle of El Alamein, in which many SA soldiers took part, commences with a thousand-gun barrage. The opening attack by the British Eighth Army starts at 9:30pm. Montgomery eventually defeated Rommel. On 4 November 1942, the British finally broke through the German defences.

- **1942** - Guadalcanal: Battle of Edson's Ridge - Japanese assault broken.

- **1970** - Five members from Quartermaster General (QMG) in Voortrekkerhoogte were accidentally killed in a private station wagon vehicle when it was involved in a head-on collision with a truck between Sasolburg and Parys while they were travelling home to the Eastern Cape on a Weekend Pass. The casualties were: Rifleman Friederich David Warren Bloomberg (18). Rifleman John Merwyn Albert Payne (18). Rifleman Andrew John Hough (19). Rifleman Leonardus Hendrik Botha (19). Rifleman Roderick George Duncan (18).

- **1978** - Private Coenraad Hendrik Basson from 6 Ordnance Base Depot died in the Tygerberg Hospital from injuries received in a military vehicle accident at SAS Wingfield. He was 20

- **1981** - Corporal Werner Oberholzer from 2 Special Service Battalion was accidentally killed when his Eland Armoured Car overturned during a training exercise at Zeerust. He was 20.

- **1983** - Rifleman N. Riem from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion. He was 22.

- **1983** - Terrorists drove a truck loaded with TNT into the U.S. and French headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon, exploding it and killing 241 U.S. Marines and 58 French paratroopers.

24 October

- **1899** - The Battle of Rietfontein, near Dundee, Natal, takes place, with the British falling back to Ladysmith.

- **1943** - Japanese destroyer 'Mochizuki' is sunk by Marine aircraft southwest of Rabaul.

- **1945** - Vidkun Quisling, 58, Norwegian politician, executed, leaving us a new word for "traitor".

- **1973** - Yom Kippur War ends with Israeli troops 100 km from Cairo and 40 km from Damascus. Several other dates are given for this event, e.g. 22, 26 or 28 October, depending which phase of the peace process is considered most decisive.

- **1976** - Rifleman Ignatius Philippus Coetzee, acting as the Patrol medic for an Infantry Patrol was Killed in Action near Eenhana. He was 18.

- **1983** - Corporal Pedro Giovanni Torre from 7 SAI was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Lataba

Ranch near Phalaborwa. He was 20.

- **1986** - Sergeant Gerhardus Hendrik van der Westhuizen from the South African Corps of Military Police was killed when his military motorcycle was struck by a truck while overtaking about 8km from Lindley. He fell under the wheels of the truck. He was 35.

- **1994** - For the first time in 25 years, British troops were absent from the streets of Londonderry, Northern Ireland, following cease-fires by Irish Republican Army (IRA) and pro-British forces.

- **1998** - A gas explosion devastates the officers' club of the SA National Defence Force, a national monument, in Wynberg, Cape Town.

25 October

- **1854** - During the Crimean War, the Charge of the Light Brigade occurred as Lord Cardigan led the British cavalry against the Russians at Balaclava. Of 673 British



John F. Kennedy

cavalrymen taking part in the charge, 272 were killed. The Charge was later immortalized in the poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson.

- **1943** - Japanese open the Burma railroad ("The Bridge on the River Kwai").
- **1955** - Austria reassumed its sovereignty with the departure of the last Allied forces. The country had been occupied by the Nazis from 1938-45. After World War II, it was divided into four occupation zones by the U.S., Russia, Britain and France.
- **1956** - Egypt, Jordan and Syria form a united military command.
- **1975** - Rifleman Christian Lambert Kruger from Infantry School was accidentally killed when his private motor vehicle was involved in a head on collision with another motor vehicle near Kroonstad while traveling home on a weekend pass. He was 19.
- **1976** - Rifleman Jan Hendrik Malan from 11 Commando Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents near Eenhana in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1980** - Rifleman Paulo Almeida from 32 Battalion died from injuries accidentally sustained in a military vehicle accident at Buffalo.. He was 23.
- **1980** - Corporal Christopher Bruce Catto from 5 SAI was accidentally shot dead when he and his Section set up an ambush near Etale Base. He

was 20.

- **1983** - Operation Just Cause: US and West Indian forces invade Grenada.

26 October

- **1922** - Lt Cdr Godfrey Chevalier makes first underway US carrier landing, on 'Langley' (CV-1).
- **1973** - Signaler Petrus Johannes Pienaar from 2 Signal Regiment collapsed and died from heat exhaustion during Basic Training. He was 18.
- **1977** - Two members of Regiment De Wet were killed when they accidentally detonated a Claymore Directional Fragmentation Anti-Personnel Mine near Elundu. The casualties were: Rifleman Antonie Michael Jacobz (27). Rifleman Lodewicus Johannes Oberholzer (22).
- **1983** - Airman Wernich Haupt from 250 Air Defence Artillery Group, South African Air Force suffered critical head injuries when he accidentally fell off the back of a moving Land Rover. He died from his injuries in 1 Military Hospital later the same day. He was 18.
- **1985** - Rifleman David Bowers from the South African Cape Corps was killed when struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle while at the Touwsrivier Training Area. He was 20.
- **1987** - Private Charles Matthew Dirkse from 5 Maintenance Unit died in Oshakati Hospital from heart failure

resulting from a blood clot in the lung. He was 29.

- **1990** - Private Dirk Cornelius Pieterse from 31 Field Workshop Squadron died in 1 Military Hospital after being critically injured in a military vehicle accident 35km from Vryburg. He was 25.
- **1997** - Angola promises to withdraw its troops from Brazzaville, capital of the Republic of Congo, where they helped rebels oust elected President Pascal Lissouba.

27 October

- **1941** - Nazis establish a gypsy ghetto in Belgrade.
- **1942** - Battle of the Santa Cruz Is: USS 'Hornet' (CV-8) sinks.
- **1948** - Negev: Israel recaptures Nizzanim from the Egyptians.
- **1973** - UN peacekeeping forces arrive in Cairo to attempt to set up a lasting cease-fire between Israeli and Arab forces.
- **1977** - Rifleman Joao Victor from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces near Numuidi in Southern Angola during Operation Kropduif. He was 28.
- **1978** - Ugandan troops invade Tanzania, occupying the Kagera salient.

28 October

- **1918** - In the waning days of World War I, mutiny broke out in the German fleet at Kiel. Ships in port ran up the

red flag of revolution. The uprising spread to Hamburg, Bremen and Lubeck, resulting in a general strike in Berlin which brought the government of Kaiser Wilhelm to a halt.

- **1933** - General Constand Laubscher Viljoen, former head of the SADF and leader of the Vryheidsfront, is born in Standerton, Eastern Transvaal.
- **1940** - Greece rejects an ultimatum, and Italy declares war and invades from Albania.
- **1940** - 'U-32' sinks RMS 'Empress of Britain', killing hundreds of children being evacuated to Canada; Goebbels claims the British did it.
- **1956** - Israeli troops invade Sinai Peninsula, later to be joined by British and French forces, following Egypt's seizure of the Suez Canal from European control.
- **1962** - The Cuban Missile Crisis ended with the announcement by Soviet Russia's leader Nikita Khrushchev that his Soviet government was halting construction of missile bases in Cuba and would remove the offensive missiles. President Kennedy immediately accepted the offer then lifted the U.S. naval blockade of Cuba.
- **1977** - Six members of 1 and 2 Reconnaissance Regiment were Killed in Action at Onalomono in Southern Angola while attacking Eheke during Operation Kropduif. The

casualties were: Warrant Officer Class II Francois Carl van Zyl PMM MMM (34). Sergeant Michiel Labuschagne Kruger MMM (26). Sergeant Wentzel Christoffel Marx (29). Sergeant Neville Grant Clack (30). Corporal Antonie Badenhorst (25). Lance Corporal Gary William John Walker (20).

- **1977** - Sergeant Bernado Andre Mwonambunga from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in an enemy mortar bomb explosion during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN forces near Onalumona in Southern Angola during Operation Kropduif. He was 34.
- **1978** - Three young Ops Medics attached to 52 Battalion at Ogongo in Northern Owamboland died when they unselfishly put their lives on the line to ensure the safety of others. These three young heroes were posthumously awarded the Honoris Crux for their unselfish act of self-sacrifice in an attempt to save others in circumstances of extreme danger. They were: Private Burgert van Dyk van Papendorp HC (P) (19). Private Johannes Cornelius Jooste HC (P) (19). Private Frederick Johannes Smith HC (P) (18).
- **1986** - Major Daniel Kotze from the Financial Service Corps at Defence Headquar-

ters died after suffering a fatal heart attack at his home. He was 46.

- **1987** - Rifleman Aaron Alfred Khumalo from 111 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with MK operatives after they had crossed into South Africa from Swaziland approximately 57km east of Vryheid. He was 25.
- **1991** - President Sese Seko Mobutu orders Belgium to withdraw all its troops from Zaire.
- **1992** - Lance Corporal Jacob Johannes le Roux from Group 36 was killed in a military vehicle accident at Thaba N'Chu. He was 18.
- **1997** - Forces loyal to Zambian president Frederick Chiluba quash a coup by disgruntled military officers, arresting nine men including the captain who said an angel told him to overthrow the government.

29 October

- **1618** - Sir Walter Raleigh, English admiral and explorer, is beheaded, allegedly for



Mobutu Sese Seko

- treason, at the age of 66.
- **1897** - Nazi propaganda minister Paul Joseph Goebbels was born in Rheydt, near Dusseldorf, Germany.
- **1914** - Russia declares war on Turkey.
- **1914** - Ottoman Empire enters the war with a naval attack on Russian Black Sea ports.
- **1914** - Serbia declares war on the Ottoman Empire.
- **1941** - Germans massacre 10,000 Jews in Kaunas, Lithuania.
- **1942** - Nazis murder 16,000 Jews, Pinsk, USSR.
- **1956** - Israel invades the Sinai Peninsula and troops push on towards the Suez Canal, just 32 km away. Israeli paratroopers drop into the Sinai to open the Straits of Tiran.
- **1962** - Three members from Central Flying School Dunottar were killed when an AT-6 Harvard that was executing a spin recovery in the General Flying area, was involved in a mid-air collision with another AT-6 Harvard. The casualties were: Air Mechanic Hendrik Jacobus Burger (18). Air Mechanic Jakobus Schabort Bischoff (22). Lieutenant Jan Jacob Christiaan van Zyl (23).
- **1968** - 2nd Lieutenant Charles Frederick Du Toit from 1 Squadron was killed when his Canadair C13L Sabre crashed into rising ground near Bandolierkop while on a routine low level navigation training flight

- from AFB Pietersburg. He was 21.
- **1975** - Four members from the SADF, one pilot and three passengers, were accidentally killed when their UNITA supplied Beechcraft Baron known as "Dinky Toy", crashed 6km north of Norton de Matos in Central Angola while carrying out aerial observations for Battle Group Foxbat in the Silva Porta area during Operation Savannah. The casualties were: Colonel Desmond Brian Harmse (46). Major Pieter Benjamin Uys (34). Major Nicholas Jacobus Visser (37). Corporal Neville Roland Beechey (19).
- **1977** - Rifleman Johannes Ferdinand Baum from the East Park Commando accidentally drowned in the Chobe River near Mpalela Island. He was 20.
- **1984** - Rifleman J. Paulus from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 23.
- **1987** - Private Erwin Benade from the Headquarters Unit, Logistics Base Grootfontein, died from a gunshot wound apparently self-inflicted. He was 21.

30 October

- **1270** - The Eighth Crusade begins, and accomplishes nothing.
- **1799** - William Balch becomes the US Navy's first commissioned Chaplain.

- **1899** - "Mournful Monday": the British lose 106 killed, 374 wounded and 1 284 captured in two battles.
- **1899** - General Christiaan de Wet and 300 Boers capture Nicholson's Nek and take 800 British soldiers prisoner.
- **1899** - In the Battle of Modderspruit, Commandant General Piet Joubert causes the British to fall back. He is urged to order a pursuit, but refuses on religious grounds, one of the fatal mistakes during the war.
- **1952** - Troops round up 500 Mau Mau suspects in Kenya.
- **1956** - Israel captures the Egyptian military post at El-Thamad.
- **1956** - France and Britain instruct Egypt and Israel to withdraw from the Suez Canal.
- **1961** - Congolese army begins an offensive against Katangan rebels.
- **1961** - Soviet Union tests a 58 megaton hydrogen bomb.
- **1963** - Morocco and Algeria sign a ceasefire.
- **1978** - Reports of fighting between Ugandan and Tanzanian troops in Uganda.
- **1979** - Rifleman Dirk Cornelius Odendaal from the SADF Dog Training Centre attached to 16 Maintenance Unit was killed at Grootfontein after being struck by a bullet resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while in the barracks. He was 18.

- **1992** - Heavy fighting breaks out in Luanda, Angola, between the government and Unita. The conflict rages for three days, claiming at least 1,000 lives.

31 October

- **1917** - Third Battle of Beersheba: Australian, New Zealand, & British mounted troops capture the city from the Turks.
- **1940** - The Battle of Britain concluded. Beginning on July 10, 1940, German bombers and fighters had attacked coastal targets, airfields, London and other cities, as a prelude to a Nazi invasion of England. British pilots in Spitfires and Hurricanes shot down over 1,700 German aircraft while losing 915 fighters. "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few," declared Prime Minister Winston Churchill.
- **1952** - The U.S. detonated its first hydrogen bomb at the Elugelab Atoll in the Eniwetok Proving Grounds in the Pacific Marshall Islands.
- **1956** - Following a twelve-hour ultimatum to Egypt and Israel, British and French forces bombard military airfields near Cairo in the Suez Canal Zone.
- **1968** - During the Vietnam War, President Lyndon Johnson ordered a halt of American bombing of North Vietnam.
- **1980** - Two members from

the Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg were Reported Missing when their Civilian Piper Cherokee PA28-180, Registration ZS-VVK, disappeared while on a flight from Wonderboom Airport to Graskop. They were: Lance Corporal Gunther Jurgen Dreyer (19). Lance Corporal Andre' Coetzee (19).

- **1987** - A 101 Battalion Battle Group, supported by members of 5 Reconnaissance Regiment together with D Company, 1 Parachute Battalion, attacked SWAPO/PLAN positions at Nindango in Southern Angola. The Operation was known as Ops Firewood. The Battle Group suffered 15 casualties with approximately 67 wounded before contact was finally broken off at nightfall. The Battle Group casualties for this engagement were: Rifleman Hughes Norbert De Rose (21). Rifleman Wayne Valentine Ewels (21). Lance Corporal Raymond Mark Light (21). Corporal Nico Smith Olivier (19). Rifleman Dirk Willem van Rooyen (20). All from D Company, 1 Parachute Battalion. 2nd Lieutenant Dylan Chevalier Cobbold (20) from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment. Captain Andries Hercules Du Bruyn Rademeyer (27). 2nd Lieutenant Deon Botes (20). Sapper Erasmus Alber-

tus Steyn (19). Rifleman W. Abraham. Rifleman P. Epafu. Rifleman V.Petrus. Rifleman T. Sheepo. Rifleman M. Uusshona. All from 101 Battalion Romeo Mike.

- **1992** - More than 300 people are killed in renewed fighting as Angola slides back into civil war.
- **2006** - The Star reports that poor management of SANDF equipment and the theft of weapons that ended up in rebels' hands are fueling the conflict in Burundi where SA troops had been sent to keep the peace. It says sources confirmed that millions of rands worth of vehicles, guns, ammunition and bombs vanished from the SANDF army base in Burundi over the last four years. The South African department of defence indicated it would be able to comment only later this week "after conducting the proper research," report says.
- **2006** - Former South African Minister of Defence and President PW Botha dies at the age of 90.

PW Botha





QUIZ

Elite Forces Insignia

1. Indian Army Parachute Regiment - India.
2. Royal Irish Rangers - United Kingdom.
3. Reconnaissance Regiment - SADF (South Africa)
4. US Navy SEAL - United States.
5. Canadian Special Operations Forces Command - Canada.



6. Kommando Spezialkräfte - Germany.
7. 1 Parachute Regiment - Zimbabwe.
8. Green Berets - United States.
9. 101 Special Operations Command - Spain.
10. Special Air Service - United Kingdom.
11. Para-Jaeger School - Sweden.

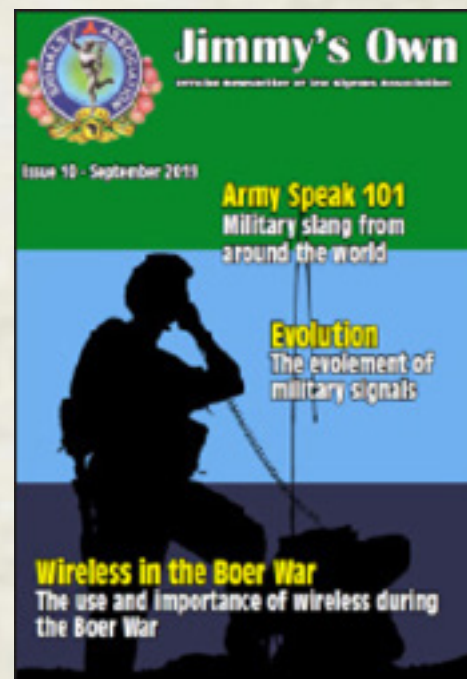
12. Shayetet 13 Navy Commando - Israel.
13. PLA Army Red Star Special Forces Brigade - China.
14. Special Forces Division - Iran.
15. 45th Guards Spetsnaz Brigade - Russia.



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.

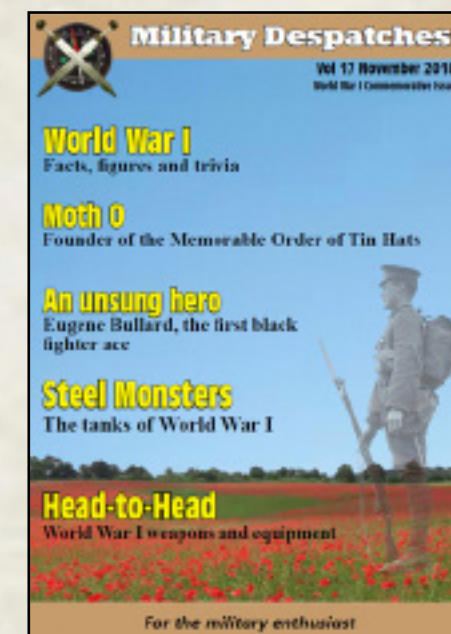


Military Despatches Website



"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.



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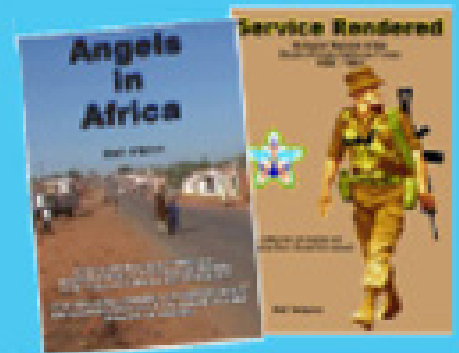
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