



Military Despatches

September 2017

Stranger than fiction

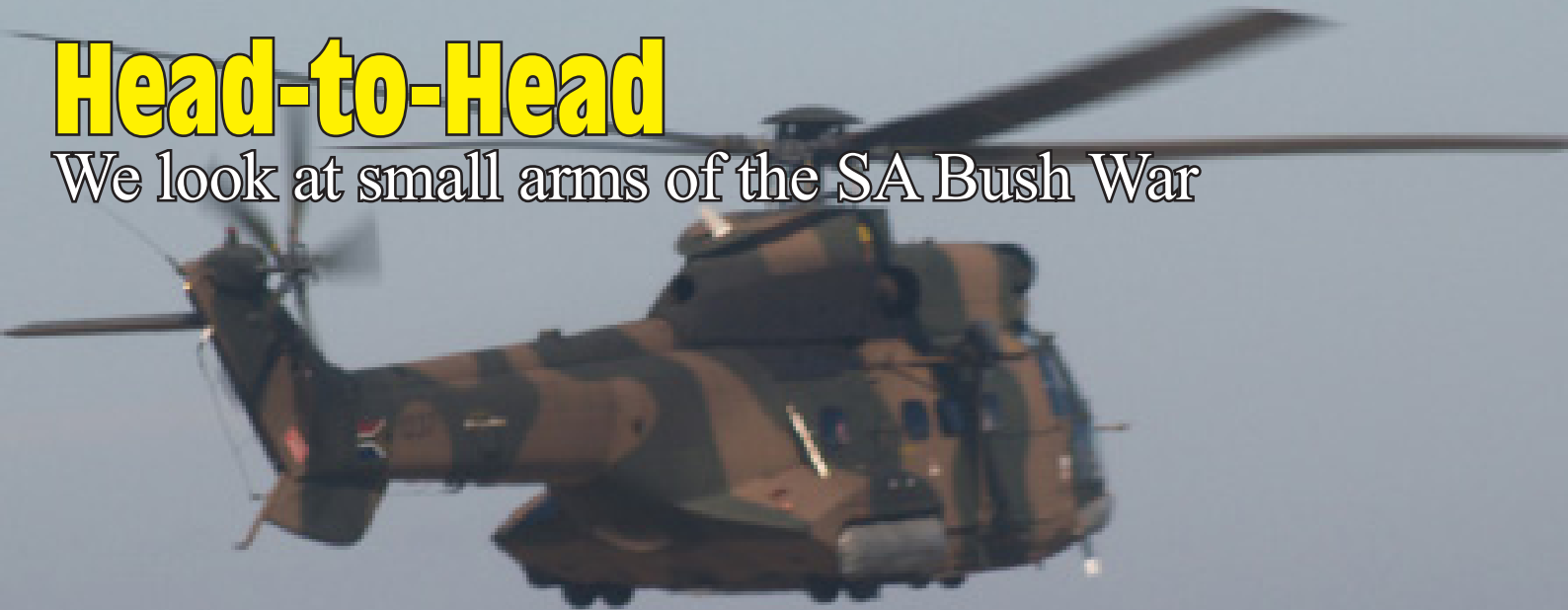
Facts, figures and trivia about the Vietnam War

Disabled? Not according to them

They may have lost limbs, but it didn't slow them down

Head-to-Head

We look at small arms of the SA Bush War



Forged in Battle

Military Helicopters that changed the face of war

The Siege of Jadotville

A company of Irish troops face overwhelming odds in Africa

For the military enthusiast

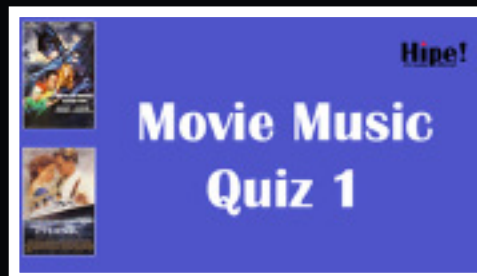


Click on any video below to view



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

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



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



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



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



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

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

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



Military Despatches September 2017

What's in this month's edition

Feature Articles

6 Vietnam War - facts, figures & trivia

A few facts, figures and trivia about the Vietnam War, the longest war fought by America.

12 Leave no man behind

After 39 years South African Paratroopers want to bring one of their fallen comrades back home. By Mike McWilliams.

14 Above and beyond the call of duty

It takes a certain mettle to go into battle. Especially if you suffer from what some would call a disability. These five people, however, never saw themselves as disabled.

18 TS Tiberon - 100 years on and still training

The sea cadet training ship Tiberon in Durban celebrates 100 years. By Lt Cdr Glenn von Zeil.

Head-to-Head

22 Small arms of the SA Bush War

We look at some of the small arms used by the various combatants in the South African Bush War.

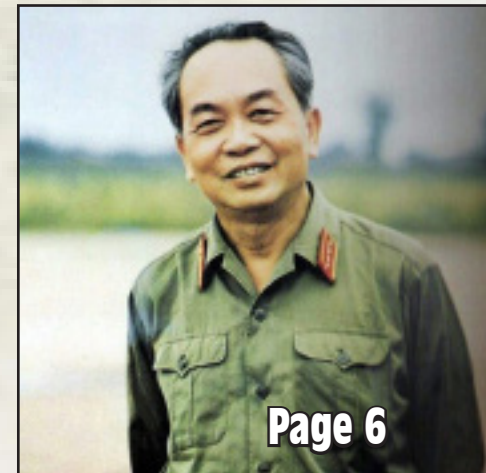
Famous Figures

30 Erwin Rommel

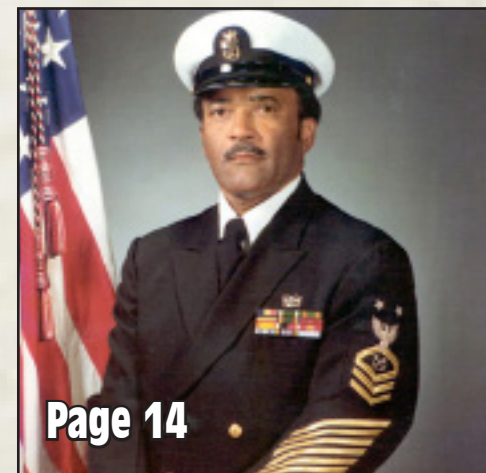
One of the best generals of World War II, a man that was respected by both friend and foe, the Desert Fox was a man to be reckoned with.

Cover Photograph

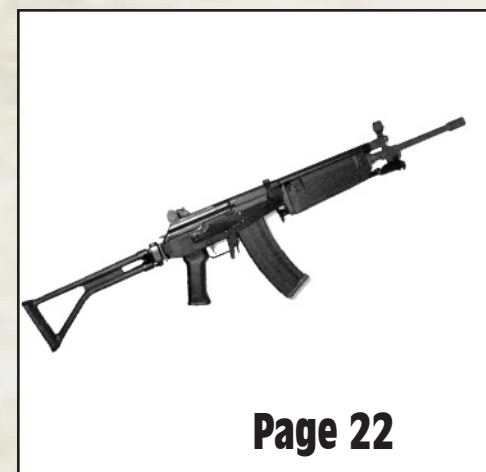
The editor took this photograph while returning from a trip with the Minister of Defence to the South African Navy training base at Saldanha Bay.



Page 6



Page 14



Page 22





Editor's Sitrep

During my time as a journalist and editor I've seen a lot of magazines come and go.

Statistics show that most magazine only last for two issues. Someone gets a bright idea to start a magazine and then discovers just how much work it actually involves. They're very motivated and excited for the first issue. The enthusiasm starts to wain by the second issue. And they forget about the idea before there is a third issue.

This is our third issue, so we're ahead of the curve. Yet there almost wasn't a third issue. Let me explain.

I work off two computers. On one of them I do video editing and animation work. The other computer is used to do the magazines and graphics for them. I do two monthly magazines and once they are finished they are backed up and stored on an external hard drive.

On Monday 28 August the computer that I do the magazines on crashed. It didn't just crash, it died. It had given up the ghost and gone to that big electronic warehouse in the sky.

I was not able to recover any data from the machine. Not only that, but I had also lost all

the software that is used to create the magazines.

The software I use is no longer available. This meant I had to upgrade to the latest version which you can no longer purchase outright. You have to pay for it monthly as it is cloud based. And you have to pay in US Dollars.

So three days before deadline I had lost both magazines and had to start from scratch. I worked for 52 hours straight. So once I've finished writing my editorial I will export both magazines into the necessary formats and get them uploaded to our website.

Then I'm going to have a few glasses of Bushmills and I plan on sleeping for the next two days.

On a happier note, thanks for all the e-mails I've received. And thank you to those people that have started to send through articles for the magazine.

Next month I'll tell you more about the military social group we are planning on starting.

Until next month.

Matt

Hipe! media

PUBLISHER

Hipe Media

EDITOR

Matt Tennyson

CONTRIBUTORS

Raymond Fletcher, Mike McWilliams, Ryan Murphy, Matt O'Brien, Matt Tennyson, Glen von Zeil.

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

The views stated in this magazine do not necessary reflect the views of **Hipe!**, the editor, the staff, or Hipe Media.

Hipe!

P.O. Box 31216, Tokai, 7966
South Africa.

email

editor@hipe.co.za

34

Forged in Battle

Military helicopters

Each month "Forged in Battle" looks at weapons, equipment or units that have been tried and tested on the battlefield. This month we look at five helicopters that were game changers.

40

Battlefield

The Siege of Jadotville

A small company of Irish soldiers faced overwhelming odds against battle-hardened troops deep in the heart of Africa.

42

Quiz

Who do we belong to?

We show some uniforms. You tell use which army they belong to.

44

Reviews

Game Review - Shogun 2

Do you have what it takes to conquer Japan through trade, diplomacy and battle and become the military leader - the Shogun.

46

Movie Review - The Siege of Jadotville

Seeing as how we looked at the Siege of Jadotville in this issue, what better movie to preview.

47

Book Review

Daniel Roxo - The Phantom of the Forest is a book that anyone interested in military history should read. Especially those with an interest in South African military history.

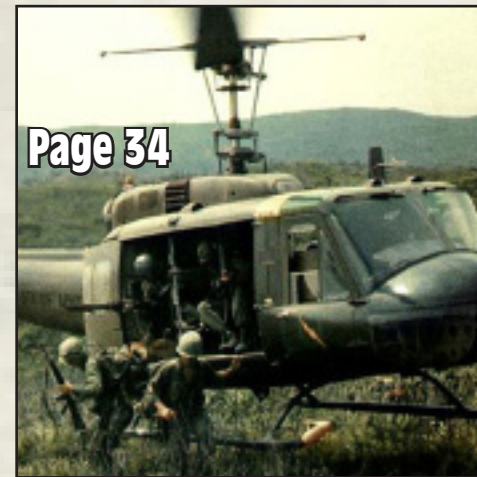
48

The Lighter Side

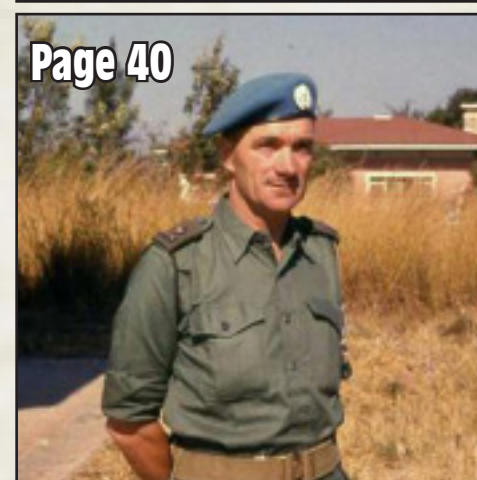
Food, glorious food

It was Napoleon that said an army marches on its stomach. Yet often the food served in the military is something that is difficult to stomach.

Page 34



Page 40



Page 42



DANIEL ROXO
The Phantom of the Forest



Page 47

Vietnam War - facts, figures and trivia

A few facts, figures and trivia about the Vietnam War, the longest war ever fought by the United States of America.

The Vietnam War was officially fought between North and South Vietnam. It lasted for 19 years, five months, four weeks and one day and took place from 1 November 1955 to 30 April 1975.

Although the USA never declared war on North Vietnam, some 2.7 million US troops served in Vietnam.

Besides the United States, seven other countries sent troops to fight or serve on the side of South Vietnam. They were South Korea, Thailand, Australia, Philippines, New Zealand, Khmer Republic and the Kingdom of Laos. The Republic of China provided military support.

The belligerents on the North's side were North Vietnam, Vietcong, Khmer Rouge and Pather Lao. The USSR, People's Republic of China, North Korea and Cuba provided military support.

Vietnam War Trivia

- At the end of the Vietnam War, the crewmen on the aircraft carrier USS Midway pushed \$10 million worth of helicopters into the sea so that a Cessna full of evacuees could land on the deck.
- Hugh Thomson, the man who during the Vietnam War had landed a helicopter in the line of fire to confront and stop American troops who had by that point killed close to 500 unarmed civilians in the My Lai Massacre, was labeled a traitor by Congress and ordered not to speak about the event.
- The Vietnam War is known as "the American War" or *Kháng chiến chống Mỹ* in Vietnam.
- In 2005, NSA documents were declassified that proved that the second Gulf of Tonkin incident, which was used as a justification for the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (which led to the Vietnam War), never happened.
- In 1967, protesters in USA requested a permit to levitate the Pentagon 300 feet in the air, through songs and chants, to exorcise it of its evil and end the Vietnam War. Authorities agreed to only 3 feet.
- During the Vietnam War, an estimated 125,000 Americans fled to Canada to avoid the military draft. Around half returned to the US when President Carter, in his first day in office, granted them amnesty.
- Congressional Medal of Honor Winner Peter Lemon was high on marijuana when he single-handedly fought off two waves of Vietcong troops and dragged a wounded soldier to safety.
- A popular children's toy in the United States, Slinkys



Slinky

- were used in the Vietnam War as mobile radio antennas. They would sling the Slinky over branches and extend the range of their radios.
- During the Vietnam War, the US military produced recordings of ghostly voices and eerie sounds to play to the Vietcong, who believed that if a body wasn't buried, the person's soul would wander the Earth forever. It was known as "Operation Wandering Soul". No one really knows what effect it had, if any. You can listen to "Ghost Tape No. 10" by clicking [here](#). The tape is undeniably creepy, filled with voices claiming to be from Hell, trapped there after dying senseless deaths, looking for their children, and wanting desperately to go home.
- There was a false belief during the war that the Vietnamese had a superstition with the Ace of Spades card, considering it to be a symbol of death and that they would flee at the sight of the Ace. Therefore the U.S. Playing Card Company shipped crates of this card to Vietnam, where they were scattered during raids in an effort to terrify the Vietcong.

- An infamous photograph of what looks like an execution was used by the anti-war movement for propaganda purposes. They claimed that it showed a South Vietnamese officer executing an innocent Vietnamese civilian. The shooter was actually South Vietnamese Chief of National Police, General Nguyen Ngoc Loan. He was executing Nguyen Van Lem, also known as Bay Lop, a Vietcong intelligence officer. The photo was taken in Saigon on 1 February, 1968 early in the Tet Offensive. After the war General Nguyen Ngoc Loan moved to the United States where he opened a pizzeria in suburban Virginia.
- A prisoner of war during the Vietnam War named James Stockdale is said to have survived in such arduous conditions that you must renounce optimism for stoicism. His optimistic fellow captives all died. Having a blindly optimistic view worsens your chances of survival. This is called 'The Stockdale Paradox'.
- During the Vietnam War, a US task force known as 'Tiger Force' routinely cut off the ears of its victims to make necklaces from them.
- When Colonel "Chappie" James was Vice Wing Commander under legendary ace Colonel Robin Olds during the Vietnam War, they were known as "BlackMan & Robin."
- During the Vietnam war, Navy Seal teams One and Two amassed a combined kill/death ratio of 200:1.
- The United States' use of Agent Orange during the Vietnam War resulted in 400,000 people being killed or maimed, and 500,000 birth defects.
- During the early 1960s, there was a 'Secret War', where the CIA recruited 50% of the Hmong population to fight for the US in the Vietnam War. Afterwards, they were completely abandoned.
- Duct Tape was used during the Vietnam War to repair helicopter rotor blades.
- A 'liquid land mine' was invented during the Vietnam

Casualties & Loses

South

Country	Dead	Wounded
South Vietnam	313,000	313,000
United States	58,318	58,318
Kingdom of Laos	30,000	30,000
South Korea	5,099	5,099
Australia	521	521
Thailand	351	351
New Zealand	37	37
Republic of China	25	25
Philippines	9	9

North

Country	Dead	Wounded
NVA / Vietcong	849,018	600,000+
China	1,100	4,200
North Korea	14	Unknown

Approximately two million Vietnamese civilians were also killed during the war.



GAME OVER: South Vietnamese Chief of Police Nguyen Ngoc Loan executes Vietcong intelligence officer Nguyen Van Lem.

- War, which was poured on the ground to form a mine, and best of all, it self-deactivated in four days, keeping kids safe from mines that had not been triggered.
- An Air Force Sergeant during the Vietnam War created an “underground” radio station in the back of a Vietnamese brothel where he played hard rock, made vulgar jokes and openly opposed the war. The radio station was operated on channel 69.
- Roy Benavidez, a US soldier in the Vietnam War, performed possibly the most heroic six hours of battle any soldier ever has. When faced with over 1,000 NVA (North Vietnamese Army) troops, Roy P. Benavidez flew into a gunfight to save 12 Special Forces soldiers with only a knife. He was shot multiple times and believed dead, until he spat in the face of the medic trying to put him in a body bag. It took 13 years to get him the Medal of Honor.



Võ Nguyên Giáp

- During the Vietnam War, a US Prisoner of War was forced to do a press conference saying that they were treated well. He managed to convey the truth by blinking “TORTURE” in Morse code.
- Superglue was used during the Vietnam War to slow bleeding until soldiers could get to a hospital.
- During the Vietnam War, one unconventional technique used by the United States against the Vietcong was replacing their ammunition with decoy explosive ammunition, which destroyed their weapons when fired.
- US President Richard Nixon is suspected of sabotaging the Paris Peace Accords, extending the Vietnam War by five years to ensure his own election.
- NVA General Võ Nguyên Giáp not only gave the American a torrid time in Vietnam. He also orchestrated successive defeats of the Japanese and the French. Even Death had a hard time finishing off Giáp – he lived to 102 years of age.
- The majority of the men who fought in Vietnam weren’t drafted - they volunteered.
- In 1985 British pop singer Paul Hardcastle had a hit with a song titled *19*. This, according to the song, was the average age of US soldiers fighting in the Vietnam War. The average age of US soldiers killed in Vietnam was actually 22. Still young, but not a teenager.
- The common belief is that the fighting in Vietnam was



Roy Benavidez

not as intense as in World War II. Yet the average infantryman in the South Pacific during World War II saw about 40 days of combat in four years. The average infantryman in Vietnam saw about 240 days of combat in one year thanks to the mobility of the helicopter.

- One out of every 10 Americans who served in Vietnam was a casualty. 58,148 were killed and 304,000 wounded out of 2.7 million who served. Although the percent that died is similar to other wars, amputations or crippling wounds were 300 percent higher than in World War II. 75,000 Vietnam veterans are severely disabled.
- MEDEVAC helicopters flew nearly 500,000 missions. Over 900,000 patients were airlifted (nearly half were American). The average time lapse between wounding to hospitalization was less than one hour. As a result, less than one percent of all Americans wounded, who survived the first 24



THE BIG LIE: A ceremony honours the arrival of bodies of troops killed in Vietnam. Most of the coffins, however, were empty.

- hours, died.
- The helicopter provided unprecedented mobility. Without the helicopter it would have taken three times as many troops to secure the 1.287 km border with Cambodia and Laos.
- 30,000 American draft dodgers went to Canada during the Vietnam War, while 30,000 Canadians joined the US military to fight in the Vietnam War.
- On his second day in office, President Jimmy Carter pardoned all evaders of the Vietnam War drafts.
- The former Prime Minister of Vietnam moved to Orange County after the war, where he opened and ran a liquor store.
- The U.S. government spent years holding fake arrival ceremonies honouring the return of American soldiers killed in WWII, Vietnam, and Korea to American soil, but the planes were actually empty. The ceremonies were known by staff as

“The Big Lie.”

- In the ’60s, the C.I.A. paid Vietnamese spies with merchandise from mail-order Sears catalogs, since they had little use for paper money.
- The Medal of Honor was awarded 259 for acts of bravery during the Vietnam War. 173 were to the US Army, 15 to the US Navy, 57 to the US Marine Corps and 14 to the US Air Force. A Medal of Honor was also awarded to the Vietnam Unknown Soldier.
- The first Medal of Honor presentation for Vietnam was to Captain Roger Donlon for actions on 6 July 1964 as commanding officer of the U.S. Army Special Forces Detachment defending Camp Nam Dong against a Vietcong attack.
- Thomas William Bennett (April 7, 1947 – February 11, 1969) was a U.S. Army medic and the second conscientious objector to receive the Medal of Honor

(Desmond Doss, a medic in World War II, was the first). Bennett was killed in action during the Vietnam War and posthumously received the Medal of Honor.

- Three chaplains received the medal, including Vincent R. Capodanno, who served with the Marine Corps and was known as the “Grunt Padre.”
- The Vietcong became experts at digging tunnels. The Cu Chi Tunnels (about 75 kilometres northwest of Saigon) were a warren of tunnels used by Vietcong to attack targets around Saigon. Built under fortified villages, where peasants had been forcibly moved, Cu Chi was a 200 kilometre long network of passages with underground hospitals, meeting rooms, multi-level sleeping quarters, trap doors, smokeless kitchens, air raid shelters, weapons factories, strategy rooms and even entire underground villages with theaters and movie halls. In some places the tunnels had three stories.



Medal of Honor

- The Cu Chi tunnel system was so large and complex that road signs were used to help the Vietcong soldiers navigate their way around and avoid bamboo-stake booby traps meant for the American and Australian soldiers that tried to ferret them out. Favored traps included punji stake pits with hidden upward-pointing bamboo stakes, and bamboo sticks that released an extremely poisonous snake called the three step snake, because its venom was toxic that a person collapsed three steps after being bitten.
- American, Australian and New Zealand troops came up with a special way of dealing with Vietcong tunnels - tunnel rats. These were volunteers that would go into the tunnels. Usually they were small in stature. Whenever troops would uncover a tunnel, tunnel rats were sent in to kill any hid-



KITCHEN COMPLEX: One of the many kitchen complexes set in the Cu Chi Tunnels.

ing enemy soldiers and to plant explosives to destroy the tunnels. A tunnel rat was equipped with only a standard issue .45 caliber pistol, a bayonet and a flashlight, although most tunnel rats were allowed to choose another pistol with which to arm themselves.

- The main supply route for weapons, supplies and troops infiltrating into South Vietnam was the Ho Chi Minh Trail, a network of

roads and trails extending from North Vietnam through eastern Laos and Cambodia to South Vietnam. The North Vietnamese called the route the Truong Son Road after the ridge it ran along or Highway 559 after the engineer brigade that built it. The route began in a gorge the North Vietnamese called "Heaven's Gate."

- The object of some of the U.S.'s first military actions in Southeast Asia was to disrupt the movement of supplies along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Throughout the Vietnam War a great deal of money and effort was spent trying to shut it down. Thousands of tons of bombs were dropped on it, key battles such as Hamburger Hill and Khe Sanh were fought to control it. Everything that the U.S. forces tried was ultimately unable to shut it down.
- The Vietcong were skilled at building and employing booby traps. One of the most common booby trap used by the Vietcong was the punji stick. A hole would



SIMPLE BUT EFFECTIVE: Punji sticks were not designed to kill and enemy but rather to wound them.

be dug into the ground and a number of sharpened wooded or bamboo stakes were placed upright in the ground. The presence of punji sticks would be camouflaged by natural undergrowth, crops, grass, brush or similar materials. When someone stepped on the trap the stakes would penetrate through their boot. Often the sticks would be covered in human feces. In the harsh tropical heat this could lead to an infection very quickly. Sometimes a pit would be dug with punji sticks in the sides pointing downward at an angle. A soldier stepping into the pit would find it impossible to remove his leg without doing severe damage, and injuries might be incurred by the simple act of falling forward while one's leg is in a narrow, vertical, stake-lined pit. Such pits would require time and care

to dig the soldier's leg out, immobilizing the unit longer than if the foot were simply pierced.

- Air America was an American passenger and cargo airline covertly owned and operated by the US government between 1950 and 1976. It was used as a dummy corporation for Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) operations, including many in Vietnam and surrounding countries.
- The term fragging is used to describe the deliberate killing or attempted killing by a soldier of a fellow soldier, usually a superior officer or non-commissioned officer (NCO). The word was coined by U.S. military personnel during the Vietnam War, when such killings were most often attempted with a fragmentation grenade, sometimes making it appear as though the kill-

ing was accidental or during combat with the enemy. The term fragging is now often used to encompass any means used to deliberately and directly cause the death of military colleagues. The high number of fragging incidents in the latter years of the Vietnam War was symptomatic of the unpopularity of the war with the American public and the breakdown of discipline in the U.S. Armed Forces. Documented and suspected fragging incidents totaled nearly nine hundred from 1969 to 1972.

- By the end of the war, seven million tons of bombs had been dropped on Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia - more than twice the amount of bombs dropped on Europe and Asia in World War II.
- The term "Zippo Raids" was coined during the Vietnam War. These were military operations which involved burning down Vietnamese villages. Often Zippo cigarette lighters were used to ignite the huts.
- 12,000 American helicopters saw action during the Vietnam War.
- Many American troops were not in the least impressed with the M-16 rifle. The weapon was prone to jamming and the inside of the barrel was vulnerable to corrosion in the brutal Vietnam climate.



TUNNEL RAT: Probably one of the most dangerous jobs of the Vietnam War - going into Vietcong tunnels and seeking out the enemy.

Leave no man behind

After 39 years South African Paratroopers want to bring one of their fallen comrades back home. By Mike McWilliams.

Thirty Nine years ago on 4 May 1978, at 0804 on a chilly morning, 367 paratroopers from the Parachute Battalion of the South African Defence Force, the Parabats, stepped out of the doors of their lumbering aircraft over the fortified base camp at Cassinga, Angola.

250 kilometres behind the lines, it was a matter of victory or death. If the paratroopers did not prevail, walking back to the border was going to be a deadly business, harassed by Angolan, Cuban and PLAN enemy.

Due to a photo scaling error, the drop was a shambles. The box drop which was meant to seal the base ended up scattering the Parabats into positions that put them into mortal danger. Some dropped right on top of the enemy, some landed kilometres away from their intended positions. Some in trees and others into the river, or on the wrong bank.

The essential element of surprise was lost, giving the enemy ample time to set themselves up in the extensive trench and bunker system that surrounded the camp.

Instead of the short, sharp skirmish planned, the attack was an extended affair. The enemy brought their anti-aircraft cannons to bear while the Parabats were exiting the aircraft, and these powerful guns were not silenced until mid afternoon.

The battle raged most of the day and ended with the surrender of the enemy after the big cannons were silenced.

The first wave of helicopters extracted half the Parabats, leaving the remainder to mop up while waiting to be evacuated themselves.

At half their strength, the Parabats were warned by a circling aircraft that a column of twenty armored vehicles was approaching the base.

A Cuban detachment from nearby Techamutete was charging to the rescue of their SWAPO comrades.

This was a grave threat to the few remaining Parabats. Their LZ's came under tank fire and APCs full of Cubans threatened to swamp the remaining Parabats.

A combination of rocket fire from two Mirages that screamed in from Ondangwa destroyed a number of vehicles, but the Mirages couldn't hang around as they were at their range limit and could spend only a minute or two over the target.

A land mine that the Parabats had laid that morning for just this kind of eventuality blew up the leading tank, stopping the Cuban advance for a while.

The Parabats hit the armour with all they had. RPGs and LMGs opened up on the column, buying time for the helicopters to refuel and return



to extract the small remaining force.

With the LZs under fire, the helicopters returned. A lone Buccaneer overhead, out of ammo and low on fuel, protected the Parabats scrambling for their lifts home. The Buccaneer pilot, repeatedly buzzed the tanks at treetop level keeping them buttoned up while the Bats were extracted.

Four Parabats lost their lives that day. JC De Waal, Martin Kaplan, Eddie Backhouse and tragically, Andries 'Skillie' Human was Missing in Action.

After all this time, we have only recently established what happened to Skillie Human. He landed in the river and drowned.

Through years of detective work, we have now located Skillies unmarked grave where he was buried by a local chief. The time has come to Bring Skillie Home.

If you do anything today in remembrance, please give a donation to enable us to bring our last one back.

Bringing Skillie home is not



an option to the Parabats, it is a duty.

Our watchword has always been, Leave No Man Behind and we all know that this duty never goes away, no matter how many years pass.

We make no distinction between a man being injured or being killed in action and someone missing in action. All must be brought back even though the missing may only be discovered years later, as was Skillie.

For 39 years, Skillie Human has lain in a lonely grave, far from home, his comrades and his family. A stranger in a

strange land.

Those who have given generously and those who will give; You know we would do it for you. Do it for Skillie.

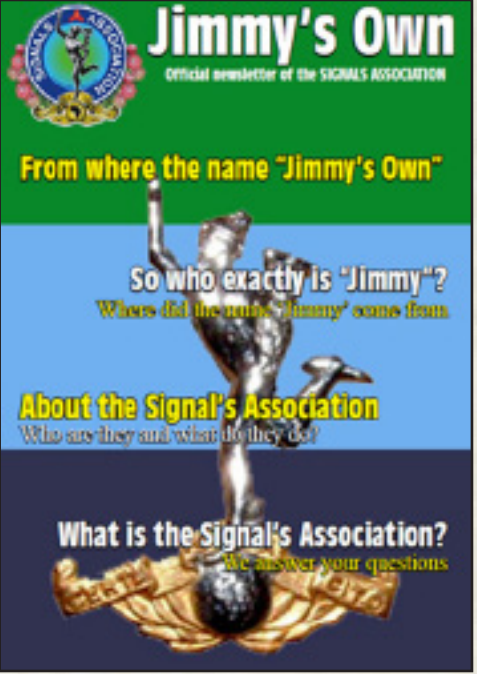
The audited non-profit fund account to help this happen is:

Parabat Veterans Organisation NPC
Nedbank Account Number 1131959035
Branch 114145
with your Surname and "Skillie" as identification.

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.

This month we feature two newsletters. 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.



Above and beyond the call of duty

It takes a certain mettle to go into battle. Especially if you suffer from what some would call a disability. These five people, however, never saw themselves as disabled.

Battle has always been regarded as one of the true tests of manhood. It is also said that when faced with hardship or danger a person's true character will be revealed.

If that is the case then these five people passed the test with flying colours. Not only did they face challenges head-on, they did so while suffering with what most people would regard as a physical disability.

The first person on the list is probably the most well known of them. His name was Douglas Bader.

Douglas Bader

Group Captain Sir Douglas Robert Steuart Bader, CBE, DSO & Bar, DFC & Bar, was a Royal Air Force (RAF) flying ace during World War II. He was credited with 22 aerial victories, four shared victories, six probables, one shared probable and 11 enemy aircraft damaged. All of this was achieved after he had lost both of his legs.

Bader was born on 21 February 1910. In 1928 he joined the RAF as an officer cadet at the Royal Air Force College in Cranwell.

In September 1928 he took his first flight with an instructor and after just 11 hours and 15 min-

utes, he flew his first solo flight on 19 February 1929.

On 26 July 1930 Bader was commissioned as a pilot officer into No. 23 Squadron RAF based at Kenley, Surrey.

Bader became a daredevil while flying there, often flying illegal and dangerous stunts. Strict orders were issued forbidding unauthorised aerobatics but Bader took this as an unnecessary safety rule rather than an order to be obeyed.

On 14 December 1931 Bader was attempting some low-flying aerobatics when the tip of his wing touched the ground and he crashed.

He was rushed to hospital where both of his legs - one above and one below the knee - were amputated. In his logbook after the crash Bader wrote, "*Crashed slow-rolling near ground. Bad show.*"

After a long and painful convalescence Bader was given a new pair of artificial legs. He was determined that he was going to fly again.

He retook flight training, passed his check flights and then requested reactivation as a pilot.

His request was turned down and, against his will, he was retired on medical grounds.



Douglas Bader

With World War II looming, Bader again requested a posting in the RAF. The Central Flying School told Bader to report for flight tests on 18 October 1939.

On 27 November 1939, eight years after his accident, Bader flew solo again. After a refresher course on modern types of aircraft he was posted to No. 19 Squadron based at RAF Duxford near Cambridge.

In May 1940 he became a flight leader and later a flight commander of No. 222 Squadron RAF. He was promoted to flight lieutenant.

Bader took part in the Battle of France and Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of Dunkirk.

On 28 June 1940 he was made acting squadron leader of No. 242 Squadron RAF. He took part in the Battle of Britain where he claimed a number of 'kills'.

On 18 March 1941, Bader was promoted to acting wing commander and became one of the first "wing leaders". Stationed at Tangmere with 145, 610 and 616 Squadrons under his command.

On 9 August 1941 while on patrol over France, Bader was shot down. While attempting to bail out of his damaged Spitfire one of his prosthetic legs was trapped in the cockpit. Part way out of the cockpit, Bader fell for some time before pulling his parachute. The leg's retaining strap snapped under the strain and he was pulled free.

The Germans treated Bader with great respect. He had lost his right prosthetic leg and Luftwaffe General Adolf Galland notified the British of his damaged leg and offered them safe passage to drop off a replacement.

While recovering in hospital Bader attempted to escape but he was recaptured. Over the next few years, Bader became a thorn in the side of the Germans. He made so many escape attempts that the Germans threatened to take his legs away.

He was finally dispatched to the "escape-proof" Colditz Castle Oflag IV-C on 18 August 1942, where he remained until 15 April 1945 when it was liberated by the First United States

Army.

After the war Bader continued to serve in the RAF. On 21 July 1946, he retired with the rank of group captain to take a job at Royal Dutch Shell. He became Managing Director of Shell Aircraft until he retired in 1969.

Bader campaigned vigorously for people with disabilities and set an example of how to overcome a disability. In June 1976, Bader was knighted for his services to disabled people.

Douglas Bader died of a heart attack on 5 September 1982. He was 72 years old. Among the many dignitaries and personalities at his funeral was Adolf Galland. Galland and Douglas Bader had shared a friendship that spanned more than 42 years since their first meeting in France.

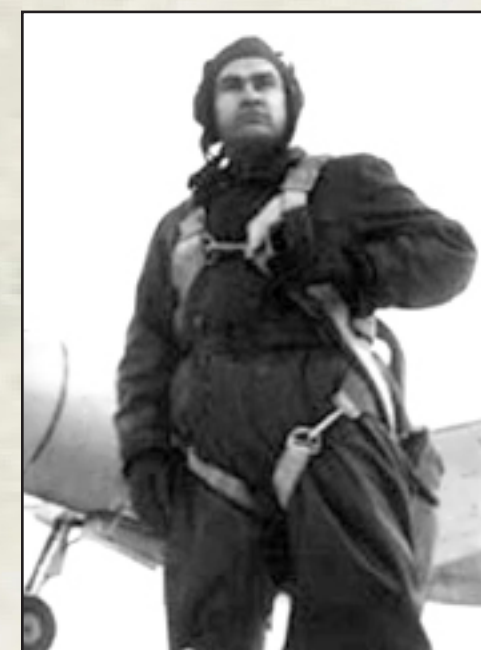
Alexey Maresyev

Alexey Petrovich Maresyev was a Soviet fighter ace during World War II. Like Douglas Bader, he lost both of his legs.

He was born in Kamyshin, Russia, on 20 May 1916. Before joining the army in 1937 Maresyev worked as a turner.

In 1940 he graduated from Bataysk Military School of Aviation. He began his flights as a fighter pilot in August 1941. He had shot down four German aircraft by March 1942, but on 4 April 1942 his Polikarpov I-16 was shot down near Staraya Russa and was nearly captured by Nazi forces.

Despite being badly injured, Alexey managed to return to the Soviet-controlled territory. During his 18-day-long journey his injuries deteriorated so badly that both of his legs had to be



Alexey Maresyev

amputated below the knee. Desperate to return to his fighter pilot career, he subjected himself to nearly a year of exercise to master the control of his prosthetic devices, and succeeded at that, returning to flying in June 1943.

During a dog fight in August 1943 he shot down three German Focke-Wulf Fw 190 fighters. In total, he completed 86 combat flights and shot down 11 German warplanes. He was awarded the Golden Star of the Hero of the Soviet Union, the highest military decoration of the USSR. In 1944 he joined the Communist Party and two years later retired from the army.

In 1952 Maresyev graduated from the Higher Party School. In 1956 he obtained a Ph.D. in History and started working in the Soviet War Veterans Committee. Eventually he became a member of the Supreme Soviet.

He died of a heart attack on 19 May 2001, just an hour ahead of his official 85th birthday celebration.

Colin Hodgkinson

Flight Lieutenant Colin Ger-

ald Shaw Hodgkinson was a Royal Air Force (RAF) pilot during World War II. He was given the nickname “The poor man’s Bader”.

He was born on 11 February 1920 in Wells, Somerset. In 1938, aged 18, he was accepted into the Fleet Air Arm to undergo pilot training as a Midshipman.

He carried out training aboard the aircraft carrier HMS Courageous in the De Havilland Tiger Moth. He had completed some 20 hours of flying, including solo flights.

On 12 May 1939 he was practicing blind flying at RAF Gravesend, with a hood over his head. At an altitude of 800 feet his Tiger Moth struck another aircraft and plummeted to the ground. The crash killed his trainer, and seriously injured Hodgkinson.

He was rushed to hospital, where his right leg was amputated above the knee and his left leg below the knee. He was transferred to the Royal Naval Hospital in Chatham to recover.

During this period he was introduced to Archibald McIndoe, who convinced him to join the “Guinea Pig Club” and have plastic surgery on his burned face.

By Christmas 1940, just over a year after his accident, he was walking on artificial limbs to such a standard that he was allowed back into the air. He subsequently joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and went on numerous flights, including as a rear gunner on a bomber.

Hodgkinson was determined to pilot aircraft again. He was sure he could emulate his fel-



Colin Hodgkinson

low double-amputee Douglas Bader and fly Spitfires given the chance.

In September 1942 he successfully requested to transfer to the Royal Air Force as a Pilot Officer and took control of his first Spitfire by the end of the month. After training he was posted to No. 131 Squadron RAF.

Later in the year he was promoted to Flying Officer and posted to No. 611 Squadron RAF.

Hodgkinson was then posted to No. 501 Squadron RAF as Flight commander. In November 1943, during a high-altitude reconnaissance mission over France, his oxygen supply failed, causing him to crash land in a field.

He was dragged from his burning Spitfire by two farm workers, losing an artificial leg in the process. He was caught by the occupying forces and placed into the Prisoner-of-war camp, Stalag Luft III for the next 10 months, before being repatriated and deemed “no further use to

his country”. He was again treated by McIndoe and he continued to fly until his release from service in 1946.

Three years later Hodgkinson re-joined the RAF as a Royal Auxiliary Air Force pilot with both No. 501 Squadron RAF and No. 604 Squadron RAF. This time converting to jet-engined aircraft and flying the De Havilland Vampire until the early 1950s.

After the war he worked in Public Relations and tried his hand at politics. In the 1955 General Election he stood as the Conservative Party candidate for South West Islington, ultimately losing to Labour.

In 1957 he published his autobiography, *Best Foot Forward*. He died on 13 September 1996, aged 76.

James MacLachlan

James Archibald Findlay MacLachlan DSO, DFC & Two Bars was a Royal Air Force (RAF) fighter pilot and flying ace of World War II.

He was born in Cheshire, England on 1 April 1919. In March 1937 at the age of 17 he joined the RAF. After completing flight training he was commissioned as an acting pilot officer on 3 May 1937.

In May 1940 he flew a Fairey Battle light bomber in the Battle of France and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC).

He then transferred to fighter school and during the Battle of Britain he served with No. 73 Squadron RAF and No. 145 Squadron RAF. In late 1940 he transferred to Malta in the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations



James MacLachlan

and joined No. 261 Squadron RAF.

MacLachlan was wounded in action on 16 February 1941. His arm was so severely damaged it was amputated, but he returned to operations in November 1941 with an artificial limb.

On 18 July 1943 the P-51 Mustang in which he was flying was hit by German flak or suffered engine failure and crashed over France. The Germans reported him as a prisoner of war but he died in a military hospital from his injuries. MacLachlan was awarded a second Bar to his DFC on 30 July 1943 in absentia.

From the skies we now turn our attention to the seas. Under the sea to be more precise. While this next person did not participate in combat, his achievements are noteworthy to say the least.

Carl Brashear

Carl Maxie Brashear was a United States Navy sailor. He was the first African American

to become a U.S. Navy Master Diver, rising to the position in 1970 despite having an amputated left leg.

He was born on 19 January 1931 in Sonora, Kentucky. Brashear enlisted in the U.S. Navy on 25 February 1948, shortly after the Navy had been desegregated by U.S. President Harry S. Truman.

He attended diving school in Bayonne, New Jersey where he faced hostility and racism. He graduated from the U.S. Navy Diving & Salvage School in 1954, becoming the first African-American to attend and graduate from the Diving & Salvage School and the first African-American U.S. Navy Diver.

Brashear first did work as a diver retrieving approximately 16,000 rounds of ammunition that fell off a barge which had broken in half and sunk to the bottom. On his first tour of shore duty in Quonset Point, Rhode Island, his duties included the salvaging of airplanes and recovering multiple dead bodies.

Brashear was assigned to escort the presidential yacht the Barbara Anne to Rhode Island. He met President Eisenhower and received a small knife that said, “To Carl M. Brashear. From Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1957. Many, many thanks.” After making chief in 1959 he stayed at Guam for three years doing mostly demolition dives.

In January 1966 a B28 nuclear bomb was lost off the coast of Palomares, Spain. Brashear was serving aboard USS Hoist when it was dispatched to find and recover the missing bomb for the Air Force. The warhead was found after two and a half



Carl Brashear

months of searching. For his service in helping to retrieve the bomb, Brashear was later awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal – the highest Navy award for non-combat heroism.

During the bomb recovery operations on 23 March 1966, a line used for towing broke loose, causing a pipe to strike Brashear’s left leg below the knee, nearly shearing it off. It was later amputated.

He remained at the Naval Regional Medical Center in Portsmouth from May 1966 until March 1967 recovering and rehabilitating from the amputation.

In April 1968, after a long struggle, Brashear was the first amputee diver to be (re)certified as a U.S. Navy diver. In 1970, he became the first African-American U.S. Navy Master Diver, and served nine more years beyond that, achieving the rating of Master Chief Boatswain’s Mate in 1971.

Carl Brashear at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Portsmouth, Virginia, on July 25, 2006

TS Tiberon - 100 years on and still training

The sea cadet training ship Tiberon in Durban celebrates 100 years. By Lt Cdr Glenn von Zeil.

The South African Sea Cadet Training Ship, TS Tiberon, celebrated 100 years of providing nautical and maritime training to the youth in Durban with a dinner at the Blue Marlin Hotel, Scottburgh.

The week end celebrations were hosted by the Officer Commanding Lt Cdr James Young, Officers, Instructors and ship's company and attended by the Cdr Philip Miller, CEO of the South African Sea Cadets, Capt Ian Loubser, Captain of the Sea Cadet Corps, Cdr Penny Thompson, Kwazulu Natal Area Officer and Lt Paul Jacobs, Officer Commanding TS Woltemade in Cape Town.

The evening included an address by Cdr Penny Thompson who reminisced about the origins of the Unit and how it had added value to so many young lives over the past decade.

One hundred years ago Capt Towhey, an ex-Sea Scout instructor, investigated the formation of a Naval Cadet Detachment in Durban. He was successful with his plans and in 1916 a self-supporting independent body called the Naval Cadet Detachment of Durban was formed. The initial activities of the unit were more physical training in nature with the ships company meeting at the local YMCA once a week for exercises.

In 1917 during World War 1 when most of the members of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserves (RNVR) were away on active duty, the Cadets obtained the use of the RNVR base in Durban. This is when the real Naval training was implemented.

As a result the Cadet Detachment became more popular and discussions were held to incorporate the Unit into the Navy League as was the case in the United Kingdom. By 13 April 1918 Capt Towhey received an appointment as temporary Captain in the defence force and the Navy League Naval Cadets were born in Durban.

The Cadets continued to parade weekly at the RNVR base and later at the South African Naval Reserve base of SAS Inkonkoni. In 1972 the Officer Commanding, Lt Cdr John Wallis, acquired the use of the Bayhead base. The only building on the ground initially was an ablution block with all other structures erected subsequently. The boat shed, previously the Sydney Road abattoir, was incorporated and much of the building work completed with donations of material and labour. The Officers, Instructors, Cadets and parents adding their weight.

Cdr Penny Thompson described her first Cadet experi-

ence as follows.

"My first memory of cadets was attending my first camp as a very green new entry. I was a bit young to join but my brother was already a cadet and Cdr Wallis (the OC at the time) was expecting an inspection and wanted to get his numbers up. I got out the car and ran to put my things in the huge army tent I would be sleeping in and ran straight into one of the metal stays. This resulted in me falling down with a lovely red burn mark on my face, my bag and bedding flying in all directions.

"Within seconds the Petty Officer in charge of the girls, Sandra Orbin, was at my side along with a few helpers. My belongings were collected and I was settled in and the whole incident was managed and I was cared for. This epitomises the cadet spirit to me. These cadets were teenagers who understood caring, helping others and leadership. As I find myself in a teaching position now, dealing with teenagers every day, these are not characteristics that we always see. I think the importance of the life skills that the cadet corps teaches cannot be ignored."

During the 1980's the numbers of Cadets in Durban averaged around 70. This was fuelled by National Service as Naval Cadets were given pref-



CELEBRATIONS: Lt Cdr James Young, Officer Commanding TS Tiberon, and Cdr Penny Thompson, Area Officer Kwazulu Natal, at the TS Tiberon centenary celebration dinner holding the Foddering Trophy for Perseverance awarded to the Unit.

PHOTO: TRACY CHILDS

erential entry into the SA Navy. TS Tiberon also won the National Cadet of the Year competition on 4 occasions, sending cadets to the United Kingdom, Walvis Bay and Cape Town.

During these years the SA Navy fully supported the Cadets which included trained instructors, training courses and camps in Cape Town. These began with overnight train trips to Cape Town via Johannesburg, an opportunity to meet other Cadets and all the mischief that goes with teenagers away from their parents on a train. The courses were challenging and rewarding with the experience of being instructed by Permanent Force personnel invaluable.

The 1990's brought the end of National Service and many challenges as the SA Navy withdrew its support and Units needed to rely on fundraising and payment of cadet fees. At

one stage TS Tiberon started the years with 3 cadets and by persevering had 15 Cadets attested.

Although the validity of the training was questioned it became clear that the knowledge and skills were still relevant. Seamanship, sailing, pulling, communications and engineering continued to be taught however the Cadets also learnt leadership, teamwork, critical thinking, organisation, respect and loyalty.

Cdr Penny Thompson reflects.

"On one particular occasion we were tasked an obstacle course by Lt Cdr Eugene Van Wyk. We had to perform a number of crawling, running and generally sweaty tasks culminating in climbing over a shipping container. As I ran up to the container I thought this was where my journey would end however my team

had something else in mind and I found myself airborne, flying over the container without any effort on my part. The lessons were ingrained in us, no one got left behind. "

The 2000's resulted in the Cadet training again evolving to suit the needs of the youth and accredited training resulted. TS Tiberon produced a Cadet of the year in 2007.

During the celebratory dinner Cdr Philip Miller, CEO of the South African Sea Cadets, presented the Foddering Trophy for Perseverance to Lt Cdr James Young, Officer Commanding TS Tiberon, to commemorate 100 years of successful nautical and maritime youth training at TS Tiberon.

The SA Navy has again supported an annual year end camp in Simon's Town which is the highlight for Cadets to participate in real Naval life and see ships in action.

A special mention was made of the Officer Commanding who have commanded TS Tiberon resulting in 100 years of nautical and maritime training in Durban:

Capt M Towhey
Lt Cdr Foddering
Lt Cdr John Wallis
Cdr Gideon Van Zyl
Cdr Dave Jones
Lt Cdr Eugene Van Wyk
Lt Peter Sterling
Cdr Penny Thompson
Lt Cdr James Young

Under their leadership, especially during challenging times, with support of Officers, Instructors, SA Navy, Maritime industry in Durban and parents TS Tiberon has persevered to make a positive difference in

the lives of Durban youth.

Cdr Penny Thompson concluded her address by thanking “the Cadet Officers who over the years have worked tirelessly on the Unit. I don’t think anyone knows how much dedication is needed to be an officer until you are in that position yourself. All units are run by volunteers and the dedication and commitment shown is amazing. I would like to commend all Officers past and present for the impact they have made on many Cadets lives.”

TS Tiberon currently has group of committed and enthusiastic Cadets - 80% of the Cadets are home schooled, 6% are very keen and active sailors, three took part in the 2016 Mirror Dinghy Nationals, four participated in the 2017 Halcat sailing regionals, and the whole Ship’s Company is preparing for the October 2017 Mirror sailing nationals.

May TS Tiberon and her Officers continue to serve the Durban community and provide nautical and maritime training for the youth.



CELEBRATIONS: Officer Commanding TS Tiberon, Lt Cdr James Young, Officers, Instructors, guests and ship’s company celebrate 100 years of providing nautical and maritime training to the youth in Durban.

PHOTO: TRACY CHILDS

The contact detail for both recruitment for cadets and volunteers, as well as sponsorships and fundraising is as follows:

Lt (Mrs) Denise Gouws

Office number:

039-976 0174

Mobile number:

060 680 3449

Email:

info@tiburon.co.za

*With Acknowledgement
Lt Cdr Penny Thompson –
TS Tiberon Centenary speech,
10 June 2017*

*Lt (Mrs) Denise Gouws –
Administrator TS Tiberon*



CONGRATULATIONS: Cdr Philip Miller presents the South African Sea Cadets Foddering Trophy for Perseverance to Lt Cdr James Young to commemorate 100 years of successful nautical and maritime youth training at TS Tiberon, Durban..

PHOTO: TRACY CHILDS

Quo vadis Military Despatches

Editor Matt Tennyson talks about the future plans for Military Despatches and explains the reasoning behind it.

Recently a friend asked me why I had started a new online magazine. He thought that I was taking on too much.

“You already do a monthly online magazine and two newsletters,” he said. “So why take on a new project?”

There are three very good reasons why I started Military Despatches.

First of all, I am passionate about history, especially military history. What could be better than doing something that you are passionate about?

Secondly, I believe that there are many stories that just have to be told. While Military Despatches covers military related articles from anywhere and from any time period, there is a strong focus on South African military history.

I am a member of the Memorable Order of Tin Hats, the Moths. And I am a third-generation Moth.

The Order was started shortly after World War I so that those that fought in the Great War could get together, share comradeship, provide mutual support, and remember their fallen comrades.

Membership was later opened to those that had fought in World War II. It was then extended to those that fought in the South African Border War.

Those that fought in World War I are long gone. There are very few survivors of World

War II left. The bulk of the Order is now made up by those that fought in the Border War. My generation.

Yet none of us are getting any younger. Every year there are less and less of us. And once we go our stories and history will go with us. That’s why it’s so important to document those stories.

The third reason I started Military Despatches is one that is very near to my heart. I want to use the magazine to raise funds.

Military Despatches is free to anyone that wants to read it. People are free to pass it on to anyone they want. And it will remain free in the future.

It could become commercially viable and I could sell advertising in the magazine. But that is not something that I would like to do. Military Despatches will remain free to read and it will remain advertisement free. Yet I would still like to use it to raise funds. For what purpose you may well ask?

I went to a function some time back. One of the people at the function was a veteran of World War II. He was 91 years old.

He was wearing an impressive collection of medals that included the Military Medal. I complimented him on his medals. What he said to me made me want to cry.

“Thank you. But you can’t eat medals,” he said.

This man, this veteran, a man that had given so much could

not afford to eat three meals a day. And I know that there are many like him.

I personally know a number of veterans that are battling. Many of them need medicine that they cannot afford. Some of them do not even get enough to eat. That is the reason why I want to raise funds. Imagine being in a position where we could actually help.

I have joined an organisation called Patreon. They are an Internet based organisation that promotes people that are trying to raise money. They promote a project and people can then become patrons of a project.

Patrons can donate anywhere between \$1.00 and \$500 a month to a project. Now I don’t expect anyone to donate \$500 a month. But I’m sure that there are a lot of people out there that can afford \$1.00 a month. That’s R13, less than the price of a cup of coffee.

So I’m hoping that people will become patrons at some stage and that we can start raising some funds.

The same friend that thought I was taking on too much told me that the idea would never work.

“People don’t donate to anything,” he said.

I don’t know, I have faith in people. And if it doesn’t work I will still continue to do Military Despatches. And it will still remain free to everyone.

Small arms of the Bush War

The South African Border War took place in South West Africa (now Namibia), Angola and Zambia between 1966 and 1990. It was fought between the South African Defence Force (SADF) and the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), the armed wing of the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO), the People's Armed Forces of Liberation of Angola (FAPLA), and Cuban troops sent in Angola. The Russians also sent military advisors to Angola. The weapons on the Angolan side were all Soviet weapons. Towards the end of the conflict Russia was supplying some of their latest and most sophisticated weapons. On the South African side they were armed with weapons that came from countries such as Belgium, France and Israel. As the war continued South Africa needed to modernize much of their equipment. Due to international sanctions against the country this was not freely available. South Africa developed their own arms industry and went on to produce some of the best weapon systems in the world, such as the G5 and G6 cannons and the Ratel Infantry Fighting Vehicle.



South African Defence Force

Star Model BM

The Star Model BM is a single-action semi-automatic pistol that fires the 9mm Parabellum pistol cartridge. The pistol is fed by an 8-round detachable box magazine. It was issued mainly to officers and senior non-commissioned officers in the SADF. Certain units, such as the Military Police, were also issued with the weapon. It was produced by Star Bonifacio Echeverria,, SA in Spain.



Weight:	708 grams
Length:	18cm
Barrel length:	10cm
Caliber:	9mm Parabellum
Feed system:	8-round box magazine
Sights:	Fixed sights

Uzi



The Uzi is an Israeli open bolt, blowback-operated submachine gun designed by Major Uziel Gal in the late 1940s. It was one of the first weapons to use a telescoping bolt design which allows the magazine to be housed in the pistol grip for a short weapon. This made it ideal for the crews of armoured vehicles. It was manufactured under license in South Africa.

Weight:	3.5kg	Rate of fire:	600 rounds/min
Length:	640mm, stock extended	Effective range:	200m
Barrel length:	260cm	Sights:	Iron sights
Caliber:	9mm Parabellum		
Feed system:	25-round box magazine		

R1 Assault Rifle

Until it was replaced by the R4, the R1 was the standard assault rifle of the SADF. It was based on the Belgian FN FAL rifle and was produced under licence in South Africa by Lyttleton Engineering Works. The FN FAL is one of the most widely used rifles in history, having been used by more than 90 countries. A folding-butt version of the R1 was used by paratroopers.



Weight:	4.3 kg	Rate of fire:	700 rounds/min
Length:	1,090 mm	Effective range:	200 - 600 m
Barrel length:	533 cm	Sights:	Aperture rear sight, post front sight, sight radius
Caliber:	7.62 NATO (7.62 x 51mm)		
Feed system:	20-round box magazine		

R4 Assault Rifle



The R4 assault rifle replaced the R1 as the standard service rifle of the SADF in 1980. It is based on the Israeli Galil ARM with several modifications. The stock and magazine are made of high-strength polymer and the

stock was lengthened.

It was produced by Lyttleton Engineering Works (now Denel Land Systems).

Weight:	4.3 kg	Rate of fire:	750 rounds/min
Length:	1,005 mm	Effective range:	300 - 500 m
Barrel length:	460 cm	Sights:	Flip rear aperture and hooded forward post
Caliber:	5.56 x 45 mm NATO		
Feed system:	35-round box magazine		

Bren LMG

The Bren gun was a light machine gun developed in Britain in the 1930s.

It was used during World War II, the Korean War and in the Falklands War in 1982.

In the SADF each infantry section would normally include a Bren gun.

It was produced by Lyttleton Engineering Works (now Denel Land Systems).



Weight:	10.35 kg	Rate of fire:	500 rounds/min
Length:	1,156 mm	Effective range:	500 m
Barrel length:	635 cm	Sights:	Iron sights
Caliber:	7.62 x 51 mm NATO		
Feed system:	20-round box magazine		

FN MAG



The FN Mag is a Belgian GPMG (General Purpose Machine Gun). While it uses the same calibre ammunition as the Bren, it had the advantage of being a belt-fed weapon.

Weight:	11.79 kg	Rate of fire:	650 - 1,000 rounds/min
Length:	1,263 mm	Effective range:	800 m
Barrel length:	630 cm	Sights:	Folding leaf sight with aperture and notch, front blade
Caliber:	7.62 x 51 mm NATO		
Feed system:	Disintergrating linked belt		



FAPLA, PLAN & Cuba

Tokarev TT-33

The Tokarev was the standard service pistol for the Soviet military until it was replaced by the Makarov in 1952.

It was, however, still supplied to countries that were supported by the Soviet Union.



Weight:	854 grams	Rate of fire:	650 - 1,000 rounds/min
Length:	194 mm	Effective range:	50 m
Barrel length:	116 cm	Sights:	Front blade, rear notch
Caliber:	7.62 x 25 mm		
Feed system:	8-round box magazine		

AK-47



The Avtomat Kalashnikova or AK-47 is a Russian assault rifle.
It is one of the most common and popular rifles in the world and has seen action wherever

there has been a revolution or guerilla war.
The weapon is simple to use and easy to maintain, making it perfect for guerilla armies.

Weight:	3.47 kg	Rate of fire:	600 rounds/min
Length:	880 mm	Effective range:	350 m
Barrel length:	415 cm	Sights:	Adjustable iron sights
Caliber:	7.62 x 39 mm		
Feed system:	30-round box magazine		

AKM

The AKM or Avtomat Kalashnikova modernizirovanniy is a modernised version of the AK-47.
The easiest way to spot the difference is that the AKM has a muzzle brake.



Weight:	3.1 kg	Rate of fire:	600 rounds/min
Length:	880 mm	Effective range:	350 m
Barrel length:	415 cm	Sights:	Rear sight notch on sliding tangent, front post
Caliber:	7.62 x 39 mm		
Feed system:	30-round box magazine		

SKS



The SKS or Samozaryadny Karabin sistemy Simonova is a Russian semi-automatic carbine.
It was developed in 1945 and replaced by the AK-47.

Weight:	3.85 kg	Rate of fire:	30 - 40 rounds/min
Length:	1,020 mm	Effective range:	400 m
Barrel length:	520 cm	Sights:	Hooded post front sight, tangent notch rear sight
Caliber:	7.62 x 39 mm		
Feed system:	10-round box magazine		

RPD

The RPD or Ruchnoy Pulemyot Degtyaryova is a light machine gun that was created as a replacement for the DP machine gun.
The RPD has a very distinctive sound.

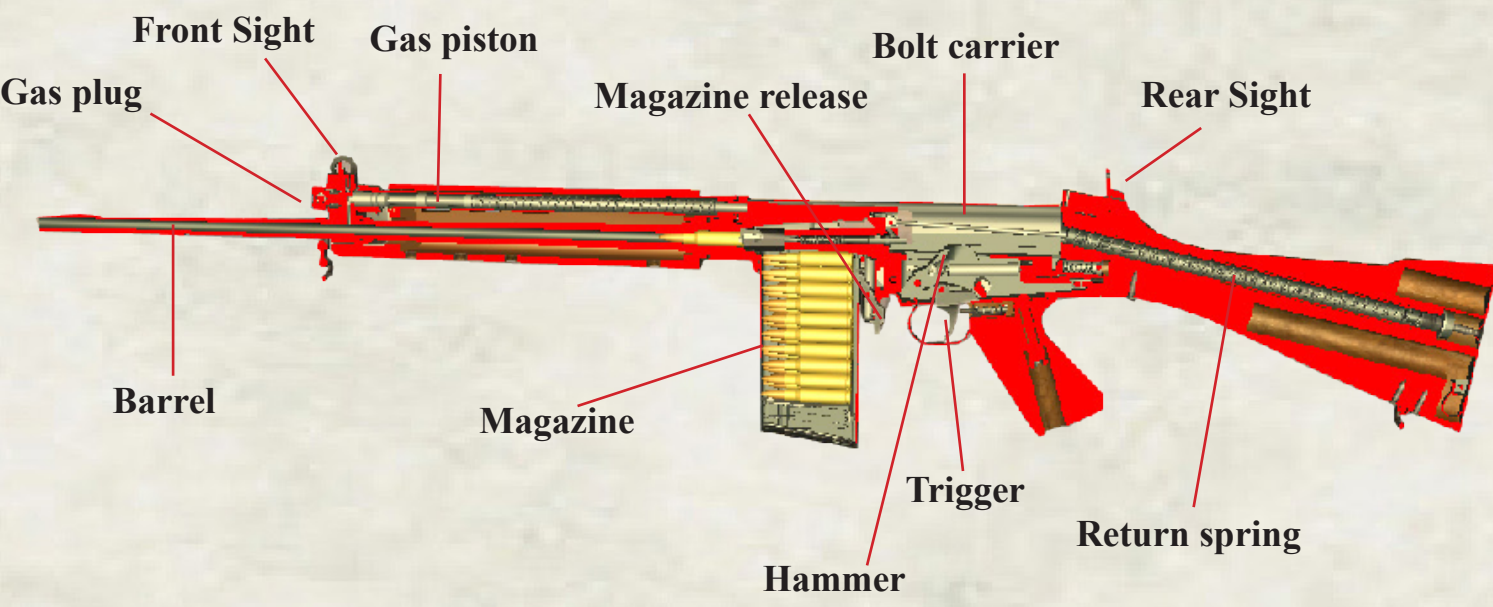


Weight:	7.4 kg	Rate of fire:	650 - 750 rounds/min
Length:	1,037 mm	Effective range:	1,000 m
Barrel length:	520 cm	Sights:	Open-type sights with rear sliding notch and semi-hooded front post,
Caliber:	7.62 x 39 mm		
Feed system:	segmented belt stored in a drum container		

AK-47 Assault Rifle



FN FAL Assault Rifle



RPK

The RPK or Ruchnoy Pulemyot Kalashnikova is a Russian light machine gun. It was created to replace the RPD and is still used by former Soviet Union and African and Asian nations.



Weight:	4.8 kg	Rate of fire:	600 rounds/min
Length:	1,040 mm	Effective range:	1,000 m
Barrel length:	590 cm	Sights:	Iron sights: semi-shrouded front post and rear sliding tangent with an adjustable notch
Caliber:	7.62 x 39 mm		
Feed system:	20-, 30-, 40-round curved magazine, 75-round drum magazine		

RPG-7

The RPG-7 or Ruchnoy Protivotankoviy Granatomyot is a portable, reusable, unguided, shoulder-launched, anti-tank rocket-propelled grenade launcher. It is simple to use and it is the most widely used anti-armour weapon in the world. It was a major threat to SADF vehicles such as the Ratel, Buffel and Casspir.



Weight:	7 kg	Max firing range:	500 m, self detonates at 920 m
Length:	950 mm	Sights:	PGO-7 (2.7x), UP-7V Telescopic sight and 1PN51/1PN58 night vision sights Red dot reflex sight
Barrel length:	590 cm		
Caliber:	40 mm		
Feed system:	Single rocket		
Effective range:	200 m		

Erwin Rommel

One of the best generals of World War II, a man that was respected by both friend and foe, the Desert Fox was a man to be reckoned with.

Regarded as one of the most able tank commanders of the war, respected by friend and foe alike, Erwin Rommel earned the nickname *der Wüstenfuchs* or the Desert Fox.

Johannes Erwin Eugen Rommel was born on 15 November 1891 in Heidenheim, Kingdom of Württemberg, German Empire.

At the age of 18 Rommel decided to join the army. He was rejected by both the artillery and engineers. In 1910 he was accepted into the infantry and joined the local 124th Württemberg Infantry Regiment as a *Fähnrich* (ensign), studying at the Officer Cadet School in Danzig.

He graduated in November 1911 and was commissioned as a lieutenant in January 1912 and was assigned to the 124th Infantry in Weingarten.

World War I

Rommel would go on to distinguish himself during World War I. Rommel was awarded the Iron Cross, Second Class, and was promoted to *Oberleutnant* (first lieutenant) and transferred to the newly created Royal Wurttemberg Mountain Battalion of the Alpenkorps in September 1915, as a company commander.

Acting as advance guard in

the capture of Longarone on 9 November 1917, Rommel decided to attack with a much smaller force. Convinced that they were surrounded by an entire German division, the 1st Italian Infantry Division – 10,000 men – surrendered to

Rommel. For this and earlier actions, he received the order of *Pour le Mérite*, also known as the Blue Max.

In January 1918, Rommel was promoted to *Hauptmann* (captain) and assigned to a staff position with XLIV Army



RIISING STAR: Rommel (right) had already made a name for himself by the end of World War I.

Corps, where he served for the remainder of the war.

Yet Rommel paid a heavy price during the war. In September 1914, for example, Rommel charged three French soldiers with a bayonet after running out of ammunition, only to be shot in the thigh so badly that a hole opened up as big as his fist. Three years later in Romania, he lost a considerable amount of blood from a bullet to the arm, and he also continuously suffered from stomach ailments, fevers and exhaustion.

Between the wars

Rommel remained with the 124th Regiment until 1 October 1920, when he was named company commander of the 13th Infantry Regiment in Stuttgart, a post he held with the rank of captain for the next nine years.

His regiment was involved in quelling riots and civil disturbances that were occurring throughout Germany at this time. Wherever possible, he avoided the use of force in

these confrontations. He decided against storming the city of Lindau, which had been taken by revolutionary communists. Instead, Rommel negotiated with the city council and managed to return it to the legitimate government through diplomatic means.

He was assigned as an instructor at the Dresden Infantry School from 1929 to 1933, and was promoted to major in April 1932.

While at Dresden, he wrote a manual on infantry training, published in 1934. Rommel was promoted to *Oberstleutnant* (lieutenant colonel) in October 1933, and given his next command, the 3rd Jäger Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, stationed at Goslar.

Here he first met Hitler, who inspected his troops on 30 September 1934. In September 1935 Rommel was moved to the War Academy at Potsdam as an instructor, a post he held for the next three years.

Hearing of Rommel's reputa-

tion as an outstanding military instructor, in February 1937 Hitler assigned him as the War Ministry liaison officer to the Hitler Youth, in charge of military training. Here he clashed with Baldur von Schirach, the Hitler Youth leader, over the training that the boys should receive.

Consequently, Rommel was quietly removed from the project in 1938. He was promoted to *Oberst* (colonel) on 1 August 1937, and in 1938 Rommel was appointed commandant of the Theresian Military Academy War Academy at Wiener Neustadt.

In October 1938 Hitler specially requested that Rommel be seconded to command the *Führerbegleitbrigade* (his escort battalion). This unit accompanied him whenever he traveled outside of Germany.

World War II

Rommel was promoted to *Generalmajor* on 23 August 1939 and assigned as commander of the *Führerbegleitbrigade* battalion, tasked with guarding Hitler and his field headquarters during the invasion of Poland, which began on 1 September.

Following the Poland campaign, Rommel was keen to take command of one of Germany's panzer divisions, of which there were only ten. Despite being turned down by the army's personnel office, Rommel was given command of a panzer division. Some say on the personal intervention of Hitler.

His outstanding leadership in France seemed to justify his appointment as a general

and commander of a tank division. During the invasion of Belgium and France, Rommel had proved himself to be a daring and resourceful leader. For his actions he was awarded the Knight's Cross.

North Africa

On 6 February 1941, Rommel was appointed commander of the newly created *Deutsches Afrika Korps* (DAK), consisting of the 5th Light Division (later redesignated 21st Panzer Division) and of the 15th Panzer Division.

He was promoted to the rank of Generalleutnant three days later and flew to Tripoli on 12 February. The DAK had been sent to Libya in *Operation Sonnenblume*, to support Italian troops that had been severely defeated by British Commonwealth forces in Operation Compass.

His efforts in the Western Desert Campaign earned Rommel the nickname the "Desert Fox" from British journalists.

Rommel and his troops were technically subordinate to Italian commander-in-chief General Italo Gariboldi. Disagreeing with the *Oberkommando der Wehrmacht* (OKW)'s orders to assume a defensive posture along the front line at Sirte, Rommel resorted to subterfuge and insubordination to take the war to the British.

In March 1941 Rommel went on the offensive against the British. The British Western Desert Force had been weakened by the transfer in mid-February of three divisions to help defend Greece. They fell back to Mersa El Brega and started construct-



CHEERS: Rommel (left) shares a drink of water with one of his officers somewhere in the Western Desert.

ing defensive works.

Rommel continued his attack against these positions to prevent the British from building up their fortifications. After a day of fierce fighting on 31 March, the Germans captured Mersa El Brega.

Splitting his force into three groups, Rommel resumed the advance on 3 April. Benghazi fell that night as the British pulled out of the city.

The port city of Tobruk held out. Even though it was surrounded on land, they still had access to supplies coming in by boat.

Rommel launched two attacks on Tobruk. One on 14 April and another on 30 April, but both failed.

A series of attacks and counter-attacks followed. First one side then the other was forced to retreat.

On 26 May 1942, Rommel launched an attack on the Allied fortifications at Gazala and the Battle of Gazala began.

Threatened with being cut off, the British began a retreat eastwards towards Egypt in what became known as the "Gazala Gallop".

With this task completed, Rommel struck for Tobruk while the enemy was still confused and disorganised.

Tobruk's defenders were at this point the 2nd South African Infantry Division, 4th Antiaircraft Brigade, 11th Indian Infantry, 32nd Army Tank, and 201st Guards Brigades, all under command of General Hendrik Klopper. The assault on Tobruk began at dawn on 20 June, and Klopper surrendered at dawn the following day.

With Tobruk, Rommel achieved the capture of 32,000 defenders, the port, and huge quantities of supplies. Only at the fall of Singapore, earlier that year, had more British Commonwealth troops been captured at one time.

On 22 June, Hitler promoted Rommel to *Generalfeld-*



NAZI FARCE: Rommel was given a State Funeral and mourned as a hero. Even though Hitler had ordered his death.

marschall for this victory.

Allied strategists feared that if Rommel captured Egypt, the Middle East and possibly the Caucasus would be next to fall. However, Hitler viewed the North African campaign primarily as a way to assist his Italian allies, not as an objective in and of itself. He would not consider sending Rommel the reinforcements and supplies he needed to take and hold Egypt, as this would have required diverting men and supplies from his primary focus: the Eastern Front.

From then on the tide turned against Rommel in North Africa. His defeat at the Second Battle of El Alamein was followed by a series of defeats. Eventually Rommel had to retreat all the way to Tunisia.

On 23 July 1943 Rommel was moved to Greece as commander of Army Group E to counter a possible British invasion of the Greek coast. He arrived in Greece on 25 July but was recalled to Berlin the same date due to the overthrow of Musso-

lini. Rommel was to be posted to Italy as commander of the newly formed Army Group B.

On 16 August 1943 Rommel's headquarters moved to Lake Garda in northern Italy and formally assumed command of the army group, which consisted of 44th Infantry Division, 26th Panzer Division and SS Division *Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler*.

On 21 November Hitler gave Kesselring overall command of the Italian theater, moving Rommel and Army Group B to Normandy in France with responsibility for defending the French coast against the long anticipated Allied invasion.

The death of Rommel

Upon arriving in Northern France Rommel was dismayed by the lack of completed works.

He set out to improve the fortifications along the Atlantic Wall with great energy and engineering skill. He had millions of mines laid and thousands of tank traps and obstacles set up on the beaches and throughout

the countryside, including in fields suitable for glider aircraft landings.

On 17 July 1944, Rommel was returning from visiting the headquarters of the I SS Panzer Corps. His car was attacked by a Spitfire and a 20 mm round shattered the driver's left arm, causing the vehicle to come off the road and crash into some trees. Rommel was thrown from the car, suffering injuries to the left side of his face from glass shards and three fractures to his skull. He was hospitalised with major head injuries.

On 20 July an attempt was made on Hitler's life by senior German army officers. Rommel was implicated in the plot.

Hitler knew that having Rommel branded and executed as a traitor would severely damage morale on the home front. He decided to offer Rommel the chance to take his own life.

If he took his own life Rommel would be given a full military funeral and his family would receive a full pension. If not he would be tried and executed and his family would have suffered. Rommel took a cyanide capsule.

The German public were told that Rommel had died as a result of the injuries he suffered after the air attack.

Erwin Rommel died on 14 October 1944 at the age of 52. Rommel's grave is located in Herrlingen, a short distance west of Ulm. For decades after the war on the anniversary of his death, veterans of the Africa campaign, including former opponents, would gather at Rommel's tomb in Herrlingen to pay their respects.

Military Helicopters

Each month "Forged in Battle" looks at weapons, equipment or units that have been tried and tested on the battlefield. This month we look at five helicopters that were game changers.

Mention the words helicopter and combat and most people will automatically think of the Vietnam War and the helicopter that became synonymous with it, the Bell UH-1 Iroquois, better known as the Huey.

Yet the use of helicopters in war goes back to nearly 20 years before that.

Many people are unaware that the helicopter was first used during World War II. Germany, Great Britain, the US, Russia, Canada and Japan all had autogyros or helicopters.

As early as 1941 Germany had already flown the Flettner FL 282 Kolibri, the most advanced helicopter model of this period and used it in combat for artillery spotting in Russia and for convoy protection in the Baltic and Mediterranean Sea.

Helicopter would go on to play a vital role in warfare during the 20th and 21st century.

We look at five helicopters that were game changers.

Bell 47

It was during the Korean War that the helicopter really came into its own.

During wars prior to this many wounded troops would

die because they could not be evacuated to proper medical treatment in time.

What better method of getting a wounded person from the battle field to a medical facility than a helicopter.

The Bell 47 was ideal for the task of doing medevacs (medical evacuations). Two external litters were fitted to the helicopter, meaning that it could transport two wounded people.

The Americans also established MASH Units. This stood for Mobile Army Surgical Hospital. They were set up not far behind the front lines and could perform emergency operations and provide high care medical treatment.



MEDEVAC: A Bell 47 with two litters prepares to land at a MASH Unit in Korea.

The shorter flying time meant that a wounded soldier could be evacuated and flown to a treatment facility in less than an hour.

The Bell 47 was responsible for saving hundreds, if not thousands of lives during the Korean War.

Characteristics

- Crew: 1 or 2
- Capacity: 1 passenger or 2 litters.
- Length: 9.63 m
- Height: 2.83 m
- Empty weight: 858 kg
- Load: 482 kg
- Powerplant: 1 × Lycoming TVO-435-F1A flat, six-cylinder, reciprocating engine,

- 280 hp
- Max speed: 169 km/h
- Range: 395 km
- Rate of climb: 4.37 m/s

Bell UH-1 Iroquois

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

As in Korea, it was ideal for carrying out medevac duties. Besides the crew it could carry four stretchers and a medical assistant. It could also be used in a more offensive role.

It could carry ammunition and supplies into areas where fixed wing aircraft could not land. More importantly it could carry seven passengers.

This meant that they could deliver troops to an area for combat missions and then evacuate them from the area once the objective was complete.

The advantage was that troops could arrive in the area fresh, without having to first cover long distances on foot. Special air mobile and air cavalry units were established.

While nearly every Huey was armed with a door gun, some tasked with ground attack or armed escort were outfitted with rocket launchers, grenade launchers, and machine guns.

Later versions of the Huey were upgraded to carry more stretchers or more troops.

During the war 7,013 UH-1s served in Vietnam and of these 3,305 were destroyed. In total 1,074 Huey pilots were killed, along with 1,103 other crew members. Although losses were high, the helicopter had proved that it could play an important



HUEY: A Bell UH-1 hovers just above the ground as troops scramble out.

role in combat operations.

Very late in the Rhodesian Bush War the Rhodesian Air Force was able to obtain and use eleven former Israeli Agusta-Bell 205As. They formed No. 8 Sqn Rhodesian Air Force and took part as troop transports in the counter-insurgency fight. One was lost in combat in September 1979, when hit in Mozambique by a RPG. At least another three were lost. The survivors were put up for sale in 1990.

Characteristics UH-1D

- Crew: 1-4
- Capacity: 1,760 kg including 14 troops, or six stretchers, or equivalent cargo
- Length: 17.40 m
- Width: 2.62 m
- Height: 4.39 m
- Empty weight: 2,365 kg
- Powerplant: 1 × Lycoming T53-L-11 turboshaft, 1,100 shp (820 kW)
- Max speed: 217 km/h
- Range: 507 km
- Rate of climb: 8.92 m/s

Alouette III

The Aérospatiale Alouette III was developed by Sud Aviation, and manufactured by Aérospatiale of France.

Portugal was the first country to use the Alouette III in combat. In 1963, during the Overseas Wars in Angola, Mozambique and Portuguese Guinea, Portugal began using Alouette IIIs in combat, mainly in air assault and medevac operations, where it proved its qualities.

Besides the basic transport version (code named *canibal*, plural *canibais*), Portugal used a special version of the Alouette III with a MG 151 20 mm autocannon mounted in the rear in order to fire from the left side door; it was designated *heli-canhão* (heli-cannon) and code named *lobo mau* (big bad wolf).

In the Overseas Wars, the Portuguese usually launched air assaults with groups of six or seven Alouette III: five or six canibais - each usually carrying five paratroopers or commandos - and a lobo mau heli-cannon.

The Portuguese practice was for the troops to jump from the canibais when the helicopters were hovering two-three meters above the ground - famous images of these disembarking troops became an iconic image of the war. The landing of the troops was covered by the lobo mau. While the troops performed the ground assault, the canibais moved away from the combat zone, while the lobo mau stayed to provide fire support, destroying enemy resistance and concentration points with the fire from its 20 mm autocannon. Once the ground combat had finished, the canibais returned; firstly to collect the wounded, then the rest of the troops.

The Alouette III was a workhorse of the South African Air Force (SAAF). It served the SAAF for over 44 years and flew more than 346,000 hours. It was particularly used in South West Africa (now Namibia) during the Border War.

While some Alouette IIIs were used as gunships, the primary role of the Alouette was to casevac (casualty evacuation) wounded troops.



BIG BOY: A Russian Mil Mi-8 operating in Afghanistan during the Soviet-Afghan War.

It was officially withdrawn from SAAF service at AFB Swartkop near Pretoria in June, 2006.

The Fireforce concept was developed by the Rhodesian Security Forces during the Rhodesian Bush War.

Fireforce reacted to enemy ambushes, farm attacks, or observation post (OP) sightings, and could also be called in by trackers or patrols who had made contact with the enemy and then called for reinforcements. Fireforce was first deployed in January 1974, and saw its first action a month later on 24 February 1974.

An operational assault or response usually composed of a first wave of 32 soldiers carried to the scene by three helicopters (G-Cars) and one Dakota (Paradak), with a command/gunship helicopter (K-Car) and a light attack aircraft in support (Lynx). One of the advantages of the Fireforce was its flexibility, as all that was needed was a reasonable airstrip. The helicopters used were Alouette IIIs. The K in K-Car stood for kill. It was armed with two FN MAG light machine guns.

Characteristics

- Crew: 2
- Capacity: 5 passengers
- Length: 10.03 m
- Height: 3.00 m
- Empty weight: 1,143 kg
- Powerplant: 1 × Turbomeca Artouste IIIB turboshaft, 649 kW (870 shp) derated to 425 kW (570 hp)
- Max speed: 210 km/h
- Range: 540 km
- Rate of climb: 4.3 m/s

Mil Mi-8

The Mil Mi-8 was originally designed by the Soviet Union,



TANK KILLER: The AH-64 Apache is armed to the teeth and is devastating to ground targets.

and is now produced by Russia. It is called Hip by NATO.

In addition to its most common role as a transport helicopter, the Mi-8 is also used as an airborne command post, armed gunship, and reconnaissance platform. It is among the world's most-produced helicopters, used by over 50 countries. It is the third most common operational military aircraft in the world.

Large numbers of Mi-8 family helicopters were used during the Soviet-Afghan War during the 1980s. Its rugged construction allowing easier in-theater operations and maintenance.

A large number of Mi-8 were lost with several shot down by enemy fire, with the Mi-8 and its derivatives being the main aircraft model lost by the Soviet Union in Afghanistan.

Characteristics

- Crew: 3 (pilot, copilot, flight engineer)
- Capacity: 26 passengers or 12 stretchers and seat for one medical attendant or 4,000 kg of disposable stores on six hardpoints, including 57 mm S-5 rockets, bombs, or 9M17 Phalanga ATGMs

- Length: 18.17 m
- Height: 5.65 m
- Empty weight: 7,260 kg
- Powerplant: 2 × Klimov TV3-117Mt turboshafts, 1,454 kW (1,950 shp) each
- Max speed: 260 km/h
- Range: 610 km

Boeing AH-64 Apache

The Apache makes no pretenses. It does not carry passengers, it does not evacuate wounded, and it does not transport cargo. It is a 100% attack helicopter.

It features a nose-mounted sensor suite for target acquisition and night vision systems. It is armed with a 30 mm M230 chain gun carried between the main landing gear, under the aircraft's forward fuselage.

It has four hardpoints mounted on stub-wing pylons, typically carrying a mixture of AGM-114 Hellfire missiles and Hydra 70 rocket pods.

The AH-64 has a large amount of systems redundancy to improve combat survivability.

One of the revolutionary features of the Apache was its helmet mounted display, the Integrated Helmet and Display Sighting System (IHADSS)

among its capabilities, either the pilot or gunner can slave the helicopter's 30 mm automatic M230 Chain Gun to their helmet, making the gun track head movements to point where they look.

During Operation Desert Storm on 17 January 1991, eight AH-64As guided by four MH-53 Pave Low IIIs destroyed part of Iraq's radar network in the operation's first attack, allowing aircraft to evade detection.

The Apaches each carried an asymmetric load of Hydra 70 flechette rockets, Hellfires, and one auxiliary fuel tank.

During the 100-hour ground war a total of 277 AH-64s took part, destroying 278 tanks, numerous armored personnel carriers and other Iraqi vehicles.

One AH-64 was lost in the war, to a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) hit at close range, the Apache crashed but the crew survived.

Characteristics AH-64A/D

- Crew: 3 2 (pilot, and co-pilot/gunner)
- Length: 17.73 m
- Height: 3.87 m
- Empty weight: 5,165 kg
- Powerplant: 2 × General Electric T700-GE-701 turboshafts, 1,690 shp (1,260 kW) [upgraded to T700-GE-701C (for AH-64A/D from 1990), 1,890 shp (1,409 kW)] each
- Max speed: 293 km/h
- Range: 476 km
- Rate of climb: 2.7 m/s



STRIKE FROM THE AIR: Members of a Rhodesian fireforce prepare to board an Alouette III.

The Siege of Jadotville

A small company of Irish soldiers faced overwhelming odds against battle-hardened troops deep in the heart of Africa.

Ireland has never owned nor tried to conquer a sovereign nation. As a neutral country Ireland has chosen never to be the aggressor.

Yet in September 1961 a company of 155 soldiers from A Company 35th Infantry Battalion of the Irish Army found themselves under attack from an enemy force of between 3,000 and 4,000. The battle became known as the Siege of Jadotville.

The story begins 1960 when the Belgians granted independence to the Belgian Congo. In May 1960 elections were held and a month later the Congo became an independent republic.

Joseph Kasa-Vubu became the first president of the Congo and Patrice Lumumba was the prime minister. Mobutu Sese Seko was the army chief of staff.

In the resulting strife and chaos following independence, Moïse Tshombe declared the State of Katanga's secession from the rest of the Congo. The Christian, anti-communist pro-Western Tshombe declared, "We are seceding from chaos."

Favouring continued ties with Belgium, he asked the Belgian government to send military officers to recruit and train a Katangese army.

Naturally Belgium and many western countries had a strong

interest in the Katanga Province. Much of the world's supply of copper, cobalt and uranium was to be found there. In fact the uranium for the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima had come from a mine in Jadotville.

The Anglo-Belgian Union Minière du Haut Katanga controlled the mines in Katanga, so it was in their interest to support Tshombe. The last thing they wanted was for their mines to be nationalised by the newly-formed Congo government.

Tshombe demanded UN recognition for independent Katanga, and he announced that any intervention by UN troops would be met with force.

Patrice Lumumba requested intervention from UN forces and UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld sent a UN force under the direction of Irish representative Conor Cruise O'Brien.

President Joseph Kasa-Vubu and Mobutu Sese Seko were becoming worried about Patrice Lumumba's popularity among the troops. They had him arrested and sent to Katanga where he was executed by a firing squad led by a Belgian mercenary.

A Company 35th Infantry Battalion of the Irish Army was part of the UN Peacekeeping Force sent to the Congo. The 155 Irish UN troops, under the

command of Commandant Pat Quinlan, were sent to the mining town of Jadotville, approximately 100 kilometers up country from the main UN base in Elisabethville.

They had been sent to the mining town, ostensibly to assist in the protection of its citizens. But, when the Irish troops arrived at Jadotville, they were not welcomed by the local people, who were pro-Katangese and anti-UN.

Yet it had been the Belgium foreign minister that had called the UN secretary general, reporting that Belgian settlers and the local population were unprotected, and feared for their safety. It is not clear why the Katangese wanted to isolate the Irish UN troops, although some commentators have suggested that the goal may have been to take the Irish as prisoners for leverage in negotiations with the UN.

The Irish troops had a problem. Not only had none of them ever seen combat, they had never even fired a shot in anger. They were also lightly armed with only light personal weapons, a small number of water-cooled Vickers machine guns and 60mm mortars.

Facing them was an enemy that numbered between 3,000 and 4,000. They were made up from Luba (also known as



DIGGING IN: The Irish troops dig in and prepare fields of fire at Jadotville.

Baluba) warriors, and many Belgian, French and Rhodesian mercenaries.

They were well armed. Besides their personal weapons they had both 7.62mm and .50 calibre Browning machine guns mounted on Land Rovers, 81mm mortars, a 75mm field gun and a Fouga Magister trainer jet, fitted with underwing bombs and machine guns.

The field commanders were Michel de Clary and Henri Lasimone, both were French with plenty of combat experience.

The overall commander of the Gendarmerie Katangaise was Roger Faulques. He was a highly decorated French army Battalion Chief, a graduate of the École spéciale militaire de Saint-Cyr, and a paratrooper officer of the French Foreign Legion. He was given leave by French army minister Pierre Messmer, to provide support to the Katanga rebellion.

Yet while Quinlan may not have had any combat experience he was a keen student of

military tactics and history. He had read everything he could get his hands on and he was expecting that at some stage his company would be attacked.

He had noted the deep levels of hostility to his men in Jadotville and began to organise a robust defensive perimeter around their base. The 42 year-old officer ordered his men to dig 1.5 metre-deep trenches, stockpile water and carry their guns at all times.

Quinlan's instincts proved spot on. While most of his men were at mass on September 13, the Katangans attacked.

The attack was more than likely launched because another UN force had seized Katangan positions in Elisabethville. The operation, named Operation Morthor, was ordered by Conor Cruise O'Brien, probably with the nod from Dag Hammarskjöld.

Inexplicably the operation had been kept secret from Quinlan by the UN Command. Another major problem was that the Katangans had also taken a

key river crossing which meant that the Irish were completely cut off from Elisabethville.

Expecting to take the men off guard, the first attackers moved in rapidly but were spotted by an alert sentry. A warning shot by Sgt. Billy Ready alerted the company to the threat. The Irish maned their positions and began to return fire. It was the start of a battle that would last six days and five nights.

The Katangese attacked in waves of 600 or so, preceded by bombardment from 81mm mortars and a French 75mm field gun. The Irish soldiers successfully defended against wave after wave of attackers from their positions.

The fire that the Irish returned was accurate and effective. Mercenary officers were reportedly observed shooting native gendarmes to stem the rout caused in Katangese lines.

Quinlan ordered his signaler to start a radio log. Every message from them to the UN Headquarters was to be logged and vice versa.

Quinlan told headquarters that he was low on both ammunition and water. He also said that they could do with some whiskey.

The Irish beat off wave after wave of attacks. The Irish Support Platoon knocked out most of the Katangese mortar and artillery positions with accurate counter-battery fire from 60mm mortars.

The Katangese asked Quinlan for a cease-fire to tend to their wounded. During this time they offered Quinlan an opportunity to surrender. An offer which he declined.

In the meantime 500 Irish and Swedish UN troops based in Kamma, as well as Indian Army Gurkhas, made several attempts to relieve the men at Jadotville.

The Katangese forces had dug in along the Lufira River, giving them control of the Lufira Bridge. They had heavy weapons and air support. The UN troops came under heavy and sustained ground and air fire, killing several Indian UN troops and wounding a number of Irish troops. They were unable to get across the river.

On the sixth day, with his position untenable, without any clear orders or promise of assistance, having run out of ammunition and food and low on water, Quinlan accepted the second offer to surrender to the Katangese.

At the end of the battle the Irish had suffered five wounded, but not a single one of them died. They did not lose a man.

The Katangese forces, on the other hand, were not so fortunate. They suffered 300 dead, including 30 mercenaries. They also had more than 1,000 wounded.

The Irish were taken prisoner of war and held as hostages for about a month. They were used in an effort to extort terms of ceasefire that would have been embarrassing to the UN.

The were eventually exchanged for prisoners held by the Congolese government of Joseph Kasa-Vubu.

After being released A Company returned to Elizabethville and were involved in active combat again. This time with the support of Swedish UN



CALM BEFORE THE STORM: Commandant Pat Quinlan, far left, poses with soldiers of A Company, 35th Infantry Battalion, in Elisabethville, before the siege.

troops.

After weeks of fighting their six month tour of duty came to an end and they were rotated out of the battle zone and returned to Ireland that December.

On their return to Ireland Quinlan recommended a number of his men for the Military Medal for Gallantry (MMG), Ireland’s highest award for military valour, for their actions during the battle.

But there was to be no hero’s welcome. The surrender of A Company was seen by some as a national embarrassment which overshadowed the men’s courage and competence. Some even thought of them as cowards. The term “Jadotville Jack” was sometimes applied as a term of derision about the Irish Defence Forces.

The veterans of Jadotville were dissatisfied that the Defence Forces refused to acknowledge the battle and that there was an implied black mark on the reputation of their commander. Quinlan, who died in 1997, had his public reputa-

tion restored nine years after his death.

The veterans of A Company reportedly regarded him as an exceptional officer who had saved the lives of his men by ordering them to dig in, and who successfully led his company against an overwhelming enemy force. He was forced into an impossible situation by the apparent failings of the UN leadership. Against the odds, he had saved the lives of each of his men in a battle they had not expected nor planned for.

In 2004 Irish Minister for Defence Willie O’Dea agreed to hold a full review of the battle. A Defence Forces inquiry cleared Quinlan and “A” Company of allegations of soldierly misconduct. A commemorative stone recognising the soldiers of “A” Company was erected on the grounds of Custume Barracks in Athlone in 2005. A commissioned portrait of Quinlan was installed in the Congo Room of the Irish Defence Forces’ UN School.



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”

Who do we belong to?

This month's quiz is by no means easy. There are 15 uniforms and you need to identify which country or unit the uniform belongs to. To give you a bit of help, two of these uniforms are from World War II and two are from the Vietnam War.

Answers on page 47.



Bond van Savannah Veterane

Savannah Veterans Association

Tribulus ad hostem

Savannah Day 42

Date: 10 September 2017

Time: 08h45 for 09h00

Venue: Service at Caltrop Memorial followed by brunch at the Blikkanien Restaurant

Dress: Jacket, tie and medals for service. Jacket and tie may be discarded for brunch

Cost: R120 pp

Payment: Investec Bank

Acc: Bond van Savannah Veterane 1975

Acc No: 50010032989

Ref: Surname & Initials

Please retain deposit slip as entrance ticket

Queries: Marina Valentine

Email: valdupp227@gmail.com



Matt O' Brien *attempts to become shogun and rule Japan with an iron fist.*

If you enjoy a good game of chess chances are you will enjoy Total War Shogun 2. Think of it as chess on a grander and more complex scale.

The concept of the game is simple. It is the 16th Century in Japan and where once ruled a unified government now stand many clans, all vying for honour, recognition, control and for conquest. As daiymo (warlord) of one of these clans, it is your duty to befriend, betray or destroy utterly those that stand in your way as you strive to unite the warring factions and rise up to rule them all as undisputed Shogun - the battle-proven military leader of Japan.

You begin the game by selecting one of the nine available clans. At the start you will control a single province. Besides your warlord you will have a small army.

The first thing you will need to do is increase the size and strength of your army. This you do by recruiting troops from special dojo (training halls). An archery dojo, for example, can train and recruit archers.

If you do not have a dojo then you will have to build one. This costs money, as does recruiting

new units. In some cases you will have to construct special buildings that allow the construction of other buildings.

For example if you want to train and recruit cavalry troops you will first have to construct a horse breeders building.

As mentioned, all of this takes money. You start the game with a limited amount of gold coin. There are various ways of swelling your financial coffers.

The first is through tax. Your province will have a population. Besides your army there are also civilians that pay the tax. You can raise or lower the taxes at any time. This is, however, where it gets tricky. If you lower the taxes your daiymo will be popular and your citizens will be happy. The problem is that you will soon run out of money. You will be unable to construct any new buildings or recruit new troops. An even bigger problem is that you will be unable to pay your army or feed your citizens.

Raise the taxes and you will find yourself very unpopular and your citizens not happy campers. Raise them too high and they could even revolt. A revolt can lead to buildings be-

ing damaged. They will have to be repaired, and again this will cost money. Finding a happy balance with taxes is not easy.

Another way of getting in money is through trade with other provinces. You can build farms, grow crops to feed your citizens and trade any excess crops that you have.

The final method of raising money is by conquering other provinces. When you take over a city you have the choice of occupying it or looting it and burning it to the ground.

Most buildings can be upgraded. Cities and town will start with a fort. These can be upgraded to castles or even citadels. While a castle or citadel offers much better protection and is easier to defend, they cost a lot of time and money to build and they have to be maintained.

Your army is important. It needs to have the right balance of troop type to be successful. You can have a number of armies and some of them should be garrisoned in cities for defence. Other armies should be used to attack and take over other provinces.

Each army should have a gen-



eral. They provide experience and morale to the troops. They can gain experience points in battle and can then be upgraded.

Yari (spear) infantry are excellent at defending. They can take a cavalry charge to pieces if attacked head on. They are not great on offense and are vulnerable to sword infantry.

Sword infantry are well balanced troops. If they can get in among the enemy they can be devastating.

Naginata (heavy) infantry can defend and attack, but are not great at either.

Bow infantry are excellent at range but useless when it comes to melee combat. As soon as the enemy gets close it's time to pull them back.

Rifle infantry are expensive to train and recruit. They can put up a deadly volley of fire but their matchlock rifles are slow to reload and, like bow infantry, they are useless at melee combat. Their unit sizes are also fairly small.

Cavalry units are quick and they can charge in formation. They are vulnerable to bow and rifle fire but once they get close they will destroy these units. Don't use them to attack spear infantry head on though.

Siege units do exactly as the name suggests. They are great for attacking fortifications but are worthless if the enemy gets close enough to them.

Once you have an army you will then move them into another province. The moment you enter another province it is a declaration of war. You can then attack or lay siege to an enemy city.

You can also train and recruit special agents. These could be religious agents that will move into a province and try and convert them, or ninja that can spy on the enemy or even try and assassinate a general.

You can enter into negotiations with other clans and set up alliances or trade agreements. The game also has naval ele-

ments and battles at sea can be fun.

Total War Shogun 2 is one of the best RTS games around.



Publisher - Bohemia Interactive
Genre - RTS
Platform - PC
Score - 8.5/10
Price - R599

The Siege of Jadotville

You've read about the battle, now see the movie.

When Richie Smyth first read the book *Siege at Jadotville: The Irish Army's Forgotten Battle*, he was in his own words, "blown away by the fact the he had never heard this story."

The book was written by Declan Power, one of the Irish soldiers that had taken part in the battle.

"Once I started to learn more, I knew that I had to make this movie," says Smyth.

He secured the rights to the story and penned a script based on it.

The film is about an Irish army unit's role in the UN peacekeeping mission in the Congo in September 1961.

The film opens with the assassination of left-wing Congolese Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba and the outbreak of civil war. As the mineral rich State of Katanga secedes under the leadership of Moise Tshombe, United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammerskjöld assigns Conor Cruise O'Brien to head up a UN peacekeeping mission. Privately, Hammerskjöld tells O'Brien that the Katanga crisis could trigger World War III and orders the Irish diplomat to take offensive action.

Meanwhile, Irish Army Commandant Pat Quinlan commands an infantry company of Irish peacekeepers who arrive at the UN compound near Jadotville. After examining the compound, Quinlan decides that it is wide open to attack and orders his men to dig trenches.

While buying food in the nearest town, Quinlan meets French mercenary Rene Faulques, who has been hired by the mining companies allied to Tshombe's Government. Afterwards, he visits the estate of a Belgian colonist, Madam Lafongagne, who tells him that Jadotville contains the world's richest uranium deposits.

Meanwhile, O'Brien orders UN forces to launch an attack against Government buildings held by the Katangese in Elizabethville. While Indian peacekeepers are attempting to seize the city's radio station, thirty unarmed Katangese are killed by gunfire and grenades. O'Brien orders the incident to be swept under the rug.

In retaliation, Faulques receives orders to attack Jadotville. Katangese forces and mercenaries under Faulques, attack and besiege the Irish. During a brief ceasefire, Faulques vainly demands Quinlan's surrender. Quinlan refuses, and his company is attacked repeatedly in separate waves by the Katangese/mercenary forces. They kill a total of 300 enemy soldiers, and wound 1,000 enemy soldiers, with zero Irish deaths and only 16 Irish wounded.

After many extended waves of battle, the Irish company is forced to surrender to Faulques's troops after running out of ammunition. They are held in a Katangese prison for about a month, then are freed in a prisoner exchange deal and are allowed to go home.

The film was shot near Johannesburg, South Africa and it was released at the 2016 Galway Film Festival where it won a number of awards. Afterwards it was released for worldwide distribution on Netflix.

Jamie Dornan stars as Commandant Pat Quinlan and Jason O'Mara plays the role of Sergeant Jack Prendergast.

If you belong to Netflix this is a movie I strongly recommend.

To watch the official trailer of the film, click on the poster below.



Daniel Roxo: The Phantom of the Forest

I'm no expert, thus it came as a big honour when I was asked by the author, Stephen Dunkley to provide my humble opinion on this book.

Everyone with an interest in the history of this period would like to read this book. It is evident that the author went to great lengths to set the record straight on misinformation and myths regarding Daniel Roxo, a legend in more countries than we can count on one hand. It is clear that Daniel Roxo believed

in what he was doing, and he didn't just fight for his own country, he laid down his life for our beloved South Africa.

This book honours a man that deserves it and it is long overdue. The photographs in the book bring the reader much closer to this extraordinary man. Faintly remembering talks about radio transmissions from Mozambique in September 1974, reading the author's account of Daniel's part in that, made me feel as if I was right

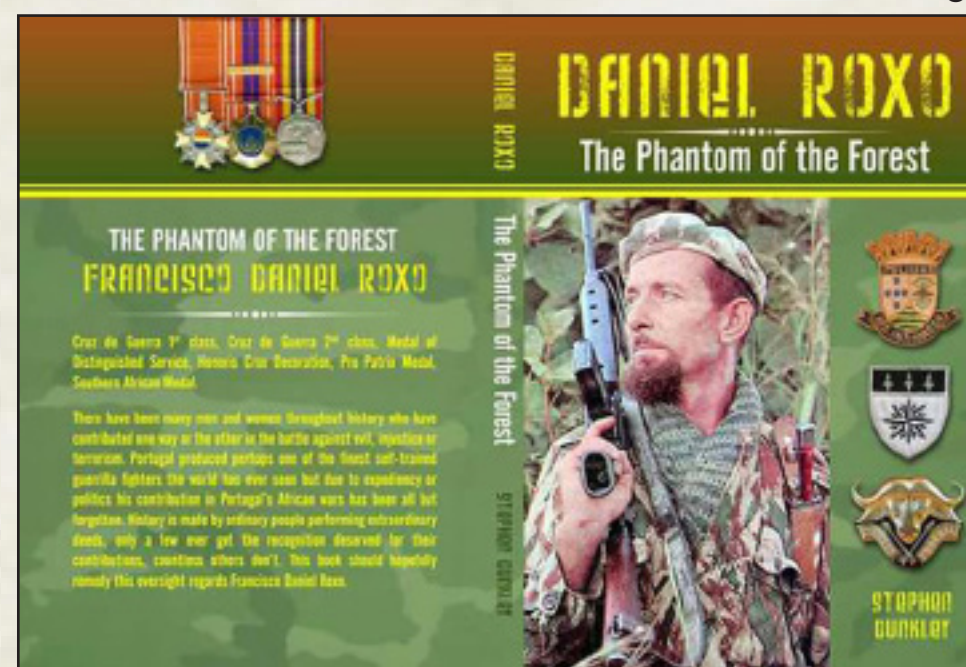
there. A more accurate version of how Daniel came to South Africa and his participation in the conflict in Angola is refreshing.

Daniel's act of bravery that resulted in the citation for HC and the other silent ways in which he not only portrayed his bravery but also the deep sense of leadership are highlighted in the book.

The search for truth regarding his burial filled me with deep sadness. He was a soldier who volunteered to protect our country, he deserved a hero's burial, not the shaded secrecy that surrounded his final resting place.

Stephen Dunkley and every contributor to this book – I wish to salute you all on a great book. The Phantom of the Forest will not only have a special place on my personal bookshelf, it will be on my 'MUST give' gift list.

*Reviewed by: Mara Marx
Bargain books, Shelly Beach*



Who do we belong to - Quiz Answers

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Rhodesian | 6. US Navy Digital Pattern | 11. Chinese |
| 2. Israeli | 7. United States Tiger Stripe (Vietnam) | 12. US Army (Vietnam) |
| 3. Russian | 8. United States Army | 13. South African Police (SAP) |
| 4. British Army | 9. British Army Desert Pattern | 14. United States Desert Pattern |
| 5. South African Defence Force (SADF) | 10. Waffen SS (World War II) | 15. United States Marine Corps (WW II) |

Food, glorious food

It was Napoleon that said that an army marches on its stomach. Yet in most armies, soldiers make comments about the food. Most of it not very complimentary.

I can recall a verse from a song that we would sometimes sing when I was in the army.

*They say that in the army
The food is so divine,
The bread fell off the table,
And killed two friends of mine.*

Now while this may be a cynical little song, there was more than a little truth in it. South African Defence Force chefs, and the term is used very liberally here, came in for a lot of flack.

They were often referred to as ‘fitters and turners’ as in “they used to fit food into a pot and turn it into shit.” Yet to be fair it was not an easy task preparing food for a huge number of conscripts.

Though it may be true that being a chef in the military was no easy task, this excuse did not hold much water with the troops who had to eat the meals. Sean (18) was a rifleman who did his basic training at 5 South African Infantry Battalion in Lady-smith in July 1978. He was not in the least impressed with the food.

We had a tuck shop at 5 SAI and if it wasn’t for that I think I would have starved to death. The first thing that used to put me off the food was the chefs.

They used to wear a white

uniform. It was made from the same material as our browns, but it was white. Most of the time they looked filthy.

We had this one specimen in the kitchens that looked as if he spent most of his day crawling around a sewerage pit. His fingernails were always black and I don’t think he knew what soap was. The very thought that this guy used to handle food made me nauseous.

If a health inspector had ever walked into that kitchen he would have condemned it on the spot. As for this guy I was telling you about, he should have been condemned to death.

We used to eat from ‘vark-panne’, a type of metal tray that looked something like those TV trays you get. At breakfast we would sometimes get bacon and eggs and while this may sound like a good meal, it wasn’t.

Because it was winter the trays were ice cold. They would slap a spoon full of porridge on your tray, then the next guy would slam an egg and two pieces of thick bacon onto it and finally one of them would pour your coffee over the whole lot.

By the time you had reached the table to sit down everything had congealed into a greasy mess. It was disgusting.

For supper we would often get stew, or at least I think it

was stew. Their idea of stew was some carrots, peas, potatoes and a few pieces of meat floating in oil. They must have used a ton of oil to cook with. Most nights I wouldn’t even bother going to supper. I would go to the canteen and buy myself a pie and some crisps.

I must admit though that when we went to the border the food improved dramatically. We had a national service chef there who did all our cooking and he was bloody good. He really put a lot of effort into his cooking and we ate like kings. Where was this guy when I was doing basics?

Of course the troops would often make snide comments about the food.

Steve (19) remembers an incident that left him rolling with laughter. It also earned him seven extra duties.

During my two-year period of national service I was a corporal at 1 SAI in Bloemfontein. One Sunday I was BOS (Battalion Orderly Sergeant) and one of my duties was to visit the troops mess during lunch to see that everyone had been fed and was happy with the food.

One this particular Sunday the RSM of the unit arrived and said that he would accompany me on my inspection. We



EATING IRONS: From left, clockwise. A *varkpan* which translates as Pig Pan. The *pikstel* (pick set) consisted of a fork, knife and spoon. The fire bucket was used for drinking, cooking and even shaving.

walked into the mess and there was about three hundred troops sitting eating.

“Everything all right?” asked the RSM in his booming voice. “How is the food?”

“The food is crap,” chirped a voice from the back of the mess, “not even a dog would eat this shit.”

The RSM immediately demanded to know who had made the comment.

Of course no one was going to own up. The RSM was really furious. He told the staff sergeant in charge of the kitchen that no one was to leave the mess until he returned. Then he told me to come with him and we climbed into his Land Rover and set off for the local SPCA.

He found this really mangy dog and loaded it into the back of the Land Rover.

On our return he brought the dog back to the mess and told them to dish up a plate of food. He put the plate on the floor in front of the dog.

The dog was obviously starving because it wolfed down

the plate of food in about three gulps.

“There!” bellowed the RSM, obviously feeling justified. “You see, this food is fit for a dog!”

With that, the dog sat down and began licking its bum. The same voice that had made the comment about the food earlier piped up, “It’s trying to get rid of the taste of the food.”

Everyone in the place, with the exception of the RSM, burst into laughter. It was too much for me and I was crying with laughter.

“What’s so bloody funny corporal? Are you mad,” the RSM berated me.

I ended up getting seven extra duties for being insubordinate to the RSM, but it was worth every one of the extra duties, believe me. As for the dog, it was ‘adopted’ by the kitchen staff and was aptly named ‘Lunchtime’.

The military also had some really strange methods of selecting personnel. Donald (19) felt that the army ignored his

talents.

When I finished school I didn’t go straight into the army. I received a deferment in order to study further before doing my national service.

So before going into the army I did a one-year diploma at catering school and received a qualification as a chef.

Cobus, one of the guys that did basics with me had also not been called up immediately after he finished school. He had to wait for a year before being conscripted.

During this time he worked for his father who owned a long-distance furniture removal business. So for a year this guy drove huge furniture removal trucks all over South Africa.

After we finished basics we were then told what field we would be employed in. Cobus was told that he had been selected to become a chef. I, on the other hand, was told that I was to become a truck driver. I couldn’t believe it.

We told our corporal about it and his attitude was “do what you are told.” So we went on orders before our company commander. We explained to him what our backgrounds were and suggested that we should swap. I believed that I could be of far more service as a chef, while Cobus was a natural for the position of truck driver.

The company commander said that he would look into it, but I don’t think he ever did. I wound up driving a truck for my national service while poor Cobus ended up in the kitchens.

Christmas, that special time of the year reserved for family



COOKING IN THE FIELD: The 250-man mobile field kitchen was a nifty piece of equipment. Many of the bush bases used these and you could cook just about anything in them - even bake bread.

and friends, good food, goodwill, and exchanging gifts.

Yet for the troops on the border it was just another day at the office. Maybe that statement is a little unfair. The SADF did try and do something special for the troops over the Christmas period.

At the larger bases such as Grootfontein, Oshakati, Rundu, Katima Mulilo, Mapacha, etc., a special Christmas lunch was held.

At the smaller bases this was not always possible because the troops would often be involved with patrols on Christmas Day. In these cases Christmas lunch was usually served over a number of days. Max (18) has good reason to remember his Christmas on the border.

I spent Christmas 1978 on the border. I was with the Signals Corps and was attached to a base called Okalongo in Owamboland. I think 4 SAI was there at the time and I was one of their three signallers re-

sponsible for communications.

Because of the fact that guys would be out on patrol, they had three Christmas Brunches. One was on the 16th December, one on the 20th December, and the last one on Christmas Day. In this manner everyone had a chance to get a decent Christmas meal.

As a signaller I did not go out on patrols but remained at the base camp the entire time. This meant that I was able to enjoy not one but three Christmas meals that year. I can still remember what was served. It was steak, turkey, roast potatoes, corn, peas, and gravy. Afterwards we had trifle and everyone was given two beers or two tins of cold drink. It was kind of cool.

Some of the Christmas lunches at the larger base camps were pretty elaborate affairs and the food was of the highest quality. Certain units had traditions regarding the Christmas meal, as

David (18) explains.

We had a tradition in our unit that on Christmas day the officers and senior NCOs had to serve the troops lunch.

We all sat down at these long tables that were covered with white table clothes and were decorated with Christmas crackers. Everyone got a little paper hat to wear and there were bottles of wine on the table.

Then our OC and RSM led in the officers and senior NCOs to serve the food. They came around with trays and served us individually. It was really great fun.

Our company sergeant major was a scream. He came in wearing his army boots, a paper hat, and a white apron and nothing else. Here he was walking around bare-arsed asking if we'd had enough to eat. I laughed so much that I nearly choked on my food. I think that it was an excellent tradition and I wonder if they still do things like that today?

While most troops, especially those serving on the border, were never really happy with the food, some of them hit it lucky. Gavin (18) explains.

The food at our base back in South Africa was really bad. So when we went up to the border we thought it would only get worse.

The base where I was had a permanent force staff sergeant in charge of the kitchens. This guy was incredible. He would prepare the most amazing meals.

The only problem is that I put on 15 kilograms while I was there.

Take a different look at a career...

Hipe!
media



Every month hundreds of new magazines and newspapers are going online and they all need content. They need someone to write articles and many of them will pay you for it.

Hipe Magazine is offering a three-month online journalism course where we will show you how to write the type of articles that people want to read and magazines want to buy.

And best of all the course is 100% free.



Do you think you have what it takes to become a **cyber journalist**?

It's a perfect way to earn a little extra or even as a new career.

For more INFORMATION send us an e-mail at editor@hipe.co.za with the heading 'cyber journalist' and we will send you all the details.

Hipe!

media

E-mail
editor@hipe.co.za



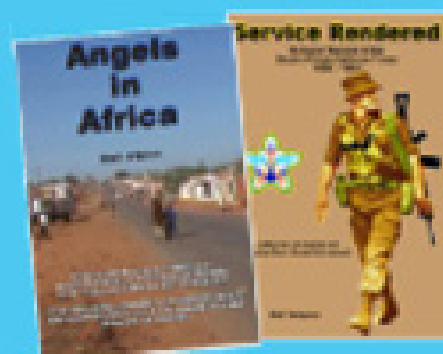
Online Magazines

Flip book magazines with pages that can be turned.



E-books

Produced in any electronic format required.



2D & 3D Animation

Produced in any video format.



Video Production

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



Still Photography

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