



Military Despatches

Vol 31 January 2020

Tank Killers

The most powerful anti-tank weapons

It's a traditional thing

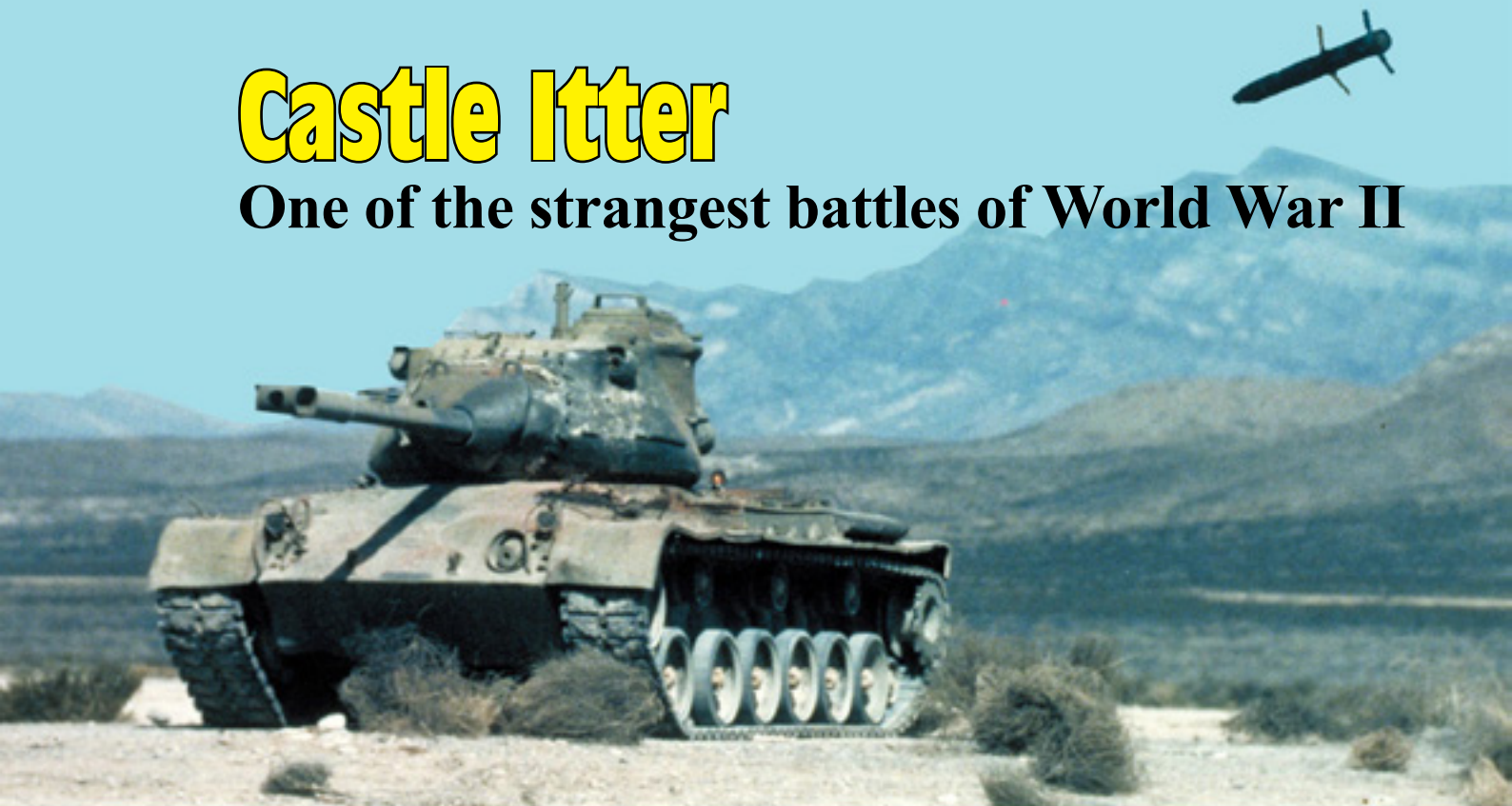
Some strange US Military traditions

The Lanceros

Colombia's Special Forces

Castle Itter

One of the strangest battles of World War II



For the military enthusiast



Click on any video below to view



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



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



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



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



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



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

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

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Editor's Sitrep

It still doesn't seem all that long ago that we were celebrating the new millennium. And now we're already two decades into the new millennium.

It you sit back and think about it, the end of 1999 was quite a big thing and something that not that many people get to experience.

31 January 1999 was the end of the year (no big deal, been there done that), and it was the end of a decade (done that a few times as well). But it was also the end of a century and, with a few odd exceptions, there were not many around that had experienced that before. It was also the end of a millennium, something that no living person had ever experienced before. So, if you were around back then, consider yourself one of a select few.

I still remember that a few journalist mates and I started planning back in 1995 where we were going to see in the new millennium. We eventually came to the conclusion that there was one place we had to be - Times Square in New York City. And when the new millennium rolled in, that was where six of us were.

And I must confess that a good time was had by all.

Now when I look back twenty years later I realise that of the six of us, there are only two of us still left.

I also recall that during my time spent serving in the military I spent more than one Old Year's Eve and New Year's Day in the bush. As I'm sure many of our readers did as well.

2019 has been an interesting year not only in South Africa, but throughout the world. There have been a number of high points, but probably even more low points.

It is said that someone with perfect vision has 20/20 vision. And we're now in 2020, so let's hope that people start to see things a bit clearer. Not only here in South Africa, but in the rest of the world as well.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a peaceful and prosperous 2020 and may you experience blue skies and smooth sailing.

Until next time.

Matt

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Modern anti-tank weapons can kill or incapacitate almost any tank on the battlefield.



Ten strange US military traditions

Throughout history the military has been renown for tradition. Some of these traditions are often seen by outsiders as strange or even bizarre. And the US military has some strange traditions of its own.

One of the definitions of tradition is “a specific practice of long standing.”

Most cultures, religions and organisations have traditions, some of which have been around for thousands of years.

And one of the organisations that is steeped in tradition is the military. It would take a book on its own just to begin describing some of the traditions of various military formations.

Saluting, marching, the awarding of medals and colours, these are just some of the traditions associated with the military.

The British military, for example, has a tradition that on Christmas Day the officers serve Christmas lunch to their troops.

The United States military has many traditions of their own, and here are ten of the strangest.

10. Paratroopers and cherry pies

When troops finish Army Airborne School they’ve learnt everything they need to know to safely carry out a static line jump from an aircraft.

They’ve been taught exit drills, wind conditions, emergency drills, and how to land and roll.

Finally, it’s the moment of truth - the day they get to make their first jump from a plane.

It’s tradition for qualified jumpers to fill the trainees side pockets with Hostess Cherry Pies.

When the trainees jump their minds are focused on everything they’ve learnt in training. When the ground approaches they concentrate on the landing.

Feet and knees together, elbows tucked in, chin on chest, body turned to make a right or left landing before carrying out a roll.

By this stage they’ve totally forgotten about those cherry pies in their pockets - until they look down and see a nice red stain on their pants. Welcome to Airborne.

9. Actual call signs

In popular culture, call signs have really great sounding titles. Names such as ‘Iceman’, ‘Maverick’, or ‘Snake’. They’re always just made up and the story-tellers have no idea of how the military really works.

In reality calls signs are usually unit designations followed by a number to signify who they are in said unit. So the commander of Alpha Company would be Alpha Six and the first sergeant would be Alpha Seven.

It is true, however, that pilots

get unique and personalised call signs. But there is no guarantee that the name will be cool.

Pilots have a tradition of telling stories about the rookie pilot, much like a roast.

Some of these stories are embarrassing, well most of them are awesome and suited to the aviator in question. The squadron then votes on a call sign for the rookie. And the call sign they select is for life.

8. The Grog Bowl

At normal parties it is not uncommon to find a punch bowl. It may even be spiked with alcohol.

Whenever the US military throws a party they have a punch bowl to, only it’s in a toilet. And you get bet your last few bucks that it will have alcohol in it, plus a whole lot of other things that will make you want to gag.

Depending on the traditions of the unit, different people get to add things to the grog bowl. They will then explain why what they are adding has significance to the unit.

You can expect such classic ingredients such as hot sauce because the unit spent time in the desert. Coffee, because of the long hours the troops went without sleep. A cup of salt be-



CHALLENGE COIN: A South African Infantry School challenge coin. This is available at [Bush War Books](#).

cause of all the sweat the troops lost. And a dirty sock, because what would a grog bowl be without one?

7. Blood wings and blood stripes

When a civilian gets promoted or a student graduates, it is normally celebrated with a party or a card that everyone in the office signs.

But when troops in the US military are awarded their paratrooper jump wings, or when NCOs get promoted, they’re going to spill a few drops of blood or even up with a few good bruises.

When a troop is awarded his jump wings the jump master or instructor will pin his wings to his chest. There are, however, no backing studs on the pins. The instructor will then punch the wings hard enough for the pins to penetrate the skin and draw some blood. That’s why they’re known as ‘blood wings’.

When an NCO is promoted they have to sew their new rank insignia onto the shoulder of their uniform. They then have

to pass through two rows of the troops from their platoon.

Each troop gets to punch them on their shoulder. By the time they reach the end of the lines their arms are usually lame and they will sport two big bruises for the next few days.

6. Challenge coin duels

A challenge coin may be a small coin or medallion, bearing an organization’s insignia or emblem and carried by the organization’s members. Traditionally, they might be given to prove membership when challenged and to enhance morale.

In addition, they are also collected by service members and law enforcement personnel. Modern challenge coins are made in a variety of sizes.

Historically, challenge coins were presented by unit commanders in recognition of special achievement by a member of the unit. They are also exchanged in recognition of visits to an organization.

But things get real when troops take their coins with them to the bar. The game goes

something like this. If a troop produces a coin then anyone that does not have a coin has to buy a drink for everyone in the bar that does have the same coin.

If everyone in the bar has a coin, then the person with the least valuable coin has to buy a drink for everyone in the bar.

5. Moustache contests

Military units are constantly competing with each other. And it should come as no surprise that one of the most macho things out there is facial hair. It often gets quantified into some sort of a challenge.

The problem is that the military doesn’t allow most forms of facial hair, with the exception of a very thin, very neat moustache.

Moustache contests usually being at the start of a deployment. Usually when the wives and girlfriends have less say in the matter. There will normally be a time limit, say a month, and whoever has the best moustache at the end of it is declared the winner.

4. The West Point Pillow Battle Royale

The first year students at West Point had a very unique way of dealing with the stress of a military academy.

After their first year of training, students would gather in the summer for a war game in the form of a pillow fight. While this may sound fun, the students would get serious.

In 2015 the students donned

TOP TEN

kevlar vests and helmets and beat the hell out of each other. More than 30 cadets were sent that year to the hospital with serious injuries, despite the strict “no hard objects in the pillow” rule.

After that the tradition was banned and since 2015 there have been no more Pillow Battle Royales.

3. Blasting up the lieutenant's patrol cap

In technical terms a blasting cap is a detonator used to trigger off a larger secondary explosion.

Troops in the artillery will take this term literally when welcoming a new platoon leader.

When the platoon goes off for a live fire exercise with a new lieutenant they will take the officer's patrol cap, either willingly or by stealing it, and place it over the barrel of an artillery piece. When the first round goes off it will take the cap with it.

The lieutenant is then supposed to retrieve the ruined cap so that they can remain in uniform for the rest of the exercise

No-one knows when this tradition began, but since it started every officer has had to go and buy a new cap the following day.

2. The Sword butt tap at weddings

At a military wedding the groom (or bride) will be in full dress uniform, as will any military guests. They carry a sword



HERE COMES THE BRIDE: Fellow officers provide an archway of swords for the bride and groom to walk through. The bride, however, can look forward to a slap on her butt with a sword.

to represent the protection they will offer the new bride.

They will serve as either grooms men or bridesmaids, or they will post guards outside the chapel. After the ceremony they will form an archway with their swords for the couple to walk through.

Then, whoever is on the end on the civilian side, will give the bride a loving slap across her butt with the flat of the sword blade. Not a hard slap, mind you. Just a way to show that she is now part of the military family.

1. The Court of Neptune

Whenever a naval vessel crosses the equator new sailors are initiated into a special club by those that have been there before.

Officially it's known as the “Crossing the line ceremony”

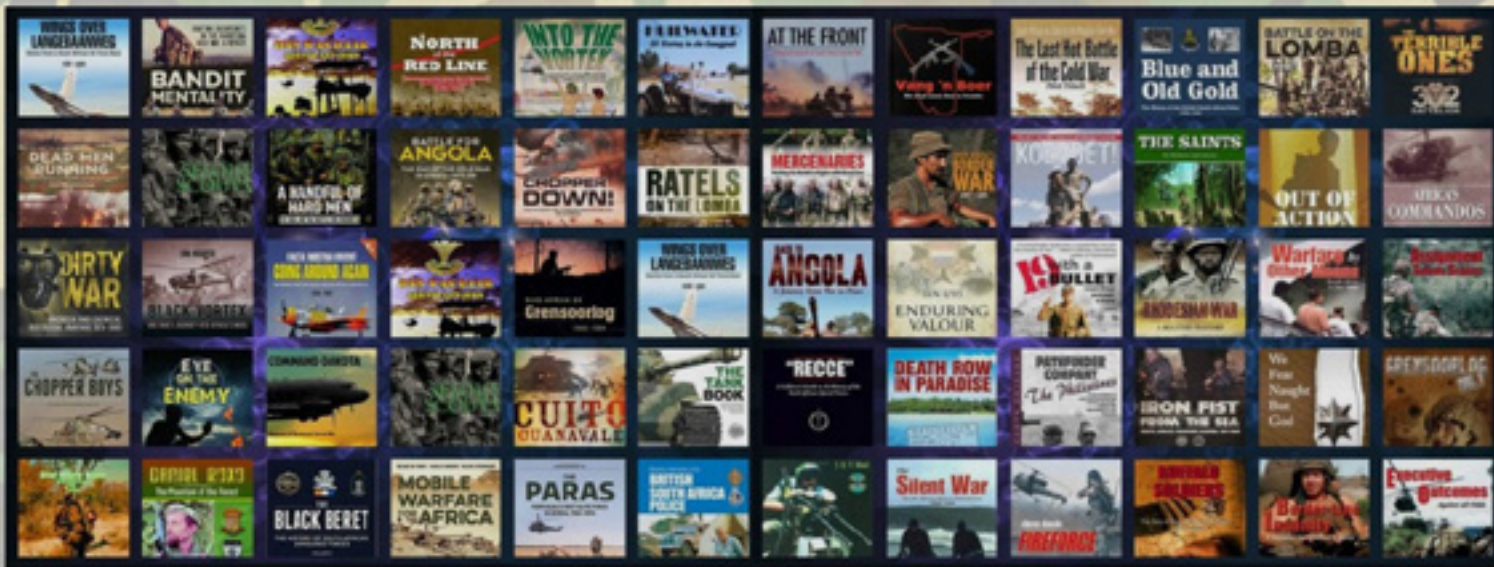
but sailors know it as the Court of Neptune.

The uninitiated, known as ‘slimy pollywogs’, must bow before King Neptune, usually played by the ship's captain. They must entertain the king, his queen, Davy Jones, the royal baby, and the king's dignitaries. These parts are all played by other high-ranking members of the crew.

The new sailors have to do this with a talent show. Regardless of how they perform they are found guilty of being pollywogs and must answer for their crimes.

They are punished by having to eat a really spicy breakfast and by having to kiss the royal baby's greasy stomach.

Only then can they have their slimy pollywogness washed in sea water and finally become trusted ‘shellbacks’.



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

Click [here](#) visit their website.

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

Special Forces - Colombia

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

Colombia, officially the Republic of Colombia, is a country largely situated in the north of South America, with land and territories in North America. Colombia is bounded on the north by the Caribbean Sea, the northwest by Panama, the south by both Ecuador and Peru, the east by Venezuela, the southeast by Brazil, and the west by the Pacific. It comprises thirty-two provinces, with the capital in Bogotá.

Since the Venezuelan War of Inde-

pendence (1811–1823) the country has been no stranger to war, including four civil wars (1860, 1876, 1895, and 1949).

In World War II Colombia ceased diplomatic relations with the Axis powers in December

1941, following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, and finally entered the war on the Allies' side on November 26, 1943, after a series of

German U-boat attacks on Colombian ships.

Despite the declaration, Colombia did not send an army overseas, but its navy was active in countering U-boat operations in the Caribbean.

Colombia was the only Latin American country to send military forces to support the UN effort to counter North Korea's invasion of South Korea on 25 June 1950.

Colombia has been involved in a conflict since 1964. Known as the Colombian Conflict, they have been fighting FARC (*Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia* or Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia),

ELN (*Ejército de Liberación Nacional* or National Liberation Army), EPL (*Ejército Popular de Liberación* or Popular Liberation Army), and IRAFP (*Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias Indígenas*

del Pacífico or Indigenous Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Pacific).

Since 2006 the Colombian military has also been involved in the Mexican Drug Wars. This involvement includes the training of Mexican policemen as well as soldiers and court officers, as well as gathering intelligence.

Colombia's violent history led to the formation of her special forces arm, the Lancers. Much of their operations, and those of the counter terrorism unit AFEU, involve combating the country's drug cartels and insurgent factions.

Lancers

Colombia's special forces unit, the Lancers, was formed in December 1955 during the civil war known as *La Violencia*. The initial cadre for this unit was made up of officers from the Colombian Army who volunteered for special forces training. These men were then sent to the US Army's Ranger

School for training in mobile warfare and counterinsurgency operations.

Having completed the training course, the officers set up an elite force of paratroopers who had the job of finding and eliminating the guerrilla fighters that were terrorizing the country. This was a difficult task as Colombia's terrain is vast and varied, and has many natural obstacles, such as mountains and jungles to hinder progress.

The Lancers quickly became adept at fighting in the jungle against the guerrillas, but could never defeat them – there were just too many. There are essentially three main groups in Colombia – The EPL, EPN and FARC. These groups have a combined strength of almost 5,500 guerrillas plus some 15,000 supporters.

The Lancero's biggest problem is narcotics traffickers. Not only are the drug cartels well equipped with modern weapons, they are also seen by many poverty-stricken Colombians



as good employers. This makes it hard for the Lanceros to acquire intelligence on the guerrillas operating within areas controlled by the drug cartels. The locals are also well aware of what happens to anyone who opposes the drug barons.

Fortunately for the Lanceros, help is at hand from the British SAS and US Special Forces, who provide both training and equipment. They also mount combined operations against the drug cartels. As much of their product ends up in the United Kingdom or the United States, it is not just the Colombian government that wants to stop the drug trade.

All volunteers for the Lanceros are sent to the *Escuela de Lanceros* School for a 10-week course that involves marksmanship, martial arts, forced marches and training in airborne operations. Candidates are also trained to operate in mountain environments and attend a three-week jungle course.

Although their primary mission is counterinsurgency, the Lanceros also carry out intelligence-gathering operations against the drug cartels and search-and-destroy missions on the well camouflaged cocaine plantations scattered around Colombia.

Weapons include the M16A2 rifle with 40 mm M203 grenade launcher, M249 Minimi SAW, HK MP5, Glock 17, Remington M870 shotgun, and Colt Commando.

Weapons used by Colombian Special Forces



M16A2 with M203



M249 Minimi SAW



HK MP5



Glock 17



Remington M870



Colt Commando

AFEUR

The *Agrupación de Fuerzas Especiales Antiterroristas Urbanas* (AFEUR) was formed on 8 April 1985, following a major terrorist attack on Bogota's Palace of Justice in November 1985.

Bogota's main criminal court was seized and more than 500 hostages taken by 30 heavily armed members of M-19, the 19 April Movement. Within this group of hostages were members of the Council of State and Supreme Court as well as ordinary Colombian citizens.

Without any warning, elements of the Colombian Army assaulted the palace and fought a fierce gun battle with the terrorists, killing 20 in the process. However, there was a high price to pay for this rescue operation, with more than 50 hostages killed as well as 11 regular soldiers. In response, the AFEUR was formed as a specialist unit and tasked with hostage rescue missions and VIP protection.

They protect the Colombian



AFEUR shoulder patch

President when he travels, and provided protection for President Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush when they visited Cartagena in 2000 and 2004, respectively. They also provided the second security ring to President Bush's visit to Bogotá in 2007.

The full scope of this unit is not known, and the vast majority of its operations are blacklisted. Reports from the media and official sources state that this unit has been involved in every top profile operation against guerrilla groups, in both pre-

ventive strikes and emergency response actions in urban and semi-urban areas all across Colombia, though details are kept in secret.

The AFEU is a small unit with around 100 operators who are drawn from various elements of the armed forces and police. The unit is organised into six 15-man squads, with each squad consisting of two officers and 13 operators who are all under the direct command of the *Commandante de las Fuerzas Armadas*.

The selection process for the AFEUR last for seven days, and those that are accepted for operator training move to Facatativa, near Bogota. Here they in in sniping, EOD, fast roping, heliborne operations and fast driving. They also learn hostage rescue from aircraft, ships, buildings, buses and trains.

Weapons used include the HK MP5 submachine gun, M16A2 assault rifle, M60 light machine gun, Beretta 92F pistol, and Browning HP pistol.



Live and learn...

Some historical 'facts' we take for granted may not actually be fact. The well-known Roman salute is one of these.

In the March 2019 issue of Military Despatches I did an article titled "Up, two, three, down."

The article was about the origins and history of saluting. In the article it was stated that the concept of the salute probably originated with the Roman Legion. The following two paragraphs are taken from the original article.

We do know that the Roman Legion did have a salute. It was known as saluto romano, a gesture in which the arm was fully extended, facing forward, with palm down and fingers touching.

It was a gesture to show that you were unarmed. A Roman Legionnaire would hold his scutum (shield) in his left hand and his gladius (sword) in his right.

We also know that in 1919 the Italian Fascist Party adopted a military salute that was the same as that used by the Roman Legion (*saluto romano*).

And we also know that from 1935 to 1945 the Nazi salute was used by all civilians and also by the members of the Nazi Party and the *Schutzstaffel* (SS). Hitler himself admitted that the salute was based on the Italian fascist salute.

Yet according to some respected historians the Roman Legion never used a salute such as the one that is commonly depicted.

While the Roman Legion did use a salute, it was not that of an extended arm facing forward, with palm down and fingers touching. The Roman Legion saluted with the hand made into a fist and raised to the chest with a straight arm.

So where did the idea of the straight arm salute come from, and why was it credited to the Roman Legion?

The idea that the Romans used this salute comes from a painting by the French artist Jacques-Louis David painted in 1784. Titled 'Oath of the Horatii', it depicts a scene from a Roman legend about a seventh-century BC dispute between two warring cities, Rome and Alba Longa.

From then on it became common in paintings to show the

Roman Legionnaires using this salute. Yet nowhere in Roman literature, murals or paintings of the time does it show them ever using this salute.



Roman Legion salute



Oath of the Horatii

The origins of the straight arm salute go all the way back to 776 BC. It was the salute used by athletes in the ancient games staged in Olympia.

When Baron Pierre de Coubertin presented the idea for a modern Olympic Games in 1894, the straight arm salute became the official Olympic salute. Due to the salute being so similar to the one used by the Nazis during World War II, it was decided to drop the use of the salute. It was used for the last time by the French team in the opening ceremony of the 1948 Winter Olympics.

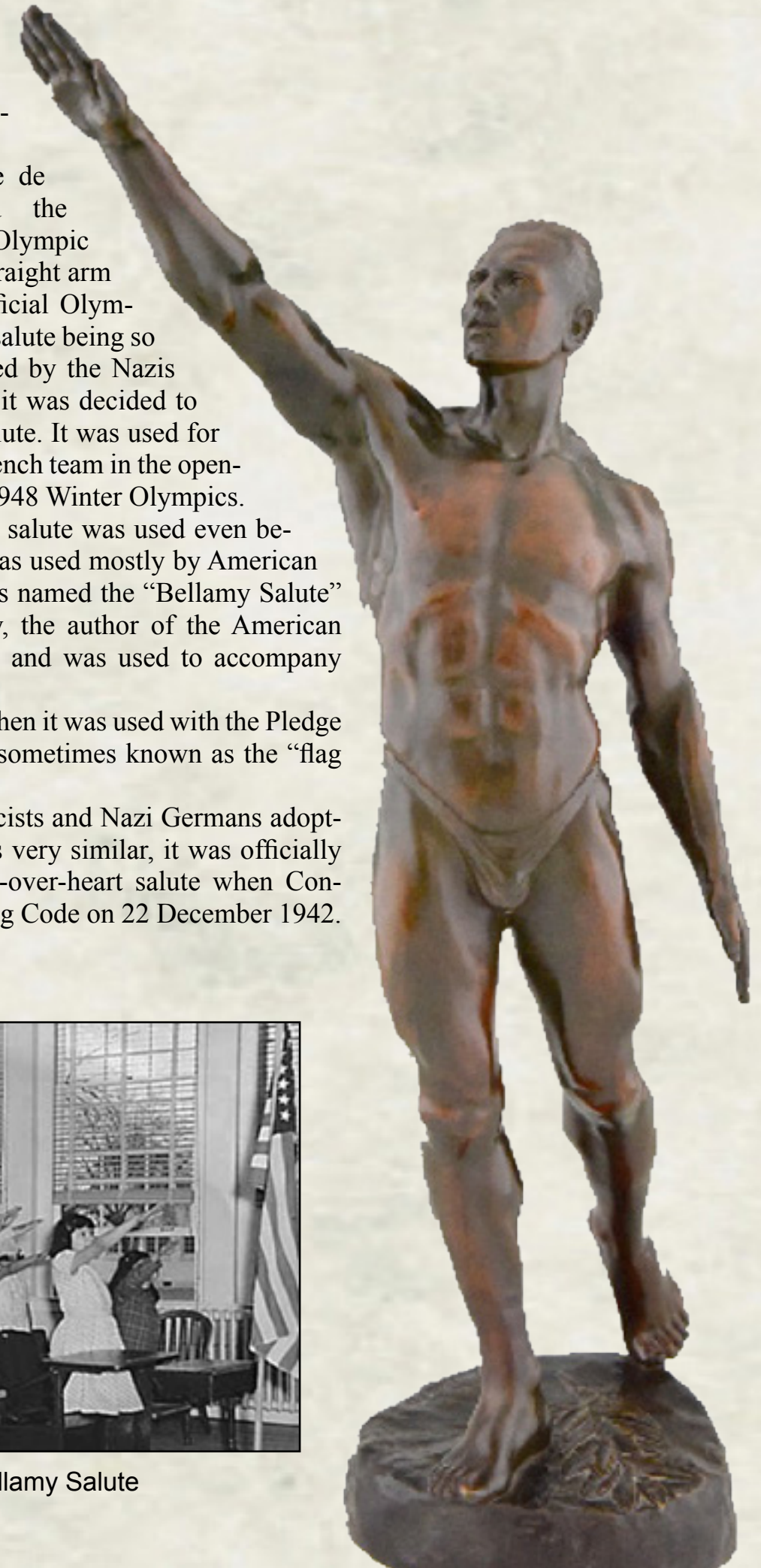
Yet the straight arm salute was used even before that. In 1892 it was used mostly by American school children. It was named the "Bellamy Salute" after Francis Bellamy, the author of the American Pledge of Allegiance, and was used to accompany the pledge.

During the period when it was used with the Pledge of Allegiance, it was sometimes known as the "flag salute".

After the Italian fascists and Nazi Germans adopted a salute which was very similar, it was officially replaced by the hand-over-heart salute when Congress amended the Flag Code on 22 December 1942.



The Bellamy Salute



A 'stitchy' situation

A stitch removed in time saves nine. By Sea Cadet Petty Officer Clayton Cornelius.

I am a Sea Cadet Petty Officer at TS (Training Ship) Woltemade in Lakeside. Here I have learned discipline, seamanship, drilling, sailing, leadership and first aid. We train on a Saturday, some week ends and camps during school holidays. We have serious fun doing this!

After Colours at 08h00 took place we changed into Action Working Dress (AWD's) and carried on with our classes, however this was not going to be a normal Saturday.

All those qualified in first aid were requested to muster in the main hall.

The Western Cape Area Officer, Lt Cdr (SAN) Glenn von Zeil, usually opens the ship's library filled with school's subject study aids from the Answer Series, DVD's and books on naval, nautical, maritime and thought provoking subjects.

The Lt Cdr has a small matter which he wanted resolved without any fuss. He said "So you are the first aiders? Who is brave enough to remove the stitches in my head?"

You can just imagine the shock and temporary horror we all experienced. We all looked at each other and since none of the others looked as if they wanted any part of it, I decided to step up without over-thinking the challenge.

The Lt Cdr enquired how I was going to perform the task and thereafter I went in search



of a pair of scissors, rubber gloves, disinfectant and some swabs from the First Aid kit.

The scissors proved too big and blunt for the task. The Lt Cdr produced a pair of nail clippers and recommended that I use these as he had removed his own stitches previously with them. This is called improvisation.

This was "a stitchy situation". I put on the gloves, disinfected the area and slowly with great patience and skill successfully removed the 6 very tiny stitches from Lt Cdr's head. There was no discomfort to the "patient" I was very nervous in the beginning, but calmed down and centred myself when Lt Cdr assured me that he trusted me and my abilities completely.

The Lt Cdr congratulated me afterwards and indicated that didn't need to go back to the doctor.

He told me after the procedure, "Cornelius, you are one

of the most extraordinary young men I have met in a long time. You have courage! You are a gentleman and I hope you keep spreading positivity."

It meant the world to me to hear those kind words coming from someone who I hold in such high regard.

He also forwarded a recommendation for a Good Conduct Badge (GCB) to the OC (Officer Commanding) Lt Cdr (SCC) Pau Jacobs indicating that a fine task was performed. For me his words of encouragement and thanks was reward enough.

The OC did not award me a Good Conduct Badge....I was recognised and promoted instead! "A stitch (removed) in time saves nine!"

Thank you to the Lt Cdr and OC for making opportunities available to Sea Cadets and always being a motivation and encouragement to me so that I can reach my full potential.



General Knowledge

A general knowledge quiz to kick the year off with. Some of these questions are easy, while some are a bit more difficult. How many can you get right?

Answers on page 91.

1. During what war did Florence Nightingale help to found modern nursing?
2. What was unique about the Battle of Lepanto in 1571?
3. In the Vietnam War, what was dropped from aircraft during Operation Ranch Hand?
4. In 1969, which two countries fought the "Soccer War"?
5. Who was the only member of the South African Air Force to become Chief of the SADF?
6. Where was the first place ever bombed by the South African Air Force?
7. What was the Rhodesian home-made equivalent of napalm known as?
8. By what name are the Russian Special Forces commonly known as?
9. By what name was the German Panzerkampfwagen V better known as?
10. Who wrote the book 'Bravo Two Zero'?
11. Which former heavyweight boxing champion was a German paratrooper during World War II?
12. Which South African army unit was based at Ndukuduku in Zululand?
13. Where did the shortest war on record take place, and how long did it last?
14. What famous American aviation group flew P-51 Mustangs with bright red tails?
15. Who was the first person to be awarded the Honoris Crux?
16. The Tokagyt is the Egyptian version of the Russian Tokarev TT-33 pistol. What makes the Tokagyt unique?
17. What was significant about the Battle of Kursk in 1943?
18. Which big band leader disappeared over the English Channel on 15 December 1944?
19. What does the American nickname GI stand for?
20. The motto of the South African Corps of Signals is 'Certa Cito'. What does it mean?
21. Who was the commander of the Land Forces on D-Day?
22. What were the code-names for the five beaches on D-Day?
23. What was the name of the pilot that dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima?
24. During the Vietnam War, who was known as Hanoi Jane?
25. What was the name of the French underground movement that fought against the Germans in World War II?



The highest honour

While most military forces award medals and decorations, it is the ones awarded for bravery that are held in the highest regard. We look at medals awarded for valour by a few different countries.

The Roman Republic adopted an elaborate system of military awards that included medals called *phalerae* to be issued to soldiers and units for a variety of achievements.

The practice was revived in the Early Modern period, and medals began to be worn on the chest as part of standard military uniform.

Medals may be awarded for a number of reasons and these include campaign medals and medals for long service.

The medals held in the highest regard are normally those that have been awarded for bravery, and most countries will have such an award.

According to many sources, medals issued for bravery originated in the 1700s. One of these was the *Tapferkeitsmedaille* or Medal for Bravery. This was awarded by Austria-Hungary from 19 July 1789 and continued to the end of World War I in 1918.

Numerous awards for bravery no longer exist due to a number of reasons. For example the Grand Cross of Valour (GCV) was Rhodesia's highest military decoration, awarded for conspicuous valour by members of the Security Forces in combat.

The GCV was instituted in 1970 and only two were ever awarded. The first was in 1978 to Acting Captain Chris F. Schu-

lenberg of the Selous Scouts. He had previously been awarded the Silver Cross of Rhodesia (SCR), the country's second highest award for bravery.

The second recipient was Major Grahame Wilson, second-in-command of the Rhodesian Special Air Service (SAS). He had previously won the SCR and the BCR (Bronze Cross of Rhodesia), making him Rhodesia's most highly decorated soldier.

In 1980 Rhodesia became Zimbabwe and the Grand Cross of Valour was superseded by the Gold Cross of Zimbabwe.

One of Germany's highest awards for bravery was the *Pour le Mérite*, also known by its nickname 'The Blue Max'.

The *Pour le Mérite* was founded in 1740 by King Frederick II of Prussia. It was named in French, which was the leading international language and the favoured language at Frederick's court. Both a military class and civil class of the medal could be awarded.

The award ceased with the end of the Prussian monarchy in November 1918.

The military class of the medal was awarded 5,415 times. Notable recipients of the medal during World War I included Manfred von Richthofen (The Red Baron), Ernst Udet, Oswald Boelcke, Max Immelmann, and Hermann Göring -

all of the German Air Force.

Members of the German Army included Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck, Fedor von Bock, and Erwin Rommel.

During the Napoleonic Wars, King Friedrich Wilhelm III of Prussia instituted another award for bravery. It was called the Iron Cross (*Eisernes Kreuz*, abbreviated EK).

It was also awarded during the Franco-Prussian War (EK 1870), World War I (EK 1914), and World War II (EK 1939). The Iron Cross that was awarded during World War II had a swastika in the centre.

There were two versions of the award: the Iron Cross Second Class (EKII) and the Iron Cross First Class (EKI).

During World War I, approximately 218,000 EKIs, 5,196,000 EKIIs and 13,000 non-combatant EKIIs were awarded.

Exact numbers of awards are not known, since the Prussian military archives were destroyed during World War II. The multitude of awards reduced the status and reputation of the decoration. Among the holders of the 1914 Iron Cross 2nd Class and 1st Class was Adolf Hitler.

During World War II the colour of the Iron Cross ribbon was changed from black and white to black, red and white as these were the colours of Nazi Ger-



GROUND ATTACK ACE: During the war, Hans-Ulrich Rudel was credited with the destruction of 519 tanks, as well as one battleship, one cruiser, 70 landing craft and 150 artillery emplacements. He was the only German in World War II to be awarded the Iron Cross with Golden Oak Leaves, Swords, and Diamonds.

many. A new class of the Iron Cross was also introduced - The Knights Cross.

The Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross (*Ritterkreuz des Eisernen Kreuzes*, often simply *Ritterkreuz*) recognized military valour or successful leadership. The Knight's Cross was divided into five degrees:

- Knight's Cross (*Ritterkreuz des Eisernen Kreuzes*)
- Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves (*mit Eichenlaub*)
- Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords (*mit Eichenlaub und Schwertern*)
- Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves, Swords, and Diamonds (*mit Eichenlaub, Schwertern und Brillanten*)
- Knight's Cross with Golden Oak Leaves, Swords, and Diamonds (*mit Goldenem Eichenlaub, Schwertern und Brillanten*)

In total, 7,313 awards of the Knight's Cross were made. Only

883 received the Oak Leaves; 160 both the Oak Leaves and Swords; and 27 with Oak Leaves, Swords and Diamonds.

Only one person was awarded the Golden Oak Leaves, Swords, and Diamonds and that was *Oberst* Hans-Ulrich Rudel of the *Luftwaffe*. The award ceased at the end of World War II.

Since World War II, Germany has seen its military as a defensive force, but during the 1990s Germany began playing a bigger role with its military within the European Union. After the 11 September 2001 attacks on the United States, Germany joined International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan and has continued to deploy *Bundeswehr* troops to areas under combat conditions.

In 2007, the Petitions Committee of the *Bundestag* made a recommendation to create a decoration to recognize mili-

tary personnel for valour.

In 2008, Ernst-Reinhard Beck, the president of the German Reservists Association, suggested the re-establishment of the Iron Cross. However, the historical connotations assigned to the Iron Cross from World War II provoked criticism from some groups.

On 13 August 2008 the *Bundeswehr* Cross of Honour for Valour (*Ehrenkreuz der Bundeswehr für Tapferkeit*) was created. Since the inception of the medal it has been awarded 28 times.

The South African Defence Force (SADF) medal for bravery was the *Honoris Crux* Decoration. There were two distinct versions. The first type, introduced on 6 April 1952, was awarded for gallantry in action against the enemy in the field. Only five awards were made, all to members of the South African Air Force, the first in 1973 and the others in 1975.

The second type was introduced on 1 July 1975 and there were four classes - *Honoris Crux*, *Honoris Crux Silver*, *Honoris Crux Gold*, and *Honoris Crux Diamond*.

The *Honoris Crux* was awarded 201 times. The *Honoris Crux Silver* was awarded 27 times. The *Honoris Crux Gold* was awarded six times. The *Honoris Crux Diamond* was never presented.

The only *Honoris Crux Diamond* Class decoration ever to be produced was donated to the South African National Museum of Military History by the Department of Defence on 21 May 2009.

Major Andre Diedericks of

Special Forces Headquarters was awarded the Honorix Crux Silver on 1 June 1985. In 1976, while a serving as a corporal with 1 Reconnaissance Commando, he was awarded the Honoris Crux.

Captain Arthur W. Walker of the South African Air Force won the Honoris Crux Gold, not once, but twice. He was awarded the Honoris Crux Gold on 15 January 1981. Later during the same year, 29 December 1981, he was awarded a bar to his HCG.

In April 1994 the SADF was replaced by the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). The Honorix Crux Decorations were discontinued and replaced with new awards on 27 April 2003. The Honoris Crux was superseded by the *Nkwe ya Boronse*. The Honoris Crux Silver by the *Nkwe ya Selefera*, and the Honoris Crux Gold by the *Nkwe ya Gauta* decoration.

Most people know that the United Kingdom's highest award for bravery is the Victoria Cross. They also know that the United States highest award is the Medal of Honour.

There are in fact three different types of Medal of Honour - one for the US Army, one for the US Navy, US Marine Corps and US Coast Guard, and one for the US Air Force.

In the remainder of this article we will look at some lesser known awards from a number of countries.

Argentina



Argentine Nation to the Heroic Valour in Combat Cross (*La Nación Argentina Al Heroico Valor En Combate*) is the highest national military decoration in Argentina.

It is awarded for "acts of heroic valour in action in hazardous circumstances".

The medal has been awarded a total of 18 times, with the last award being in 1982 during the Falklands War (*Guerra de las Malvinas*).

Bangladesh



The *Bir Sreshtho* (The Most Valiant Hero), is the highest military award of Bangladesh. It was awarded to seven freedom fighters who showed utmost bravery and died in action for their nation. They are considered martyrs.

The other three gallantry awards are named, in decreasing order of importance, *Bir Uttom*, *Bir Bikrom* and *Bir Protik*. All of these awards were introduced immediately after the

Liberation War in 1971.

Brazil



The Order of Military Merit (*Ordem do Mérito Militar*) is an award of the Brazilian Army, established on 11 June 1943 by President Getúlio Vargas.

The order is presented in five grades and recognizes distinguished service and exceptional contributions to Brazil by members the Brazilian Army and the armies of friendly nations.

The grades, in descending order, are: Grand Cross, Grand Officer, Commander, Officer, and Knight.

Spain



The Royal and Military Order of Saint Ferdinand (*Real y Militar Orden de San Fernando*), is a Spanish military order whose

decoration, known as Laureate Cross of Saint Ferdinand (*Cruz Laureada de San Fernando*), is Spain's highest military decoration for gallantry.

It is awarded in recognition of action, either individual or collective, to protect the nation, its citizens, or the peace and security of the international community in the face of immediate risk to the bearer. Those eligible are current and former members of the Spanish Armed Forces.

Since it was instituted on 1 January 1812 it has been awarded 336 times.

Israel



The Medal of Valour (*Itur HaGvura*) is the highest Israeli military decoration.

The medal was established in 1970 by the Knesset in an act of law as a replacement for the Hero of Israel military decoration.

To this day, 40 medals have been awarded: 12 for actions in the War of Independence (Hero of Israel recipients automatically awarded the Medal of Valour), four for the Sinai War, 12 for the Six-Day War, one for the

War of Attrition, eight for the Yom Kippur War and three others awarded on other occasions.

India



The *Param Vir Chakra* (PVC) is India's highest military decoration, awarded for displaying distinguished acts of valour during wartime.

Param Vir Chakra translates as the "Wheel of the Ultimate Brave", and the award is granted for "most conspicuous bravery in the presence of the enemy".

As of January 2018, the medal has been awarded 21 times, of which 14 were posthumous and 16 arose from actions in Indo-Pakistani conflicts. Of the 21 awardees, 20 have been from the Indian Army, and one has been from the Indian Air Force.

China



The Order of August First is a military decoration of People's

Republic of China awarded by the Chairman of the Central Military Commission, and is the highest military award given to Chinese military personnel and civilians of the People's Liberation Army, People's Armed Police and public security active troops.

Established on 12 June 2017 it has been awarded 10 times.

China



Nishan-e-Haider is Pakistan's highest military gallantry award. "*Nishan-e-Haider*" literally means "Emblem of the Lion" in the Urdu language.

The *Nishan-e-Haider* can only be awarded to members of the Pakistan Armed Forces for the highest acts of extraordinary bravery in the face of the enemy in air, land or sea. Its exclusivity can be gauged by the fact that, since Pakistan's independence in 1947, it has been awarded only 11 times.

Straight Shooting

Every month we will feature two to four modern firearms that are used by the world's counter-terrorist units. This month we feature the Smith & Wesson Model 10 and the Smith & Wesson Mk 22 Mod 0 'Hush Puppy'.

Smith & Wesson Model 10

The Smith & Wesson Model 10, previously known as the Smith & Wesson .38 Hand Ejector Model of 1899, the Smith & Wesson Military & Police or the Smith & Wesson Victory Model, is a revolver of worldwide popularity.

In production since 1899, the Model 10 is a six-shot, .38 Special, double-action revolver with fixed sights. Over its long production run it has been available with barrel lengths of 51 mm, 76 mm, 100 mm, 130 mm, and 150 mm. Barrels of 64 mm are also known to have been made for special contracts.

Some 6,000,000 of the type have been produced over the years, making it the most popular handgun of the 20th century.

After World War II, Smith & Wesson returned to manufacturing the M&P series. Along with cosmetic changes and replacement of the frame fitting grip with the Magna stocks, the spring-loaded hammer block safety gave way to a cam-actuated hammer block that rode in a channel in the side plate (Smith 1968). In 1957, Smith & Wesson adopted the convention of using numeric designations to distinguish their various models of handguns, and the M&P



was renamed the Model 10.

The M&P/Model 10 has been available in both blued steel finish and nickel finish for most of its production run. The model has also been offered throughout the years with both the round butt and square butt grip patterns. Beginning with the Model 10-5 series in the late 1960s, the tapered barrel and its trademark 'half moon' front sight (as shown in the illustrations on this page) were replaced by a straight bull barrel and a sloped milled ramp front sight. Late model Model 10s are capable of handling any .38 Special cartridge produced today up to and including +P+ rounds.

It is also the most common 9 x 29 mm R chambered police weapon in North America.

- Designer: Smith & Wesson
- Designed: 1899
- Manufacturer: Smith & Wesson
- Weight unloaded: 822 g
- Weight loaded: 912 g
- Length: 188 mm
- Barrel length: 51 mm
- Cartridge: 9 x 29 mm R
- Action: Double action
- Muzzle velocity: 323 m/s
- Type of fire: Double action revolver
- Feed system: Six round cylinder
- Sights: Fixed, non-adjustable iron
- Sight radius: 10 cm

Smith & Wesson Mk 22 Mod 0 'Hush Puppy'



- Designer: Carl Hellstrom
- Designed: 1954
- Manufacturer: Smith & Wesson
- Weight unloaded: 737 g
- Weight loaded: 984 g
- Length: 624 mm with suppressor mounted
- Barrel length: 127 mm
- Cartridge: 9x19 mm
- Action: Semi-automatic or single shot repeater
- Rate of fire: 24 rounds per minute
- Muzzle velocity: 274 m/s
- Type of fire: Semi-automatic or single shot repeater
- Feed: Eight round removable box magazine
- Sights: Adjustable, open iron
- Sight radius: 13.4 cm

The Smith & Wesson Model 39 is a semi-automatic pistol developed for the United States Army service pistol trials of 1954.

After the Army abandoned its search for a new pistol, the Model 39 went on the civilian market in 1955 and was the first of Smith & Wesson's first generation semi-automatic pistols.

A modified version saw limited use with Naval Special Warfare units as the Mk 22 Mod 0.

This is presently the standard issue US Navy suppressed pistol for use by the SEAL teams. The Mark 22 Model 0 weapon has a longer barrel which is threaded to accept the Mark 3 Model 0 silencer and a special slide latch for locking the slide shut, eliminating mechanical noise when the weapon is fired.

Special plugs and a long holster were made so that the Mark 22 can be carried underwater without damage. Only the front plug need be removed and the slide operated to allow the weapon to be fired.

The Mark 3 silencer has a

special polycarbonate insert that suppresses the sound of firing. This insert is good for about 30 rounds of the special subsonic Mark 144 ammunition or six rounds of standard NATO 9 x 19 mm.

The accessory kit Mark 26 Model 0 is issued for the weapon and it contains a new silencer insert with 22 Mark 144 rounds. The name 'Hush Puppy' was coined from the weapon's original use, which was quietly eliminating enemy guard dogs.

Next month we look at sub-machine guns.

The Mongol Warriors

The Mongol military tactics and organization enabled the Mongol Empire to conquer nearly all of continental Asia, the Middle East and parts of eastern Europe.

The Mongol warriors who swept through Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and China in the 13th century came from a nomadic tradition that valued mobility and the ability to strike from a distance. Mongol discipline was fierce and the army punished unlicensed plundering with death.

They were organized into *tümens* (units of 10,000 men) centred around an imperial guard. Fighting from horseback, the Mongols were armed with composite bows that had a range of up to 200 metres and a mixture of light arrows for greater range and heavier ones for penetrative power.

Once an enemy had been softened up by multiple volleys of arrows, heavier cavalry armed with sabres moved in to finish off the survivors.



Mongol Helmet

Made from iron, leather and fur, the warrior's helmet had a traditional conical shape, trimmed with a padded roll of fur for a snug fit and protection against extreme cold.



Mongol Boots

A Mongol warrior generally wore felt boots in both summer and winter. The boots provided protection from the bitter cold of the steppes and prevented their legs from rubbing against the horse's back and chafing.

Mongol Armour

Lamellar, or scale armour, was made from overlapping leather or metal strips. Arrows that penetrated the armour would get caught in the silk layer beneath, making it easier to extract them.



Mongol Bow

The composite bows used by the Mongols were made up of laminated layers of wood, horn, and sinew, which gave them greater elasticity and thus a longer range than a simple wooden bow. These bows had maximum strength for minimum length, a valuable attribute on horseback.



Iron Mace

This iron mace dates from the period when the Mongols, under Kublai Khan, overthrew the native ruling dynasty of China and took power. The intricate decoration suggests that it belonged to a warrior of high status.

Various types of short swords and daggers were used by Mongol warriors for close-quarter combat. These are modern replicas in the style of the 14th century.

Mongol Daggers



Mongol Daggers

Mongol warriors protected their precious composite bows by carrying them in leather cases, which were slung on their left side while riding. They were designed to give the warrior easy access to his bow while on horseback.



Quiver

A Mongol quiver was divided into a number of sections, allowing the warrior to quickly select different arrows for different purposes: heavy ones for piercing armour, or light ones for long-range firing. Arrows with scissor-shaped heads were designed to make deep flesh wounds in the bow arms of their enemies.



A matter of survival - Preparing the kill

Over the next few months we will be running a series of articles looking at survival, something that has always been important for those in the military. This month we look at preparing the animal that you have hunted or caught.

In a survival situation you cannot afford to be fussy. No part of a carcass should be wasted.

Careful preparation will give you the maximum food value and make full use of the parts you cannot eat.

Set about it in four stages.

- **Bleeding** - which is essential if the meat is to keep, and without which the taste is very strong.
- **Skinning** - so that the hide or fur can be used for shelter and clothing.
- **Gutting** - to remove the gut and recover offal.
- **Jointing** - to provide suitable cuts for cooking.

Bleeding

Do not waste blood. It is rich in vitamins and minerals, including salt, that could otherwise be missed from the survivor's diet.

Cattle blood is an important part of the diet of many African herdsmen.

Any animal will bleed better if hung with the head down. Tie ropes around the hock (not the ankle - it will slip off) and hoist it up to a branch or build a frame, placing a receptacle beneath to catch the blood.

For a frame you need a strong structure. Drive the posts into the ground and lash them firmly where they cross to make A-frames and then rest the horizontal bar on top.

Bleed the animal by cutting the jugular vein or carotid artery in the neck. When the animal is hanging these will bulge more clearly and should be easy to see.



The cut can be made either behind the ears, stabbing in line with the ears to pierce the vein on both sides of the head at the same time, or lower down in the V of the neck, before the artery branches. Unless you have a stiletto type of knife the latter is best.

An alternative is to cut the throat from ear to ear. This has the disadvantages of cutting

through the windpipe and food from the stomach may come up and contaminate the blood which you are trying to save, but if your knife does not have a sharp point it may be necessary.

It is particularly important to very thoroughly bleed pigs. If blood remains in the tissues, which have high moisture and fat content, it will speed deterioration of the flesh.

Skinning

It is easier to skin any animal when the flesh is still warm, as soon as it has been bled.

First remove any scent glands which may taint the meat. It is also an idea to remove the testicles of male animals, as they can also taint meat.

Before attempting to remove the hide, cut firmly through the skin as explained below.

1. Make a ring cut around the rear legs just above the knee. Take care not to cut the securing rope.
2. Cut around the forelegs in the same place.
3. Cut down the inside of the rear legs to the crotch, carefully cutting a circle around the genitals.
4. Extend the cut down the centre of the body to the neck. Do not cut into the stomach and digestive organs. Lift the skin and insert two fingers beneath, set knife between them, sharp edge outward and draw it slowly



down, cutting away from the body.

5. Cut down the inside of the forelegs.

Now ease the skin of the rear legs from the flesh. Use the knife as little as possible. Roll the skin outwards, the fur inside itself, and pull it down.

Having cleared the back legs, cut around the tail (you should have already cut the genital area). As soon as you can get your hand right down the back of the carcass use your fingers to separate flesh from skin.

Now peel the skin from the front legs. You will have a single piece of hide. As you work your thumbs down the neck they become bloody at the point where the throat was cut.

A strong twist of the head will separate it. Cut through the remaining tissues.

Working on your own

Lifting a large animal takes considerable effort. If on your own you may have to skin and gut the animal on the ground.

To prevent the carcass from

rolling, cut off the feet of hooved animals and place them under it.

Lay the carcass down a natural slope, scoop and impression in the ground in which to place a collecting tin or other vessel so that the animal bleeds into it.

Follow the same pattern of incisions in the hide then skin the animal from one side to the backbone, spread out the hide and then roll the animal on to it to finish skinning the other half. This helps keep the meat from rubbing on the ground.

Skinning small animals

Rabbits and smaller animals can be skinned by making a small incision over the stomach (be careful not to cut into the organs).

Insert the thumbs and pull outwards - the skin comes away easily. Free the legs and twist the head off.

If you have no knife available to make the first incision, snap off the lower part of a leg and use the sharp edge of the break to cut the skin.

Gutting

With the carcass still suspended remove the gut and recover the offal. Pinch the abdomen as high as possible and in the pouch of flesh you have raised make a slit big enough to take two fingers.

Do not stab into the flesh or you may cut through to internal organs. Insert the fingers and use them as a guide for the knife to cut upwards towards the anus.

Now cut downwards in the same way, using the hand to hold back the gut, which will begin to spill outwards. Cut down as far as the breastbone.

Let the gut spill out, allow it to hang down so that you can inspect it. Remove the two kidneys and the liver.

The chest cavity is covered with membrane and easily missed in small game. Cut through the membrane and remove heart, lungs and windpipe.

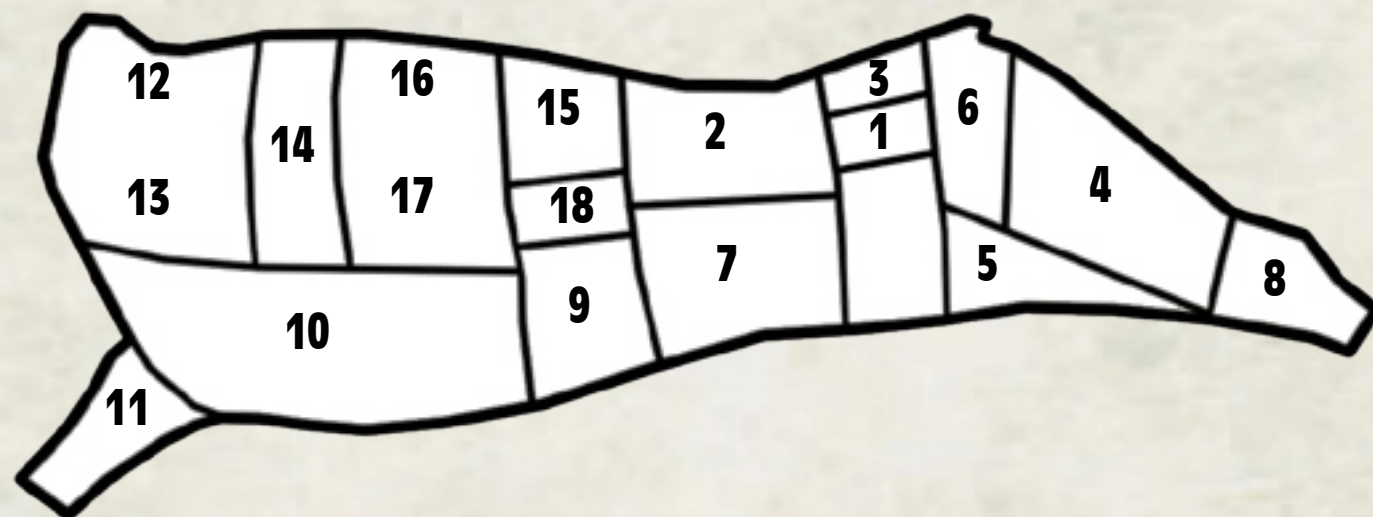
Ensure that the anus is clear - you should be able to see daylight through it (push a hand through with large animals). The carcass is now clean.

Jointing meat

Large animals can be quartered by first splitting down the backbone and then cutting each side between the tenth and eleventh rib.

The hindquarters will contain the steaks (rump and fillet) and the choicer cuts. The forequarter meat is more stringy and needs slow cooking to make it tender.

The cuts into which a carcass is divided will differ according to the kind of animal.



1. **Fillet or Undercut.** The most tender meat. Only one percent is fillet. Ideal for preserving.
2. **Sirloin.** Next most tender. Fat free strips can be cut for preserving.
3. **Rump.** Ideal for frying, little cooking needed. Can also be dried into strips.
4. **Topside.** Muscle from the top of the leg. Cook slowly, it tends to be tough. Cut into cubes for boiling.
5. **Top rump.** Muscle from the front of the thigh. As for topside.
6. **Silverside.** Muscle on the outside of thighs. Good for roasting.
7. **Hind flank.** Belly, ideal for stews and casseroles.
8. **Leg.** Tough and sinewy, cut into cubes and stew.
9. **Flank.** Muscular extension of the belly. Ideal for stews. Usually tough so needs long simmering to make tender.
10. **Brisket.** Same as flank.
11. **Shin.** Foreleg, best cubed for stews.
12. **Neck.**
13. **Clod.** Ideal for stews. Contains less tissue than leg. Cook slowly.
14. **Chuck and blade.** Quite tender but usually cut up as stewing steak.
15. **Ribs.** Ideal for roasting but cook slowly.
16. **Fore rib.**
17. **Thick rib.**
18. **Thin rib.**



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



Rank Structure - Colombia

Over the next few months we will be running a series of articles looking at the rank structure of various armed forces. This month we look at the Colombian Armed Forces

The Military Forces of Colombia (*Fuerzas Militares de Colombia*) are the unified armed forces of the Republic of Colombia. They consist of the Colombian Army, the Colombian Navy and the Colombian Air Force.

The National Police of Colombia, although technically not part of the military, is controlled and administered by the Ministry of National Defence, and national conscription also includes service in the National Police, thus making it a de facto gendarmerie and a branch of the military. The President of Colombia is the military's commander in chief, and helps formulate defence policy through the Ministry of National Defence, which is in charge of day-to-day operations.



Colombian Army

The Colombian Army is the largest of the three service branches of the Military Forces of Colombia, tasked with defending sovereignty and law and order across the national territory.

The tables below display the rank structures and rank insignias for the Colombian Army personnel.

NCO's & Warrant Officer



Soldado Profesional
Private



Dragoneante
Private First Class



Cabo Tercero
Third Corporal



Cabo Segundo
Second Corporal



Cabo Primero
First Corporal



Sargento Segundo
Second Sergeant



Sargento Vice Primero
Sergeant First Class



Sargento Primero
First Sergeant



Sargento Mayor
Sergeant Major



Sargento Mayor de Comando
Command Sergeant Major



Sargento Mayor de Comando Conjunto
Joint Command Sergeant Major

Officers



Subteniente
Second Lieutenant



Teniente
Lieutenant



Capitán
Captain



Mayor
Major



Teniente Coronel
Lieutenant Colonel



Coronel
Colonel



Brigadier General
Brigadier General



Mayor General
Major General



General de Ejercito
General

Colombian Navy

The Colombian Navy (*Armada de la República de Colombia*) is the maritime service branch of the Military Forces of Colombia, responsible for security and defence in both the Atlantic (Caribbean) and Pacific seas of Colombia, the exten-

sive network of rivers inside the country, and a few small land areas under its direct jurisdiction. The tables below display the rank structures and rank insignias for the Colombian Navy personnel.

NCO's & Warrant Officer



Marinero Segundo
Seaman Recruit



Marinero Primero
Seaman



Suboficial Tercero
Petty Officer Third Class



Suboficial Segundo
Petty Officer Second Class



Suboficial Primero
Petty Officer First Class



Suboficial Jefe
Chief Petty Officer



Suboficial Jefe Técnico
Chief Technical Petty Officer



*Suboficial Jefe Técnico
de Comando*
Command Chief Technical
Petty Officer



*Suboficial Jefe Técnico de Co-
mando Conjunto*
Joint Command Chief
Technical Petty Officer

Officers



Teniente de Corbeta
Corvette Lieutenant



Teniente de Fragata
Frigate Lieutenant



Teniente de Navío
Ship-of-the-line Lieutenant



Capitán de Corbeta
Corvette Captain



Capitán de Fragata
Frigate Captain



Capitán de Navío
Ship-of-the-line Captain



Contralmirante
Rear Admiral



Vicealmirante
Vice Admiral



Almirante de Escuadra
Squadron Admiral



Almirante
Admiral

Military Strength

In the sixth of a series of articles, we examine the anti-tank weapons used by the ten strongest current military forces.

Last month we looked at sniper rifles used by the ten strongest current military forces. This month we are going to take a look at the anti-tank weapons that each of these forces use.



10. Germany

Total military personnel – 210,305

Panzerfaust 3

The Panzerfaust 3 (“armour fist” or “tank fist”) is a modern disposable recoilless anti-tank weapon, which was developed between 1978 and 1985 and put into service by the *Bundeswehr* in 1992.

It is the standard infantry AT weapon.

- Manufacturer: Dynamit No-



- Weight: 12.9 kg
- Length: 950 mm
- Calibre: 110 mm warhead
- Maximum firing range: 1,100 metres
- Sights: UP-7V Telescopic sight

MATADOR

The MATADOR (Man-portable Anti-Tank, Anti-DOoR) is a 90-millimetre (3.5 in) man-portable, disposable anti-armour weapon system developed in collaboration between Israel and Singapore.

It is an updated version of the German-Singaporean Armbrust design, and operates on the same principles.

- Manufacturer: Dynamit No-



- Weight: 8.9 kg
- Length: 1 metre
- Calibre: 90 mm
- Effective firing range: 500 metres
- Sights: Night Vision Device on a Picatinny rail

Portable anti-tank weapons first made an appearance during World War II with weapons such as the British Boys Rifle and PIAT, the American M1 Bazooka, the Russian PTRD-41, and the German Panzerfaust and Panzerschreck.

Spike (ATGM)

Spike is an Israeli fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile and anti-personnel missile with a tandem-charge HEAT warhead, currently in its fourth-generation.

It was developed and designed by the Israeli company Rafael Advanced Defence Sys-

tems.

- Manufacturer: Rafael Advanced Defence Systems
- Weight: 5 kg
- Length: 1,200 mm
- Effective firing range: 1,500 metres
- Sights: 10× optical sight



MILAN

MILAN (French: *Missile d'infanterie léger antichar*; English: Light anti-tank infantry missile, milan is French for kite) is a Western European anti-tank guided missile. Design of the MILAN started in 1962, it was ready for trials in 1971, and was accepted for service in

1972.

- Manufacturer: MBDA, MKEK
- Weight: 16.4 kg
- Length: 1.2 metre
- Effective firing range: 3,000 metres
- Guidance system: SACLOS wire



9. Turkey

Total military personnel – 891,300

The Turkish Land Forces make use of no fewer than 12 different types of anti-tank weapon.

M72 LAW

The M72 LAW (Light Anti-Tank Weapon) is a portable one-shot 66-mm unguided anti-tank weapon.

The Turkish Army uses a locally built version by Makina ve Kimya Endustrisi Kurumu, called HAR-66 (Hafif Anti-tank Roketi). Turkey also indigenously developed an an-

ti-personnel warhead version of HAR-66 AP and called it “Eşek Arısı” (Wasp).

- Manufacturer: MKEK



- Weight: 2.5 kg
- Length: 881 mm
- Calibre: 66 mm
- Effective firing range: 200 metres

M40 recoilless rifle

The M40 recoilless rifle is a lightweight, portable, crew-served 105 mm recoilless rifle made in the United States. Intended primarily as an anti-tank weapon, it could also be employed in an anti-personnel role with the use of an anti-person-

- nel flechette round.
- Manufacturer: Watervliet Arsenal
- Weight: 209.5 kg
- Length: 3.404 metres
- Calibre: 105 mm
- Effective firing range: 1.350 metres



MILAN

MILAN (French: *Missile d'infanterie léger antichar*; English: Light anti-tank infantry missile, milan is French for kite) is a Western European anti-tank guided missile. Design of the MILAN started in 1962, it was ready for trials in 1971, and was accepted for service in

- 1972.
- Manufacturer: MBDA, MKEK
- Weight: 16.4 kg
- Length: 1.2 metre
- Effective firing range: 3,000 metres
- Guidance system: SACLOS wire



RPG-7

The RPG-7 (*Ruchnoy Protivotankoviy Granatomyot*) is a portable, reusable, unguided, shoulder-launched, anti-tank rocket-propelled grenade launcher.

- Manufacturer: Bazalt and Degtyarev plant
- Weight: 7 kg
- Length: 950 mm
- Calibre: 40 mm
- Effective firing range: 330 metres
- Sights: PGO-7 (2.7×), UP-7V Telescopic sight and 1PN51/1PN58 night vision sights; Red dot reflex sight



8. United Kingdom

Total military personnel – 157,500

MBT LAW

Man-portable medium range anti-tank missile system and is a short-range fire-and-forget anti-tank missile system.

It fires a High Explosive Anti Tank (HEAT) warhead and is capable of penetrating explosive-reactive armour.

- Manufacturer: Thales Air Defence
- Weight: 12.5 kg
- Length: 1,016 mm
- Calibre: 150 mm Warhead
- Effective firing range: 20 metres to 600 metres



L2A1 ASM

A copy of the MATADOR, (Man-portable Anti-Tank, the L2A1 ASM is a disposable, man-portable guided anti-structure weapon.

It is designed to destroy hardened structures, such as bunkers, buildings and other fixed positions.

- Manufacturer: Dynamit No-



- bel AG
- Weight: 8.9 kg
- Length: 1 metre
- Calibre: 90 mm
- Effective firing range: 500 metres
- Sights: Night Vision Device on a Picatinny rail

FGM-148 Javelin

The Javelin is a disposable, man-portable, short range fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile system. It is designed to “knock out any main battle tank in just one shot by striking it from above”.

- Manufacturer: Raytheon



- and Lockheed Martin
- Weight: 22.3 kg
- Length: 1.2 metres
- Calibre: 127 mm
- Effective firing range: 4,700 metres
- Guidance system: Infra-red homing

AT4

The AT4 is intended to give infantry units a means to destroy or disable armoured vehicles and fortifications, although it is generally ineffective against current modern main battle tanks (MBT). The launcher and projectile are manufactured pre-packed and issued as a single unit of ammunition, with the launcher discarded after a single use.



- Manufacturer: Saab Bofors Dynamics
- Weight: 6.7 kg
- Length: 1,020 mm
- Calibre: 84 mm
- Effective firing range: 300 metres
- Sights: Iron sights, optional night vision unit



7. Republic of Korea

Total military personnel – 3,699,000

Panzerfaust 3

The Panzerfaust 3 (“armour fist” or “tank fist”) is a modern disposable recoilless anti-tank weapon, which was developed between 1978 and 1985 and put into service by the *Bundeswehr* in 1992.

It is the standard infantry AT weapon.

- Manufacturer: Dynamit No-



- Weight: 12.9 kg
- Length: 950 mm
- Calibre: 110 mm warhead
- Maximum firing range: 1,100 metres
- Sights: UP-7V Telescopic sight

M72 LAW

The M72 LAW (Light Anti-Tank Weapon) is a portable one-shot 66-mm unguided anti-tank weapon.

The M72 LAW was issued as a pre-packaged round of ammunition. Improvements to the launcher and differences in the ammunition were differentiated by a single designation. The



- Weight: 2.5 kg
- Length: 881 mm
- Calibre: 66 mm
- Effective firing range: 200 metres
- Manufacturer: NAMMO

original M72 warhead penetrated 200mm of armour, while the improved M72A2 model boosts this to 300mm

BGM-71 TOW

The BGM-71 TOW (“Tube-launched, Optically tracked, Wire-guided”) is an American anti-tank missile. TOW replaced much smaller missiles like the SS.10 and ENTAC, offering roughly twice the effective range, a more powerful warhead, and a greatly improved semi-automatic guidance system that could also be

equipped with infrared cameras for night time use.

- Manufacturer: Raytheon
- Weight: 6.4 kg
- Length: 1.6 metres
- Calibre: 110 mm warhead
- Effective firing range: 3.750 metres
- Guidance system: Optically tracked, wire-guided



AT-1K Raybolt

The LIG Nex1 AT-1K Raybolt is a South Korean man-portable third-generation anti-tank guided missile built by LIG Nex1. It has fire-and-forget capability using an infrared imaging seeker and has a tandem-warhead to defeat explosive reactive armour. The Raybolt has a top

attack and direct attack modes.

- Manufacturer: LIG Nex1
- Weight: 20 kg
- Length: 1.5 metres
- Effective firing range: 4,000 metres
- Guidance system: Fibre-optic data communications link



6. Japan

Total military personnel – 310,457

Type 01 LMAT

The Type 01 LMAT (*01-shiki kei-tai-sensha yūdō-dan*) is a Japanese man-portable fire-and-forget anti-tank missile. Development began in 1993 at Kawasaki Heavy Industries and was accepted into service in 2001. During development, the missile was designated with the codename XATM-5.[4] It

was later known shortly as the ATM-5.

- Manufacturer: Kawasaki Heavy Industries
- Weight: 17.5 kg
- Length: 970 mm
- Calibre: 140 mm
- Effective firing range: Four kilometres
- Sights: Thermographic camera



Type 87 Chu-MAT

The Type 87 Chū-MAT (*87-shiki tai-sensha yūdō-dan*) Chū-MAT is a Japanese laser guided anti-tank missile in service with the Japanese Ground Self-Defence Forces. It had been created as a front-line replacement for the Type 64 MAT, pressed into service with the Type 79 Jyu-MAT.

- Manufacturer: Kawasaki



- Weight: 140 kg
- Length: 1 metre
- Calibre: 120 mm
- Effective firing range: 2,000 metres
- Guidance system: Laser guidance

Type 79 Jyu-MAT

The Type 79 Jyu-MAT (79-shiki tai-shūtei tai-sensha yūdō-dan) is a Japanese SA-CLOS guided anti-tank missile that entered service with the JGSDF in 1984. It was initially issued to coastal defence units, intended to destroy troop and vehicle landing ships as they approached the shoreline. It is also known as KAM-9.

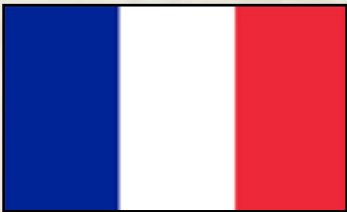
- Manufacturer: Kawasaki Heavy Industries
- Weight: 27.8 kg
- Length: 1.5 metres
- Calibre: 120 mm
- Effective firing range: Not known
- Guidance system: Wire guided SACLOS



Type 96 Multi-Purpose Missile System

The Type 96 missile has a large warhead which can destroy most tanks with a direct hit from the top, but it can also be used in an anti-helicopter role. The missile is guided by an operator with an infrared image monitor in the launch vehicle. An optical fibre connects the flying missile's infrared camera and its guidance system. It can also be fired vertically and the fibre-optic cable is paid out

- from the back of the missile as it flies.
- Manufacturer: Kawasaki Heavy Industries
 - Weight: 60 kg
 - Length: 2 metres
 - Effective firing range: 10 to 25 kilometres
 - Guidance system: infrared homing based on Optical fibre Imaging infrared (IIR)



5. France

Total military personnel – 426,265

MILAN

MILAN (French: *Missile d'infanterie léger antichar*; English: Light anti-tank infantry missile, milan is French for kite) is a Western European anti-tank guided missile. Design of the MILAN started in 1962, it was ready for trials in 1971, and was accepted for service in

- 1972.
- Manufacturer: MBDA, MKEK
 - Weight: 16.4 kg
 - Length: 1.2 metre
 - Effective firing range: 3,000 metres
 - Guidance system: SACLOS wire



FGM-148 Javelin

The Javelin is a disposable, man-portable, short range fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile system. It is designed to “knock out any main battle tank in just one shot by striking it from above”.

- Manufacturer: Raytheon and Lockheed Martin



- Weight: 22.3 kg
- Length: 1.2 metres
- Calibre: 127 mm
- Effective firing range: 4,700 metres
- Guidance system: Infra-red homing

ERYX

ERYX is a short-range portable SACLOS-based wire-guided anti-tank missile (ATGM) used by several countries. The weapon can also be used against bunkers and pillboxes. It also has some capability in the anti aircraft role to bring down low flying helicopters, due to its wire guided system.

- Manufacturer: MBDA, MKEK
- Weight: 13 kg
- Length: 0.9 metres
- Calibre: 136 mm
- Effective firing range: 50 to 600 metres
- Guidance system: SACLOS wire



Missile Moyenne Portée

Missile Moyenne Portée (Medium-Range Missile/MMP) is a French man-portable anti-tank guided missile. It was developed by MBDA Missile Systems and is intended as a replacement for their MILAN, which has been sold worldwide.

- Manufacturer: MBDA
- Weight: 15 kg
- Length: 1.3 metres
- Calibre: 140 mm
- Effective firing range: 5,000 metres
- Guidance system: Infrared homing, television guidance





4. India

Total military personnel – 2,598,921

The Indian Army make use of no fewer than 12 different types of anti-tank weapon.

NAG

The Nag missile, also called Prospina for the land attack version, is an Indian third generation all weather fire-and-forget, lock-on after launch anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) with an operational range of 500m-20km.

It will replace majority of Anti-tank missile in Indian Army.



- Manufacturer: Bharat Dynamics Limited
- Weight: 43 kg
- Length: 1.85 metres
- Calibre: 140 mm
- Effective firing range: 500 metres to 20 kilometres
- Guidance system: Imaging infra-red (IIR) mid-course update millimetric wave active radar homing

MILAN

MILAN (French: *Missile d'infanterie léger antichar*; English: Light anti-tank infantry missile, milan is French for kite) is a Western European anti-tank guided missile. Design of the MILAN started in 1962, it was ready for trials in 1971, and was accepted for service in

1972.

- Manufacturer: MBDA, MKEK
- Weight: 16.4 kg
- Length: 1.2 metre
- Effective firing range: 3,000 metres
- Guidance system: SACLOS wire



9M133 Kornet

The 9M133 Kornet (Russian: Корнет; "Cornet", NATO reporting name AT-14 Spriggan, export designation Kornet-E) is a modern Russian man-portable anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) intended for use against main battle tanks. It was first introduced into service

with the Russian Army in 1998.

- Manufacturer: Degtyarev plant
- Weight: 63.7 kg
- Length: 1.2 metre
- Effective firing range: 150 to 10,000 metres
- Guidance system: SACLOS laser beam riding



9K114 Shturm

9K114 Shturm is a SACLOS radio guided anti-tank missile system of the Soviet Union. Its GRAU designation is 9K114.

Its NATO reporting name is AT-6 Spiral. The missile itself is known as the 9M114 Kokon (Cocoon).

- Manufacturer: Degtyarev plant



- Weight: 31.4 kg
- Length: 1,625 mm
- Calibre: 140 mm
- Effective firing range: 400 to 5,000 metres
- Guidance system: Radio command link Semi-automatic command to line of sight



3. China

Total military personnel – 2,545,000

PF-98

The Type 98 (PF-98) is a 120mm unguided anti-tank rocket system developed by Norinco for the People's Liberation Army as a successor to the Type 65 and Type 78 recoilless guns. It is also known by

its nickname, "Queen Bee".

- Manufacturer: Norinco
- Weight: 10 kg
- Length: 1,191 mm
- Effective firing range: 800 metres
- Sights: optical / 4 × optical



PF-89

The PF-89 or Type 89 is a portable, disposable, unguided, shoulder-launched, anti-tank rocket-propelled rocket launcher. Developed by Norinco for People's Liberation Army, PF-89 was designed to replace the obsolete Type 69 RPG, providing a man-portable, single-use assault weapon system that could be used primarily by infantry squads in order to engage



and defeat light armour and bunkers.

- Manufacturer: Norinco
- Weight: 3.7 kg
- Length: 900 mm
- Calibre: 80 mm
- Effective firing range: 100 to 250 metres
- Sights: optical 1x (day sight)

DZJ-08

The DZJ-08 is a portable, disposable, unguided, shoulder-launched, multi-purpose recoilless smoothbore rifle. The weapon is designed as a multi-role assault weapon aiming to provide anti-armour, anti-fortification, anti-personnel capability.



- Manufacturer: Norinco
- Weight: 7.6 kg
- Length: 971 mm
- Calibre: 80 mm
- Effective firing range: 25 to 200 metres
- Sights: optical 1×/3 × day sight

Type 69 RPG

The Type 69 85mm rocket propelled grenade (RPG), made by Norinco, is a Chinese variant of the Soviet RPG-7. First introduced in 1972, the Type 69 is a common individual anti-tank weapon in service with the PLA.



- Length: 950 mm
- Calibre: 40 mm
- Effective firing range: 330 metres
- Sights: PGO-7 (2.7×), UP-7V Telescopic sight and 1PN51/1PN58 night vision sights; Red dot reflex sight

- Manufacturer: Norinco
- Weight: 7 kg



2. Russia

Total military personnel – 3,586,128

9K111 Fagot

The 9K111 Fagot is a second-generation tube-launched SACLOS wire-guided anti-tank missile system of the Soviet Union for use from ground or vehicle mounts.

The 9K111 Fagot missile system was developed by the Tula KBP Design Bureau for Instrument Building. “9M111” is the

GRAU designation of the missile. Its NATO reporting name is AT-4 Spigot.

- Manufacturer: Tula KBP
- Weight: 12.5 kg
- Length: 1,100 mm
- Effective firing range: 70 to 2,500 metres
- Guidance system: SACLOS wire-guided missile



9M113 Konkurs

A development of the 9K111 Fagot with greater firepower, the 9M113 Konkurs can use the same launchers and is very similar visually, distinguishable only by a slight bulge towards the end of the Konkurs’ missile tube. Its NATO reporting name is AT-5 Spandrel

- Manufacturer: Tula KBP
- Weight: 22.5 kg
- Length: 1,150 mm
- Effective firing range: 70 metres to four kilometres
- Guidance system: Wire-guided SACLOS



9K115-2 Metis-M

The 9K115-2 Metis-M is a Russian anti-tank missile system. “9K115-2” is the GRAU designation of the missile system. Its NATO reporting name is AT-13 Saxhorn-2. The system is designed to augment the combat power of company-level motorized units.

- Manufacturer: Tula KBP
- Weight: 13.8 kg
- Length: 980 mm
- Effective firing range: 1.5 kilometres
- Guidance system: Wire-guided SACLOS



9M133 Kornet

The 9M133 Kornet (Russian: Корнет; “Cornet”, NATO reporting name AT-14 Spriggan, export designation Kornet-E) is a modern Russian man-portable anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) intended for use against main battle tanks. It was first introduced into service

with the Russian Army in 1998.

- Manufacturer: Degtyarev plant
- Weight: 63.7 kg
- Length: 1.2 metre
- Effective firing range: 150 to 10,000 metres
- Guidance system: SACLOS laser beam riding





1. United States

Total military personnel – 4,397,128

AT4

The AT4 is intended to give infantry units a means to destroy or disable armoured vehicles and fortifications, although it is generally ineffective against current modern main battle tanks (MBT). The launcher and projectile are manufactured pre-packed and issued as a single unit of ammunition, with the launcher discarded after a single use.



- Manufacturer: Saab Bofors Dynamics
- Weight: 6.7 kg
- Length: 1,020 mm
- Calibre: 84 mm
- Effective firing range: 300 metres
- Sights: Iron sights, optional night vision unit

M72 LAW

The M72 LAW (Light Anti-Tank Weapon) is a portable one-shot 66-mm unguided anti-tank weapon.

In early 1963, the M72 LAW was adopted by the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps as their primary individual infantry anti-tank weapon, replacing the M31 HEAT rifle grenade and



- the M20A1 “Super Bazooka” in the U.S. Army.
- Manufacturer: NAMMO
- Weight: 2.5 kg
- Length: 881 mm
- Calibre: 66 mm
- Effective firing range: 200 metres

BGM-71 TOW

The BGM-71 TOW (“Tube-launched, Optically tracked, Wire-guided”) is an American anti-tank missile. TOW replaced much smaller missiles like the SS.10 and ENTAC, offering roughly twice the effective range, a more powerful warhead, and a greatly improved semi-automatic guidance system that could also be

equipped with infrared cameras for night time use.

- Manufacturer: Raytheon
- Weight: 6.4 kg
- Length: 1.6 metres
- Calibre: 110 mm warhead
- Effective firing range: 3.750 metres
- Guidance system: Optically tracked, wire-guided



FGM-148 Javelin

The Javelin is a disposable, man-portable, short range fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile system. It is designed to “knock out any main battle tank in just one shot by striking it from above”.



- Manufacturer: Raytheon and Lockheed Martin
- Weight: 22.3 kg
- Length: 1.2 metres
- Calibre: 127 mm
- Effective firing range: 4,700 metres
- Guidance system: Infra-red homing

NO CHANCE: An Iraqi T-55 tank destroyed by an American TOW anti-tank missile. Modern anti-tank missiles mean that a single soldier can now take on and destroy or at least incapacitate a tank or armoured vehicle.



Chris Ryan MM

Author, television presenter, security consultant, former Special Air Service sergeant, and member of the famous 'Bravo Two Zero' incident, Chris Ryan has made a name for himself.

While he may not have been a Rommel, Patton or Montgomery, Chris Ryan had still made his mark in military history.

Although Chris Ryan is the name that he uses and is best known by, it is actually a pseudonym and pen-name. His actual name is Colin Armstrong.

Early Life

Chris Ryan was born in 1961 in Rowlands Gill in County Durham.

After attending Hookergate School, he enrolled in the British Army at the age of 16. Ryan's cousin was a member of the reservist 23 SAS Regiment and invited Ryan to come up and "see what it's like to be in the army".

Ryan did this nearly every weekend, almost passing selection several times, but he was too young to continue and do 'test week'.

When he was old enough, he passed selection into 23 SAS. Shortly after that he began selection for the regular 22 SAS Regiment and joined 'B' Squadron as a medic.

Needing a parent regiment, Ryan and a soldier who had joined

22 SAS from the Royal Navy, spent eight weeks with the Parachute Regiment before returning to 'B' Squadron.

He spent the next seven years carrying out both covert and overt operations with the SAS around the world.

Journalist John Pilger wrote in October 2009, "Incredibly, the Thatcher government had continued to support the defunct Pol Pot regime in the United Nations and even sent the SAS to

train his exiled troops in camps in Thailand and Malaysia."

In March 2009 Ryan admitted that "when John Pilger, the foreign correspondent, discovered we were training the Khmer Rouge [we] were sent home and I had to return the £10,000 we'd been given for food and accommodation."

Bravo Two Zero

Bravo Two Zero was the call sign of an eight-man British Army Special Air Service (SAS) patrol, deployed into Iraq during the First Gulf War in January 1991.

According to Chris Ryan's account, the patrol was given the task of gathering intelligence, finding a good lying-up position (LUP) and setting up an observation post on the Iraqi Main Supply Route (MSR)

between Baghdad and North-Western Iraq; however, according to Andy McNab's account, the task was to find and destroy Iraqi Scud missile launchers along a 250 km stretch of the MSR.

The patrol consisted of:

- Sergeant Steven Billy Mitchell, DCM, MM, patrol commander (known by the pseudonym Andy McNab).
- Sergeant Vincent David Phillips, patrol 2IC.
- Corporal Colin Armstrong MM (Chris Ryan).
- Lance Corporal Ian Robert "Dinger" Pring.
- Trooper Robert Gaspare Consiglio, MM (posthumous).
- Trooper Steven John "Legs" Lane, MM (posthumous).
- Trooper Malcolm Graham MacGown, BDSc.
- Trooper Mike "Kiwi" Coburn (pseudonym).

On the night of 22/23 January, the patrol were transported into Iraqi airspace by a RAF Chinook helicopter, along with Bravo Three Zero and their Land Rover 110 vehicles.

Unlike Bravo Three Zero, the patrol had decided not to take vehicles. According to McNab's account, the patrol walked 20 km during the first night to the proposed location of the observation post. However, both Ryan's and Coburn's accounts put the distance at 2 km.

Eyewitness accounts of Bedouin tribesmen and Asher's re-creation support the Ryan/Coburn estimate of 2 km.

Ryan states the patrol was intentionally dropped only 2 km from the observation post because of heavy pack weights.

According to both Ryan and McNab, the weight of their equipment required the patrol to "shuttle" the equipment to the observation post. Four

members would walk approximately 300 metres, then drop their Bergens and wait. The next four would move up and drop their Bergens, then the first four would return for their jerry cans of water and bring them back to the group, followed by the second four doing the same. In this manner, each member of the patrol covered three times the distance from the drop off to the observation post.

Soon after the patrol landed on Iraqi soil, Lane discovered that they had communication problems and could not receive messages on the patrol's radio.

McNab later claimed that the patrol had been issued incorrect radio frequencies, however a 2002 BBC report discovered that there was no error with the frequencies because the patrol's transmissions had been noted in the SAS daily record log.

Peter Ratcliffe (The SAS's Regimental Sergeant Major at the time of the patrol) lays the blame for the faulty radios on McNab as the patrol commander; it was his job to make sure the patrol's equipment was working.

In late afternoon of 24 January, the patrol was discovered by a herd of sheep and a young shepherd. Believing themselves compromised, the patrol decided to withdraw, leaving behind excess equipment. As they were preparing to leave, they heard what they thought to be a tank approaching their position. The patrol took up defensive positions, prepared their LAW rockets, and waited for it to

come into sight. However, the vehicle turned out to be a bulldozer, which reversed rapidly after seeing the patrol. Realising that they had now definitely been compromised, the patrol withdrew from their position. Shortly afterwards, as they were exfiltrating (according to McNab's account), a fire fight with Iraqi armoured personnel carriers and soldiers began.

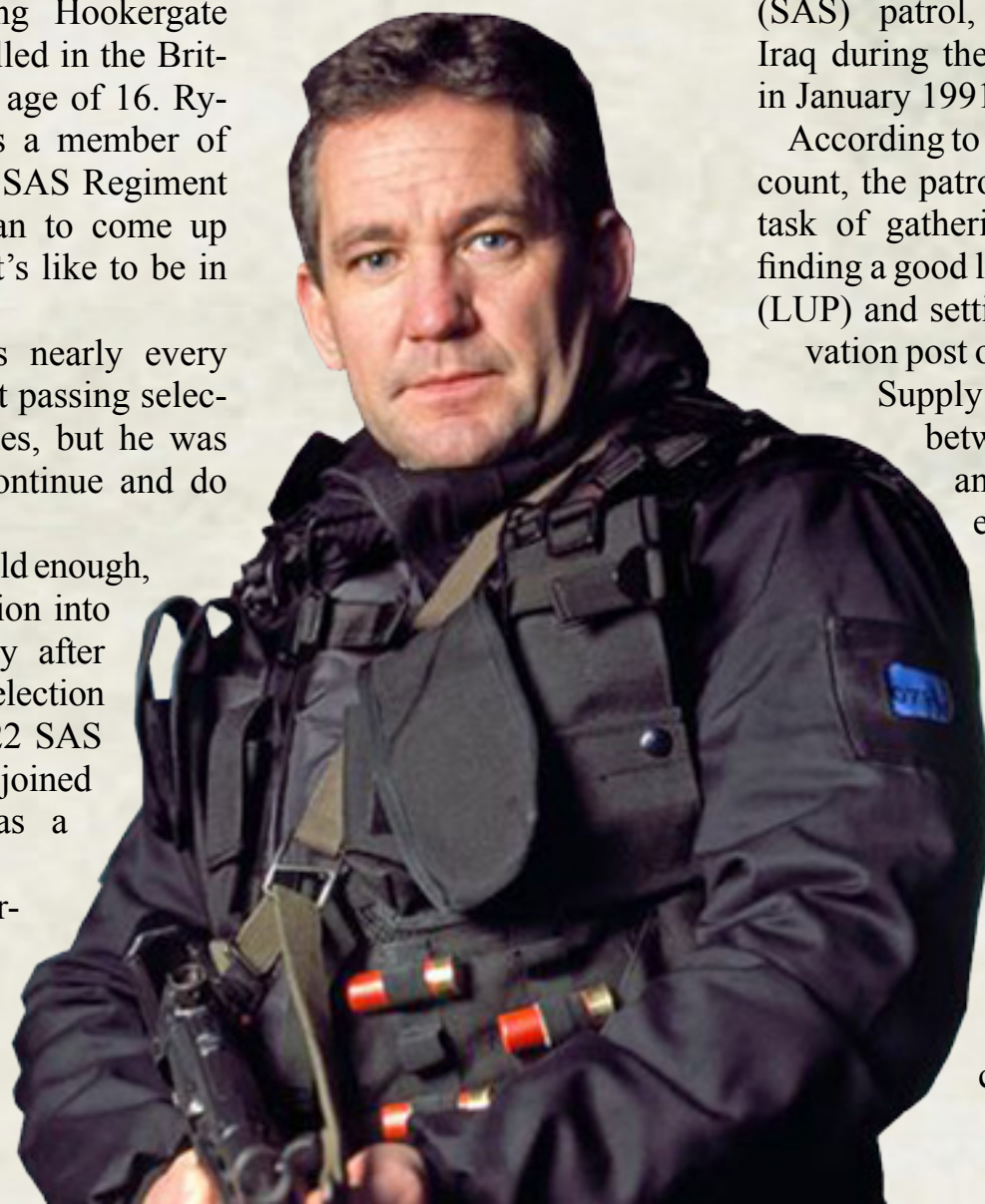
Former SAS member and explorer Michael Asher retraced the patrol's footsteps years later and in 2003 he published his own book, *The Real Bravo Two Zero*.

In 2001, Asher interviewed the Bedouin family that discovered the patrol. The family stated the patrol had been spotted by the driver of the bulldozer, not the young shepherd.

According to the family, they were not sure who the men were and followed them a short distance, eventually firing several warning shots, whereupon the patrol returned fire and moved away. Asher's investigation into the events, the terrain, and position of the Iraqi Army did not support McNab's version of events, and excludes an attack by Iraqi soldiers and armoured personnel carriers.

Coburn's version, *Soldier Five*, partially supports McNab's version of events (specifically the presence of one armoured personnel carrier) and describes being fired upon by a 12.7 mm DShK heavy machine gun and numerous Iraqi soldiers.

In Ryan's version, "[MacGown] also saw an armoured car carrying a .50 caliber ma-



chine gun pull up. Somehow, I never saw that.” Ryan later estimated that he fired 70 rounds during the incident.

British standard operating procedure (SOP) states that in the case of an emergency or no radio contact, a patrol should return to their original infiltration point, where a helicopter will land briefly every 24 hours. This plan was complicated by the incorrect location of the initial landing site; the patrol reached the designated emergency pickup point, but the helicopter never appeared.

Ratcliffe later revealed that this was due to an illness suffered by the pilot while en route, necessitating his abandoning his mission on this occasion.

Because of a malfunctioning emergency radio that allowed them only to send messages and not receive them, the patrol did not realise that while trying to reach overhead allied jets, they had in fact been heard by a US jet pilot.

The jet pilots were aware of the patrol’s problems but were unable to raise them. Many sorties were flown to the team’s last known position and their expected exfiltration route in an attempt to locate them and to hinder attempts by Iraqi troops trying to capture them.

During the night of 24/25 January, while McNab was trying to contact a passing Coalition aircraft using a TACBE communicator, the patrol inadvertently became separated into two groups.

Whilst the others waited for a response on the TACBE, Phillips, Ryan and MacGown continued to move through the



CALM BEFORE THE STORM: Bravo Two Zero patrol members. From left to right: Ryan, Consiglio, MacGown (obscured), Lane, Coburn (obscured), Mitchell (obscured), Phillips, Pring (obscured).

darkness. Neither of the two resultant groups followed the standard emergency rendezvous (ERV) procedure they had been trained to follow and had previously followed the night before. Instead, both groups independently continued north towards the Syrian border.

After the separation, Phillips, Ryan and MacGown were equipped with two M16/M203 assault rifles and a Browning Hi-Power pistol between them, as well as at least one TACBE, and the night sight around Ryan’s neck.

McNab, Pring, Lane, Consiglio, and Coburn were equipped with their original weapons (three Minimis and two M16/M203s between them) as well as MacGown’s Minimi (which McNab was carrying, but soon discarded). The larger group carried at least one TACBE, and the Magellan GPS.

Three members of the patrol

lost their lives. Trooper Robert Consiglio MM was killed in action on 27 January. Sergeant Vincent Phillips and Trooper Steven Lane MM both died of hypothermia - Phillips on 25 January and Lane on 27 January.

Sergeant Steven Mitchell (Andy McNab), Lance Corporal Ian Pring, and Troopers Malcolm MacGown and Mike Coburn were captured and interned as prisoners of war. They would later be released.

Chris Ryan was the only member of the patrol that managed to get away.

He made SAS history with the “longest escape and evasion by an SAS trooper, covering 160 kilometres more than SAS trooper Jack Sillito had in the Sahara Desert in 1942.

Ryan completed a 300 kilometres tab from an observation point on the Iraqi MSR between Baghdad and North-Western Iraq to the Syrian Border.

During his escape, Ryan suffered injuries from drinking water contaminated with nuclear waste. Besides suffering severe muscle atrophy, he lost a potentially fatal 16 kilograms and did not return to operational duties. Instead, he selected and trained potential recruits, before being honourably discharged from the SAS in 1994.

On 29 June 1991 Ryan was awarded the Military Medal “in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the Gulf in 1991” although the award was not gazetted until 15 December 1998 together with the equally belated announcement of Andy McNab’s Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Post-military career

Since leaving the SAS, Ryan has become a successful author. He has written five non-fiction books, including *The One That Got Away*, his story about Bravo Two Zero. His other non-fiction books are *Chris Ryan’s SAS Fitness Book*, *Chris Ryan’s Ultimate Survival Guide*, *Chris Ryan Fight to Win*, *Safe: How To Stay Safe In A Dangerous World*.

He has also written no fewer than 57 non-fiction books. He was also the military adviser for the video game *I.G.I.-2: Covert Strike*, helping to make the game more accurate to real-life military operations, tactics, weapons and equipment.

In addition to his writing Ryan has contributed to several television series. In 2002 Ryan co-created and appeared in ITV’s action series, *Ultimate Force*, playing the role of Blue Troop leader Staff Sergeant Johnny Bell in the first series.

Ryan was the titular star of BBC One’s *Hunting Chris Ryan* in 2003 which later aired on the Military Channel as ‘*Special Forces Manhunt*’.

In 2004 Ryan produced several programmes titled *Terror Alert: Could You Survive*, in each programme he demonstrated how to survive disasters including, flooding, nuclear terrorist attack, mass blackouts, and plane hijackings.

In 2005, Ryan presented a Sky One show called *How Not to Die*, detailing how to survive various life-threatening situations, including violent burglary, mugging, and violent attacks.

In 2007 Ryan trained and managed a six-man team to represent Team GB at *Sure for Men’s Extreme Pamplona Chase* in Spain during the Running of the Bulls and also appeared in an episode of the Derren Brown series, *Mind Control with Derren Brown*, where he booby-trapped a course for Brown to follow whilst blindfolded.

Ryan presented the television series *Elite World Cops*, also broadcast as *Armed and Dangerous*, which aired on Bravo in 2008.

In the show, Ryan spends time with various law enforcement agencies around the world, giving him an insight to the war on terrorism and drug trade but from a law enforcement perspective.

Ryan is married with a daughter, but his experiences in Iraq caused him to suffer from post traumatic stress disorder. Following his consumption of radioactive water during his Bravo Two Zero escape, he was warned not to have any children in the future.



Chris Ryan’s Elite World Cops

During the series Ryan worked with the following police units.

JUNGLAS, Ryan joins a special police unit in Colombia who are trained to operate in the jungle.

BOPE, short for *Batalhão de Operações Policiais Especiais*, Rio de Janeiro’s special weapons and tactics team.

SUNKAR, Kazakh police special unit.

BOA, Poland’s Bureau of counter-terrorist operations (*Biuro Operacji Antyterrorystycznych*), tasked with operations that the normal police can not handle.

MAGAV, Chris joins the MAGAV (Israeli Border Police) Elite Counter-Terror Undercover Unit called *Yamas*.

STF, Ryan joins the Special Task Force of Sri Lanka Police, in their fight against the Tamil Tigers.

GOPES, In Mexico the crime rate is so high, most of the police is army and combat trained, to survive the rage and aggression of the street gangs.

M1 Abrams MBT

With innovative features such as a multi-fuel turbine engine, sophisticated Chobham composite armour, and a computer fire control system, the M1 Abrams is rated as one of the best main battle tanks in the world.

The M1 Abrams is a third-generation American main battle tank designed by Chrysler Defence (now General Dynamics Land Systems).

Conceived for modern armoured ground warfare and now one of the heaviest tanks in service at nearly 62 metric tons, it introduced several innovative features, including a multi-fuel turbine engine, sophisticated Chobham composite armour, a computer fire

control system, separate ammunition storage in a blow-out compartment, and NBC protection for crew safety.

Initial models of the M1 were armed with a licensed-produced 105 mm Royal Ordnance L7 gun, while later variants feature a licensed Rhein-

metall 120 mm L/44.

The M1 Abrams entered service in 1980 and currently serves as the main battle tank of the United States Army and Marine Corps. The export version is used by the armies of Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Australia, and Iraq.

The Abrams was first used in combat in the Persian Gulf War and has seen combat in both the War in Afghanistan and Iraq War under U.S. service, while Iraqi Abrams tanks have seen action in the war against ISIL and have seen use by Saudi

Arabia during the Yemeni Civil War.

Background

Through the 1960s the US Army and German Army had collaborated on a single design that would replace both the M60 Patton and the Leopard 1.

The overall goal was to have a single new design with improved firepower to handle new Soviet tanks like the T-62, while providing improved protection against the T-62's new 115 mm smooth-bore gun and especially high explosive anti-tank (HEAT) rounds.

The resulting design, the MBT-70, incorporated new technologies across the board. While the design was highly capable, its weight continued to grow, as did its budget. By 1969, the unit cost stood at five times the original estimates.

In August 1969 the Senate halted funding of the program until the Government Accounting Office could under-



take an audit of the program.

As a result of the problems with the MBT-70, the U.S. Army introduced the XM803, using some technologies from the MBT-70 but removing some of the more troublesome features.

This succeeded only in producing an expensive system with capabilities similar to the M60.

Congress cancelled the MBT-70 in November and XM803 December 1971, and redistributed the funds to the XM1 Abrams named after General Creighton Abrams.

Through the period while the initial prototypes were being built, a debate broke out between Germany and US about the use of the 105 mm gun.

The Army was planning on introducing several new types of ammunition for the 105 that would greatly improve its performance, notably, the XM-774 using depleted uranium. These rounds would give it the performance needed to defeat any Soviet tank with ease.

There was some concern that depleted uranium would not be allowed in Germany, perhaps just in peacetime, so improvements to the tungsten cored M735 were also considered.

Through this same period, there was an ongoing effort to improve NATO logistics by standardizing ammunition to the maximum possible degree.

The Germans were moving ahead with their 120 mm gun on the Leopard 2K, and noted that the British had also introduced a 120 mm gun of their own in keeping with their long-range combat doctrine. Although ini-

tially sceptical of the need for a 120 mm gun, at some point the issue was raised that the Soviets might introduce a tank with composite armour.

In this case, the 120 would give them the performance needed to defeat such a development even without depleted uranium.

By 1977 the decision had been made to eventually move the new tank to a 120 mm gun. After head-to-head testing between the Royal Ordnance L11A5 and the Rheinmetall Rh-120, the latter was chosen. The turret designs of the two prototypes were modified to allow either gun to be fit.

Prototypes were delivered in 1976 by Chrysler Defence and General Motors (GM) armed with the license-built version of the 105 mm Royal Ordnance L7. On 12 November 1976, the Defence Department awarded a \$20 billion development contract to Chrysler.

As the Abrams entered service in the 1980s, they operated alongside M60A3 within the U.S. military, and with other NATO tanks in various Cold War exercises which usually in Western Europe, especially West Germany.

The exercises were aimed at countering Soviet forces. However, by January 1991, the Berlin Wall had fallen and the Abrams was deployed in the Middle East.

Adaptations before the Persian Gulf War (Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm) gave the vehicle better firepower and NBC (Nuclear, Biological and Chemical) protection. Vastly superior to Iraqi tanks,

very few M1 tanks were hit by enemy fire.

Gulf War

The Abrams remained untested in combat until the Persian Gulf War in 1991, during Operation Desert Storm. A total of 1,848 M1A1s were deployed to Saudi Arabia to participate in the liberation of Kuwait. The M1A1 was superior to Iraq's Soviet-era T-55 and T-62 tanks, as well as T-72 versions imported from the Soviet Union and Poland.

The T-72s, like most Soviet export designs, lacked night vision systems and then-modern rangefinders, though they did have some night-fighting tanks with older active infrared systems or floodlights.

A total of 23 M1A1s were damaged or destroyed during the war. Of the nine Abrams tanks destroyed, seven were destroyed by friendly fire, and two were purposely destroyed to prevent capture after being damaged.

Some others took minor combat damage, with little effect on their operational readiness. Very few M1 tanks were hit by enemy fire and none were destroyed as a direct result of enemy fire, none of which resulted in any fatalities.

The M1A1 could kill other tanks at ranges in excess of 2,500 metres. This range was crucial in combat against previous generation tanks of Soviet design in Desert Storm, as the effective range of the main gun in the Soviet/Iraqi tanks was less than 2,000 metres. This meant Abrams tanks could hit Iraqi tanks before the enemy



got in range - a decisive advantage in this kind of combat.

Other conflicts

Further combat was seen during 2003 when U.S. forces invaded Iraq and deposed Ba'athist Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in the Iraq War's Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Tanks may have limited utility in Afghanistan due to the mountainous terrain, although Canada and Denmark have deployed Leopard 1 and 2 MBTs that have been specially modified to operate in the relatively flat and arid conditions of south-western Afghanistan.

In late 2010, at the request of Regional Command Southwest, the U.S. Marine Corps deployed a small detachment of 14 M1A1 Abrams tanks from Delta Company, 1st Tank Battalion, 1st

Marine Division (Forward), to southern Afghanistan in support of operations in Helmand and Kandahar provinces.

Between 2010 and 2012 the U.S. supplied 140 refurbished M1A1 Abrams tanks to Iraq. In mid-2014, they saw action when the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant launched the June 2014 Northern Iraq offensive.

During three months, about one-third of the Iraqi Army's M1 tanks had been damaged or destroyed by ISIL and some were captured by opposing forces. By December 2014, the Iraqi Army only had about 40 operational Abrams left. That month, the U.S. Department of State approved the sale of another 175 Abrams to Iraq.

After the start of the Saudi Arabian intervention in Yemen

during the 2015 Yemeni Civil War, Saudi Arabian M1A2 MBTs were deployed near the Saudi Arabian/Yemeni border.

In August 2016, the U.S. approved a deal to sell up to 153 more Abrams tanks to Saudi Arabia, including 20 "battle damage replacements", suggesting that some Saudi Arabian Abrams had been destroyed or severely damaged in combat in Yemen.

Concealment

The turret is fitted with two six-barreled M250 smoke grenade launchers (USMC M1A1s use an eight-barreled version), with one on each side. When deployed, the grenades airburst, creating a thick smoke that blocks both visual and thermal imaging.

The engine is also equipped

with a smoke generator that is triggered by the driver. When activated, fuel is sprayed into the hot turbine exhaust, creating the thick smoke.

However, due to the change from diesel as a primary fuel to the use of JP-8, this system is disabled on most Abrams tanks today because of a slightly elevated risk of fire damage to the engine compartment.

Armour

Similar to most other main battle tanks, the M1 Abrams feature composite armour only on the frontal aspect of the hull. However, the Abrams’ turret features composite armouring across both the front and the sides.

In addition, the side skirts of the frontal half of the hull are also made of composite, providing superior ballistic protection against chemical energy munitions such as HEAT rounds.

The composition of the Abrams’ composite armour consists of sandwiched plates of non-explosive reactive armour (NERA) between conventional steel plates.

The NERA plates feature elasticity, allowing them to flex and distort upon perforation, disrupting the penetrating jets of shaped charges and providing more material and space for a kinetic round to pass through, thus providing increased protection compared to conventional steel armour of similar weight.

Armour protection was improved by implementing a new special armour incorporating depleted uranium and other undisclosed materials and layouts.

This was introduced into the M1A1 production starting October 1988. This new armour increased effective armour particularly against kinetic energy rounds but at the expense of adding considerable weight to the tank, as depleted uranium is 1.7 times more dense than lead.

In 1998, a program was begun to incorporate improved turret side armour into the M1A2. This was intended to offer better protection against rocket-propelled grenades more modern than the baseline RPG-7. These kits were installed on about 325 older M1A2 tanks in 2001-2009 and it was also included in upgraded tanks.

The Abrams may also be fitted with explosive reactive armour over the track skirts if needed (such as the Tank Urban Survival Kit) and slat armour over the rear of the tank and rear fuel cells to protect against ATGMs. Protection against spalling is provided by a kevlar liner.

Tank Urban Survival Kit

The Tank Urban Survival Kit (TUSK) is a series of improvements to the M1 Abrams intended to improve fighting ability in urban environments.

Historically, urban and other close battlefields have been poor places for tanks to fight. A tank’s front armour is much stronger than that on the sides, top, or rear.

In an urban environment, attacks can come from any direction, and attackers can get close enough to reliably hit weak points in the tank’s armour or gain sufficient elevation to hit the top armour.

Armour upgrades include re-

active armour on the sides of the tank and slat armour (similar to that on the Stryker) on the rear to protect against rocket-propelled grenades and other shaped charge warheads.

A Transparent Armour Gun Shield and a thermal sight system are added to the loader’s top-mounted M240B 7.62 mm machine gun, and a Kongsberg Gruppen Remote Weapon Turret carrying a 12.7 mm calibre machine gun (again similar to that used on the Stryker) is in place of the tank commander’s original 12.7 mm calibre machine gun mount, wherein the commander had to expose himself to fire the weapon manually.

An exterior telephone allows supporting infantry to communicate with the tank commander.

Active Protection System

In addition to the armour, some USMC Abrams tanks are equipped with a Softkill Active protection system, the AN/VLQ-6 Missile Countermeasure Device (MCD) that can impede the function of guidance systems of some semi-active control line-of-sight (SA-CLOS) wire- and radio guided anti-tank missiles (such as the Russian 9K114 Shturm) and infrared homing missiles.

The MCD works by emitting a massive, condensed infrared signal to confuse the infrared homing seeker of an anti-tank guided missile (ATGM).

Main armament

The main armament of the M1A1 and M1A2 is the M256A1 120 mm smoothbore

gun, designed by Rheinmetall AG of Germany, manufactured under license in the U.S. by Watervliet Arsenal, New York.

The M256A1 is a variant of the Rheinmetall 120 mm L/44 gun carried on the German Leopard 2 on all variants up to the Leopard 2A5. Leopard 2A6 replaced the L/44 barrel with a longer L/55. Due to the increased calibre, only 40 or 42 rounds are able to be stored depending on if the tank is an A1 or A2 model.

The M256A1 fires a variety of rounds. The primary APFSDS round of the Abrams is the depleted uranium M829 round, of which four variants have been designed.

Secondary armament

The Abrams tank has three machine guns, with an optional fourth: A 12.7 mm M2HB machine gun in front of the commander’s hatch, a 7.62 mm M240 machine gun in front of the loader’s hatch on a skate mount, a second 7.62 mm M240 machine gun in a coaxial mount (i.e., it points at the same targets as the main gun) to the right of the main gun, and a second coaxial 12.7 mm M2HB machine gun can be mounted directly above the main gun in a remote weapons platform as part of the TUSK upgrade kit.

Aiming

The Abrams is equipped with a ballistic fire-control computer that uses user and system-supplied data from a variety of sources to compute, display, and incorporate the three components of a ballistic solution - lead angle, ammunition type,

and range to the target - to accurately fire the main gun.

These three components are determined using a laser rangefinder, crosswind sensor, a pendulum static cant sensor, data concerning performance and flight characteristics of each specific type of round, tank-specific boresight alignment data, ammunition temperature, air temperature, barometric pressure, a muzzle reference system (MRS) that determines and compensates for barrel drop at the muzzle due to gravitational pull and barrel heating due to firing or sunlight, and target speed determined by tracking rate tachometers in the Gunner’s or Commander’s Controls Handles.

All of these factors are computed into a ballistic solution and updated 30 times per second. The updated solution is displayed in the Gunner’s or Tank Commander’s field of view in the form of a reticle in both day and Thermal modes.

The ballistic computer manipulates the turret and a complex arrangement of mirrors so that all one has to do is keep the reticle on the target and fire to achieve a hit. Proper lead and gun tube elevation are applied to the turret by the computer, greatly simplifying the job of the gunner.

The Abrams series of Main Battle Tanks have been tried and tested in combat and have earned the right to be regarded as one of the best MBT’s currently available. The have been forged in battle.

M1 Abrams

- Designer: Chrysler Defence (now General Dynamics Land Systems)
- Manufacturer: Lima Army Tank Plant (since 1980)
- Weight: 54 tonnes
- Length: Gun forward: 9.77 metres; Hull length: 7.93 metres
- Width: 3.66 metres
- Height: 2.44 metres
- Crew: 4 (commander/machine gunner, gunner, loader, driver)
- Armour: composite armour
- Main armament: M1: 105 mm L/52 M68A1 rifled gun (55 rounds)
- Secondary armament: 1 × 12.7 mm M2HB heavy machine gun with 900 rounds; 2 × 7.62 mm M240 machine guns with 10,400 rounds (1 pintle-mounted, 1 coaxial)
- Engine: Honeywell AGT1500C multi-fuel turbine engine 1,500 shp (1,120 kW)
- Transmission: Allison DDA X-1100-3B
- Suspension: High-hardness-steel torsion bars with rotary shock absorbers
- Ground clearance: 0.48 metres
- Operational range: Road: 426 km; Cross country: 150–200 km
- Speed: Road 72 km/h (governed); Off-road: 48 km/h

The Battle for Castle Itter was the only known time during the war in which Americans and Germans fought side-by-side. Popular accounts of the battle have called it the strangest battle of World War II.

The Battle for Castle Itter was fought in the Austrian North Tyrol village of Itter on 5 May 1945, in the last days of the European Theater of World War II.

Troops of the 23rd Tank Battalion of the 12th Armoured Division of the US XXI Corps led by Captain John C. "Jack" Lee, Jr., a number of *Wehrmacht* soldiers led by Major Josef "Sepp" Gangl, *SS-Hauptsturmführer* Kurt-Siegfried Schrader, and recently freed French prisoners of war defended Castle Itter against an attacking force from the 17th SS *Panzergranadier* Division until relief from the American 142nd Infantry Regiment of the 36th Division of XXI Corps arrived.

The French prisoners included former prime ministers, generals and a tennis star. It is the only known time during the war in which Americans and Germans fought side-by-side. Popular accounts of the battle have called it the strangest battle of World War II.

Background

Itter Castle (*Schloss Itter*) is a small castle situated on a hill near the village of Itter in Austria. After the 1938 *Anschluss*, the German government officially leased the castle in late 1940 from its owner, Franz Grüner.

The castle was seized from Grüner by SS Lieutenant General Oswald Pohl under the orders of Heinrich Himmler on 7 February 1943.

The transformation of the castle into a prison camp was completed by 25 April 1943, and the facility was placed under the administration of the notorious Dachau concentration camp. The prison was established to contain high-profile French prisoners valuable to the Reich.

Notable prisoners included tennis player Jean Borotra, former prime ministers Édouard Daladier and Paul Reynaud, former commanders-in-chief Maxime Weygand and Maurice Gamelin, Charles de Gaulle's elder sister Marie-Agnès Cailliau, right-wing leader and clos-

et French resistance member François de La Rocque, and trade union leader Léon Jouhaux.

Besides the VIP prisoners, the castle held a number of Eastern European prisoners detached from Dachau, who were used for maintenance and other menial work.

The Battle

On 3 May 1945, Zvonimir Čučković, an imprisoned Yugoslav communist resistance member from Croatia who worked as a handyman at the prison, left the castle on the pretence of performing an errand for the prison's commander Sebastian Wimmer. Čučković carried with him a letter in English seeking Allied assistance he was to give to the first American he encountered.

The town of Wörgl lay eight kilometres down the mountains but was still occupied by German troops. Čučković instead pressed on up the Inn River valley towards Innsbruck 64 km distant.

Late that evening, he reached the outskirts of the city and encountered an advance party of the 409th Infantry Regiment of the American 103rd Infantry Division of the US VI Corps and informed them of the castle's prisoners.

They were unable to authorize a rescue on their own but promised Čučković an answer

from their headquarters unit by morning of 4 May.

At dawn, a heavily armoured rescue was mounted but was stopped by heavy shelling just past Jenbach around halfway to Itter, then recalled by superiors for encroaching into territory of the U.S. 36th Division to the east. Only two jeeps of auxiliary personnel continued.

Upon Čučković's failure to return, and the death at the prison of the former commander of Dachau Eduard Weiter under suspicious circumstances on 2 May, Wimmer feared for his own life and abandoned his post.

The *SS-Totenkopfverbände* guards departed the castle soon after, with the prisoners taking control of the castle and arming themselves with the weaponry that remained.

Failing to learn of the result of Čučković's effort, prison leaders accepted the offer of its Czech cook, Andreas Krobot, to bicycle to Wörgl mid-day on 4 May in hopes of reaching help there.

Armed with a similar note, he succeeded in contacting Austrian resistance in that town, which had recently been abandoned by *Wehrmacht* forces but reoccupied by roaming *Waffen-SS* troops. He was taken to Major Josef Gangl, commander of the remains of a unit of *Wehrmacht* soldiers who had defied an order to retreat and instead thrown in with the local resistance, being made its head.

Gangl sought to maintain his unit's position in the town to protect local residents from SS reprisals. Nazi loyalists would shoot at any window displaying

either a white flag or Austrian flag, and would summarily execute males as possible deserters.

Gangl's hopes were pinned on the Americans reaching Wörgl promptly and surrendering to them. Instead, he would now have to approach them under a white flag to ask for their help.

Around the same time, a reconnaissance unit of four Sherman tanks of the 23rd Tank Battalion, 12th Armoured Division of the US XXI Corps, under the command of Captain Lee, had reached Kufstein, Austria, 13 km to the north.

There, in the town square, it idled while waiting for the 12th to be relieved by the 36th Infantry Division. Asked to provide relief by Gangl, Lee did not hesitate, volunteering to lead the rescue mission and immediately earning permission from his HQ.

After a personal reconnaissance of the Castle with Gangl in the major's *Kübelwagen*, Lee left two of his tanks behind but requisitioned five more and supporting infantry from the recently arrived 142nd Infantry Regiment of the 36th. En route, Lee was forced to send the reinforcements back when a bridge proved too tenuous for the entire column to cross once, let alone twice.

Leaving one of his tanks behind to guard it, he set back off accompanied only by 14 American soldiers, Gangl, and a driver, and a truck carrying ten former German artillerymen. Six kilometres from the castle, they defeated a party of SS troops that had been attempting to set up a roadblock.

In the meantime, the French prisoners had requested an SS officer, Kurt-Siegfried Schrader, whom they had befriended in Itter during his convalescence from wounds, to take charge of their defence.

Upon Lee's arrival at the castle, prisoners greeted the rescuing force warmly but were disappointed at its small size. Lee placed the men under his command in defensive positions around the castle and positioned his tank, Besotten Jenny, at the main entrance.

Lee had ordered the French prisoners to hide, but they remained outside and fought alongside the American and *Wehrmacht* soldiers.

Throughout the night, the defenders were harried by a reconnaissance force sent to assess their strength and probe the fortress for weaknesses.

On the morning of 5 May, a force of 100 *Waffen-SS* launched their attack. Before the main assault began, Gangl was able to phone Alois Mayr, the Austrian resistance leader in Wörgl, and request reinforcements.

Only two more German soldiers under his command and a teenage Austrian resistance member, Hans Walzl, could be spared, and they quickly drove to the castle.

The Sherman tank provided machine-gun fire support until it was destroyed by German fire from an 88 mm gun; it was occupied at the time only by a radioman seeking to repair the tank's faulty radio, who escaped without injury.

Meanwhile, by early afternoon, word had finally reached the 142nd of the desperation of



the defenders' plight, and a relief force was dispatched.

Aware he had been unable to give the 142nd complete information on the enemy and its disposition before communications had been severed, Lee accepted tennis star Borotra's offer to vault the castle wall and run the gauntlet of SS strongpoints and ambushes to deliver it.

He succeeded, requested a uniform, then joined the force as it made haste to reach the prison before its defenders fired their last rounds of ammunition.

The relief force arrived around 16:00, and the SS were promptly defeated. Some 100 SS prisoners were reportedly taken.

The French prisoners were evacuated towards France that

evening, reaching Paris on 10 May.

Aftermath

For his service defending the castle, Lee received the Distinguished Service Cross. Gangl died during the battle from a sniper rifle bullet while trying to move former French prime minister Reynaud out of harm's way and was honoured as an Austrian national hero, and a street in Wörgl was named after him.

He was the sole defender to die during the battle, although four others were wounded. Popular accounts of the battle have dubbed it the strangest battle of World War II.

The battle was fought five days after Adolf Hitler had committed suicide and only two

days before the signing of Germany's unconditional surrender. It was also the only battle where Americans and Germans fought alongside one another during the war.



Distinguished Service Cross



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FREEMAN GUERRILLA WARFARE

Everybody wants to rule the world. And Matt 'El Loco' O' Brien is one of them. He's about to recruit an army of his own and take up the challenge. Odds are that he'll shoot himself in the foot - as usual.

The latter half of 2019 was not that great when it came to the release of new military-type games.

One of the games that has recently been released to PC is Red Dead Redemption II. While not a pure military game, it is set in the Wild West and was released on X-Box 1 and Playstation just over a year ago. It's a great looking game, but I'm not going to spend R999 on it. I will wait a few months until it goes on sale on Steam.

There was, however, a game that was released just over a year ago by the name of Freeman Guerrilla Warfare.

The game was one of those titles known as an "early release game". In other words the game was still in development and is usually filled with bugs and glitches.

The advantage of buying an early release game is that they are normally dirt cheap. Basically what the developers are doing is using you as a test player to iron out all the faults.

Another advantage is that when the game is finally ready to be released as a full game, you already own it and don't have to pay the new full game price.

This was the case with Freeman Guerrilla Warfare. They have now released the full game and I must admit that I am rather

enjoying it.

It's a bit different because it combines real-time strategy (RTS) with first-person shooter (FPS) - and it seems to work.

Freeman: Guerrilla Warfare is set in a chaos filled world occupied by battling factions, bandits and warlords who seek to rule the world.

The game is about your career as a faction leader: Start with minimal assets, you need to make money, build an army, wage wars against other factions and eliminate your rival forces with thoughtful strategies and fine marksmanship and eventually conquer the world. The game provides a completely different shooter experience which strikes a balance between intense first-person action and general strategy.

The game's innovative combat system blends tactical FPS with real-time strategy, allowing you to command an army, plan for tactics in the God view, while immersing in the intense fire-fight as a foot soldier, in the first-person perspective.

When you start a new game in campaign mode you are given a set of questions. How you answer them will determine the attributes of your character. There are seven attributes and these are dexterity, endurance, tech, marksmanship, intelligence,

leadership, and strategy.

Your character will start off with a certain amount of money and equipment. This will also depend on how you answered the questions earlier.

The map is occupied by a number of factions. Factions vie for control of the nation, all with the goal of establishing their own hegemony over the remnants of the country. You control your own faction, which you name and select the flag for. Then it's a matter of conquering the rest of the map.

There are seven factions and each will control one or more cities. At the start of the game six of the factions are neutral towards you, but this can, and will, change as the game goes on, depending on what decisions and actions you take.

The Uman Brotherhood are hostile towards you (and everyone else). There are also looters, bandits, terrorists and pirates which are all hostile.

You can enter a friendly or neutral city and are given a number of options. You can visit the bar where you can pick up informations and quests. This is also where you can sell any prisoners you have (more on this later).

You can visit the barracks where you can hire people to join you. You can hire some-

FREEMAN GUERRILLA WARFARE



one that comes fully equipped or hire them without any equipment. The second option is far cheaper though.

The marketplace is where you can buy and sell stuff. At the trader you can buy or sell food and material. The idea is to buy something cheap and then sell it at a profit at another city. This way you can make money.

At the armour store you can buy equipment such as helmets, protective gear, night vision goggles, first-aid kits and so on.

At the weapon store you can buy and sell firearms and ammunition.

When you hire new people you can allocate them to squads. The number of squads you can control is determined by the Leadership skill, while the number of squads you can deploy in combat at any given time is tied to the Commanding skill.

There are also a number of small towns where you can trade or pick up work (known

as quests). Successful completion of a quest brings in money and equipment.

Cities can also be attacked and, if you are successful, you take over the city. This allows you to develop the city and bring in more money, but remember to leave enough troops to defend it.

When you meet up with the enemy you will often be given a few choices. You can attempt to flee, or you can bribe them not to attack you, or you can choose to fight.

In the last option the game goes into FPS mode and you get to take part in the action.

How well you do will depend on things such as your marksmanship, what sort of weapon you have, do you have any sort of telescopic sight, and how much ammunition you are carrying.

If you are wounded you will need to have a first-aid kit and enough skill to use it. Fighting at night is really difficult unless

you have night vision goggles.

This is an enjoyable game and it can be replayed over and over again. You can try different methods of winning the game such as combat, trading or diplomacy. Well worth a look at.



Publisher - KK Game Studio.

Genre - RTS/FPS

Score - 7.5/10

Price - R120 (on Steam)



TV Series Review

Ultimate Force

Released: 2002
Running time: 60 minutes each
Created by: Rob Heyland & Chris Ryan

Ultimate Force is not a movie, but rather a television series that deals with the activities of Red Troop of the SAS (Special Air Service).

There were four seasons and Seasons 1 and 2 each had six episodes. Season 3 had four episodes and Season 4 had five episodes.

The series was shown on ITV and would later be seen in 120 countries, including on DsTV. It received mixed reviews, with some describing it as realistic and action packed, while others did not think that highly of it. In fact one reviewer described it as 'Ultimate Farce'.

The series was co-created by Chris Ryan MM, a former British SAS soldier who was a member of the famous Bravo Two Zero patrol during the 1991 Gulf War.

The main character is Staff Sergeant Henry 'Henno' Garvie (Ross Kemp). He is the senior NCO of Red Troop and the only character to appear in every episode.

The remainder of Red Troop consists of Trooper Jamie Dow (Jamie Draven) and Trooper Alex Leonard (Sendhil Ramamurthy). They have just passed SAS selection and have been put into Red Team.

Corporal Pete Twamley (Tony Curran) is the team's demolition expert. Corporal Ricky Mann (Danny Sapani) has a wicked sense of humour.

Lance Corporal Jem Poynton (Elliot Cowan) is the team sniper. The remaining member is Trooper Sam Leonard (Anthony Howell). Alex Leonard is his adopted brother.

Captain Dennis "Dotsy" Doheny (Jamie Bamber) is the commander of Red Troop.

Other notable characters include Staff Sergeant Johnny Bell (Chris Ryan), head of Blue Troops.

Colonel Aidan Dempsey (Miles Anderson), Commanding Officer of 22 Regiment. Anderson was born and raised in Rhodesia and at one stage his father commanded the Rhodesian Army.

Captain Caroline Walshe (Alex Reid) is the intelligence officer and liaison with MI5, who are nicknamed 'Box 500' after their postal address in London.

Some of Red Troop's characters are killed off and replaced with others during the series.

Notable replacements include Corporal Louis Hoffman (Christopher Fox), Corporal Mick Sharp (Laurence Fox), and Trooper Becca Gallagher (Heather Peace).

Gallagher is the first woman to pass SAS selection, much to Colonel Dempsey's disgust. In real life current policy is that women are not allowed in the SAS.

All in all I found Ultimate

Force to be entertaining and well worth watching. Fair enough, it's not an accurate reflection of the real SAS, but it has a good balance of action and humour.

For example, when the two new recruits are introduced to Captain Doheny, Alex Leonard calls him 'sir'. After Doheny leaves, Garvie says to Leonard, "Never call a rupert sir, ever."

"They get ideas above their station," says Trooper Sam Leonard.

The good news is that you can find most of the episodes available in full on YouTube, A bit of fun viewing for when you have nothing else to watch.



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

The Special Task Force

The South African Police Special Task Force is the Special Operation element of the South African Police. They are considered to be amongst the best of such Units in the world. They have a formidable reputation in Counter-Terrorism, Counter-Insurgency, and Hostage Rescue.

The Special Task Force, like their Military Special Forces counterparts, is internationally regarded as being deadly exponents in the art of bush warfare.

This book is written as accurately as possible: the content coming from years of research and straight from the Operators on the ground; some of the best the Task Force has ever seen. It goes deep into the heart of the Unit, it tells of the history, the rise

and some of the most successful and daring hostage release dramas the Task Force has completed with their impeccable record and more.

In 1967, about 2,000 members of the South African Police were deployed to guard the northern border of Rhodesia (modern day Zimbabwe) to assist Rhodesian security forces in maintaining law and order in the country as guerrilla attacks became more frequent during the Rhodesian Bush War.

These police members proved to be ill-equipped and ineffective at dealing with guerrilla warfare and terrorism. As a result of these events the Security Branch of the Police began to envision a special police unit to deal with high-risk situations such as hostage



situations. The SAP Special Task Force was formed in 1976.

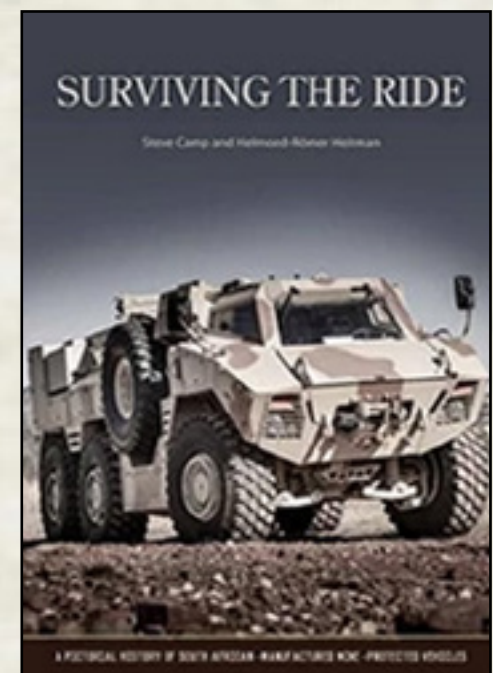
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Some of the significant military events that happened in January. Highlighted in blue are the names of those members of the South African Defence Force (SADF) that lost their lives during the month of January.

1 January

- **1776** - During the American Revolution, George Washington unveiled the Grand Union Flag, the first national flag in America.
- **1776** - British seaborne raiders torch Norfolk, Virginia.
- **1887** - Wilhelm Canaris, German admiral and spy-master, who was executed by Hitler, 1945, was born on this day.
- **1915** - During World War I, the British Battleship *Formidable* was hit by a torpedo in the English Channel, killing 547 crewmen.
- **1915** - The first known act of German sabotage in the U.S.: The John A. Roebling Munitions Plant in Trenton is destroyed by fire.
- **1920** - Basil L. Plumley, Sgt Maj, US, veteran of three wars and five combat jumps, hero of the Ia Drang Valley in Vietnam, was born on this day.
- **1942** - Twenty six countries signed the Declaration of the United Nations, in Washington, D.C., reaffirming their opposition to the Axis powers and confirming that no single nation would make a separate peace.
- **1950** - Indo-China: Viet Minh open a major offensive against the French.
- **1951** - Massive Chinese/North Korean assault on UN-lines.
- **1959** - Fidel Castro seized power in Cuba after leading a revolution that drove out Dictator Fulgencio Batista. Castro then established a Communist dictatorship.
- **1962** - The US Navy SEALs were established on this day.
- **1964** - Lieutenant Johannes Stephanus Steenkamp Enslin from 28 Squadron was critically injured when he accidentally fell from the 2nd floor balcony of the Edward Hotel during New Year's Eve celebrations. He succumbed to his injuries in 1 Military Hospital later that evening. He was 41.
- **1969** - Ian Fleming, former Royal Navy Commander and creator of James Bond, died at the age of 56.
- **1977** - Rifleman Joao Joaquim from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion during operations against enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 31.
- **1977** - Lance Corporal Geoffrey Allan Lawrie from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces near Omunduangilo, North of Beacon 28. He was 24.
- **1977** - Two members from 101 Battalion SWATF were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. They were: Rifleman Thomas Amalati (26). Rifleman Joao Mathais (25).
- **1978** - Sergeant H. Daniel from 32 Battalion died from a gunshot wound apparently self-inflicted while he was stationed at Nkongo. He was 39.
- **1983** - Sapper David Batten from 97 Ammunition Depot collapsed and died after suffering a fatal heart attack at the Unit. He was 27.
- **1984** - Airman Johannes Hendrik Kok from Air Logistics Command was killed in a military vehicle accident at Ondangwa Town. He was 20.
- **1987** - Two members from 44 Parachute Regiment were killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Isingolweni when the Mamba vehicle in which they were passengers, overturned. The casualties were: Rifleman Abram Welile Zumane (24). Rifleman Matthew Damon Seekoei (23).
- **1990** - General Johan van der Merwe is appointed as new commissioner of police.
- **1991** - Sergeant Willie Kruger from Air Force Base Swartkop collapsed and died after suffering a fatal heart attack. He was 26.
- **1991** - The Defence Special Tribunal Act, 1998, providing for the expeditious adjudication of disputes concerning military institutions

and the rationalisation process of the Department of Defence, becomes effective.

- **1992** - Rifleman Paulus Malesela Matlakala from 116 Battalion was Killed in Action when he shot dead by persons unknown while on guard duty at Messina. He was 24.
- **1994** - Rifleman Bernard Maditsi Lekalakala from 115 Battalion was Killed in Action when he was shot dead by persons unknown while manning a road block at Vosloorus. He was 20.
- **2008** - The last German veteran of WWI, Erich Kaestner, dies at the age of 107.

2 January

- **1776** - The four corner stones of the castle (Kasteel de Goede Hoop) at the Cape are laid by Zacharias Wagenaer, Johan van Arckel, Gabbema and Lacus.
- **1837** - Voortrekker leaders Andries Hendrik Potgieter and Gerrit (Gert) Maritz, each with his own men, leave for Western Transvaal to punish Mzilikazi for the Ndebele attack on the Voortrekkers at Vechtkop (Vegkop).
- **1883** - Battle of Boschberg during the Mapoch War takes place.
- **1896** - Sir Leander Starr Jameson and about 500 Rhodesian police surrender at Doornkop, near Krugersdorp, after the failure of the Jameson Raid.
- **1904** - Draft dodger and radical socialist Benito Mussolini reports for conscription into the Italian Army under an amnesty.
- **1905** - The Russians surrendered to the Japanese after the Battle of Port Arthur during the Russian-Japanese War.
- **1933** - US Marines withdraw from Nicaragua after a 20 year occupation.
- **1942** - During World War II in the Pacific, the Japanese captured the Philippines capital of Manila and the nearby air base at Cavite.
- **1942** - German troops in Bardia surrender.
- **1944** - New Guinea: Allies land on Saidor, isolating 12,000 Japanese troops.
- **1945** - US Navy convoys depart Leyte to invade Luzon, while beating off Kamikaze.
- **1945** - Admiral Sir Bertram Home Ramsay, mastermind of Dunkirk, dies at the age of 61.
- **1967** - Operation Bolo: In the largest air combat action of the Vietnam War, 28 F-4C Phantoms engage 9 MiG-21s; US aircraft down 7-9 MiGs with no loss.
- **1977** - Sergeant A.D.B. Bernardo from 31 Battalion SWATF was killed after being struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge from a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 32.
- **1981** - Rifleman Jose Joao

from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion during counter-insurgency operations in Southern Angola. He was 21.

- **1984** - Rifleman Petrus Daniel from 101 Battalion SWATF accidentally drowned during a river crossing in the Operational Area. He was 22.
- **1984** - Major-General Muhammadu Buhari is declared Head of State in Nigeria, following a military coup.
- **1988** - Major General Bantu Holomisa, who became head of a military state in Transkei after a coup in December 1987, lifts martial law and reinstates part of the constitution.
- **1988** - Right-wing guerrillas ambush a train near Mozambique's western border, killing at least twenty-two people and injuring seventy-one.
- **2001** - Richard Winters, who led "The Band of Brothers", Company E, 506th Parachute Infantry, 19 days short of his 93rd birthday.

Ian Fleming



3 January

- **1926** - Mussolini assumes the Ministries of War, Navy, & Air.
- **1931** - Joseph "Papa" Joffre, Marshal of France, dies aged 78.
- **1935** - Ethiopia asks League of Nations to guarantee peace with Italy.
- **1941** - World War 2: North Africa. Australian troops take 5,000 prisoners during a major assault on Italian forces at Bardia.
- **1946** - An Englishman known during World War II as "Lord Haw Haw" (William Joyce) was hanged for treason in London. Joyce had broadcast Nazi propaganda via radio from Germany to Britain during the war.
- **1976** - 2nd Lieutenant Daryl Quinton Brandon from 5 SAI Died of Wounds during Ops Savannah while leading a patrol in a contact against a numerically superior enemy force in Central Angola approximately 30km North of Cela. He was 19.
- **1984** - Corporal Adelino Aurelio from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 29.
- **1989** - Lance Corporal Khazamula Obed Mathebula from 907 Special Services Company stationed at Arton Villa, Messina (Soutpanberg Military Area) was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned during an armed patrol between Masisi and Mabelikwe just outside the Western border of the Kruger National Park. He was 28.
- **1990** - Manuel Noriega, the deposed leader of Panama, surrendered to American authorities on charges of drug trafficking after spending 10 days hiding in the Vatican embassy following the U.S. invasion of Panama.
- **1993** - President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed the Start-II (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks) Treaty, eliminating about two-thirds of each country's long range nuclear weapons.

4 January

- **1943** - Japanese GHQ orders the evacuation of Guadalcanal.
- **1944** - Operation Carpetbagger begins, the Allied campaign to airdrop arms and supplies to the Resistance in Europe.
- **1945** - Luzon: 3rd Fleet hit by kamikaze, USS 'Ommaney Bay' (CVE-79) is lost.
- **1951** - Chinese and North Korean forces capture Seoul.
- **1966** - Lieutenant-Colonel Sangoulé Lamizana deposes President Maurice Yaméogo of Burkina Faso in a military coup.
- **1976** - Four members of the SADF were killed during Ops Savannah when an Aérospatiale SA 330C Puma Helicopter from 19 Squadron that was flying Staff Officers between Mussende & Carriango in Central Angola, was mistaken for a hostile enemy helicopter and shot down by friendly 20mm anti-aircraft gun fire. The casualties were: Brigadier Johan Diederik Potgieter SM (40). Captain Ferdinand Immelman (30). Captain Constant Daniel de Wit (26). Sergeant George William Kellet (26).
- **1976** - Rifleman Pieter Willem Marais Snyman from 5 SAI, part of Battle Group Orange, Died of wounds received when an enemy hand grenade exploded in his position near Dondo in Central Angola during an attack by MPLA and Cuban Forces. He was evacuated by helicopter with other wounded, to Silva Porta, but succumbed to his wounds en-route. He was 18.
- **1978** - Two members from 1 and 5 Reconnaissance Regiment were Killed in Action during counter-insurgency operations in Mocambique as part of Operation Melon (SADF Name (Operation Acrobat). They were attached to "D" Squadron Rhodesian Special Air Service when their patrol walked into 30-man strong Frelimo ambush in the Gaza Province of Mozambique. The casualties were: Lance Corporal Cecil Ian Mennicke (24). Lance Corporal Christiaan Louis De Wilzem (20).
- **1984** - Six Members from

- 4 SAI were Killed in action when their Ratel 20, Call-sign 13B was knocked out near Cuvelai by a 100mm High Explosive Soviet T-55 tank projectile during Ops Askari. They were: Lance Corporal Wouter Theron Steenkamp (19). Rifleman George Alexander Lennox (19). Rifleman Brian Geen (18). Rifleman Hendrik Andre Heyns (22). Rifleman Daniel Abraham Louw (19). Rifleman Johannes Lodewicus Pretorius (18).
- **1981** - Corporal Gerald Christian Gildenhuys from the Technical Service Corps, was found gassed in his private motor vehicle in Bellville. No foul play was suspected. He was 27.
- **1984** - Two Members from 4 SAI, Ratel 12A (Platoon Two) were Killed in action during fierce close-quarter fighting while clearing enemy trenches near Cuvelai during Ops Askari.
- **1989** - Airman Johan Nel from the Test Flight Development Centre was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 18.
- **1989** - Second Gulf of Sidra Incident: two US Navy F-14s down two Libyan MiG-23s.
- **2010** - Tsutomu Yamaguchi, who survived both the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, dies at the age of 93.

5 January

- **1919** - The German Workers' Party (Deutsche Arbeiterpartei) was founded by Anton Drexler in Munich.

- **1920** - Adolf Hitler became member No. 7 and changed the name in April of 1920 to the National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei) commonly shortened to Nazi or Nazi Party.
- **1968** - Lt Clarence W. Cote becomes the first male officer in the Navy Nurse Corps.
- **1978** - Corporal Gert Jacobus Erasmus Goosen from 11 Technical Stores Depot was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident while on his way to Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town. He was 27.
- **1981** - Lance Corporal Pieter Swanepoel from the SWA SPES Bike Squad was Killed in Action in Northern Owamboland when his motorcycle detonated a boosted Yugoslavian TMA-3 Cheese Mine. He was 19.
- **1982** - Three members from 19 & 31 Squadron were Killed in Action when their Aérospatiale SA330H Puma was shot down by hostile small-arms fire not long after crossing the cut-line into Southern Angola en-route to Ongiva after dropping off troops. They were: Captain John Allen Robinson (27). Lieutenant Michael John Earp (26). Flight Sergeant Kenneth George Dalgleish

(26).

- **1982** - The forty-five mercenaries alleged to have commandeered an Air India Boeing and forced it to fly to Durban, after attempting a coup in the Seychelles in November 1981, appear in magistrates' courts in five South African cities. They are all to go on trial in South Africa.
- **1983** - WO 1 Leonard Philip Rodney from the 1 Military Town Management Fire Department in Voortrekkerhoogte collapsed and died after suffering a fatal heart attack. He was 47.
- **1984** - Special Sergeant Benfried Markus from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 27.
- **1985** - Private Gregory Grant Swain from Northern Transvaal Medical Command was killed instant-



William Joyce

ly while on Guard Duty in Pretoria when he was shot through the heart as a result of an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 20.

- **1987** - Special Sergeant Uatuapeke Kandji from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 29
- **1988** - Lance Corporal John Adam Lotriet from 10 Armoured Car Squadron was killed in Northern Owamboland after being struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 19.
- **1989** - The ANC agrees to close its military training base in Angola and in return South Africa must stop aid to the rebel Angolan UNITA movement, the Angolan president, Jose Eduardo dos Santos says in an interview.

6 January

- **1412** - Joan of Arc is born in France on this day.
- **1900** - The Battle of Waggon Hill (Platrand), south of Ladysmith, takes place, in which the Boer forces make an unsuccessful attempt to bring about the fall of Ladysmith.
- **1842** - Afghanistan: Anglo-Indian forces begin a disastrous retreat from Kabul; all but one of 4,500

troops & 12,000 camp followers will be lost or captured.

- **1940** - Germans massacre Poles in Poznan.
- **1943** - Papua: US and Australian troops mass for a final assault on Sanananda.
- **1961** - Nikita Khrushchev declares that the Soviet Union will back Third World "wars of national liberation".
- **1973** - Captain Rudolf Albert Hammann from Air Force Headquarters died in 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria. He was suffering from Cancer. He was 26.
- **1980** - Rifleman Jan Pieter Uys from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland, crushing him under the vehicle. He was 18.
- **1983** - Eight men from Group 34 were Killed in Action or later Died of Wounds when their Buffel Troop Carrier detonated a double boosted anti-tank mine near the Okangwati Military Base. The casualties were: Corporal Richard Alexander Ede (27). Rifleman Abraham Aboud (22). Rifleman Johannes Hermanus Diedericks (24). Rifleman Bartholomeus Jacobus Du Toit (26). Rifleman Floris Marthinus Griesel (27). Rifleman Johannes Lodewikus van der Merwe (26). Rifleman Gerald Pereira Da Silva (28) and Rifleman Peter Uzzel (26) succumbed to

wounds on the 7th and 8th January respectively.

- **1984** - Rifleman Raymond Frederick Hildebrandt from Special Forces Headquarters was killed instantly while on guard duty at the Headquarters when he was struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge from an R4 assault rifle that a fellow soldier was in the process of making safe. He was 19.
- **1985** - Candidate Officer (Miss) Shirley Louise Mansfield from Air Force Base Pietersburg was accidentally killed in a civilian sky-diving incident in Pietersburg when her parachute failed to open during a Sunday practice jump. She was 19.
- **1985** - Rifleman Valentinus Sikerete from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 24.
- **1986** - Special Constable Simon Phillipus from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 34.
- **1988** - General Bantu Holomisa, who ousted Stella Sigcau in a coup, appoints himself as the Transkei's military and government chief.

7 January

- **1903** - The Boer generals re-

port back in Pretoria after a campaign in Europe to procure aid for the reconstruction of the country after the Second Anglo-Boer War.

- **1941** - Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto proposes a surprise attack on Pearl Harbour.
- **1943** - Guadalcanal: US strength reaches 50,000, Japanese less than 25,000.
- **1945** - British Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery tells a press conference that he won the Battle of the Bulge.
- **1953** - US President Truman announces development of the hydrogen bomb.
- **1973** - Private Johannes Jacobus Potgieter from 86 Technical Stores Depot died from a sport injury received during training while at Nyamandhlovu. He was 20.
- **1979** - Vietnamese forces capture Phnom Penh from the Khmer Rouge.
- **1982** - Candidate Officer Derek William Evans from Central Flying School Dunottar was killed when his Harvard AT-6 crashed between Endicott and Delmas while on a solo general flying training flight. He was 18.
- **1983** - Rifleman Gerald Pereira Da Silva from the Sandriver Commando attached to Group 34 Died of Wounds in 1 Military Hospital after being critically wounded in a landmine explosion near the Okangwati Military Base on 06 January

1983. He was 28.

- **1984** - Rifleman Josephat Johannes Levi from SWATF was killed in a shooting incident at Tsintsabis. He was 20.
- **1986** - Special Constable Abiud Kenahana from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 28.
- **1986** - The ANC in exile in Lusaka calls on its supporters to take the struggle into White areas.
- **1987** - The British army suggests that 600 troops returning from a tour in Kenya should take an AIDS test.
- **1989** - Emperor Hirohito of Japan, who ruled Japan during World War II died after a long illness. He had ruled for 62 years and was succeeded by his son, Crown Prince Akihito.
- **1994** - Rifleman Dario David Marco Vervev from Natal Command was killed when he accidentally fell off the back of a moving Buffel Troop Carrier in Durban. He was 19.
- **2015** - Islamist terrorists attack the office of the magazine 'Charlie Hebdo' in Paris, killing 12 and wounding several others.

8 January

- **794** - First Viking raid on Britain, Lindisfarne Abbey is destroyed.
- **1806** - The Battle of Blaauwberg takes place, and part of the defending force capitulates two days later. Cape Governor Janssens and the rest of the force capitulated on 18 January, after which the second British occupation of the Cape started.
- **1815** - The Battle of New Orleans occurred as General Andrew Jackson and American troops defended themselves against a British attack, inflicting over 2,000 casualties. Both sides in this battle were unaware that peace had been declared two weeks earlier with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent ending the War of 1812.
- **1918** - Amid the ongoing World War in Europe, President Woodrow Wilson proposed his Fourteen Points, calling for a reduction of arms, self determination for governments, and the creation of a League of Nations, all intended to serve as a ba-

Bernard Montgomery



sis for resolving the conflict and establishing a lasting peace in Europe.

- **1941** - Lord Robert Baden-Powell, British general during the siege of Mafeking during the Second Anglo-Boer War and founder of the Boy Scouts, dies in Nyeri, Kenya.
- **1943** - British turn control of Madagascar over to the Free French.
- **1966** - Two members from 17 Squadron together with a Portuguese Army Sergeant and two Portuguese Army Corporal's were killed when their Alouette III crashed east of Boane, near Lourenço Marques (Maputo), Mozambique while carrying out rescue operations at the Umbeluzi Pumping Station. The SADF casualties were: Captain Guillame Nel Shawe (43). Air Corporal Frederick Hermanus Moolman (23).
- **1973** - Two South African policemen are killed and five policemen (two South African and three Rhodesian) injured in an explosion near the Zambezi River in north-western Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).
- **1973** - Secret peace talks between US & North Vietnam resume near Paris.
- **1975** - Rifleman Adriaan Albertus Le Grange from 5 SAI was Reported Missing at Bagani while travelling as a passenger in a military vehicle that accidentally drove off the edge of the pont ferry and overturned into the

river. Despite an intensive search, his body was never recovered. He has no known grave and remains unaccounted for. He was 18.

- **1983** - Private Gerald Jeffrey Pieters from Air Force Base Swartkop suffered severe head injuries sustained in a private motor vehicle accident near Estcourt on 7 January 1983. He was admitted to the Wentworth Hospital in Durban where he sadly succumbed to his injuries on 08 January 1983. He was 23.
- **1983** - Rifleman Peter Uzzel from the Goudveld Commando attached to Group 34, Died of Wounds in 1 Military Hospital after being critically wounded in a landmine explosion near the Okangwati Military Base on 06 Jan 1983. He was 26.
- **1984** - South African security forces begin withdrawal from southern Angola.
- **1987** - Nine members from 101 Battalion Battalion Romeo Mike Team SWATF together with two attached personnel, were Killed in Action and 65 wounded during a contact with a numerically superior enemy force near Vinticet in Southern Angola. The eleven members Killed in Action were: Lieutenant Michael Cornelius Machiel Dreyer (24). Lance Corporal Emil Tamsen (18). Sapper Eugen Albert Meyer (19). Lance Corporal M. Fernando (24). Rifleman L. Alweendo (27). Rifleman P. Cerement (26). Rifleman E.

Leonard (24). Rifleman M. Ndjolonimu (23). Rifleman E. Nyawala (26). Rifleman S. Jacob (25). Rifleman J. Nangolo (23).

- **1989** - The ANC announces it will dismantle its guerrilla camps in Angola in support of peace.
- **1989** - Soviet Union promises to eliminate stockpiles of chemical weapons.
- **2007** - A United States military gunship launches air raids against hideouts of prominent members of the al-Qaeda network in southern Somalia.

9 January

- **1805** - Lord Nelson is entombed in the crypt of St. Paul's, London.
- **1861** - First Shot of the American Civil War: US steamer 'Star of the West' is fired on by South Carolina militia batteries off Charleston.
- **1916** - Gallipoli Campaign ends as the last allied troops evacuate the peninsula.
- **1936** - Garand M-1 semi-automatic rifle adopted by the US Army.
- **1941** - 6,000 Jews slaughtered in Bucharest, Romania.
- **1970** - France agrees to sell Mirage military jets to revolutionary regime in Libya.
- **1973** - Rhodesia closes its borders with Zambia to try to cut off Black liberation forces.
- **1978** - Lance Corporal Steven Leamy from Regiment

Piet Retief was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near Eenhana. He was 26.

- **1978** - Rifleman Donald William Paterson from 1 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident at Bloemfontein. He was 21.
- **1979** - Two members from 24 Squadron were killed when their Hawker Siddeley Buccaneer S-50 crashed at Roedtan near Marble Hall during a night training exercise. The crew were: Captain Kenneth Brian Duncan (25). Lieutenant Pierre Paul Wahl (21).
- **1980** - Rifleman Pedro Komengo from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action when the vehicle in which he was travelling detonated a landmine in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1993** - Angolan government troops capture the headquarters of UNITA rebel leader Jonas Savimbi in central Angola. Savimbi, however, escapes.
- **1996** - The National Crime Information Management Centre releases figures confirming South Africa's designation as the most violent country in the world outside a war zone.
- **2005** - After nearly three years of negotiations, Sudan's government and main rebel group sign the final agreement to the Naivasha, Kenya, peace accord to end more than twenty-one years

of civil war.

10 January

- **1806** - Signing of the second and final surrender of the Cape to the British under Gen. David Baird at Papendorp (presently Woodstock) after the defeat of Gen. J.W. Janssens.
- **1879** - British troops enter Zululand and the Anglo-Zulu war starts.
- **1879** - The 22-year-old Prince Imperial of France, Eugene Louis Jean Joseph Napoleon, who studied in England at the Royal Military Academy and joined the British forces, was killed in the Anglo-Zulu War.
- **1900** - Lord Frederick S. Roberts arrives at the Cape, replacing Sir Redvers Buller as commander-in-chief of the British forces in South Africa. Herbert H. Kitchenier as his chief-of-staff accompanies him.
- **1942** - Heinz Hitler (19), nephew of Adolf Hitler, is captured on the Eastern Front while serving as an NCO in the 23rd Artillery; dies in a Soviet POW camp.
- **1943** - Guadalcanal: U.S. forces begin a general offensive to eliminate Japanese.
- **1946** - The League of Nations dissolves after twenty-six years and is replaced by the United Nations, with its first meeting in London.

• **1965** - Sirr al-Khatim al-Khalifa, the Sudanese prime minister, admits to providing aid to Congolese rebels.

• **1972** - 2nd Lieutenant Johannes Daniel Burger from 6 Squadron was killed when his AT-6 Harvard, Serial No. 7034 crashed near George during a routine cross-country and tactical navigation flight. He was 22.

• **1976** - Rifleman Andries Jacobus Rautenbach from 8 SAI was killed when struck by a bullet as a result of an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle while he was stationed at Rundu. He was 18.

• **1981** - Mozambique and Zimbabwe sign a defence and security agreement under which an attack by SA on either country will be taken as an assault on both.

• **1982** - Rifleman Abel Albertus van Wyk from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed instantly after being struck



Jonas Savimbi

in the head by a bullet that resulted from an accidental discharge of a MAG light machine-gun during a training exercise outside Oshivello.

11 January

- **1904** - The Herero of German Southwest Africa revolt against colonial domination.
- **1944** - Krakow-Plaszow Concentration Camp established.
- **1970** - The 32-month-old secessionist Biafran regime collapses under onslaughts by Nigerian military.
- **1976** - Military coup in Ecuador ousts Dictator/President Guillermo Rodriguez Lara.
- **1979** - Rifleman Nicolaas Johannes Myburgh from the Botha Regiment was critically injured in a private motor vehicle accident and admitted to the Hospital in Messina with bleeding on the brain. He succumbed to his injuries not long after admission. He was 25.
- **1980** - Lance Corporal Derick James Evans from 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned while on patrol in the Etosha Pan Game Reserve. He was 18.
- **1984** - Two members from 32 Battalion were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola during Ops Askari. They were: Rifleman Joao Dala (31). Rifleman Isaac

Malonga (35).

- **1989** - 140 nations agree to ban chemical weapons.
- **1991** - US Congress authorizes President G.H.W. Bush to undertake offensive operations against Iraq.

12 January

- **1893** - WW I flying ace and future Head of the Nazi Luftwaffe, Hermann Göring, is born on this day.
- **1915** - South African forces invade German South-West Africa at Ramansdrift.
- **1940** - Daniël Hermanus (Dan) Pienaar is appointed to command the First South African Infantry Brigade.
- **1944** - Churchill and de Gaulle confer in Marrakech.
- **1964** - One month after independence, a bloody uprising by the black majority ousts the Arab ruling minority of Zanzibar, installing a government that shortly unites with Tanganyika to form Tanzania.
- **1965** - Lieutenant Richard Johannes Oltman from 5 Squadron was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed near Bulwer during a night cross country flight. He was 30.
- **1974** - Corporal Willem Jacobus Reynolds from 2 SAI was accidentally killed at Ondangwa when he was struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 19.
- **1979** - Two members from 5 SAI, both attached to 54

Battalion were Killed in Action when their Buffel Troop Carrier detonated two Yugoslavian TMA-3 Cheese Mines that were boosted with a Soviet TM-57 Anti-Tank Mine while they were traveling from Eenhana to Ondangwa. The casualties were: Rifleman Charles Deon Bekker (19). Rifleman Christo Gerhardus Krog (20).

- **1981** - Lance Corporal Benjamin Karl Steenkamp from the Personnel Service Corps attached to Southern Cape Command Headquarters was killed in a military vehicle accident near Peddie in the Eastern Cape. He was 18.
- **1987** - Prince Edward resigns from the Royal Marines.
- **1988** - Gunner Kevin Alan Roberts from the Artillery School in Potchefstroom was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident between Verreeniging and Johannesburg. He was 27.
- **1988** - Airman Stefan Oliver Jedlika from 3 Satellite Radar Station at Klippan, Mafeking, died after suffering a cerebral haemorrhage. He was 19.
- **1992** - Algerian government cancels second round of voting in parliamentary elections that an Islamic party looks set to win. The Islamists take to arms, and ten thousands of Algerians die in the next few years.
- **2008** - Bill Stone, Royal

Navy veteran, last surviving Briton to have served in both world wars, dies at 108.

13 January

- **1915** - South African troops occupy Swakopmund, German South-West Africa.
- **1935** - The population of the Saar region bordering France and Germany voted for incorporation into Hitler's Reich.
- **1943** - General Philippe Leclerc's Free French troops merge with the British army under the command of Montgomery.
- **1943** - Hitler declares Germany must wage "Total War".
- **1961** - Fighting erupts between UN troops and supporters of Patrice Lumumba in the Congo.
- **1963** - Sgt Gnassingbe Eyadema murders West African Republic of Togo's President Sylvanus Olympio in a military coup.
- **1964** - Two members from 8 Squadron were killed when their AT-6 Harvard crashed near Bloemspruit. They were: 2nd Lieutenant Johannes Theodorus Brits (19). Air Mechanic Louis Johannes Lodewyk Rothman (20).
- **1968** - Beginning of the Tet Offensive in Vietnam.
- **1972** - A group of junior officers overthrows civilian government of Ghana in West Africa.
- **1979** - A clash between police and suspected guerrillas

is reported near the Botswana border. Botswana denies that it is being used as a springboard for attacks on his neighbours.

- **1982** - Corporal Daniel Jacobus Steenkamp from 400 Airfield Maintenance Unit (SAAF) was killed in a Military Vehicle accident in Pretoria. He was 25.
- **1986** - Thomas Chilunku was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
- **1986** - Bloody coup overthrows government of South Yemen.
- **1987** - Airman Craig Anthony Lucarne from 508 SAAF Security Squadron, Air Force Base Durban, was killed when his Rhino Armoured Personnel Carrier overturned on the N3 near Louis Botha Airport in Durban. He was 19.

14 January

- **1867** - Alfred Nobel makes the first public demonstration of dynamite.
- **1942** - Malaya: Japanese capture Malacca.
- **1943** - President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met at Casablanca in Morocco to work on strategy during World War II.

Dan Pienaar

- **1967** - New York Times reports the Army is conducting secret germ warfare experiments on the public.
- **1969** - Fire aboard USS 'Enterprise' (CVN-65), off Vietnam, 28 die, 344 injured.
- **1971** - Britain proposes the sale of arms to South Africa.
- **1978** - Corporal Alan Gordon-Bennet from Northern Transvaal Command was killed in a military vehicle accident at Nelspruit. He was 21.
- **1981** - Rifleman C. Cabonga from 32 Battalion who was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 25.

15 January

- **1926** - John Harling, the last known veteran of the "Charge of the Light Brigade", dies aged 93.
- **1942** - Japanese Southern Army invades Burma from



- Thailand.
- **1945** - Red Army liberates the Krakow-Plaszow concentration camp.
- **1949** - Mao's Red army captures Tientsin.
- **1966** - Prime Minister Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa is killed in Nigeria's first military coup.
- **1973** - US President Nixon suspends all US offensive action over North Vietnam.
- **1981** - Two members from 1 Parachute Battalion were Killed in Action during a fierce contact with a numerically superior FAPLA and PLAN force while supporting 32 Battalion elements during the Battle of Cuamato in Southern Angola. They were: Sergeant Louis Theodorus Hermanus Wesels (22). Rifleman Leonard Truter (22).
- **1982** - Rifleman Faustinus Mushanambango from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents. He was 25.
- **1984** - Gunner Gilderoy Kruger from 10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment Died of Wounds accidentally sustained at Oshivello. He was 18.
- **1986** - A military coup deposes the Lesotho Government.
- **1987** - Two members from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K (Koevoet) were Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insur-

gents in Northern Owamboland. They were: Special Constable Mathais Fesango (27). Special Constable Shivelekeni Dhilimbulukweni (29).

16 January

- **1900** - British troops under General Neville Lyttelton and General Charles Warren cross the Tugela River.
- **1904** - Herero Revolt: Gobabis is besieged. A German company from Outjo is ambushed at Okanjande near present-day Otjiwarongo.
- **1941** - The US War Department forms a squadron for black aviation cadets.
- **1944** - General Eisenhower takes command of Operation Overlord.
- **1951** - Viet Minh offensive at Hanoi.
- **1963** - Khrushchev claims to have a 100-megaton nuclear bomb.
- **1966** - Nigerian Army chief, General Johnson Aguiyi-Ironsi, briefly takes power in a military coup. Over fifty government officials are killed, including the existing prime minister Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.
- **1968** - 2nd Lieutenant Brian John Poorter from 5 Squadron was killed when his AT-6 Harvard, Serial No 7127 suffered engine failure while on a routine low level training flight and crashed into trees. He was 19.
- **1970** - Col Kadhaffi becomes premier of Libya.
- **1976** - Trooper Trevor Don-

ald Bodhill from 2 Special Service Battalion was killed while traveling along the Chitado road in Southern Angola to set up a vehicle ambush position. He was 19.

- **1977** - Mercenaries mount an unsuccessful military coup in Benin.
- **1983** - Signaler Joel Johanne Schutte from the South West Africa Command Signal Unit SWATF was killed in a private motorcycle accident in Windhoek. He was 19.
- **1986** - Sergeant John Christopher van Graan from the Far North Command Provost Unit was accidentally killed near Messina while attempting to recover a broken-down vehicle. He was 26.
- **1988** - Rifleman Manuel Thomas from 32 Battalion was killed in a private motor vehicle accident in the Caprivi Strip. He was 37.
- **1991** - The war against Iraq began as Allied aircraft conducted a major raid against Iraqi air defenses. The air raid on Baghdad was broadcast live to a global audience by CNN correspondents as operation Desert Shield became Desert Storm.
- **1992** - The twelve-year civil war in El Salvador ended with the signing of a peace treaty in Mexico City. The conflict had claimed over 75,000 lives.
- **2014** - Hiroo Onoda, Japanese Army officer who did not surrender until 1974, on his 52nd birthday. dies at the

age of 91.

17 January

- **1837** - The Voortrekkers under Hendrik Potgieter and Gerrit Maritz defeat the Ndebele under Mzilikazi at Mosega, near the present Zeerust. The Ndebele flee north and the majority cross the Limpopo River.
- **1879** - On the afternoon of 17 January 1879 the Zulu king Cetshwayo (Cetewayo) addresses 20,000 of his warriors at the great military kraal of Nodwengu: "I am sending you out against the Whites, who have invaded Zululand and driven away our cattle. You are to go against the column at Rorke's Drift and drive it back into Natal."
- **1885** - In the desperate hand to hand Battle of Abu Klea, the British under General Sir Herbert Stewart repulse the Sudanese Camel Corp of 10,000 under Command of Mohammed Ahmed.
- **1944** - HM Corvette 'Violet' sinks 'U-641' in Atlantic Ocean.
- **1945** - During World War II, Warsaw, Poland, was liberated by Soviet Russian troops.
- **1951** - China refuses cease fire in Korea.
- **1966** - A Hydrogen bomb accident occurred over Palomares, Spain, as an American B-52 jet collided with its refueling plane. Eight crewmen were killed and the bomber then released its

H-bomb into the Atlantic.

- **1977** - Rifleman Johannes Jesajus Botha from Springs Commando was critically wounded during July 1976 while stationed at Katima Mulilo when he was struck in the abdomen by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He succumbed to his wounds nearly six months later on 17 January 1977 after complications set in. He was 21.
- **1977** - Rifleman Edward Leslie Mayo from 5 SAI was accidentally shot dead by a fellow soldier while preparing an ambush east of the Kwando River. He was 19.
- **1985** - Special Constable Shopeke Hatutale from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Unit: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 32.
- **1988** - Rifleman Dumisani Ngubani from 121 Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident in Durban. He was 24.
- **1990** - Rifleman Johan Bush from the 2nd Battalion South African Cape Corps was killed in a military vehicle accident between Bray

and Mosita. He was 17.

- **1991** - Operation Desert Storm: Coalition air offensive is unleashed over Iraq, US pilot Jeffrey Zahn is shot down and captured.

18 January

- **1900** - Mafeking siege: Two Black cattle-herds are captured and summarily executed at Mafeking by burghers, in accordance with a council of war decision on cattle-rustlers. President Kruger immediately repudiates this decision and orders this practice to cease forthwith.
- **1900** - The 104mm field-gun known as 'Long Cecil' is test fired for the first time.
- **1902** - Commandant Gideon Scheepers is executed by a firing squad near Graaff-Reinet after being found guilty by a British military court on charges of murder, arson and demolishing trains during the South African War.
- **1904** - The German bat-



Hiroo Onoda

bleship "Habicht" lands at Swakopmund, bringing fresh German troops who proceed into the interior under the command of Second Lieutenant Gygas.

- **1919** - Versailles Peace Conference begins.
- **1943** - Warsaw Ghetto uprising begins.
- **1960** - US & Japan sign joint defence treaty.
- **1976** - 2nd Lieutenant Andries Muller from the School of Armour Died of Wounds during a contact with enemy forces during Ops Savannah. He was 19.
- **1978** - Rifleman Antonio Cassamano from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with the enemy forces when his patrol was ambushed at a waterhole near Omalapapa in Southern Angola. He was 24.
- **1979** - Corporal Fritz August Ferreira from 3 SAI was killed when he accidentally electrocuted himself while stationed at Ondangwa. He was 18.
- **1980** - Two members from the 2 SAI Support Company Platoon were Killed in Action or Died of Wounds when their patrol was ambushed by a numerically superior force of SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents just North of the Cut-line. They were: Lance Corporal Phillipus Rudolf Maritz (19). Rifleman Benjamin Arthur Froneman (19).
- **1984** - Corporal Jose Antonio from 32 Battalion suf-

fered a fatal heart attack and died while stationed at Buffalo Base. He was 32.

- **1991** - Iraq launches SCUD missiles against Israel.

19 January

- **1807** - US Civil War Confederate General Robert E. Lee was born on this day.
- **1900** - Mafeking siege: General J.P. Snyman sends a starving group of Black women, who have been encouraged by the British to attempt a breakout, back under a White flag. Colonel Baden-Powell objects and threatens to commence hostilities if they should advance further.
- **1915** - Germans begin Zeppelin raids on Great Britain, bombing Great Yarmouth & King's Lynn. 20 people are killed.
- **1940** - General J.B.M. Hertzog, as leader of the Opposition, announces he will introduce a motion calling on the Union of South Africa to make a separate peace treaty with Germany.
- **1941** - The 1st SA Division enters Abyssinia from the south.
- **1941** - Kassala, on the Sudan-Eritrean border, is retaken by the British as Major General William Platt begins an offensive against Italian troops in Eritrea.
- **1943** - Guadalcanal: U.S. destroyers shell Japanese positions.
- **1964** - Major Jean de Wet

from 1 Squadron died as a result of a shooting incident at his home. He was 32.

- **1971** - Air Mechanic Jean le Roux from 35 Squadron was killed in a private motor vehicle accident in Bellville. He was 20.
- **1979** - Private Martin Eugene Weideman from the Air Force Gymnasium died of natural causes in 1 Military Hospital. He was 19.
- **1982** - Rifleman Fernando José Gaspar De Sousa from 3 Parachute Battalion was critically injured on 5 January 1982 when he was accidentally driven over by a Buffel Troop Carrier at Ondangwa. Evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria, he succumbed to his injuries on 19 January 1982. He was 28.
- **1982** - Two members from 4 SAI were Killed in Action near Etale Base. The casualties were: Lance Corporal Johannes Gerhardus Reyneke (19). Rifleman Dudley Nel (19).
- **1982** - Flight Sergeant John Williams from 15 Squadron was killed when his Alouette III helicopter crashed while conducting dagga operations in conjunction with the South African Police who were destroying dagga plantations in the Greytown and Tugela Ferry area. He was 29.
- **1983** - Former Gestapo official Klaus Barbie, known as the "Butcher of Lyon," was arrested in Bolivia, South America.

- **1988** - Rifleman Johannes Petrus Barnard from 1 SAI was killed in action during Ops Hooper. He was 18.

20 January

- **1835** - Xhosa warriors overrun the Eastern Cape frontier.
- **1879** - British troops under Lord Chelmsford pitch their camp on the slopes of Isandhlawana, where Zulu warriors attack them two days later.
- **1900** - In the Battle of Tabanyama, Natal front, a group of Indian stretcher bearers, among whom the young Durban attorney Mohandas Ghandi, becomes intermingled with fighting troops. Six of them are killed and twelve wounded in the crossfire. The battle continued two more days.
- **1942** - During the Holocaust, Reinhard Heydrich, Himmler's second in command of the SS, convened the Wannsee Conference in Berlin with 15 top Nazi bureaucrats to coordinate the Final Solution (Endlösung) in which the Nazis would attempt to exterminate the entire Jewish population of Europe, an estimated 11 million persons.
- **1944** - Burma: Allies prepare major offensive to open the "Burma Road".
- **1944** - The Royal Air Force drops 2,500 tons of bombs on Berlin.
- **1951** - Fort Klapperkop and Fort Skanskop, Pretoria, are

opened to the public.

- **1964** - Army mutiny in Tanganyika over pay is put down with British assistance.
- **1965** - It is reported in London that the British government will not issue a permit for the export of the ground-to-air missiles South Africa requires.
- **1979** - Trooper Gregory Ernst Raaff from 1 Special Service Battalion died of injuries at Oshakati Hospital after being accidentally crushed between two vehicles at Ruacana. He was 20.
- **1981** - Corporal Donald Brooks from 3 SAI Died of Wounds received in action on 03 December 1980 when his company was based at Ondangwa. He was 19.
- **1982** - Three members from 1 Special Service Battalion, two of them twin brothers, were Killed in Action in Northern Owamboland during Ops Handsak while working with elements of 32 Battalion. The casualties were: Lance Corporal Ockert Petrus Kruger (18). Lance Corporal Pieter Kruger (18). Trooper Herman Fourie (19).
- **1983** - Two members from the Soutpansberg Military Area were Killed in a military vehicle accident on the Malala Drift Road about

46km from Messina. They were: Lance Corporal Japie Louis Nel (20). Rifleman Lovemore Phakati (22).

- **1986** - Rifleman R.M. Kröhne from 102 Battalion SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1987** - Rifleman P Rutjindo from 102 Battalion SWATF died in Hospital from Malaria contracted during operations in Southern Angola. He was 20.
- **1989** - Two members from Regiment Hillcrest were killed in a military vehicle accident. They were: Sergeant Anton Bela van der Merwe (23). Corporal Cornelius Johannes Stroebel (27).
- **1991** - During an Iraqi SCUD attack on Israel, US Patriot missiles are used for the first time, with mixed success.

21 January

- **1824** - American Civil War Confederate Army Gener-

Reinhard Heydrich



al "Stonewall" Jackson was born on this day.

- **1942** - Rommel begins a new offensive against the Allies in North Africa, hoping to push them back to the east.
- **1943** - Soviet forces recapture Worosjilowsk.
- **1945** - The Red Army destroys the German Tannenberg monument in East Prussia.
- **1954** - The USS Nautilus, the world's first nuclear powered submarine, was launched at Groton, Connecticut.
- **1968** - B-52 bomber with nuclear weapons crashes in Greenland.
- **1968** - Battle of Khe Sanh begins.
- **1977** - Two members from 3 SAI and one member from 13 Maintenance Unit were killed in a military vehicle accident at Tobias. They were: Lance Corporal Leon Steyn (19). Rifleman Jacobus Marais (19). Rifleman Ettienne Pieter van der Westhuizen (20).
- **1977** - Private Stephen Trevor Parvess from 1 Maintenance Unit Collapsed and died from heat exhaustion during Basic Training at Potchefstroom. He was 18.
- **1978** - Corporal Andre van den Boogaard from the SADF Equestrian Centre was killed in a military vehicle accident on the Ventersdorp Road. He was 18,
- **1983** - Lieutenant Frederick Christiaan van Zyl from 8

SAI accidentally drowned in the Orange River while trying to assist three soldiers who had got into difficulties while swimming. He was 21.

- **1986** - Rifleman Joshua Isaac Kuviri from 102 Battalion SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 20.
- **1988** - According to Jane's Defence Weekly, Armscor, the South African armaments producer, is the country's largest single exporter. Armscor sales to twenty-three countries in 1987 amounted to R1,8-billion.
- **1988** - According to reports from Angola, the strategic town of Cuito Cuanavale is about to fall to an onslaught by South African and UNITA forces. The reports say South African and Cuban troops have clashed for the first time in twelve years.

22 January

- **1879** - Cetewayo's impi wipe out British troops at Isandhlwana in one of the worst disasters in British military history, stabbing 1272 soldiers to death. The impi of the Zulu king then descend on the trading post at Rorke's Drift. About 4000 Zulus attack the fortified buildings held by 130 men of the 24th regiment at about 4.30 p.m. At the end of the attack at about 4 a.m. early the next morning, more than 350 Zulus are killed,

while the defenders' casualties amount to seventeen dead and ten wounded. A record eleven Victoria Crosses were awarded to the defenders of Rorke's Drift.

- **1879** - The British (no 1) supply column moving up the North Coast towards Eshowe is attacked by about 5000 Zulus as they cross the Nyezane River. The attack is beaten off south of Eshowe, north of the Nyezane river.
- **1941** - The Australian 6th Division captures Tobruk from the Italians.
- **1943** - Axis forces pull out of Tripoli and head back towards Tunisia.
- **1943** - During World War II in the Pacific, Japanese resistance ended in New Guinea, resulting in the first land victory of the war for Allied forces.
- **1944** - Operation Shingle: Allies land at Anzio.
- **1957** - Israeli forces withdraw from the Sinai Peninsula.
- **1981** - Rifleman Marthinus Christoffel Barnard from Infantry School suffered a fatal heart attack and died at Oudtshoorn while lifting weights in the Infantry School gymnasium. He was 21.
- **1983** - Leading Marine Hendrik Jacobus Kemp from 111 Harbour Protection Unit, South African Marine Corps was Killed in Action when his Buffel Troop Carrier detonated a double boosted Yugoslavian TMA-3 Cheese

mine in Southern Angola near the Cut-line. He was 20.

- **1983** - Staff Sergeant Hermanus Jacobus Petrus Barkhuizen from the Technical Service Corps died in 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria after suffering a fatal heart attack at his Unit. He was 33.
- **1984** - Corporal Terence van den Dool from 3 SAI was Reported Missing while swimming with his friends at Hippo Pools, Ruacana. For administrative purposes, he was officially declared dead in 1986. He was 19.
- **1987** - Two members from 1 SWA Engineer Regiment SWATF were Killed in Action when their Buffel Troop Carrier detonated a double boosted Yugoslavian TMA-3 Cheese Mine on the Eupupa Road in Southern Angola. They were: Corporal Jose Miguel Rodrigues Carreira (20). Lance Corporal Nicolaas Willem Barnard (20).
- **2005** - Carlo Orelli, last Italian combat veteran to have served throughout WW I, dies at the age of 110.

23 January

- **1900** - Battle of Spion Kop: Boers defeat the British; Winston Churchill & Mohandas Gandhi are both present, but do not meet.
- **1932** - El Salvador's army kills 4,000 protesting farmers
- **1935** - Abyssinian tribesmen in Somaliland massacre

French colonial troops.

- **1903** - Colonel Arthur Alfred Lynch is found guilty of high treason and sentenced to death for leading the "Irish Commando" against British forces in the South African War. The death sentence is commuted to life imprisonment on 24th January 1904.
- **1943** - In North Africa, British forces under General Bernard Montgomery captured Tripoli in Libya.
- **1943** - Casablanca Conference: FDR & Churchill agree on the "unconditional surrender" of the Axis.
- **1962** - Kim Philby, long-term spy in Britain, defects to the USSR.
- **1968** - The American ship USS Pueblo was seized by North Koreans in the Sea of Japan amid claims the Navy ship was spying. The ship was confiscated and its crew held in captivity until December, with one fatality.
- **1971** - After a compromise is reached at a Commonwealth Conference, Britain is allowed to sell weapons to South Africa, though African leaders oppose the step.
- **1981** - Rifleman Aubrey John Botha from 11 Commando Regiment died from gunshot wounds accidentally sustained while on special duty at Umtata. He was 19.
- **1981** - Rifleman Dieter Otto Haase from the South West

Africa Infantry Battalion SWATF was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 20.

- **1982** - Private (Miss) Karen Mona van Rensburg from the Administrative Service Corps was killed in a private motor vehicle accident in Voortrekkerhoogte while on official duty. She was 19.
- **1984** - Corporal Johannes Hendrik Roets from 4 SAI was Killed in Action when his Buffel Troop Carrier detonated a landmine at Techamutete in Southern Angola during Ops Askari. He was 19.
- **1986** - Rifleman Deon Francis Du Toit from 3 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 19.
- **1987** - Corporal Marthinus Petrus van Loggerenberg from 4 SAI died from injuries received when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in the Kabokweni Township near Nelspruit during anti-riot patrol duties. He was 19.
- **1988** - Four members from

Kim Philby



54 Battalion were Killed in Action during a fierce engagement with a numerically superior force of FAPLA and SWAPO/PLAN troops in South Eastern Angola. The casualties were: Corporal Dawid Petersen (22). Rifleman Joseph Brian Harker (25). Rifleman Phillip Dawid Matroos (22). Rifleman Alfred Snyders (23).

- **1989** - Seaman (Marine) P. Thangavalu from the South African Marines was killed instantly as a result of a gunshot wound to the head, accidentally self-inflicted shortly after he returned to the Marine Base at Wenela after completing a Patrol. He was 19.
- **1991** - Rifleman Fanie Johan Jeneke from the South African Cape Corps was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Scottburgh. He was 18.

24 January

- **1891** - Capain. Kurt von Francois arrives as leader of a small German regiment in South West Africa to suppress the Herero rebellion.
- **1891** - Walter Model, German Field Marshal, is born on this day.
- **1900** - The British, under General Warren, surrenders to General Botha at Spioenkop. At least 1,000 British and sixty Boer soldiers die in this battle.
- **1901** - Emily Hobhouse, English nurse who visited

the Transvaal and Orange Free Sate Republics during the South African War, reports that she found 2,000 women and children in shocking circumstances in the concentration camp at Bloemfontein.

- **1915** - Battle of Dogger Bank: Royal Navy defeats the Germans in the North Sea.
- **1923** - The Italian Air Force was formed as the as the Regia Aerea.
- **1941** - British troops invade Italian East Africa.
- **1961** - A B-52 breaks up over the North Carolina coast, losing two H-bombs, one of which is still missing.
- **1964** - British troops are flown in to Uganda to suppress an army mutiny over low pay.
- **1965** - Winston Spencer Churchill, British Prime Minister during World War II, dies at the age of 88.
- **1978** - Private Cornelius Jacobus Borchardt from the Administrative Service Corps was killed in a military vehicle accident, at Otjiwarongo. He was 23.
- **1979** - Rifleman Gerald Wayne Williams from 6 SAI accidentally drowned during a training exercise at the Base. He was 22.
- **1981** - Trooper Eugene Margo Nel from 4 Vehicle Reserve Park was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Kroonstad. He was 19.
- **1984** - Corporal Dawid

Lambert van Niekerk from Regiment De Wet was killed instantly after being struck by lightning during a thunderstorm while in the field. He was 25.

- **1985** - Corporal Jacobus Petrus Hall from 1 Parachute Battalion was accidentally shot dead by a fellow soldier who was on guard duty while the patrol was in a TB for the night North of Okankolo. He was 19.
- **1985** - Rifleman Saul Frederick de Kock from the South African Cape Corps was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned during a follow-up operation against SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 26.
- **1985** - Rifleman J.H. Filipus from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents. He was 22.
- **1987** - Rifleman William Viljoen from 8 SAI was accidentally killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned after losing a front wheel 3km South of Ondangwa. He was thrown out of the vehicle which then rolled over him. He was 20.
- **1988** - Sergeant Ockert Barendse from the School of Artillery accidentally drowned in Potchefstroom. He was 28.
- **1986** - Guerrillas advance into Ugandan capital of Kampala as army opposition crumbles, pushing mil-

itary government to edge of collapse.

- **1991** - US Navy helicopters liberate Kuwaiti offshore oil rigs from the Iraqis.
- **1993** - Three Somalis are killed and at least five are wounded in clashes with troops of a US-led coalition trying to safeguard efforts to feed the country's starving.

25 January

- **1916** - Montenegro surrenders to Austria-Hungary.
- **1919** - At the end of the war, the Paris Peace Conference accepts the proposal to create the League of Nations. The League was eventually established by Part I of the Treaty of Versailles, which was signed on 28 June 1919.
- **1940** - Nazis decree the establishment of a Jewish ghetto in Lodz Poland.
- **1943** - Guadalcanal: Japanese in full retreat, closely pursued by U.S. forces.
- **1945** - Audie Murphy earns the Medal of Honour.
- **1951** - UN begins counter offensive in Korea.
- **1961** - Military coup in El Salvador.
- **1971** - General Idi Amin Dada takes power in Uganda by military coup while the existing president, Milton Obote, is at a Commonwealth meeting in Singapore.
- **1980** - Three MK operatives entered the Volkskas Bank in Silverton (Silverton Bank Siege) and took 25 members

of Staff and customers hostage. In the ensuing gun battle with Security Police, two civilians were killed, 5 civilians were wounded and all three MK Operatives were shot dead.

- **1981** - Rifleman Stephen Stuart Whittaker from 3 SAI was Reported Missing while hitch hiking back to his Unit in Potchefstroom. He was picked up by a motorist, Mr Pieter Du Plessis and they stopped at the Laingsburg bridge for a travel break. Unfortunately, it was that time when the river came down in flood and they were both washed away. Their bodies were never located and they remain unaccounted for. For administrative, both men were officially declared dead by Judge C.F.W. van Zyl on 03 June 1981. He was 18.
- **1981** - Lance Corporal Patrick Louis Walsh from the Air Force Gymnasium was killed instantly when he was struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle during musketry training at Haakdoringlaagte. He was 20.
- **1983** - Two members from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) were Killed in Action during a Contact with SWAPO/

PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. They were: Special Constable T. Matais (33). Special Constable K. Tjimbua (31).

- **1987** - Four members from 101 Battalion SWATF were Killed in Action during a fierce engagement with SWAPO/PLAN and FAPLA forces in Southern Angola. During the attack on Mongua, friendly mortar fire fell short of the target and landed on their position. They were: Sergeant Johan Martin (35) Corporal H Alugodhi (24). Rifleman W Shitongeni (26). Rifleman G Shilulu (23).
- **1987** - Sapper T. Seibib from 1 South West Africa Engineer Regiment was Killed in Action in a Landmine explosion in the Kaokoveld. He was 24.
- **1988** - Airman John Hendri Flemming from the Air Force Gymnasium collapsed and died after experiencing respiratory and heart fail-



Winston Churchill

ure during physical training exercises at the Air Force Gymnasium. He was 18.

26 January

- **1880** - General Douglas MacArthur was born on this day.
- **1885** - The Mahdist forces take Khartoum in Sudan after a nine-month siege and slaughter most inhabitants and the British garrison, including General Gordon.
- **1901** - General Christiaan de Wet, accompanied by President M.T. Steyn, starts his journey at Doornberg, near Winburg, to invade the Cape Colony for the second time.
- **1902** - General Ben Viljoen and seven men are ambushed and captured by the British. His pocket book saves his life by warding off a bullet and preventing it to strike his chest.
- **1934** - Nazi Germany and Poland sign ten year non-aggression pact.
- **1939** - Franco's Spanish Nationalists capture Barcelona.
- **1943** - Nazis began using Hitler Youths to operate anti-aircraft batteries in Germany following heavy Allied bombing of Berlin and other cities.
- **1950** - India becomes a republic within the British Commonwealth, converts the Victoria Cross to the Param Vir Chakra, 14 of the 21 of which awards have been posthumous.
- **1952** - Egypt is placed under martial law in response to wide-spread riots against the British.
- **1977** - Rifleman Sabino Luciano from 32 Battalion was killed in a shooting incident in the residential camp at Buffalo. He was 25.
- **1977** - Rifleman Isak Nel Myburgh from 6 SAI Died of Wounds received in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1978** - Rifleman Petrus Wilhelmus Prinsloo from Middelburg Commando accidentally drowned in the Assegai River at Amsterdam. He was 20.
- **1980** - 2nd Lieutenant Johannes Lodewicus Buys from 6 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment was killed in a Military Vehicle accident near Grootfontein. He was 22.
- **1980** - Rifleman Hendrik Christoffel Janse van Rensburg from SWA SPES was accidentally shot dead during the night at their TB by a guard who mistook him for a SWAPO/PLAN insurgent. He was 18.
- **1981** - Lance Corporal Jacobus Adriaan Smuts Louw from 1 SAI was killed instantly when he detonated a booby-trapped Yugoslavian TMA-3 Cheese Mine while returning from a patrol on the Cut-line. He was 19.
- **1983** - At a special press conference it is announced that a senior South African

naval officer, commanding Simon's Town dockyard, Commodore Dieter Gerhardt and his wife, have been detained for questioning in connection with alleged espionage.

- **1986** - Two Members from 5 SAI were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in wet weather near Nkurenkuru. The casualties were: Corporal Jan Daniel Schmidt (23). Rifleman Johannes Gerhardus Janse van Rensburg (18).
- **1986** - The National Resistance Army takes over the Ugandan capital of Kampala.
- **1991** - Rebels overrun the Somali capital of Mogadishu.
- **1992** - Russia announces it will no longer target US cities with nuclear weapons.
- **1994** - Romania became the first former Cold War foe to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

27 January

- **1859** - German Kaiser Wilhelm II was born on this day.
- **1915** - US Marines begin occupation of Haiti.
- **1943** - SA prime minister, General Jan Smuts, asks parliament's approval to send troops to Europe, contrary to his promise in 1939 that SA troops would only fight in Africa.
- **1943** - The U.S. 8th Air

Force conducted the first all-American bombing raid on Germany as 55 bombers targeted Wilhelmshaven, losing three planes while claiming to have shot down 22 German fighters. The success of this first mission encouraged U.S. military planners to begin regular daylight bombing raids, which eventually resulted in high casualty rates for the American crewmen involved.

- **1944** - Russian Army General Govorov announced the lifting of the Nazi blockade of Leningrad. During the 900-day siege, an estimated one million Russian civilians inside the city died of disease, starvation and relentless German shelling.
- **1944** - U.S. issues a report on "The Bataan Death March".
- **1945** - The Russian Army liberated Auschwitz death camp near Krakow in Poland, where the Nazis had systematically murdered an estimated 2,000,000 persons, including 1,500,000 Jews.
- **1967** - Treaty signed banning military use of nuclear weapons in space.
- **1973** - U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War ended as North Vietnamese and American representatives signed an agreement in Paris.
- **1984** - Corporal Johannes Adam De Beer from 8 SAI was Killed in Action after

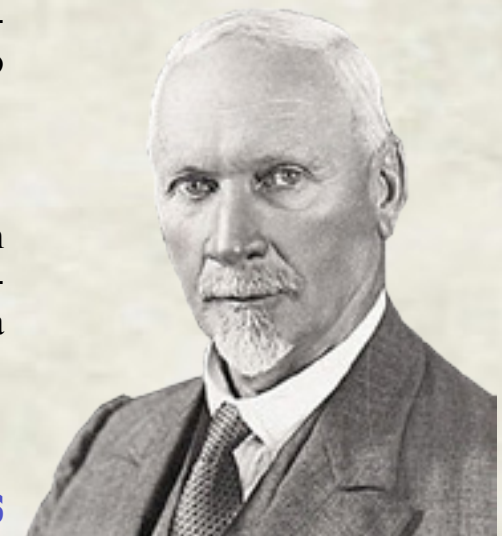
stepping on an enemy Anti-Personnel Mine while on Patrol in Southern Angola. He was 19.

- **1984** - Special Constable Paulino Kangombe from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 32.
- **1991** - President Mohamed Siad Barre of Somalia flees the capital, Mogadishu, as a coalition of rebels seize power. The country plunges into virtual anarchy.
- **1996** - Niger's first democratically elected president, Mahamane Ousmane, is ousted in a coup and army Colonel Barre Mainassara Ibrahim takes over as head of state.
- **2002** - Munitions at an army base in Lagos, Nigeria's commercial capital, explode, sending fireballs and shrapnel into the air and forcing hundreds of area residents to flee. As many as 600 people drown in a canal that blocked their way to safety.
- **1871** - The British forces are defeated and 83 British soldiers under Sir George Colley are killed and 111 wounded in the battle of Laings Nek in the Anglo-Transvaal War, caused by the refusal of the Transvaal Boers to submit to British authority as proclaimed by Shepstone in 1877.
- **1885** - British relief force reaches Khartoum, and the Sudan is evacuated.
- **1916** - German colony of Cameroon surrenders to Britain & France.
- **1932** - Japanese capture Shanghai.
- **1942** - Five power stations are blown up by pro-Axis saboteurs in an attempt to destabilise the Rand gold mines.
- **1942** - German troops capture Benghazi, Libya.
- **1944** - RAF puts 683 bombers over Berlin.
- **1970** - Cairo suburbs are attacked by Israeli jet fighters.
- **1976** - Rifleman Chris Kruger Moorcroft from 1 Parachute Battalion died from

28 January

- **1871** - The Franco-Prussian War ended as Paris surrendered to the Germans after a four month siege.

Jan Smuts



bronchial pneumonia and renal failure in 3 Military Hospital, Bloemfontein. He was 20.

- **1977** - Sergeant Abraham Jacobus Smith from 32 Battalion died from injuries received when a private Piper PA28 Cherokee aircraft in which he was travelling as a passenger, crashed at Grootfontein. He was 34.
- **1978** - Rifleman Domingos Augusto from 32 Battalion was killed instantly from a gunshot wound accidentally self-inflicted during operations in Southern Angola. He was 35.
- **1978** - Corporal Manuel Antonio Infante Ganhão from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during an engagement with FRELIMO Troops at a railway siding south of Mapai in Gaza Province, Moçambique during Operation Melon (SADF Name Operation Acrobat). He was 28.
- **1982** - Rifleman Jacobus Frederick De Beer from 61 Base Workshops was critically injured on 25 January 1982 when he accidentally fell off the back of a moving military vehicle. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries on 28 January 1982. He was 18.
- **1982** - Two members from 5 SAI were Killed in Action near Elundu when their patrol was ambushed by numerically superior force of SWAPO/PLAN insurgents.

The casualties were: Rifleman William Robert Dawson (20). Rifleman Alexander Forbes (19).

- **1983** - Private Peter Alan Beard from the South African Medical Corps Headquarters was killed in a Military Vehicle accident at Mooi River. He was 19.
- **1985** - Sergeant Willem Johan Gouws from Air Force Base Hoedspruit was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Pilgrims Rest. He was 40.
- **1993** - Troops in Zaire run riot, killing the French Ambassador.

29 January

- **1915** - Erwin Rommel is awarded the Iron Cross, First Class, for action in the Argonne.
- **1916** - During World War I, the first aerial bombings of Paris by German Zeppelins took place.
- **1943** - HMNZS 'Kiwi' rams & sinks Japanese sub 'I-1' off Guadalcanal.
- **1944** - Heavy Luftwaffe raid on London.
- **1979** - Rifleman Gary James Rautenbach from 6 SAI Died of Wounds after being critically injured in a landmine explosion at Endobe on the 20 Jan 1979. He succumbed to his wounds in 1 Military Hospital on 29 January 1979. He was 20.
- **1982** - Rifleman George Edmond Jacobson from the Kimberley Regiment

was killed at Katima Mulilo when he was run over by a private civilian vehicle while manning a control check point. He was 22.

- **1987** - Private Charel Andries Fourie from 5 Maintenance Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident at Ogongo. He was 22.
- **1987** - Three members of the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K (Koevoet) were killed in a military vehicle accident in Northern Owamboland. They were: Special Sergeant Tulengepo Lungameni (36). Special Sergeant Petrus Pius (35). Constable Willem Christiaan Scheepers (24).
- **1991** - Battle of Khafji, Saudi Arabia: Iraqis capture the town.
- **1993** - French marines land in Kinshasa, Zaire, to free French nationals confined to the embassy.
- **1996** - Two serving members of the army and a third man are arrested in connection with the attack on St James's Church in Cape Town in July 1993.

30 January

- **1882** - Franklin Delano Roosevelt was born on this day.
- **1902** - Anglo-Japanese alliance formed.
- **1911** - The Royal Canadian Navy was founded on this day.
- **1915** - German submarine attack on Le Havre.

- **1930** - Magnus André De Merindol Malan, former Chief of the SADF and SA Minister of Defence, is born in Pretoria on this day.
- **1933** - Adolf Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany by President Paul von Hindenburg.
- **1939** - Hitler calls for the extermination of the Jews.
- **1943** - Hitler promotes Friedrich Paulus, commanding the Sixth Army, surrounded at Stalingrad, to field marshal, with a hint that he should commit suicide.
- **1945** - Danzig: Soviet sub sinks German ship 'Wilhelm Gustloff'. More than 7,700 die, making it the worst loss of life in a single sinking in history.
- **1952** - Martial law is imposed in Egypt as King Farouk dismisses the premier Nahas Pasha and his Wafdist government.
- **1964** - Two members from 5 SAI accidentally drowned in a boating accident at Ladysmith. They were: Rifleman Johannes Frederick Kies (19). Rifleman Cornelius Marthinus Du Plooy (19).
- **1964** - Military coup by Gen Nguyen Khanh in South-Vietnam.
- **1968** - Beginning of the Tet Offensive in Vietnam as North Vietnamese troops attacked 36 provincial capitals and 5 major cities in South Vietnam, including an attack on the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and the presidential

palace.

- **1972** - In Londonderry, Northern Ireland, 13 Roman Catholics were killed by British troops during a banned civil rights march. The event became known as Bloody Sunday.
- **1981** - Twenty-four people are killed in Operation Beanbag, an attack by the South African army on the ANC and PAC in Matola, a suburb of Maputo, Mozambique. A Portuguese engineer, Jose Ramos, is "mistakenly identified" as Joe Slovo, one of the raid's main targets, by the South African forces and is shot at a roadblock. Numbers killed vary. Some sources state that twelve were killed and three abducted.
- **1981** - Two members of 6 Reconnaissance Regiment were Killed in Action and one Reported Missing during a Special Forces Raid on the African National Congress Headquarters in Maputo, Moçambique during Operation Bean Bag. They were: Sergeant Robert Louis Hutchinson (24). Sergeant Ian Suttill (22). Lance Corporal James King Park (21). The body of Sergeant Robert Louis Hutchinson was never recovered. He has known grave and remains unaccounted for.

- **1983** - Rifleman R.R. Kufuna from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 23.

- **1992** - Argentina allowed access to numerous files of Nazis who had fled to South America from Germany after World War II, thus aiding the hunt for Nazi war criminals.

31 January

- **1901** - Generals Smuts and Liebenberg captures Modderfontein, Transvaal.
- **1915** - Battle of Bolimów: The Germans stage the first major poison gas attack, but the Russians hold.
- **1917** - Germany notifies the US that it will resume unrestricted submarine warfare.
- **1943** - German troops surrendered at Stalingrad, marking the first big defeat of Hitler's armies in World War II. During the Battle of Stalingrad, 160,000 Ger-



Adolf Hitler

mans were killed and 90,000 taken prisoner, including the commander, Friedrich von Paulus, the first German field marshal ever to surrender. The captured Germans were forced to march to Siberia, with few ever returning to Germany.

- **1945** - Eddie Slovik, a 24 year-old U.S. Army private, was executed by a firing squad after being sentenced to death for desertion, the first such occurrence in the U.S. Army since the Civil War.
- **1972** - Military coup ousts civilian government of Ghana.
- **1982** - Sergeant (Mrs) Elizabeth Mostert from the Orange Free State Command Headquarters was killed while on duty in Voortrekkerhoogte, Pretoria when she was accidentally run over by a police vehicle. She was 50.

ange Free State Command Headquarters was killed while on duty in Voortrekkerhoogte, Pretoria when she was accidentally run over by a police vehicle. She was 50.

- **1985** - Sergeant Willem van As from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 27.
- **1985** - Rifleman K.E. Mbambo from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 22.

• **1986** - Commandant Marshall Aubrey Joseph Facer from the Highveld Air Space Control Sector at Devon was killed in a private motor vehicle accident at Delmas. He was 39.

• **1987** - Corporal Charles John Oram from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was killed in a private motor vehicle Accident between Phalaborwa and Hoedspruit. He was 26.

• **1994** - In Mogadishu, US Marines in a convoy carrying American diplomats open fire near a crowded food distribution centre. At least five Somalis are killed and many wounded.



The execution of Private Eddie Slovik.



General Knowledge

1. The Crimean War.
2. It was the last battle between oar-powered galleys.
3. Agent Orange.
4. El Salvador and Honduras.
5. General Rudolph Hiemstra.
6. Brixton Ridge in Johannesburg. It was during the Rand Rebellion in 1922.
7. Frantam.
8. Spetsnaz.
9. The Panther.
10. Andy McNab.
11. Max Schmeling.
12. It was 5 Reconnaissance Commando. They only became 5 Reconnaissance Regiment after they moved to Phalaborwa.
13. Zanzibar. They declared war on Britain and then surrendered 38 minutes later.
14. The 332nd Fighter Group (The Tuskegee Airmen).
15. Cpl Pieter Arnoldus Swane-poel HCS, 2 SAI, 11 November 1975.
16. It has a safety catch.
17. It was the largest tank battle ever.
18. Glenn Miller.
19. Government Issue.
20. Swift and sure.
21. General Sir Bernard Law Montgomery.
22. Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword.
23. Paul Tibbets.

14

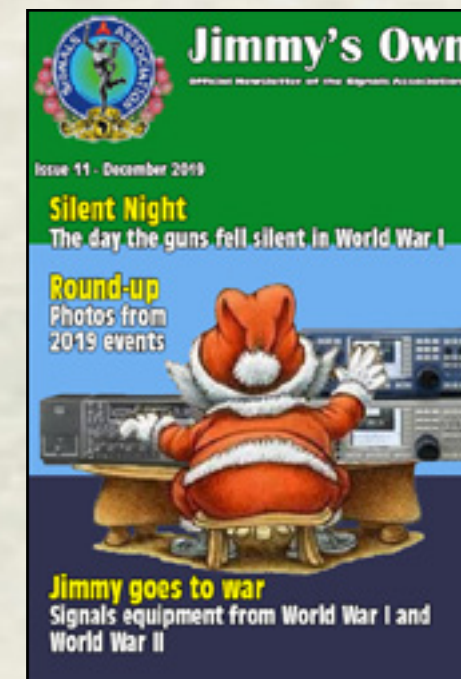


24. American actress Jane Fonda. She visited Hanoi in support of North Vietnam.
25. The Maquis.

Useful links

Every month we will be featuring a few useful links to military websites, newsletters and online magazines. Stuff that we think our readers will appreciate.

Here are two of our favourites. The first one is Nongqai, the unofficial police newsletter for veterans of the former South African Police Force and for those interested in Police History. The second is Jimmy's Own, the official newsletter of the South African Signals Association. Click on the magazine covers to go to the respective websites.



Hipe!

media

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editor@hipe.co.za



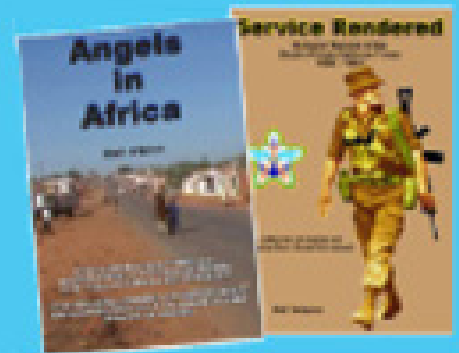
Online Magazines

Flip book magazines with pages that can be turned.



E-books

Produced in any electronic format required.



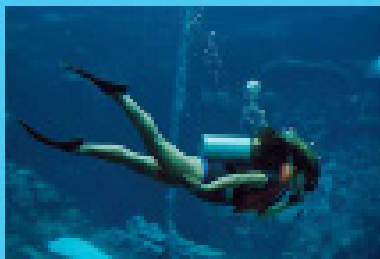
2D & 3D Animation

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.