



Military Despatches

Vol 32 February 2020

The Warthog

The Fairchild Republic A-10 Thunderbolt

Trust me, it wasn't us
10 false flag operations

Get out of jail...

How a game aided Allied POWs with escape



Anglo-Zanzibar War

The shortest war in history

For the military enthusiast

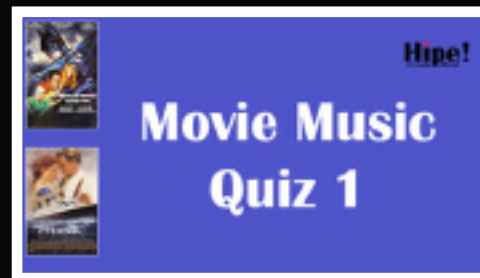


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Hipe's Wouter de Goede interviews former 28's gang boss David Williams.

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



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



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



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



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

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

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Editor's Sitrep

So, we're already in the second month of the year. And of course this month is Valentine's Day. And while I am a hopeless romantic, I think Valentine's Day is a commercial rip-off.

It reminds me of a story about a mate of mine. His wife asked him what he was getting her for Valentine's Day. So he went out and bought her a plot at the local cemetery.

The following year she once again asked what he was getting her for Valentine's Day.

"Nothing," he said. "You didn't use the gift I bought you last year."

While I love doing Military Despatches, it does take time to put together every month. While a number of people do contribute articles, I have to research many of them myself. And, unfortunately, I do make mistakes. After all, I am only human (although my late mother would have probably argued that point).

The one positive about making mistakes (I'm clutching at straws here) is that when readers point out the mistakes it shows me that people are actually reading the articles.

Last month in the 'January in Military History' article I made not one but two faux pas.

First I said that Winston Churchill died on 24 January 1965 at the age of 88. Later on I said that in 1885 The Mahdist forces took Khartoum in Sudan after a nine-month siege and slaughter most inhabitants and the British garrison, including General Gordon.

As Major Banks of the Australian Army pointed out, Churchill was 90 when he died, and not 88.

He also rightly pointed out that there was NO British garrison. All troops were Egyptian/Sudanese. The only British Army member there was Gordon himself!

Thanks for pointing that out sir. *Mea culpa*.

I trust that you will all enjoy this month's edition of the magazine and that I haven't made too many glaring mistakes.

Have a Happy Valentine's Day for those celebrating.

Until next time.

Matt

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Ten false flag operations

There are many documented false flag attacks, where a government carries out a terror attack - and then falsely blames its enemy for political purposes. We look at ten attacks and incidents that were suspected to be false flag attacks, or actually proved to be false flag operations.

It is fair in love and war, or so it has been said. Well the actual saying is "The rules of fair play do not apply in love and war."

It comes from *Euphues: The Anatomy of Wit*, a didactic romance written by John Lyly back in 1578.

And when it comes to war, the rules of fair play more often than not fall by the wayside. Countries, governments and armies will do whatever it takes to be victorious.

Sometimes they will also go to great lengths to provoke a war in such a manner that they appear to be the victim rather than the aggressor.

Let's say, for example, a large powerful country wants to invade another less powerful country. If they simply invade the other country they will appear as aggressors, little more than bullies that have invaded a smaller, less powerful nation. There is a strong chance that they will be condemned by the rest of the world.

Yet what if it appears as if the smaller country was really the aggressor. What if they carried out a terrorist attack or attacks on the larger country?

The larger, more powerful country will have no choice but to protect themselves and their citizens. They would be seen

by the rest of the world as being perfectly justified in retaliating against those that attacked them. "All we are doing," they would claim, "is defending ourselves."

Yet how exactly would the larger country get the smaller country to attack them or commit acts of terrorism against them? It's easy - just carry out a false flag operation. So what exactly is a false flag operation?

A false flag is a covert operation designed to deceive. The deception creates the appearance of a particular party, group, or nation being responsible for some activity, disguising the actual source of responsibility.

The term "false flag" originally referred to pirate ships that flew flags of countries as a disguise to prevent their victims from fleeing or preparing for battle. Sometimes the flag would remain and the blame for the attack be laid incorrectly on another country.

The term today extends beyond naval encounters to include countries that organize attacks on themselves and make the attacks appear to be by enemy nations or terrorists, thus giving the nation that was supposedly attacked a pretext for domestic repression and foreign military aggression.

In this article we will look at

ten incidents throughout history that were suspected to be false flag operations, or were actually proved to be false flag operations.

10. The Great Fire of Rome

On the night of 19 July 64 AD fire burst through the rooftops of shops near the mass entertainment and chariot racing venue called Circus Maximus in Rome.

The flames, whipped by a strong wind, rapidly engulfed densely populated areas of the city. After burning uncontrolled for five days, four of the 14 Roman districts were burned to the ground, and seven more were severely damaged.

A tragic accident - or was there more to it than that?

It was no secret that the emperor at the time, Nero, wanted to build a series of palaces which he planned on naming 'Neropolis'. There was, however, one small flaw in his plan.

The planned location was in the city and in order to build Neropolis, a third of Rome would have to be torn down.

The Roman Senate didn't think much of Nero's plans and rejected the idea out of hand. Then, in a happy coincidence for Nero, the fire cleared the very real estate Neropolis required.

Now it's obvious that Nero was behind the fire. History tells us that while Rome was burning Nero played his fiddle in a villa some distance away from Rome, ignoring his duty to the great city. Hence the expression, "Nero fiddled while Rome burned". Yet there is a strong possibility that Nero did not start the fire.

Up to a hundred small fires regularly broke out in Rome each day. On top of that, the fire destroyed Nero's own palace and it appears that Nero did everything he could to stop the fire. Accounts of the day say that when Nero heard about the fire, he rushed back from Antium to organize a relief effort, using his own money. He opened his palaces to let in the homeless and had food supplies delivered to the survivors.

Nero also devised a new urban development plan that would make Rome less vulnerable to fire. But, although he put in place rules to ensure a safer reconstruction, he also gave himself a huge tract of city property with the intention of building his new palace there.

The thing was that many people knew of Nero's plans for Neropolis, and all his efforts to help the city could not counteract the rampant rumours that he'd help start the fire.

As his poll numbers and popularity dropped, Nero's administration realised that they needed to come up with a plan to direct the attention away from Nero. What they came up with was a classic false flag operation.

When something - anything - bad happens to you, even if it's accidental, point the finger at your enemy.

Luckily for Nero, he did have the perfect target to point at - a new religious cult known as the Christians.

The cult was unpopular because its followers refused to worship the emperor, denounced possessions, held secret meetings and they were always talking about the destruction of Rome and the end of the world.

Even more luckily for Nero, two of the cult's biggest leaders, Peter and Paul, were currently in town. Nero spread word that the Christians had started the Great Fire.

The citizens of Rome bought his lie hook, line and sinker. Peter was crucified and Paul beheaded. Hundreds of others in the young cult were fed to the lions or smeared with tar and set on fire to become human street lamps.

9. Remember the Maine

"Remember the Maine, to hell with Spain!" - the rally cry that launched a war and ultimately brought down an empire.

The Spanish Empire was the first truly global empire, you may even say that they were the first superpower, reaching its territorial height in the late 1700s.

Yet by 1898 things weren't look so rosy for the Spanish and they were losing territories on a regular basis. One of their territories, Cuba, was becoming

increasingly hard to control and a minor revolution had broken out.

This wasn't welcome news to powerful businessmen in the United States who owned Cuban sugar, tobacco and iron industry properties valued at over \$50 million (worth about \$1.2 billion today).

The main stream media was dominated by newspaper magnates Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst, both of whom had business interests in Cuba.

Basically they used the media to lie like cheap watches, exaggerating stories of horrible conditions under Spanish rule. Following the age-old maxim, "If it bleeds, it leads", the newspapers published stories about Spanish death camps, Spanish cannibalism and inhumane torture.

The newspapers sent reporters to Cuba. However, when they got there, they found a different story. Artist and correspondent Frederick Remington wrote back to Hearst saying "There is no war. Request to be recalled." Hearst's famous reply: "Please remain. You furnish the pictures, I'll furnish the war." And he did.

His newspaper, continually screaming how Spanish Cuba was going to hell in a hand basket, convinced big business interests in the US to put pressure on anti-war President William McKinley to protect their Cuban investments. McKinley, in response, sent the battleship USS Maine to Havana Harbour

as a calming show of force.

Three weeks after arriving, on the night of 15 February 1898, the USS Maine exploded, killing 266 men. There are two theories for the explosion: some believe the explosion was caused by an external mine that detonated the ship's ammunition magazines. Others say it was caused by a spontaneous coal bunker fire that reached the ammunition magazines. Currently, the evidence seems to favour the external mine theory.

Without waiting on an investigation, America's mainstream media blamed the tragedy on Spain and began to beat the war drums very loudly.

By April, McKinley yielded to public pressure and signed a congressional resolution declaring war on Spain. To help pay for the Spanish-American War, congress enacted a "temporary" tax of three percent on long-distance telephone bills.

This was essentially a tax on the rich, as only about 1,300 Americans owned phones in 1898. Although the Spanish-American War ended in 1898, the temporary tax was only abolished in 2005 - 107 years later. Over its lifetime, the tax generated almost \$94 billion - more than 230 times the cost of the entire Spanish-American War.

The Spanish-American War put a large nail in the coffin of Spain's global empire. And by the end of 1898, the United States, which was founded in opposition to imperialism, found itself in control not only



TO HELL WITH SPAIN: When the American battleship USS Maine exploded and sank in Havana harbour it led to the United States declaring war on Spain.

of Cuba, but of the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Hawaiian Islands as well.

8. The Manchurian Incident

The decade that followed World War I was known as the "Roaring Twenties", and it was a time of wealth and excess.

Many people were amassing fortunes by speculating and playing the stock market.

Yet by early September 1929 financial experts were saying, "A crash is coming."

On 20 September 1929, the London Stock Exchange crashed when top British investor Clarence Hatry and many of his associates were jailed for fraud and forgery.

The stock market in the United States became unstable. Then on 28 October, a day known as 'Black Monday', the Wall Street stock exchange crashed.

Within just two days com-

panies and individuals went from being worth millions to being destitute. Many people were wiped out financially, with many of them committing suicide. The Wall Street crash signalled the beginning of the Great Depression.

The economic slump did not only affect the USA and Britain. Japan was hit especially hard. Exports fell and unemployment rose.

Japan, not being rich in natural resources, needed oil and coal to make power to run machines to produce goods to sell to other countries to make money to buy food to have enough energy.

The province of Manchuria had its fair share of both oil and coal. It would be able to supply Japan with both vital commodities. There was, however, one small problem. The province of Manchuria belonged to China.



THE ELECTIONS BEGIN TO HEAT UP: The Reichstag, the German parliament, burns just a week before the elections. Who really started the fire?

This wasn't too much of a problem for Japan though. All they needed to do was invade Manchuria and claim the province as Japanese territory. What they needed was a pretext to justify the invasion. It was the perfect scenario for a false flag operation.

The Japanese chose a big flat area that had no military value to either the Japanese or the Chinese. On the Japanese side of the border was a railway line. Chinese troops were stationed at Beidaying on the Chinese side of the border, a mere 800 metres away.

Colonel Itagaki Seishiro and Lieutenant Colonel Kanji Ishiwara ordered officers of the Shimamoto Regiment to place a bomb beneath the tracks of the Japanese rail line.

The original bomb failed to detonate and a replacement bomb had to be hurriedly put together. Then, at 10h20 on 18 September 1931 the bomb exploded.

Surprisingly, the explosion was minor. Only one side of the rail was damaged, and the damage was so light that a train headed for Shenyang passed by only a few minutes later without any problem.

The Japanese press labelled the site of the blast *Liutiao-gou*, which was Japanese for "Liutiao Bridge." There was no bridge there, but the name helped convince some that it was a strategic target.

The Japanese claimed that the explosion was a clear act of sabotage and laid the blame squarely on the Chinese troops at Beidaying. It gave Japan the ideal excuse to invade Manchuria.

The Japanese took over the province and installed a puppet government known as Manchukuo.

The League of Nations, the precursor to the United Nations, investigated and in a 1932 report denied that the invasion was an act of defence, as Japan

had advertised. But rather than vacate Manchuria, Japan decided to vacate the League of Nations instead.

7. The Reichstag Fire

In 1933, just a week before general elections that might place enough Nazis in office to make Hitler defacto dictator, the Reichstag, which housed the parliament of the German Empire, was set on fire.

Adolf Hitler assured everyone that communist terrorists started the fire. Hitler's party member Hermann Göring stated that he had secret evidence that would soon be made public; evidence that proved communists did it. These proclamations came on top of weeks of Nazi-organized street violence designed to whip the public into a pathological fear of communists.

The next day, the Nazis convinced a senile President von Hindenburg to sign the Reichstag Decree. The decree, using defence against terrorism as an excuse, suspended just about every major civil liberty set forth in the Weimar Constitution.

Habeus corpus - the right to know why you're being put in jail - was removed from the constitution. Freedom of opinion - gone. Freedom of the press - forget about that. Freedom to organise and assemble - try that and you would end up being deported.

The Reichstag decree even allowed the government to spy on its own citizens' personal

mail and telephone conversations without a warrant.

So what about the fire? The only thing historians seem to agree on is that Marinus van der Lubbe, a former Dutch Communist and mentally disturbed arsonist hungry for fame, was found inside the building. Despite the Nazi attempt to blame the fire on a group of communists, the communists were later acquitted by the Nazi government itself.

After years of extensive investigation, most historians believe the Hitlerites themselves set fire to the Reichstag using van der Lubbe as their fall guy. They knew a nutcase was going to try to burn down the building and not only did they let him do it, but they may have befriended him, encouraged him and even helped the blaze spread by scattering gasoline and incendiaries.

Most Germans, feeling safe from terrorism again, didn't mind that their freedom and liberty had been stolen, or that so much of their life and work had become so strictly controlled. On the contrary, they felt very enthusiastic and patriotic about the new government because they ignorantly believed the new government cared about them.

As long as the average citizen worked hard, kept his mouth shut and let his kids take part in the Hitler Youth organization and learn to goose step, he stayed out of the detention camps.

6. Fake Invasion at Gleiwitz

In the 1983 comedy film *To Be Or Not To Be* Mel Brooks plays the role of Frederick Bronski, a bad Polish actor. His theatre group put on a satirical play making fun of Hitler and the Nazis. In the play, Brooks, playing the role of Hitler, sings a song titled *Naughty Nazis*. In the opening segment he sings, "I don't want war. I want peace. Peace. A little piece of Poland, a little piece of France A little piece of Portugal and Austria perchance."

The thing is that back in 1939 Hitler did want a piece of Poland. In fact he wanted the whole thing.

In the late evening of Thursday, 31 August 1939, German covert operatives pretending to be Polish terrorists seized the Gleiwitz radio station in the German/Poland border region of Silesia.

The station's music program came to an abrupt halt, followed by frantic German voices announcing that Polish formations were marching toward town. Germany was being invaded by Poland! Then the transmission went dead for a moment of dramatic silence.

Soon, the airwaves popped and crackled to life again, and this time Polish voices called for all Poles in the broadcast area to take up arms and attack Germany.

In no time, radio stations across greater Europe picked up the story.

The BBC broadcast this statement: "There have been reports

of an attack on a radio station in Gleiwitz, which is just across the Polish border in Silesia. The German News Agency reports that the attack came at about 8.00pm this evening when the Poles forced their way into the studio and began broadcasting a statement in Polish. Within quarter of an hour, says reports, the Poles were overpowered by German police, who opened fire on them. Several of the Poles were reported killed, but the numbers are not yet known."

And right there and then Hitler had the perfect excuse to invade Poland, which he did the very next day on 1 September 1939. World War II was about to kick off.

But what really happened? Alfred Helmut Naujocks received the orders from Heinrich Müller, chief of the Gestapo, to put the staged terrorist attack together at the Gleiwitz station.

At Naujock's disposal were what the Germans had code-named "canned goods," which were dissenters and criminals kept alive in detention camps until the Gestapo needed a warm dead body.

To add cogency to the Gleiwitz attack, Naujocks brought along one such canned good: Franciszek Honiok.

Honiok, a German from the Silesian region, was a known Polish sympathizer. Before arriving at the station, the Gestapo gave him a lethal injection.

Then, they dressed him up like a Polish terrorist and brought him to the front of the radio station. Naujocks later testified



WE WILL CRUSH THEM: When Poland 'invaded' Germany it gave Hitler the perfect excuse to launch an invasion of his own.

that the man was unconscious, but not dead yet, when he was shot full of pistol rounds.

When the police and press found Honiok's body, they assumed he'd been one of the fictional Polish terrorists that attacked the station.

In all, there were 21 fake terror actions along the border that same night, many of them using "canned goods" from German prisons so there would be plenty of bodies in the morning: evidence of Polish attackers that had been shot in self defence.

The next day, after a long night filled with fake terror, Hitler gave a speech to the German Army, complete with synthetic anger: "The Polish State has refused the peaceful settlement of relations which I desired, and has appealed to arms. Germans in Poland are persecuted with bloody terror and driven from their houses.

"A series of violations of the frontier, intolerable to a great

Power, prove that Poland is no longer willing to respect the frontier of the Reich. In order to put an end to this lunacy, I have no other choice than to meet force with force from now on. The German Army will fight the battle for the honour and the vital rights of reborn Germany with hard determination.

"I expect that every soldier, mindful of the great traditions of eternal German soldiery, will ever remain conscious that he is a representative of the National-Socialist Greater Germany. Long live our people and our Reich!"

Had it not been for the Nuremberg trials in 1945, the real story behind the Gleiwitz attack might never have been uncovered.

It was there that the operation's leader, Alfred Naujocks, spilled the beans in a written affidavit.

5. Pearl Harbour

On Monday 8 December 1941, US President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed the US Congress and asked that a state of war be declared between the United States and Japan.

In his speech he said, "Yesterday, December 7, 1941 a date which will live in infamy the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan."

The previous day, on the morning of Sunday 7 December 1941, the Japanese launched a sneak attack at Pearl Harbour that decimated the US Pacific Fleet and forced the United States to enter WWII. Or so history would have us believe.

Yet apart from the date, 7 December 1941, everything else has all the signs of a false flag operation.

In reality, there was no sneak attack. The Pacific Fleet was far from destroyed. And, furthermore, the United States took great pains to bring about the assault.

On 27 January 1941, Joseph C. Grew, the U.S. ambassador to Japan, wired Washington that he'd learned of the surprise attack Japan was preparing for Pearl Harbour.

On 24 September a dispatch from Japanese naval intelligence to Japan's consul general in Honolulu was deciphered. The transmission was a request for a grid of exact locations of ships in Pearl Harbour.

Surprisingly, Washington chose not to share this informa-

tion with the officers at Pearl Harbour. Then, on 26 November the main body of the Japanese strike force (consisting of six aircraft carriers, two battleships, three cruisers, nine destroyers, eight tankers, 23 fleet submarines, and five midget submarines) departed Japan for Hawaii.

Despite the myth that the strike force maintained strict radio silence, US Naval intelligence intercepted and translated many dispatches. And, there was no shortage of dispatches: Tokyo sent over 1,000 transmissions to the attack fleet before it reached Hawaii.

Some of these dispatches, in particular this message from Admiral Yamamoto, left no doubt that Pearl Harbour was the target of a Japanese attack. "The task force, keeping its movement strictly secret and maintaining close guard against submarines and aircraft, shall advance into Hawaiian waters, and upon the very opening of hostilities shall attack the main force of the United States fleet and deal it a mortal blow. The first air raid is planned for the dawn of x-day. Exact date to be given by later order."

Even on the night before the attack, US intelligence decoded a message pointing to Sunday morning as a deadline for some kind of Japanese action. The message was delivered to the Washington high command more than four hours before the attack on Pearl Harbour. But, as many messages before, it was withheld from the Pearl Har-

bour commanders.

Although many ships were damaged at Pearl Harbour, they were all old and slow. The main targets of the Japanese attack fleet were the Pacific Fleet's aircraft carriers, but Roosevelt made sure these were safe from the attack: in November, at about the same time as the Japanese attack fleet left Japan, Roosevelt sent the Lexington and Enterprise out to sea. Meanwhile, the Saratoga was in San Diego.

So how and why did Pearl Harbour happen?

World War II had begun on 1 September 1939 when Germany invaded Poland. Two years later and the United States was still neutral, and Roosevelt wanted in on the action.

Having failed to bait Hitler by giving \$50.1 billion in war supplies to Britain, the Soviet Union, France and China as part of the Lend Lease program, Roosevelt switched focus to Japan.

Because Japan had signed a mutual defence pact with Germany and Italy, Roosevelt knew war with Japan was a legitimate back door to joining the war in Europe.

On 7 October 1940, one of Roosevelt's military advisors, Lieutenant Commander Arthur McCollum, wrote a memo detailing an eight-step plan that would provoke Japan into attacking the United States. Over the next year, Roosevelt implemented all eight of the recommended actions. In the summer of 1941, the US joined England in an oil embargo against

Japan. Japan needed oil for its war with China, and had no remaining option but to invade the East Indies and Southeast Asia to get new resources. And that required getting rid of the US Pacific Fleet first.

Although Roosevelt may have got more than he bargained for, he clearly let the attack on Pearl Harbour happen, and even helped Japan by making sure their attack was a surprise. He did this by withholding information from Pearl Harbour's commanders and even by ensuring the attack force wasn't accidentally discovered by commercial shipping traffic.

As Rear Admiral Richmond K. Turner stated in 1941, "We were prepared to divert traffic when we believed war was imminent. We sent the traffic down via the Torres Strait, so that the track of the Japanese task force would be clear of any traffic."

4. Egypt's terrorists

In the early 1950s, the United States was fast making friends with Egypt, taking advantage of the new pan-Arab Egyptian government of Gamal Abdel Nasser. Naturally Israel was not too happy about this.

The warming relationship between the US and Egypt caused a very insecure Israel to feel threatened. Nasser also had plans to nationalize the Suez Canal, which had been controlled by the British for decades. Egypt had been known to blockade Israeli shipping through the canal and Israel feared Nasser would make a

blockade permanent.

After US President Eisenhower began encouraging the British to leave the Suez Canal Zone, Israel started looking for a way to make the British stay, and a way to remain BFFs with America. And what better way to treat your best friend than to stab them in the back and tell them that their new mates did it?

David Ben Gurion, Israel's founding prime minister, thought that Egyptian terrorist attacks against Americans would be a perfect way to cool the growing US/Egypt relationship.

Since there were no Egyptians planning attacks against Americans, Ben Gurion's protégés did the next best thing - they recruited Israeli agents to pretend to be Egyptian terrorists.

The top-secret Israeli terrorist cell, Unit 131, had existed since 1948. In 1950, Israel's Directorate of Military Intelligence, known as Aman, was created and Israel sent an undercover agent, Colonel Avraham Dar (alias: John Darling, British citizen of the island of Gibraltar), to recruit more members to Unit 131. He also trained them in how to build bombs and terrify Americans and British civilians working and living in Egypt.

Before the terrorist cell was activated, another Israeli agent named Avraham (Avraham Seidenberg) was sent to take control. Seidenberg first went to Germany to establish an alias: he assumed the identity of Paul Frank, a former SS officer,

complete with underground Nazi connections.

By 1954, his new identity was in place and he went to Egypt to take command of Unit 131. They blasted and torched American and British targets. First, the Israeli terrorists fire-bombed the Alexandria Post Office. Then, they fire-bombed the US Information Agency libraries: one in Alexandria, and one in Cairo.

Then, they fire-bombed a British-owned Metro-Goldwyn Mayer theatre, a railway terminal, the central post office, and a couple more theatres

Everything was going well for the Israeli terrorists it seemed. But, there was one thing the members of Unit 131 didn't know: their terrorist sleeper cell had itself been infiltrated by the Egyptian intelligence service.

The new Unit 131 leader, Seidenberg, had betrayed them to the Egyptians. So, when Unit 131 member Philip Nathanson made his way to bomb the British-owned Rio theatre in Alexandria, not only was he being followed, the Egyptian intelligence service had a fire engine waiting to put out the flames.

As Nathanson stood in the ticket line, his bad luck turned worse when one of the bombs in his pocket ignited and then exploded. Nathanson was burned but not killed. As nearby pedestrians shouted warnings and wondered if he was a suicide bomber, Egyptian policemen stepped in, calmed the crowd, and identified Nathanson as one of the terrorists who had been

blowing up American and British buildings.

Nathanson was interrogated by Egypt's military intelligence and confessed the whole plot, which led to more arrests. When the Israeli spies were given a public trial, all the details of their terrorist training in Israel came to light.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Ben Gurion and Israel's Aman chief, Binyamin Gibli, tried to frame their own Defence Minister Pinhas Lavon. They even offered forged documents as proof. The frame-up worked for a while, so much so that the entire incident is still popularly known as the Lavon Affair.

Lavon resigned and Ben Gurion came out of political retirement to replace him as Israel's Defence Minister. However, the truth did finally emerge. In 1960, a review of the inquiry discovered the fake documents, as well as perjury by Seidenberg. A committee of seven Cabinet members cleared Lavon. Although Ben Gurion never admitted fault, he did resign his post as Defence Minister.

3. Operation Northwoods

In 1962, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff unanimously proposed state-sponsored acts of terrorism on American soil, against American citizens.

The head of every branch of the US armed forces gave written approval to sink US ships, shoot down hijacked American planes, and gun down and bomb civilians on the streets of Washington, D.C., and Mi-

ami. The idea was to blame the self-inflicted terrorism on Cuba's leader, Fidel Castro, so the American public would beg and scream for the Marines to storm Havana.

The public learned about Operation Northwoods 35 years later, when the Top Secret document was declassified by the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board.

Among other things, Operation Northwoods proposed: Faking the crash of an American passenger plane. The disaster was to be accomplished by faking a commercial flight from the US to Jamaica, and having the plane boarded at a public airport by CIA agents disguised as college students going on vacation.

An empty remote-controlled plane would follow the commercial flight as it left Florida. The commercial flight's pilots would radio for help, mention that they had been attacked by a Cuban fighter, then land in secret at Eglin AFB.

The empty remote-controlled plane would then be blown out of the sky and the public would be told all the poor college students aboard were killed.

Blowing up buildings in Washington and Miami. Cuban agents (undercover CIA agents) would be arrested, and they would confess to the bombings. In addition, false documents proving Castro's involvement in the attacks would be "found" and given to the press.

Attacking an American military base in Guantanamo with

CIA recruits posing as Cuban mercenaries. This involved blowing up the ammunition depot and would obviously result in material damages and many dead American troops. As a last resort, the plan even mentioned bribing one of Castro's commanders to initiate the Guantamo attack.

Operation Northwoods was only one of several plans under the umbrella of Operation Mon-goose. Shortly after the Joint Chiefs signed and presented the plan in March, 1962, President Kennedy, still smarting from the Bay of Pigs fiasco, declared that he would never authorize a military invasion of Cuba.

In September, Kennedy denied the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General Lyman Lem-nitzer, a second term as the nation's highest ranking military officer. And by the winter of 1963, Kennedy was dead - killed, apparently, by a Cuban sympathiser in the streets of Dallas, Texas. Perchance yet another false flag operation?

2. The Gulf of Tonkin

On 2 August 1964, three North Vietnamese torpedo boats attacked a US destroyer, the USS Maddox. The boats reportedly fired torpedoes at the US ship in international waters in the Gulf of Tonkin, about 45 kilometres off the Vietnam coast. On 4 August the US Navy reported another unprovoked attack on the USS Maddox and the USS Turner Joy.

Within hours, President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered a re-

taliatory strike. As the bases for North Vietnamese torpedo boats were bombed, Johnson went on TV and told America: "Repeated acts of violence against the armed forces of the United States must be met not only with alert defence, but with a positive reply. That reply is being given as I speak tonight."

The next day, Secretary of Defence Robert McNamara assured Capital Hill that the Maddox had only been "carrying out a routine mission of the type we carry out all over the world at all times."

McNamara said the two boats were in no way involved with recent South Vietnamese boat raids against North Vietnamese targets. At Johnson's request, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.

The resolution pre-approved any military actions Johnson would take. It gave Johnson a free ticket to wage war in Vietnam as large as the President wanted.

And, true to his large Texas roots, Johnson got a big war: by 1969, over half a million US troops were fighting in Indochina. Despite McNamara's testimony to the contrary, the USS Maddox had been providing intelligence support to South Vietnamese boats carrying out raids against North Vietnam.

McNamara had also testified that there was "unequivocal proof" of an "unprovoked" second attack against the USS Maddox. In fact, the second attack never occurred at all.



THE TWIN TOWERS: What really happened with the 9/11 attacks. Perhaps we will never get to learn the full truth behind everything.

At the time of the second incident, the two US destroyers misinterpreted radar and radio signals as attacks by the North Vietnamese navy. It's now known that no North Vietnamese boats were in the area.

So, for two hours, the two US destroyers blasted away at non-existent radar targets and vigorously manoeuvred to avoid phantom North Vietnamese ships.

Even though the second "attack" only involved two US ships defending themselves against a non-existent enemy, the President and Secretary of Defence used it to coerce Congress and the American people to start a war they neither wanted nor needed.

After the Vietnam War turned into a quagmire, Congress decided to put limits on the President's authority to unilaterally wage war. So, on 7 November 1973, Congress overturned President Nixon's veto and passed the War Powers Reso-

lution. The resolution requires the President to consult with Congress before making any decisions that engage the US military in hostilities. It is still in effect to this day.

1. 9/11

There are more conspiracy theories about the 9/11 attacks than you can shake a stick at. Yet how much do we actually know about it.

Like many buildings built in the 1970s, the twin towers were constructed with vast quantities of cancer-causing asbestos. The cost of removing the Twin Tower asbestos? A year's worth of revenues at a minimum; possibly as much as the value of the buildings themselves.

The cost to disassemble the Twin Towers floor by floor would have run into the double-digit billions. In addition, the Port Authority was prohibited from demolishing the towers because the resulting asbestos dust would cover the entire

city, which it did when they collapsed, resulting in many cancers with a confirmed link to the WTC dust.

Despite its questionable status, in January of 2001, Larry Silverstein made a \$3.2 billion bid for the World Trade Centre. On 24 July the Port Authority accepted the offer. Silverstein then took out an insurance policy that, understandably, covered terrorist attacks, which happened seven weeks later. To date, Silverstein has been awarded almost \$5 billion from nine different insurance companies. What was an asbestos nightmare turned into a \$1.8 billion profit within seven weeks.

Donald Rumsfeld said about the Pentagon on the morning of September 10, 2001: "According to some estimates we cannot track \$2.3 trillion in transactions." That bombshell was pretty much forgotten by the next morning.

So, as a reward for losing \$8,000 for every man, woman, and child in America, taxpayers patriotically forked over another \$370 billion and counting to invade Iraq. True to form, the Pentagon promptly lost \$9 billion of that money, too.

Eight days after the attacks, the 342-page Patriot Act was given to Congress. That same week, letters armed with anthrax from a US military lab entered the mail. Subsequently, while Congressional offices were evacuated, examined, cleaned and nasal cavities swabbed, the Patriot Act remained largely unread.

TOP TEN

Then, with little debate, the Patriot Act became law, giving the Bush administration unprecedented power to access people's medical records, tax records, information about the books they bought or borrowed and the power to conduct secret residential searches without notifying owners that their homes had been searched.

In early 2001, executives from Shell, BP, and Exxon met with Dick Cheney's Energy Task Force while it was developing its new national energy policy. Later, the companies freely admitted interest in profiting from Iraq's oil fields, even before the US invaded Iraq.

According to statements by Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer, a Bronze Star recipient with 22 years of experience in intelligence operations, a classified intelligence program code-named Able Danger had uncovered two of the three 9/11 terrorist cells a year before the attacks and had identified four of the hijackers.

Shaffer alerted the FBI in September of 2000, but the meetings he tried to set up with bureau officials were repeatedly blocked by military lawyers. Four credible witnesses have come forward to verify Shaffer's claims.

In August 2001, a Pan Am International Flight Academy instructor warned the FBI that a student (Zacarias Moussaoui) might use a commercial plane loaded with fuel as a weapon. The instructor asked "Do you realize that a 747 loaded with

fuel can be used as a bomb?" Moussaoui was then arrested on immigration charges, but despite the repeated urging of the school and local agents, FBI headquarters refused a deeper investigation.

The US also received dozens of detailed warnings (names, locations, dates) from the intelligence agencies of Indonesia, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Egypt, Jordan, India, Argentina, Morocco, Russia, Israel, France and even the Taliban.

It would seem that the entire world was onto the bungling Saudi hijackers and somewhat perplexed that the US wasn't taking preventative actions.

But in each case the US, as if by design, chose not to investigate. Instead, Condoleezza Rice, on 16 May 2002, stated: "I don't think anybody could have predicted that these people would take an airplane and slam it into the World Trade Centre, take another one and slam it into the Pentagon."

We also know that on the morning of 9/11, multiple Air Force war games and drills were in progress. The hijackers would have never made it to their targets without these war games.

Operation Northern Vigilance ensured that many jet fighters that would have normally been patrolling the east coast were flying over Alaska and northern Canada in a drill that simulated a Russian air attack, complete with false radar blips.

Remarkably, operation Vigilant Guardian simulated hi-

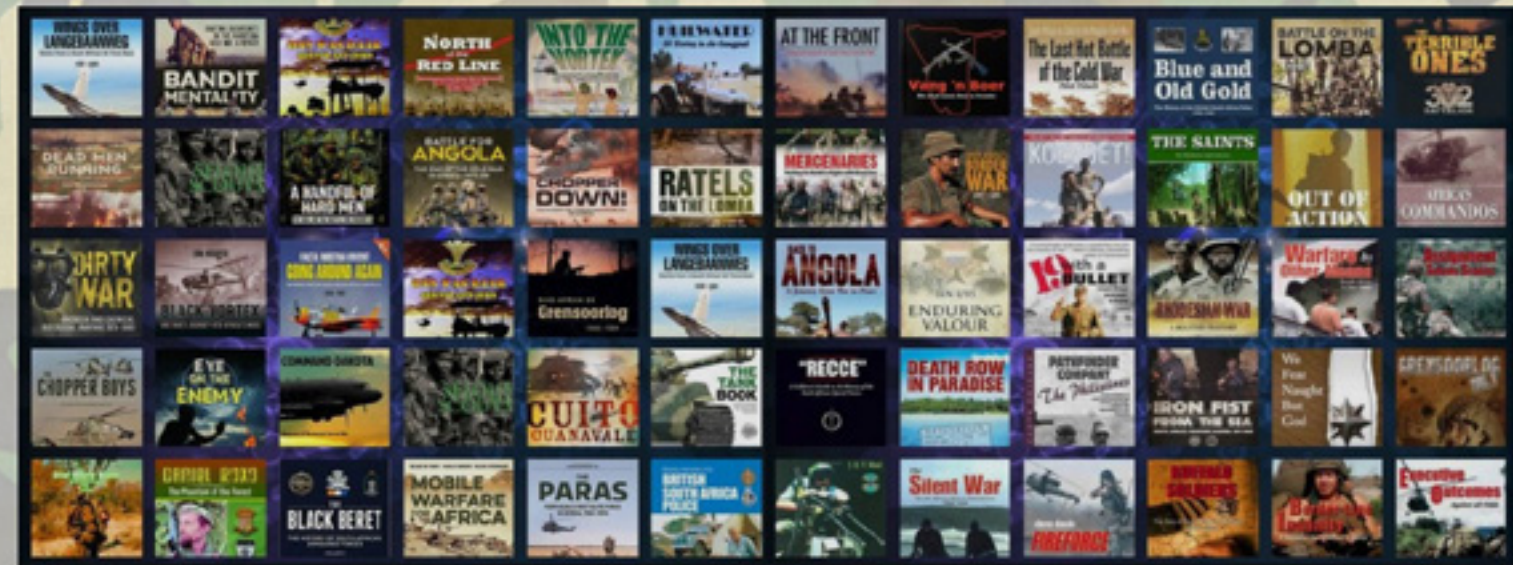
jacked planes in the north eastern sector, while real hijackers were in the same airspace. This drill had NORAD and the Air Force reacting to false blips on FAA radar screens. Some of these blips corresponded to real military aircraft in the air posing as hijacked aircraft. That's why when NORAD's airborne control officer, Lt. Col. Dawne Deskins, heard Boston claim it had a hijacked airliner, her first words were, "It must be part of the exercise."

On 7 October 2001, in response to the September 11 attacks, President George W. Bush announced that air-strikes targeting Al Qaeda and the Taliban had begun in Afghanistan. It was part the United State's Global War on Terrorism and called Operation Enduring Freedom.

Osama bin Laden, the leader of al-Qaeda, claimed responsibility for the attacks. On 2 May 2011, nearly ten years after the 9/11 attacks, bin Laden was shot and killed by United States Navy SEALs inside a private residential compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

Although it has been nearly 20 years since the 9/11 attacks, there are still more questions that answers about what really happened.

Just as with many false flag operations, we will probably never learn the real truth about it.



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

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"War does not determine who is right - only who is left"

Special Forces - Cuba

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

The Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces (*Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias* – FAR) consist of ground forces, naval forces, air and air defence forces, and other paramilitary bodies including the Territorial Troops Militia (*Milicias de Tropas Territoriales* – MTT), Youth Labour Army (*Ejército Juvenil del Trabajo* – EJT), and the Defence and Production Brigades (*Brigadas de Producción y Defensa* – BPD), plus the Civil Defence Organization (*Defensa Civil de Cuba* – DCC) and the National Reserves Institution (*Instituto Nacional de las Reservas Es-tatales* – INRE). The armed forces has long been the most powerful institu-

tion in Cuba. The military man-ages many enterprises in key economic sectors representing about 4% of the Cuban economy. The military has also served as First Secretary Raúl Castro's base. The armed forces has the power behind the Cuban re-gime. The military manages many

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From 1966 until the late 1980s, Soviet Government mil-itary assistance enabled Cuba to upgrade its military capabilities to number one in Latin Amer-ica and project power abroad. The first Cuban military mis-sion in Africa was established in Ghana in 1961. Cuba's mili-tary forces appeared in Algeria, in 1963, when a military medi-cal brigade came over from Ha-

vana to support the regime.

Since the 1960s, Cuba sent military forces to African and Arab countries – Syria in 1973, Ethiopia in 1978, the Cuban in-tervention in Angola from 1975 to 1989, and Nicaragua and El Salvador during the 1980s.

Cuban military power has been sharply reduced by the loss of Soviet subsidies. To-day, the Revolutionary Armed Forces number 39,000 regular troops.

The US Defence Intelligence Agency reported in 1998 that the country's paramilitary or-

ganizations, the Territorial Mi-litia Troops, the Youth Labour Army, and the Naval Militia had suffered considerable mo-rale and training degradation over the previous seven years but still retained the potential to “make an enemy invasion cost-ly.”

Cuba also adopted a “war of the people” strategy that high-lights the defensive nature of its capabilities.

On 14 September 2012, a Cu-ban senior general agreed to fur-ther deepen military coopera-tion with China during a visit to



Beijing. He said that Cuba was willing to enhance exchanges with the Chinese military and strengthen bilateral cooperation in personnel training and other areas.

Black Wasps

“Black Wasps” is the name of the elite forces of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba (FAR). Their training turns out to be very specific so that they can face a possible offensive to the island.

They were officially created at the end of the 80’s of the 20th century, but a previous decade, there were already special mission units that acted as part of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (MINFAR), called “Tigers” and “Lions” in Angola, so it is considered that it was in 1977, when the MINFAR decided to have its own special forces, after relying on the special troops of the Ministry of Interior, MININT in the Battle of Quifangondo, Angola, in late 1975.

Training and structure

The “Black Wasps” work in sub-groups consisting of five members, which can be male or female.

Its main bases are in the old military prison “El Pitirre”, located at Km 8 of the National Highway, and in the unit of “Baracoa Beach”, near the area of El Mariel port, current province of Havana, and With smaller units in “El Bosque de la Habana”, this is where the MINFAR Special Troops Department and “El Reloj Club” are located, the latter near the Rancho Boyeros airport.

Weapons used by Cuban Special Forces



AKMS

AKSU-74U

HK MP5

SVD Dragunov

RPK light machine gun

Makarov pistol

Its main training camp is called “El Cacho”, in the province of Pinar del Río, also named “Academia Baraguá”. His training is highly rigorous.

Upon graduation, soldiers and professional officers of this force perform exercises in the Ciénaga de Zapata, south of Matanzas province, near to Bay of Pigs, or in the swamps south of the Isle of Pines, huge wetlands located both west of Cuba, under strict survival conditions. Completing these exercises means graduating.

The “Black Wasps” have received training from Vietnamese, North Korean, Chinese, as well as Russian VDV and Spetsnaz, they learned to communicate and move silently through narrow tunnels.

The official clothing consisted of a camouflage suit, with a red beret, which as of 2011, became a green beret, leaving the red beret only for the Prevention Troops (Military Police) and the shield of a black wasp with the sting ready to attack, in a bracelet. In the case of the professional members, an indicative of “Professional” is added on the bracelet.

These troops are also experts in masking techniques, use of jungle environments to set deadly traps and various martial arts.

Armament

The armament is very varied and is largely the same as the rest of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba (FAR), although in recent years they have been seen (in military parades since the FAR has a jealous secrecy about its technology) with new

weapons that include nationally manufactured weapons and old modernized Soviet weapons with accessories such as, Vilma optical sight glasses and mufflers, as well as anti-material rifles of which their characteristics are kept secret.

- AKMS (nationally manufactured with polymer cylinder head and guard instead of wood and bakelite loader)
- AKMSB (as the letter “B” indicates this version is the same as the AKMS, but it has a silencer and the Cuban-made red-dot sight “Vilma”)
- AKML
- AKS-74U
- MP5
- AMD-65 (Hungarian assault rifle based on the AK-47, with folding stock and used by paratroopers)
- SVD Dragunov
- PKM machine gun
- RPK light machine gun
- Mambí (14.5 mm anti-helicopter rifle, designed and manufactured in Cuba)
- Alejandro (bolt sniper gun used by territorial militia troops, MTT, snipers and wasps)
- RPG-7V (anti-tank gun)
- RGD-5 (anti-personnel hand grenade)
- RKG-3 (anti-tank hand grenade)
- 9K38 Igla (portable anti-aircraft launcher)
- PM Makarov (Russian-designed personal use gun, manufactured under license in Cuba)
- Stechkin APS, 9 x 18 Makarov (machine gun with 20 bullet magazine)
- 9 x 18 Makarov pistol, ver-

sion with silencer of the Stechkin APS (this weapon can also be classified as a submachine gun)

- CZ 75, 9 mm.

In addition to western armament, another of national manufacture of which details and secondary equipment such as 60 mm, 120 mm mortars and demolition loads are not known.

Vehicles

The “Black Wasps” have a series of vehicles of different types to make this force as mobile as possible in case of an attack on the island, among which are:

- Fiero: highly mobile and well-armed all-terrain vehicle with AGS-17 grenade launcher on the roof and a PKM machine gun.
- Iguana: a kind of Cuban Hummer, armed with a 12.7 mm NSV machine gun on the roof. The name of Iguana is unofficial, since data on this vehicle is very scarce and its exact name is unknown.
- UAZ: is the all-terrain standard of the FAR. The Black Wasps have different versions of this vehicle, including a very well armed with a PKM machine gun, an ASG-17 grenade launcher and a SPG-9 recoilless cannon.
- BRDM2: they are used by the Black Wasps exploration bodies and have the standard armament such as the PKT machine gun and the KVPT heavy machine gun.
- BTR-60: Also used with scan bodies in small quantities.

Commando Tropas Especiales

Commando Tropas Especiales (CTE) are part of Cuban special forces and they are specialized for jungle warfare (fighting in the jungle). Members of Commando Tropas Especiales have taken part in battles in Angola and other African countries.

They also have been involved in the conflicts in Central America, as in Nicaragua. According to the various sources, the operators from the Commando Tropas Especiales are highly skilled and trained for infiltration, sniper operations, working with biological warfare and espionage. They are made up of the teams which are trained to work in small groups that are able to locate high value and strategically important targets and finish the job.



History

The Commando Tropas Especiales were formed in the mid-1980, at the training centre for Cuban special units in Los Palacios. The training centre located in Los Palacios is commonly known as Baragua school and is situated in a large valley in the mountains near Pinar del Rio.

The Cuban special forces



TIGHT FORMATION: Cuban Special Forces troops of the Commando Tropas Especiales (CET) undergo training centre in Los Palacios.

training centre is known for its large space, within which there are several artificial lakes with very modern training equipment suitable for various training topics. The Training Centre was established by de la Guardia brothers.

The school is able to host up to 2,500 soldiers for a single training evolution. The Cuban advisers are backed up by instructors and specialists from China and Vietnam, who are assigned to the Cuba to help and assist Cuban personnel during the training courses.

At the training centre, future members of Cuban special forces are training for direct action, special reconnaissance, psychological operations. They also receive training in parachuting, underwater operations, target interceptions, strategic reconnaissance and intelligence operations.

Equipment

The Cubans have managed to create a good arsenal of various modern weapons. The members of CET have been seen using Stechkin pistols, Colt M1911 pistols, Springfield and Garand rifles, FN-FAL, newer FN CAL, assault rifles M-16 (some with M-203 grenade launchers and sniper sights), Spain's Z-84 machine guns or Barnett Commando bows.

They are also equipped with various Russian made weapons, including PM-63 RAK machine gun as their main weapon along with the old Soviet 5.45mm AKSU-74 (AKR) assault rifle. They also have in their possession Polish WHO-84s.

Not that much is known about CET, especially about the training and operations of this unit.



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

Those left behind

Whenever a soldier leaves to serve his country there is always an amount of uncertainty. Where is he going? What will he be doing? Will he come home again? And it is not only the soldier that asks these questions.

Back in 1966 US Special Forces Staff Sergeant Barry Sadler had an unlikely hit song with The Ballad of the Green Berets.

The song reached number in the United States, as well as in South Africa.

The song originally had 12 verses, but it was trimmed down to a radio-friendly three verses.

The author Robin Moore, who wrote the book, *The Green Berets*, helped Sadler write the lyrics and get a recording contract with

RCA Records.

The lyrics were written, in part, in honour of U.S. Army Specialist 5 James Gabriel, Jr., a Special Forces operator and the first native Hawaiian to die in Vietnam, who was killed by Viet Cong gunfire while on a training mission with the South Vietnamese Army on 8 April 1962.

The third and final verse of the song goes:

Back at home a young wife
waits

Her Green Beret has met his
fate

He had died for those
oppressed.

Leaving her this last request.

And every soldier that has
gone off to serve his country or
fight in a war has left a woman
waiting back home.

It may be a mother, a wife,

a girlfriend, a sister, or even a daughter. They tend to ask the same questions that he does. Where is he going? What will he be doing? Will he come home again?

David* spent nearly 30 years as a permanent force member of the South African Defence Force. As a member of an infantry battalion he spent a considerable amount of time on the border.

According to David it was just as hard, if not harder, for the women as it was for the men.

"I joined the army straight from school, so

I never did national service or anything," David says. "That was back in 1962 and I was 17 years old. I didn't have a girlfriend at the time, so the only woman I left behind was my mother. I know she wasn't all

that happy about me joining

the army. My father worked for the railways and she was hoping I would do the same."

Three years later, while home for the weekend, David met the woman that would become his wife.

"She was 18 and worked at the local bank. I invited her out for coffee and a movie and we started dating. It was difficult because I only saw her on weekends when I could get home. If I had the weekend off, which luckily was most weekends, I would have to drive nearly 300 kilometres to get

home and then do the return journey on Sunday evening."

Three months after they started dating David and Yolanda* became engaged and a year later they were married. He had been married for less than a month when he received a nasty surprise.

"We were married on a Saturday and my officer commanding gave me the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday leave so we could go on honeymoon. Just three days.

"Two weeks after I was married I was informed that our battalion was leaving for

South West Africa the following week. This was in November 1966. I was a sergeant back then and was a company platoon sergeant. We were among the first SADF troops sent to South West Africa.”

Naturally his new bride was not all that happy.

“We had only been married a few weeks,” says Yolanda. “And now he was going away. He didn’t really know where he was going, or when he would be coming back. You must realise that back then we didn’t know anything about the ‘Border War’. Look, I know I married a soldier, but we weren’t fighting a war or anything. So I didn’t understand why he had to go away.”

It was only four months later when David returned home. During his time away the only contact had been by letters.

During the remainder of his military career David spent many months away from home. It often put a strain on his marriage. During his career David and Yolanda had three children, two girls and a boy, and they have seven grandchildren. These days he is retired and he has moved to the coast.

“I missed out on a lot of important events,” he says. “I wasn’t there for the birth of two of my three children. I missed out on all of their first day at school. When my father passed away I was on the border. I only managed to make it back just in time for the funeral.

“When I think about it I think that Yolanda had it far worse than I did. When I was on the border I knew where I was and I knew what I was doing. Back

at home Yolanda had no idea.”

At least David was fortunate enough to come home after every trip. Some where not so lucky.

Sandra* and Owen* started dating when she was in standard six and he was in standard seven.

In 1981 she went into matric and Owen left to do his two years national service.

“I promised that I would wait for him, and I did. During the two years he did national service I never dated anyone else. I even went to my matric dance with my cousin.

“Owen would write as often as possible and at least once a week he would phone me, except for the four months he was on the border. And we would spend every one of his weekend passes together.”

After matric Sandra began work and at the end of that year Owen finished his national service. Three months later they were married.

A year later Sandra was two months pregnant. It was then that Owen received his first call up. He was now with a Citizen Force unit and they would be doing a three-month camp on the border.

“I can’t say I was thrilled about it,” says Yolanda. “But we both knew he would be required to do camps every year. About three weeks after he left I was really missing him. He had written me two letters and I had written back and also sent him a parcel.

“I had just arrived home from work when there was a knock at the door. I opened up to find a military chaplain and another

army officer on my doorstep. My blood went ice cold.

“They told me that Owen had been killed in a contact with the enemy that morning. Everything was a blur. He was given a military funeral and to be honest I don’t remember much about it. My life had been torn apart.”

Seven months later Sandra gave birth to a baby girl that would never get to meet her father. Five years later Sandra moved with her daughter overseas. She remarried and a year later gave birth to another baby girl.

“I’m happy with my husband and he has always been very understanding. He helped raise my first child as if it was his own. Yet I will never forget Owen and he will always be the love of my life.”

Yet Sandra is not the only woman to have lost a loved one as a result of war.

One third of the 9.7 million soldiers killed or declared missing during the Great War left behind a widow. The total number of women widowed as a result of the First World War is estimated to be three to four million.

After the war Italy was left with more than 200,000 widows. Great Britain had more than 240,000 while Germany ended up with over 525,000 widows. France ended the war with more than 700,000 widows, approximately half of the 1,400,000 French soldiers killed or missing action.

Many of these women had children who would now have to face life without a father.

And it was not just the mar-



LEAVING ON DEPLOYMENT: A military C-130 transport plane takes off. This was the same type of aircraft that carried most South African troops to and from the border.

ried women that suffered. Soldiers have parents, relatives and loved ones. The death of a soldier affects a wide circle of people.

Many wives would wait anxiously at home for their men to return from military service. Often they had to handle day to day affairs on their own with little support from their men.

They would often have to raise children, handle all the monthly accounts, take the car for a service, and do a hundred and one other things - all while their husbands were away on military service.

Of course not every wife was prepared to wait patiently at home while her husband was away. This is something that has happened as long as there have been wars.

When Susan* married James* he had already finished his one year national service and he worked as a marketing consultant.

“James really loved the military,” Susan says. “Once a week he would go through to the officer’s mess at his citizen

force unit for drinks. He would often be involved with his unit on weekends as well.”

Two years after completing his national service James joined the permanent force as an officer.

“After that he was away more than he was at home. He did a couple of courses at the Infantry School and quite a few courses in Pretoria. So he would be away for weeks, sometimes more than a month, at a time.

“And of course when he went to the border it was for long periods of time. I was still in my early 20s and the last thing I wanted was to sit at home alone every night and weekend. I started an affair and after a while it turned serious. James came back after one border trip and I told him I wanted a divorce. He was devastated, but really, can you blame me?”

Of course many young soldiers, especially those that were conscripted, had girlfriends. Many of them were not prepared to put their young lives on hold for a year or two. Throughout the history of the military there

have been soldiers that received the dreaded “Dear John” letter. Basically this was a letter from their girlfriend telling them that they had been dumped.

Gert* did his one year national service in 1976. He lived in Johannesburg and was called up to the Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg, only 45 kilometres away from home.

“It was really cool because I was so close to home,” Gert says. “After basic and phase one training I became a duty driver. It wasn’t back-breaking work and I would get pass every second weekend.

I enjoyed being the duty driver at night. I used to sit around the duty room until about midnight and then go to bed.

One night I was on duty and it was my girlfriend’s 18th birthday. I can remember that it was a Tuesday night and I really wanted to visit her and give her a big surprise. I don’t know what I was thinking, but I decided to take the duty vehicle and go and visit her.”

Gert’s little trip was discovered when the duty officer went looking for him to make a trip to the local shop in town.

“I was charged and sentence to 14 days in detention barracks. After that I was sent as a signaller to 2 SAI in Walvis Bay for the remainder of my national service. Now I was so far away from home I couldn’t even go home over weekends. And the worst of it all, about three weeks after I was posted to Walvis Bay my girlfriend broke up with me.”

** Names changed on request.*

Get out of jail...

During World War II, Monopoly's catch phrase "Get out of jail..." took on a whole new meaning for Allied prisoners-of-war.

A great many of our readers will, at some stage in their lives, have played the game of Monopoly.

The game can trace its history back to 1903 when American anti-monopolist Lizzie Magie created a game called *The Landlord's Game*. It was this game that would go on to become Monopoly.

Yet what does a board game have to do with military history? As it transpires, a great deal.

During World War II Allied soldiers were being taken prisoner or war by the Germans as early as 1939.

They were placed in prisoner of war (POW) camps in Germany or one of the occupied territories, such as in Poland.

From 1940 an increasing

number of British and Commonwealth pilots were being captured after being shot down behind enemy lines.

Many pilots and aircrew were placed in POW camps that were guarded and administered by the *Luftwaffe*, the German Air Force.

Some POWs were content to sit out the rest of the war in captivity. But many wanted nothing more than to escape. In fact escape was regarded as a duty of all prisoners of war of officer rank.

Some prisoners came up with the most audacious escape plans, most of which did not succeed. Many that did manage to escape were soon recaptured.

Allied pilots and aircrew, most

of whom were officers or NCOs, became notorious for their continued escape attempts.

Many of the camps had escape committees and it was their job to approve of any escape plans.

It became such a problem for the Luftwaffe than in late 1942 they build a new, high-security prisoner-of-war camp to hold prisoners that had attempted escape on numerous occasions.

The camp was named *Stalag Luft III* and was built at Sagan in occupied Poland. According to the Luftwaffe it was ‘escape proof’.

One of those brought to the new camp was South African Royal Air Force pilot Squadron Leader Roger Bushell. He became known as “Big X” of the

camp escape committee and was the mastermind behind any escape attempts.

His plan was to strike back at the Germans as best he could – by organising mass break-outs from the POW camps he was in. One of them became known as the “Great Escape”, which planned to allow 200 men to escape on a single night.

They dug three escape tunnels - Tom, Dick and Harry. Tom was discovered in August 1943 when nearing completion.

After the discovery of Tom, construction on Harry was halted, but it resumed in January 1944. On the evening of 24 March, after months of preparation, 200 officers prepared to escape. But things did not go as planned, with only 76 officers managing to get clear of the camp.

Of the 76 that escaped, only three finally made it back to England. The remainder were recaptured and 50 of them, including Bushell, were murdered by the Gestapo on the orders of Adolf Hitler.

Yet how did Monopoly play a part in this and other escape attempts? Escaping prisoners needed vital aids to assist them. One of the first requirements was a map. Not only one showing them where various towns and cities were, but also showing the location of military bases and 'safe houses' where they could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks -- they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in British intelli-

gence got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads, unfolded as many times as needed and, makes no noise whatsoever.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licensee for the popular American board game Monopoly. As it happened, ‘games and pastimes’ was a category of item qualified for insertion into ‘CARE packages’, dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany, Italy, and France or wherever Allied POW camps were located. When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

- A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass
- A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together
- Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency

cy, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a ‘rigged’ Monopoly set – by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWs who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war.

Thousands of Allied POWs were more than happy to use the special “Get out of Jail Free” card found in certain Monopoly sets.

The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honoured in a public ceremony.

The Great Escape was released as a film in 1963. The film is based on Paul Brickhill's 1950 nonfiction book of the same name, a firsthand account of the mass escape by British Commonwealth prisoners of war from German POW camp Stalag Luft III. The film was based on real events but deviated significantly from the historical record, depicting a heavily fictionalised version of the escape, including numerous compromises - such as featuring Americans among the escapees - in order to boost its commercial appeal.



Sea Cadets on fire

It was Sea Cadets to the rescue during a fire in Hout Bay harbour.

On Saturday 11 January 2020, after finishing their lunch at Hout Bay harbour, the officer commanding TS Woltemade, Lieutenant Commander Paul Jacobs, and his Midshipman, Mikayla Pillay, noted a landward boat burning next to a building.

Sea cadet and fire-fighting training kicked in as a crowd gathered to observe the pair's leadership skills in the face of impending disaster. Paul and Mikayla took charge, sprang into action, enlisted volunteers, maneuvered the burning boat away from the nearest building – thereby reducing the possible risk to people and surrounding infrastructure caused by the fire – and got the flames under control before the fire engines arrived.

Occurrences like this showcase the calibre of South Africa's Sea Cadet officers and the value inherent in the training which youth Sea Cadets, aged 13 to 17, receive at the initiative's 14 units across South Africa.

Bravo Zulu (Well Done!) to Lt Cdr Paul Jacobs and Midshipman Mikayla Pillay from TS Woltemade – and all the other Sea Cadet volunteers out there. For more information on the South African Sea Cadets and Training Ships across South Africa, go to <http://seacadets.za.org>.



Photos: Sea Cadet Able Seaman Gracia Pillay



World War II Weapons

Quiz

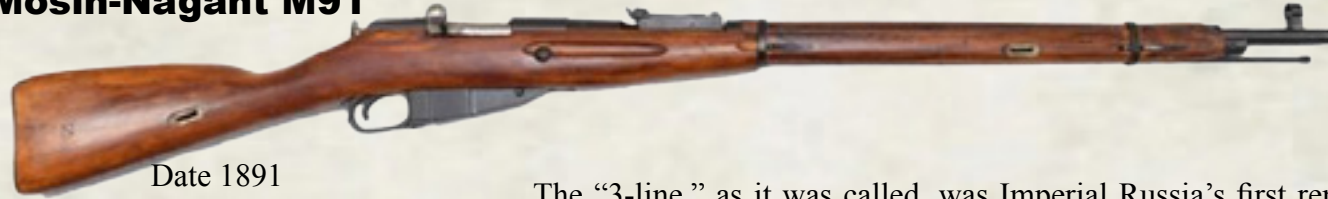
These 15 weapons were all used during World War II. You will find British, American, Russian, German, and a single Japanese weapon here. You tell us what they are. You'll find the answers to the quiz on page 00.

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
13	14	15

Manually loaded repeater rifles

By the 1890s, refinements to the repeater rifle had made it reliable enough for use in many of the world's armies.

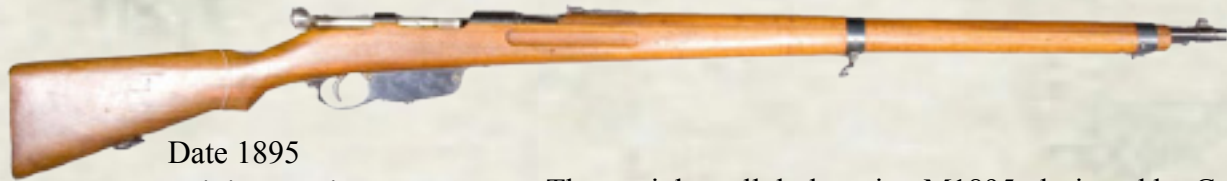
Mosin-Nagant M91



Date 1891
Origin Imperial Russia
Weight 4.43 kg
Barrel 80.2 cm
Calibre 7.62mm × 54R

The “3-line,” as it was called, was Imperial Russia’s first repeater rifle and its first in a modern calibre. The “line” was a measure approximating one-tenth of an inch and refers to its calibre.

Mannlicher M1895



Date 1895
Origin Austria
Weight 3.78 kg
Barrel 76.5 cm
Calibre 8mm × 50R

The straight-pull, bolt-action M1895, designed by German engineer Ferdinand von Mannlicher, used a rotating locking lug turned in a camming (spiralled) groove. Ammunition was fed from a fixed box magazine.

Lee Enfield Mk I



Date 1895
Origin UK
Weight 4 kg
Barrel 63.5 cm
Calibre .303in

A redesigned version of the .303 Lee-Metford of 1888, the “.303 calibre, Rifle, Magazine, Lee-Enfield” - or Mark I - had a detachable ten-round magazine, and, with the bolt handle near the trigger, was faster to operate than the rival Mauser rifle.

Lee Enfield Mk III



Date 1907
Origin UK
Weight 3.96 kg
Barrel 64 cm
Calibre .303in

A shorter version of the Lee-Enfield Mark I had been introduced in 1904 as the Short Magazine Lee-Enfield (SMLE, often nicknamed “Smellie”). The SMLE Mark III introduced improvements to the rear sight, magazine, and chamber.

Arisaka Meiji 30



Date 1897
Origin Japan
Weight 4.3 kg
Barrel 79.8 cm
Calibre 6.5mm × 50SR

Designed by Colonel Nariakira Arisaka, this gun was chambered for a 6.5mm semi-rimmed round and used a turning bolt of the Mauser pattern with forward-locking lugs.

Mauser M1896



Date 1896
Origin Germany
Weight 3.97 kg
Barrel 74 cm
Calibre 6.5mm × 55

Mauser began exporting to China in 1875, and made rifles for Serbia, Belgium, Turkey, Argentina, and Spain before manufacturing the M1896 for Sweden. Licensed Swedish production of the rifle continued until 1944.

Mauser Infanteriegewehr 98



Date 1898
Origin Germany
Weight 4.15 kg
Barrel 74 cm
Calibre 7.92mm × 57

In the Gewehr 98, Mauser brought the bolt action magazine rifle close to perfection by adding a third rear-locking lug, as well as improving gas sealing and refining the magazine. If the rifle had a fault, it lay in the design of its bolt handle.

Berthier MLE 1916



Date 1916
Origin France
Weight 4.15 kg
Barrel 79.8 cm
Calibre 8mm × 50R

A modified version of the 1902 model Berthier rifle, this gun had a five-round magazine in place of the original three round magazine. The piling hook below the fore sight was used to stack the rifles “teepee-style” when troops were encamped.

Enfield Pattern 1913



Date 1913
Origin UK
Weight 3.9 kg
Barrel 66 cm
Calibre .276 in

This experimental design was produced as a potential replacement for the Lee-Enfield SMLE, firing a more powerful 7mm round. After trials in 1913, the experiment was abandoned due to the onset of World War I.

A matter of survival - Preparing offal

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 offal.

Okay, so you managed to trap or hunt something. You've bled it, gutted it, skinned it, and prepared the meat. Where to now?

So what exactly do you do with all the left over bits. Stuff such as the internal organs. Much of it makes good eating, so don't just throw it away.

Liver

Liver is best eaten as soon as possible. Remove the bile bladder in the centre. It is quite strong and can usually be pulled off with little difficulty. But do be careful, the bile will taint any flesh it comes into contact with.

If any animal has any diseases they will show up in the liver. Avoid any liver that is mottled or covered with white spots. If only some of the liver is affected, cut it off and eat the remainder.

Liver is a complete food, containing all essential vitamins and minerals. If eaten raw no food value is lost. It requires little cooking.

Stomach (tripe)

Many people really enjoy eating tripe. The stomach contents require little digesting, so it is a good food for the sick or injured. Remove the contents of the stomach (set aside), wash the tripe and simmer slowly with herbs.

The stomach contents may sound unpalatable, but could save an injured person's life, for the animal has done most

of the hard work of breaking the food down. Lightly boiled, stomach contents are nourishing and easily digestible.

Kidneys

Kidneys are a valuable source of nourishment and ideal for flavouring stews. Boil them with herbs.

The white fat surrounding them (suet) is a rich food source. Render it down to use in the preparation of pemmican.

Melts

Melts are the spleen, a large organ in the bigger animals. It has limited food value and is now worth bothering about in small game such as rabbits. It is best roasted.

Lites

Lites are the lungs of the animal, perfectly good to eat but not of great food value. Any respiratory complaints will show up in the lungs.

Do not eat any mottled with black and white spots. Healthy lungs are pink and blemish free and best boiled. They could be set aside for fish or trap bait.

Heart

The heart is a tightly packed muscle with little or no fat. Roast it or use its distinctive flour to liven up stews.

Intestines

Intestines consist of lengths of tubes and are best used as sausage skins.

Turn them inside out and wash them. Then boil them thoroughly. Mix fat and meat in equal proportions and then stir in blood.

Stuff the mixture into the skin and boil them well. Before putting them in boiling water add a little cold water to take it just off the boil - this will counter any risk of the skins bursting.

This makes a highly nutritious food which, if smoked, will keep for a long time. Dried intestines can also be used for light lashings.

Sweetbreads

Sweetbreads are the pancreas or thymus gland, distinctive in larger game. Many people consider these a great delicacy and it is delicious boiled or roasted.

Tail

Skin and boil to make an excellent soup. It's full of meat and gelatine.

Feet

Feet are chopped off during slaughter but should not be wasted. Boil them up to make a stew. Clean dirt from hooves or paws and remove all traces of fur. Hooves are a source of nutritious aspic jelly.

Head

On larger animals there is a good deal of meat on the head. The cheeks make a very tasty dish. The tongue is highly nutritious. Boil it to make it tender and skin before eating.

The brain will make brawn and will also provide a solution for curing hides. All that is left, or the whole brain of small animals, should be boiled.

Bones

All bones should be boiled for soup. They are rich in bone marrow, with valuable vitamins. They can also be made into tools.

Preparing sheep-like animals

Follow the instructions for larger animals and then:

1. Split in two down the line of the spine, keeping exactly to the centre of the back bone.
2. Remove the rear leg. Try to cut through the ball and socket joint.
3. Remove the front leg. There is no bone to cut through, follow the line of the shoulder blade.
4. Cut off the neck.
5. Cut off the skirt (loose flesh hanging below the ribs).
6. Cut between each rib and between the vertebrae. This gives you chops.
7. The fillet, lying in the small of the back, is the best meat for preserving.

Preparing pig

Do not attempt to skin a pig. Gut it first then place it over the hot embers of a fire and scrape the hair off.

Hot water will help to loosen the hair. It should be only just hotter than your hand can bear. Water that is too hot will



make the hair more difficult to remove. Pigs attract many parasites, ticks, crab lice and worms so cooking must make sure of killing them. Boiling is therefore the best way of cooking pork.

Preparing small animals

Follow the same basic procedure as for larger animals - the all need to be gutted.

Preparing reptiles

Discard internal organs, which may carry salmonella. Reptiles can be cooked in their skins. Large snakes can be chopped into steaks and provide useful skins.

To prepare a snake cut off the head well down, behind the poison sacs. Open vent to neck, keeping the blade outwards to avoid piercing the innards, which will fall clear.

Skewer to suspend and ease off the skin towards the tail.

Preparing birds

Birds are prepared in much the same way as animals - though they are usually plucked and cooked with the skin on instead of being skinned. Follow the sequence below:

- **Bleeding:** Kill birds by

stretching their necks, then cut the throat and hang head down to bleed. Or kill by cutting just under the tongue, severing the main nerve and main artery. The bird dies easily and bleeds well. Handle carrion eaters as little as possible as they are more prone to infections, lice and ticks.

- **Plucking:** This is easiest straight after killing while the bird is still warm. Hot water can be used to loosen feathers, except in the case of waterbirds and seabirds, in which it tends to tighten them. Keep feathers for arrow flights and insulation. Start at the chest. For speed you can skin a bird, but that wastes the food value of the skin.
- **Removing innards:** Make an incision from the vent to the tail. Put your hand in and draw out the innards. Retain the heart and kidneys. Cut off the head and feet.
- **Cooking:** Always boil carrion eaters in case they carry any disease. Boiling will make stringy old birds tender but you can roast younger ones on a spit or in an oven.

Rank Structure - Cuba

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 Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces.

The Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces (*Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias – FAR*) consist of ground forces, naval forces, air and air defence forces, and other paramilitary bodies including the Territorial Troops Militia (*Milicias de Tropas Territoriales – MTT*), Youth Labour Army (*Ejército Juvenil del Trabajo – EJT*), and the Defence and Production Brigades (*Brigadas de Producción y Defensa – BPD*), plus the Civil Defence Organization (*Defensa Civil de Cuba – DCC*) and the National Reserves Institution (*Instituto Nacional de las Reservas Es-tatales – INRE*).



Cuban Army

NCO's & Warrant Officer



Cabo
Corporal



Sargento de Tercera
Sergeant Third Class



Sargento de Segunda
Sergeant Second Class



Sargento de primera
Sergeant First Class



Suboficial
Sub-Officer



Segundo suboficial
Second Sub-Officer



Primer suboficial
First Sub-Officer



Mayor suboficial
Major Sub-Officer

Officers



Subteniente
Sub-lieutenant



Teniente
Lieutenant



Primer Teniente
First Lieutenant



Capitán
Captain



Mayor
Major



Teniente Coronel
Lieutenant Colonel



Coronel
Colonel



General de Brigada
Brigadier General



General de División
Major General



General de Cuerpo de Ejército
Lieutenant General



General de Ejército
Army General



Comandante de la Revolución
Corps General



Comandante en Jefe
Commander in Chief

Cuban Navy NCO's & Warrant Officer



Cabo
Corporal



Sargento de Tercera
Sergeant Third Class



Sargento de Segunda
Sergeant Second Class



Sargento de primera
Sergeant First Class



Suboficial
Sub-Officer



Segundo suboficial
Second Sub-Officer

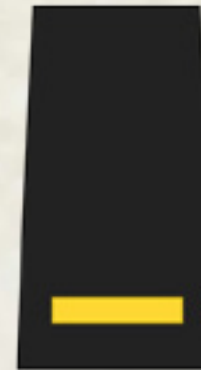


Primer suboficial
First Sub-Officer



Mayor suboficial
Major Sub-Officer

Officers



Alférez
Ensign



Teniente de Corbeta
Corvette Lieutenant



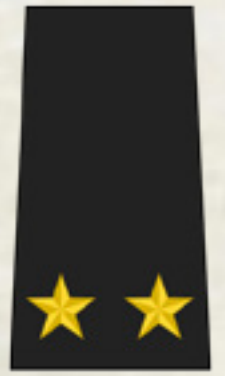
Teniente de Fragata
Frigate Lieutenant



Teniente de Navío
Lieutenant of the Ship



Capitán de Corbeta
Corvette Captain



Capitán de Fragata
Frigate Captain



Capitán de Navío
Captain of the Ship



Contralmirante
Rear Admiral



Vicealmirante
Vice Admiral



Almirante
Admiral

Cuban Air Force NCO's & Warrant Officer



Cabo
Corporal



Sargento de Tercera
Sergeant Third Class



Sargento de Segunda
Sergeant Second Class



Sargento de primera
Sergeant First Class



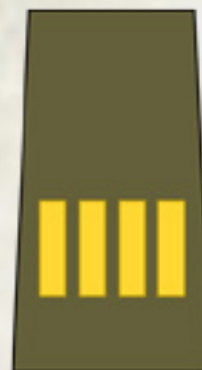
Suboficial
Sub-Officer



Segundo suboficial
Second Sub-Officer

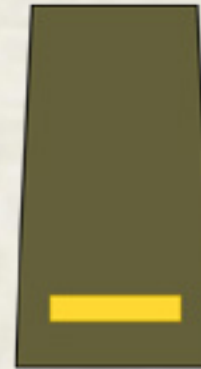


Primer suboficial
First Sub-Officer



Mayor suboficial
Major Sub-Officer

Officers



Subteniente
Sub-lieutenant



Teniente
Lieutenant



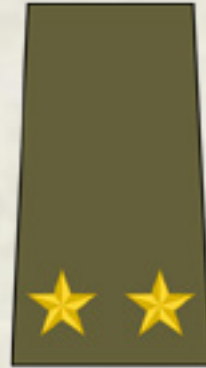
Primer Teniente
First Lieutenant



Capitán
Captain



Mayor
Major



Teniente Coronel
Lieutenant Colonel



Coronel
Colonel



General de Brigada
Brigadier General



General de División
Major General



General de Cuerpo de Ejército
Lieutenant General



General de Ejército
Air Force General

Military Strength

In the seventh of a series of articles, we examine the main battle tanks (MBT) used by the ten strongest current military forces.

Last month we looked at anti-tank weapons. So this month we decided to look at tanks and infantry fighting vehicles.

The tank first saw action during World War I and by World War II it had become a potent weapon on the battlefield. It was the Germans that first began to use tanks in conjunction with infantry and artillery support.

In modern warfare the tank still plays an important role and manufacturers are constantly researching ways to make tank armoured less vulnerable to anti-tank weapons.



10. Germany

Total military personnel – 210,305

Leopard 2

The Leopard 2 is a main battle tank developed by Krauss-Maffei in the 1970s for the West German Army. The tank first entered service in 1979 and succeeded the earlier Leopard 1 as the main battle tank of the German Army.



- Designer: Krauss-Maffei
- Designed: 1970s
- Manufacturer: Krauss-Maffei Wegmann, Maschinenbau Kiel
- Weight: 62.3 tonnes
- Length: 9.97 metres (gun forward)
- Width: 3.75 metres
- Height: 3.0 metres
- Crew: 4
- Armour: 3rd generation composite; including high-hardness steel, tung-

sten and plastic filler with ceramic component

- Main armament: 1 × 120 mm Rheinmetall L/55 smooth-bore gun
- Secondary armament: 2 × 7.62 mm MG3A1
- Engine: MTU MB 873 Ka-501 liquid-cooled V12 twin-turbo diesel engine

1,500 PS (1,479 hp, 1,103 kW) at 2,600 rpm

- Operational range: Road: 400 km, cross country: 240 km
- Speed: 68 km/h



9. Turkey

Total military personnel – 891,300

Altay

The Altay is a modern main battle tank developed by Otokar and it is due to replace the Leopard 2 by 2021. It is one of the most expensive tank designs with a unit cost of 13.75 million dollars.

- Designer: Otokar
- Designed: 2008–2016
- Manufacturer: BMC
- Weight: 65 tonnes
- Length: 10.3 metres (gun forward)
- Width: 3.9 metres
- Height: 2.6 metres
- Crew: 4
- Armour: Roketsan composite armour
- Main armament: Mkek 120



mm 55 calibre smoothbore gun

- Secondary armament: 1 × Aselsan STAMP/II 12.7 mm stabilized remote controlled turret. 1 x 7.62 mm coaxial

machine gun

- Engine: 1,500 hp multi-fuel engine
- Operational range: 500 km
- Speed: 70 km/h



8. United Kingdom

Total military personnel – 157,500

Challenger 2

The FV4034 Challenger 2 is a third generation British main battle tank (MBT) in service with the armies of the United Kingdom and Oman. It replaced the Challenger 1 as Britain's main battle tank.

- Designer: Vickers Defence Systems
- Designed: 1986
- Manufacturer: BAE Sys-



HEAD TO HEAD

- tems Land & Armaments

 - Weight: 62.5 tonnes
 - Length: 13.50 metres (gun forward)
 - Width: 4.2 metres
 - Height: 2.49 metres
 - Crew: 4

- Armour: Chobham, Dorchester Level 2
 - Main armament: L30A1 120 mm rifled gun
 - Secondary armament: Co-axial 7.62 mm L94A1 chain gun EX-34 (chain gun), 7.62

- mm L37A2 Operator/Loader's hatch machine gun
 - Engine: Perkins CV12-6A V12 diesel 26.1 litre
 - Operational range: 550 km on road, 250 km off road
 - Speed: 59 km/h



7. Republic of Korea

Total military personnel – 3,699,000

K1 88

The K1 88 is the main battle tank of the Republic of Korea Armed Forces. All K1 will be upgraded to K1E1 by 2026.

- Designer: Hyundai Rotem
- Designed: 1999
- Manufacturer: Hyundai Rotem
- Weight: 51.1 tonnes
- Length: 9.67 metres
- Width: 3.6 metres
- Height: 2.25 metres
- Crew: 4
- Armour: Special Armour Plate (SAP)
- Main armament: KM68A1



- 105 mm
- Secondary armament: 12.7 mm K6 HMG; 7.62 mm M60D; 7.62 mm M60E2-1 on coaxial mount
- Engine: 8-cyl. water-cooled diesel MTU 871 Ka-501
- Operational range: 500 km
- Speed: 65 km/h

Tank Trivia

- The most common US tank during World War II was the M4 Sherman.
- The French Renault FT tank was the first tank with a rotating turret instead of side-mounted gun sponsons.
- The Battle of Kursk during World War II was the largest tank battle ever. As many as 5,000 Russian and German tanks took part in Kursk, a concentration of armoured firepower that hasn't been matched since.
- Reactive armor attempts to defeat HEAT rounds by triggering a controlled explosion that disrupts the explosive jet.
- The Second Battle of Villers-Bretonneux during World War I was the first time tanks fought against tanks in combat.

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6. Japan

Total military personnel – 310,457

Type 10

The Type 10 *Hitomaru-shiki sensha* is a next generation main battle tank of the Japanese Ground Self Defence Force. It has been equipped with enhancements in its capability to respond to anti-tank warfare and other contingencies.

- Designer: Mitsubishi Heavy Industries
- Designed: 2010
- Manufacturer: Mitsubishi Heavy Industries
- Weight: 40 tonnes
- Length: 9.485 metres
- Width: 3.24 metres
- Height: 2.30 metres
- Crew: 4
- Armour: Nano-crystal steel,



- modular ceramic composite armour, light-weight upper armour.
- Main armament: Japan Steel Works 120 mm smoothbore cannon with automatic loader
- Secondary armament: M2HB 12.7 mm machine gun; Type 74 7.62 mm machine gun
- Engine: 4-stroke V8 Diesel engine, 1,200 hp
- Operational range: 500 km
- Speed: 70 km/h



5. France

Total military personnel – 426,265

Leclerc

The Leclerc replaced the AMX 30 as the country's main armoured platform.

- Designer: GIAT
- Designed: 1989
- Manufacturer: Nexter
- Weight: 54.5 tonnes
- Length: 9.87 metres
- Width: 3.60 metres
- Height: 2.53 metres
- Crew: 3
- Armour: Modular compos-



HEAD TO HEAD

- ite armour, SXXI version include titanium, tungsten and semi-reactive layers
- Main armament: GIAT CN120-26/52 120mm tank gun
- Secondary armament: 12.7 mm coaxial M2HB machine gun; 7.62 mm machine gun
- Engine: V8X SACM (Wärt-silä) 8-cylinder diesel engine, 1,100 kW
- Operational range: 550 km
- Speed: 72 km/h



4. India

Total military personnel – 2,598,921

Arjun Mk2

The Arjun is a third generation that replaced both the T-90M and the T-72 Ajeya.

- Designer: Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment
- Designed: 2015
- Manufacturer: Heavy Vehicles Factory
- Weight: 68 tonnes
- Length: 10.64 metres
- Width: 3.95 metres
- Height: 2.8 metres
- Crew: 4
- Armour: ERA, NERA, Kanchan armour
- Main armament: 1× 120 mm rifled tank gun



- Secondary armament: 1× NSV 12.7mm AA MG; 1× Mag 7.62 mm Tk715 coaxial MG; 12× smoke grenades
- Engine: MTU MB 838 Ka-501 V10; 1,400 hp (1,044 kW) liquid-cooled turbo-charged diesel engine, 1500 hp (1,118 kW) V12 diesel
- Operational range: 500 km
- Speed: 60 km/h

More Tank Trivia

- The T28 Super-Heavy tank, also know as the T95, was a 100-ton monster meant to smash through concrete defences (it was never put into production). It had four sets of tracks, two side-by-side pairs.
- The Russians produced more than 80,000 T-34 tanks during World War II.
- The British Mark I tank, the first tank to see combat action, required a crew of eight.
- The primary tank used by the US in the Vietnam War was the M48 Patton.
- The Israeli Merkava (chariot) Mark I tank was first used in 1979. Since then it has been used in every conflict that Israel has been involved in. Currently the Merkava Mark IVm is the Israeli main battle tank.

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3. China

Total military personnel – 2,545,000

Type 99

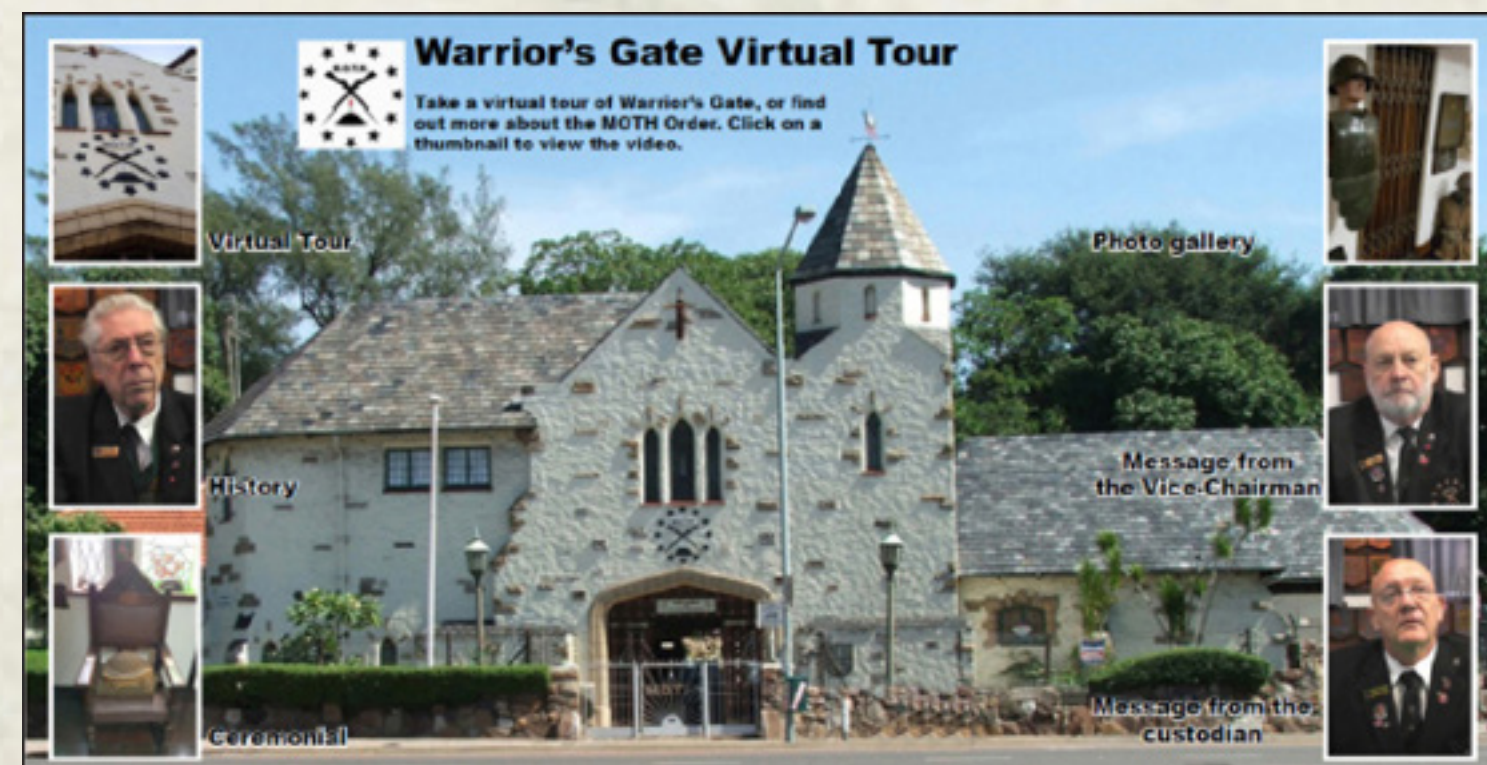
The Type 99 or ZTZ99 is a Chinese third generation main battle tank (MBT).[4] The vehicle was a replacement for the aging Type 88 introduced in the late 1980s.

- Designer: Norinco
- Designed: 2001
- Manufacturer: Norinco
- Weight: 54 tonnes
- Length: 7 metres
- Width: 3.7 metres
- Height: 2.35 metres
- Crew: 3
- Armour: Classified
- Main armament: 125 mm



- ZPT-98 smoothbore gun
- Secondary armament: Type 85 heavy machine gun; Type 59 7.62 millimetres coaxial machine gun
- Engine: Diesel 1,500 hp
- Operational range: 600 km
- Speed: 80 km/h

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.





2. Russia

Total military personnel – 3,586,128

T-90

The T-90 is a third-generation Russian battle tank that entered service in 1993. Since 2011, the Russian armed forces have ceased any further orders for the T-90, and are instead increasing their numbers of the T-14 Armata that began production in 2016.

- Designer: Kartsev-Venediktov
- Designed: 1993
- Manufacturer: Uralvagonzavod
- Weight: 46 tonnes
- Length: 9.63 metres
- Width: 3.78 metres
- Height: 2.22 metres



- Crew: 3
- Armour: Steel-composite-reactive blend
- Main armament: 2A46M 125 mm smoothbore gun
- Secondary armament: 12.7mm Kord Heavy machine gun; 7.62mm PKMT
- Engine: V-84MS 12-cyl. diesel
- Operational range: 550 km
- Speed: 60 km/h



1. United States

Total military personnel – 4,397,128

M1A2 Abrams

The M1 Abrams is a third-generation American main battle tank designed by Chrysler Defense. The original M1 Abrams was designed in 1980.

- Designer: Chrysler Defense
- Designed: 1980
- Manufacturer: Lima Army Tank Plant
- Weight: 64.6 tonnes
- Length: 9.77 metres
- Width: 3.66 metres
- Height: 2.44 metres
- Crew: 4
- Armour: Composite armour
- Main armament: 120 mm L/44 M256A1 smoothbore



- Secondary armament: 1 × 12.7 mm M2HB heavy machine gun; 2 × 7.62 mm M240 machine guns
- Engine: Honeywell AGT-1500C multi-fuel turbine engine
- Operational range: 426 km
- Speed: 67 km/h



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Desmond Doss

US Army Corporal Desmond Doss became the only conscientious objector during World War II to be awarded the Medal of Honour for his actions during the war.

His life has been the subject of books, the documentary *The Conscientious Objector*, and the 2016 film *Hacksaw Ridge*.

He served as a combat medic with an infantry company during World War II. He was twice awarded the Bronze Star Medal for actions in Guam and the Philippines.

He would go on to become the only conscientious objector to receive the Medal of Honour for his actions during the war.

Yet who exactly was Desmond Doss?

Early Life

Desmond Thomas Doss was born on 7 February 1919 in Lynchburg, Virginia.

His father, William, was a carpenter and his mother Bertha was a home maker and shoe factory worker. He had an older sister, Audrey, and a younger brother, Harold.

His mother raised him as a devout Seventh-day Adventist and instilled Sabbath-keeping, non-vio-

lence, and a vegetarian lifestyle in his upbringing.

Doss attended the Park Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church school until the eighth grade, and subsequently found a job at the Lynchburg Lumber Company to support his family during the Great Depression.

World War II

Before the outbreak of World War II, Doss was employed as a joiner at a shipyard in Newport News, Virginia.

Because of his shipyard work Doss was eligible for a deferment from military service. Despite this, Doss chose to do his military service because he felt it was his Christian duty.

He was sent to Fort Jackson in South Carolina for training with the reactivated 77th Infantry Division. Meanwhile, his brother Harold served aboard the USS Lindsey as a navy medic.

Doss refused to kill an enemy soldier or carry a weapon into combat because of his personal beliefs as a Seventh-day Adventist.

Doss was harassed by the other soldiers, and his commanding officer tried to get him discharged with a Section-8 (meaning he was mentally unfit for service).

Doss refused the discharge stating that he felt he would be a poor Christian if he accepted a discharge that implied he was mentally unstable due to his religion.

He consequently became a medic assigned to the 2nd Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 307th Infantry, 77th Infantry Division.

In 1944, Doss got his first taste of combat. He served in Guam and Leyte in the Philippines. He was awarded two Bronze Star Medals with a "V" device, for exceptional valour in aiding wounded soldiers under fire.

On 1 April 1945 the American launched Operation Iceberg, the invasion of Okinawa, which was only 550 km away from the Japanese mainland.

The Japanese had been there for years and Japanese forces were deeply entrenched on the island.

The 77th Infantry Division were tasked with attacking Maeda Escarpment, an approximately 100-metre high ridge that runs across most of the island of Okinawa. The Japanese were hiding everywhere, in caves, tunnels, holes and pillboxes, ready to cut down any enemies who approached. The escarpment was so deadly it was dubbed "Hacksaw Ridge."

The Americans used cargo nets to scale the cliff face and medic Desmond Doss was one of the three men who volunteered to go up the ridge and hang the cargo nets. They were the same cargo nets that the men had used to climb down from the army personnel carriers into the landing crafts that took them ashore.

The 77th Infantry Division managed to take Hacksaw

Ridge but on 5 May the Japanese countered and drove the Americans off of the escarpment. Facing heavy mortar, artillery and machine gun fire, the majority of the battalion retreated back down the Maeda Escarpment.

Dozens of injured soldiers were left behind to face death or capture at the hands of the Japanese. Doss made a commitment to remain behind with them.

"I had these men up there and I shouldn't leave 'em," said Doss. "They were my buddies, some of the men had families, and they trust me. I didn't feel like I should value my life above my buddy's, so I decided to stay with them and take care of as many of them as I could. I didn't know how I was gonna do it."

He patched up the wounded as best he could and then dragged them to the edge of the cliff and attempted to lower them down the escarpment.

He didn't have enough rope to do it, so he had to come up with another way. Falling back on his experience helping rescue flood victims when he was younger, Doss fashioned a special sling that enabled him to lower the men one by one to safety.

He later said, "So I just kept prayin', 'Lord, please help me get more and more, one more, until there was none left, and I'm the last one down.'"

While lowering the men down the ridge, the Japanese had a clear shot at Desmond Doss. One Japanese soldier re-

called having Desmond in his sights, but every time he went to fire, his gun jammed.

Army medic Desmond Doss had found a way to single-handedly rescue roughly 75 of his wounded comrades while under heavy mortar and gunfire. Doss estimated the number of lives he saved to be 50, but his commanding officer wanted to credit him with saving 100 lives, so they compromised at 75.

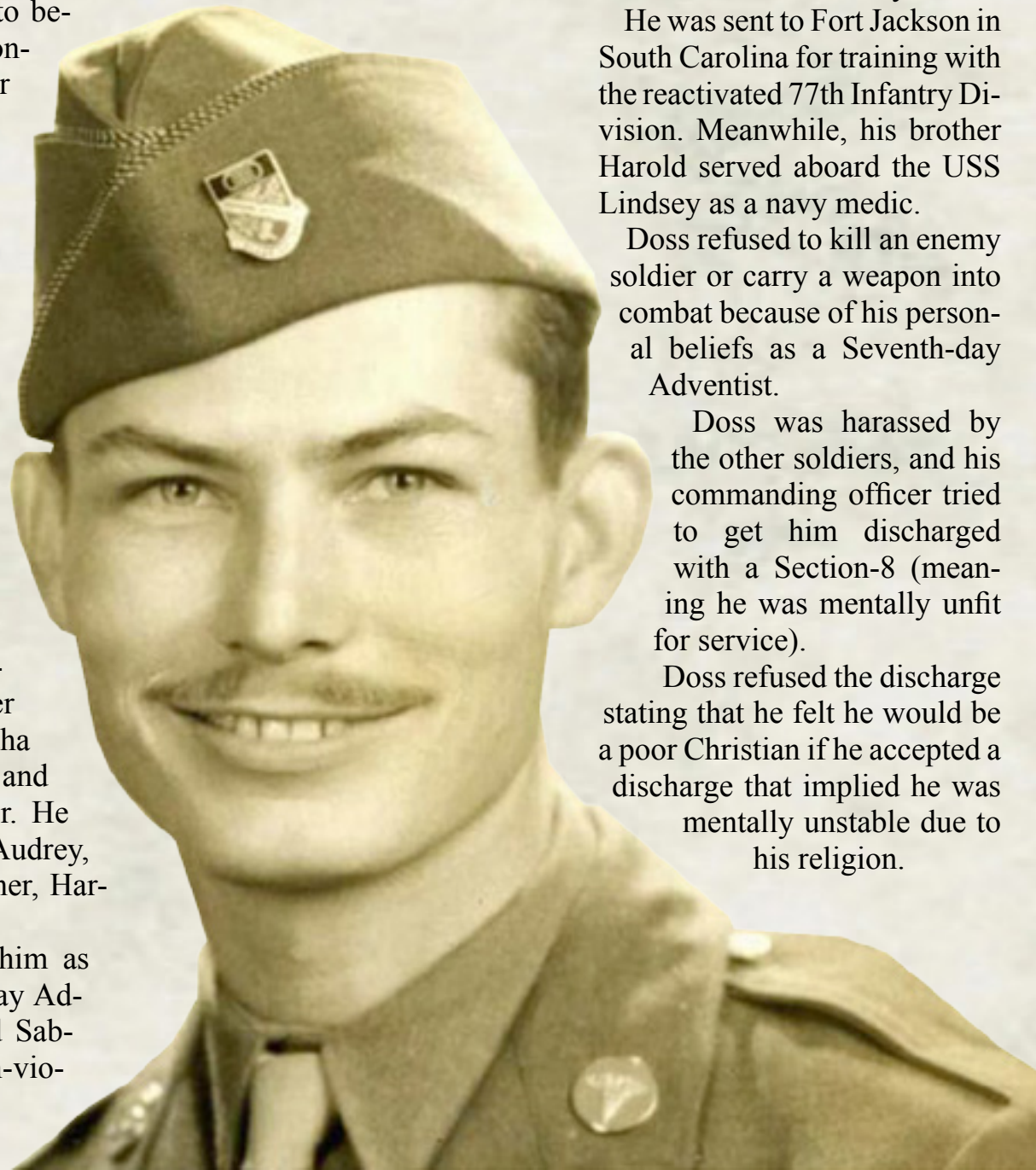
He spent 12 hours up on the ridge rescuing the men, averaging one man every 10 minutes.

The final assault to take the Maeda Escarpment happened on the morning of 5 May 1945, a Saturday, the day of Sabbath, which the Fourth Commandment says should be devoted to prayer. Given that Desmond was the only medic left in B Company, he agreed to go but requested that he first be given time to read his Bible.

The delay was approved up the chain of command and the assault was put on hold until Desmond finished his devotions. That day, the 307th Infantry Regiment of the 77th Infantry Division overtook Hacksaw Ridge for good.

On the night of 21 May 21, just past the escarpment on Okinawa, Doss' unit inadvertently walked into a company of Japanese soldiers. The unit engaged in hand-to-hand combat with the enemy and Desmond scrambled to treat the wounded.

A grenade exploded near him, leaving 17 pieces of shrapnel embedded in his body, mostly in his legs.



Doss waited for five hours until fellow soldier Ralph Baker was able to reach him. Baker, along with a few other men, carried Doss on a litter (stretcher) through an intense enemy tank attack.

As they were carrying him, he saw a guy on the ground badly wounded. Doss rolled off the stretcher and crawled over to patch the man up.

Doss gave up his stretcher to the man, but while waiting for help to come back, he was wounded again, this time by a sniper's bullet that shattered his left arm.

He fashioned a splint out of a rifle stock and crawled the remaining 275 metres under fire, eventually reaching the safety of an aid station. He was transported to the hospital ship Mercy. He was later sent back to the United States.

Medal of Honour

In November 1945 Desmond Doss was awarded the Medal of Honour, America's highest medal for bravery.

The citation to his medal reads:

Private First Class Desmond T. Doss, United States Army, Medical Detachment, 307th Infantry, 77th Infantry Division. Near Urasoe-Mura, Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, 29 April – 21 May 1945.

He was a company aid man when the 1st Battalion assaulted a jagged escarpment 400 feet high. As our troops gained the summit, a heavy concentration of artillery, mortar and machinegun fire crashed into them, inflicting approximately 75 casualties and driving the



MEDAL OF HONOUR: US President Harry S. Truman presents Corporal Desmond Doss with the Medal of Honour. Doss was the only conscientious objector to be awarded the Medal of Honour during World War II.

others back. Private First Class Doss refused to seek cover and remained in the fire-swept area with the many stricken, carrying them one by one to the edge of the escarpment and there lowering them on a rope-supported litter down the face of a cliff to friendly hands.

On 2 May, he exposed himself to heavy rifle and mortar fire in rescuing a wounded man 200 yards forward of the lines on the same escarpment; and two days later he treated four men who had been cut down while assaulting a strongly defended cave, advancing through a shower of grenades to within eight yards of enemy forces in a cave's mouth, where he dressed his comrades' wounds before

making four separate trips under fire to evacuate them to safety. On 5 May, he unhesitatingly braved enemy shelling and small arms fire to assist an artillery officer. He applied bandages, moved his patient to a spot that offered protection from small-arms fire and, while artillery and mortar shells fell close by, painstakingly administered plasma.

Later that day, when an American was severely wounded by fire from a cave, Private First Class Doss crawled to him where he had fallen 25 feet from the enemy position, rendered aid, and carried him 100 yards to safety while continually exposed to enemy fire. On 21 May, in a night attack on high

ground near Shuri, he remained in exposed territory while the rest of his company took cover, fearlessly risking the chance that he would be mistaken for an infiltrating Japanese and giving aid to the injured until he was himself seriously wounded in the legs by the explosion of a grenade.

Rather than call another aid man from cover, he cared for his own injuries and waited five hours before litter bearers reached him and started carrying him to cover. The trio was caught in an enemy tank attack and Private First Class Doss, seeing a more critically wounded man nearby, crawled off the litter and directed the bearers to give their first attention to the other man. Awaiting the litter bearers' return, he was again struck, this time suffering a compound fracture of one arm.

With magnificent fortitude he bound a rifle stock to his shattered arm as a splint and then crawled 300 yards over rough terrain to the aid station. Through his outstanding bravery and unflinching determination in the face of desperately dangerous conditions Private First Class Doss saved the lives of many soldiers. His name became a symbol throughout the 77th Infantry Division for outstanding gallantry far above and beyond the call of duty.

Post-war

After the war, Doss initially planned to continue his career in carpentry, but extensive damage to his left arm made him unable to do so.

In 1946, Doss was diagnosed

with tuberculosis, which he had contracted on Leyte. He underwent treatment for five and a half years – which cost him a lung and five ribs – before being discharged from the hospital in August 1951 with 90% disability.

Doss continued to receive treatment from the military, but after an overdose of antibiotics rendered him completely deaf in 1976, he was given 100% disability; he was able to regain his hearing after receiving a cochlear implant in 1988.

Despite the severity of his injuries, Doss managed to raise a family on a small farm in Rising Fawn, Georgia.

Doss married Dorothy Pauline Schutte on 17 August 1942, and they had one child, Desmond "Tommy" Doss Jr., born in 1946.

Dorothy died on 17 November 1991, from a car accident. Doss remarried on July 1, 1993, to Frances May Duman.

After being hospitalized for difficulty breathing, Doss died on 23 March 2006, at his home in Piedmont, Alabama.

He was buried on 3 April 2006, in the National Cemetery in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Frances died three years later on February 3, 2009, at the Piedmont Health Care Centre in Piedmont, Alabama.

Desmond Doss was the only conscientious objector to be awarded the Medal of Honour during World War II.

Only two other soldiers, Thomas W. Bennett and Joseph G. LaPointe – both medics, were awarded the Medal of Honour. This was during the Vietnam War and both medals

were awarded posthumously. Neither Bennett nor LaPointe survived the war.

Media

Doss is the subject of The Conscientious Objector, an award-winning 2004 documentary by Terry Benedict.

The feature film Hacksaw Ridge, based on his life, was produced by Terry Benedict and directed by Mel Gibson.

Doss is also the subject of four biographical books.

Honours and recognition

- A portion of US Route 501 near Peaks View Park is named "Pfc. Desmond T. Doss Memorial Expressway." Local veterans of the area honour him by decorating the signs marking this portion of road several times during the year, particularly around patriotic holidays.
- In 1951, Camp Desmond T. Doss was created in Grand Ledge, Michigan to help train young Seventh-day Adventist men for service in the military. The camp was active throughout the Korean and Vietnam Wars before the property was sold in 1988.
- In the early 1980s, a school in Lynchburg was renamed Desmond T. Doss Christian Academy.
- In July 2008, the guest house at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., was renamed Doss Memorial Hall.

A-10 Thunderbolt II

Although it entered service back in 1976 the Fairchild Republic A-10 Thunderbolt is still regarded by many as one of the best airborne ground attack platforms. It is hard to shoot down, packs a deadly punch, and has earned its nickname 'Warthog'.

The Fairchild Republic A-10 Thunderbolt II is a single-seat, twin turbofan engine, straight wing jet aircraft developed by Fairchild-Republic for the United States Air Force (USAF).

It is commonly referred to by the nicknames "Warthog" or "Hog", although the A-10's official name comes from the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt, a World War II fighter-bomber effective at attacking ground targets.

The A-10 was designed for close air support (CAS) of friendly ground troops, attacking armoured vehicles and tanks, and providing quick-action support against enemy ground forces.

It entered service in 1976 and is the only production-built aircraft that has served in the USAF that was designed solely for CAS. Its secondary mission is to provide forward air controller – airborne support, by directing other aircraft in attacks on ground targets.

The A-10 was intended to improve on the performance of the A-1 Skyraider and its lesser firepower. The A-10 was designed around the 30 mm

GAU-8 Avenger rotary cannon. Its airframe was designed for durability, with measures such as 540 kg of titanium armour to protect the cockpit and aircraft systems, enabling it to absorb

a significant amount of damage and continue flying. Its short take off and landing capability permits operation from airstrips close to the front lines, and its simple design enables maintenance with minimal facilities.

The A-10 served in the Gulf War (Operation Desert Storm),

the American led intervention against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, where the A-10 distinguished itself. The A-10 also participated in other conflicts such as in Grenada, the Balkans, Afghanistan, Iraq, and against Islamic State in the Middle East.

The A-10A single-seat variant was the only version produced. In 2005, a program was started

to upgrade remaining A-10A aircraft to the A-10C configuration, with modern avionics for use with precision weaponry.

The U.S. Air Force had stated the F-35 would replace the A-10 as it entered service, but this remains highly contentious within the USAF and in political circles. With a variety of upgrades and wing replacements, the A-10's service life can be extended to 2040; the service has no planned retirement date as of June 2017.

Background

After World War II American aircraft design focused more on the delivery of nuclear weapons using high-speed designs like the F-101 Voodoo and F-105 Thunderchief.

During the Korean War the Douglas A-1 Skyraider took on the role of conventional ground

attack aircraft. It was also the Skyraider that would have to fulfil the same role in the Vietnam War.

While a capable aircraft for its era, with a relatively large payload and long loiter time, the propeller-driven design was also relatively slow and vulnerable to ground fire.

The U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps lost 266 A-1s in action in Vietnam, largely from small arms fire. The A-1 Skyraider also had poor firepower.

The lack of modern conventional attack capability prompted calls for a specialized attack aircraft. On 7 June 1961, Secretary of Defence McNamara ordered the USAF to develop two tactical aircraft, one for the long-range strike and interdiction role, and the other focusing on the fighter-bomber mission.

The former became the Tactical Fighter Experimental, or

TFX, which emerged as the F-111, while the second was filled by a version of the U.S. Navy's F-4 Phantom II.

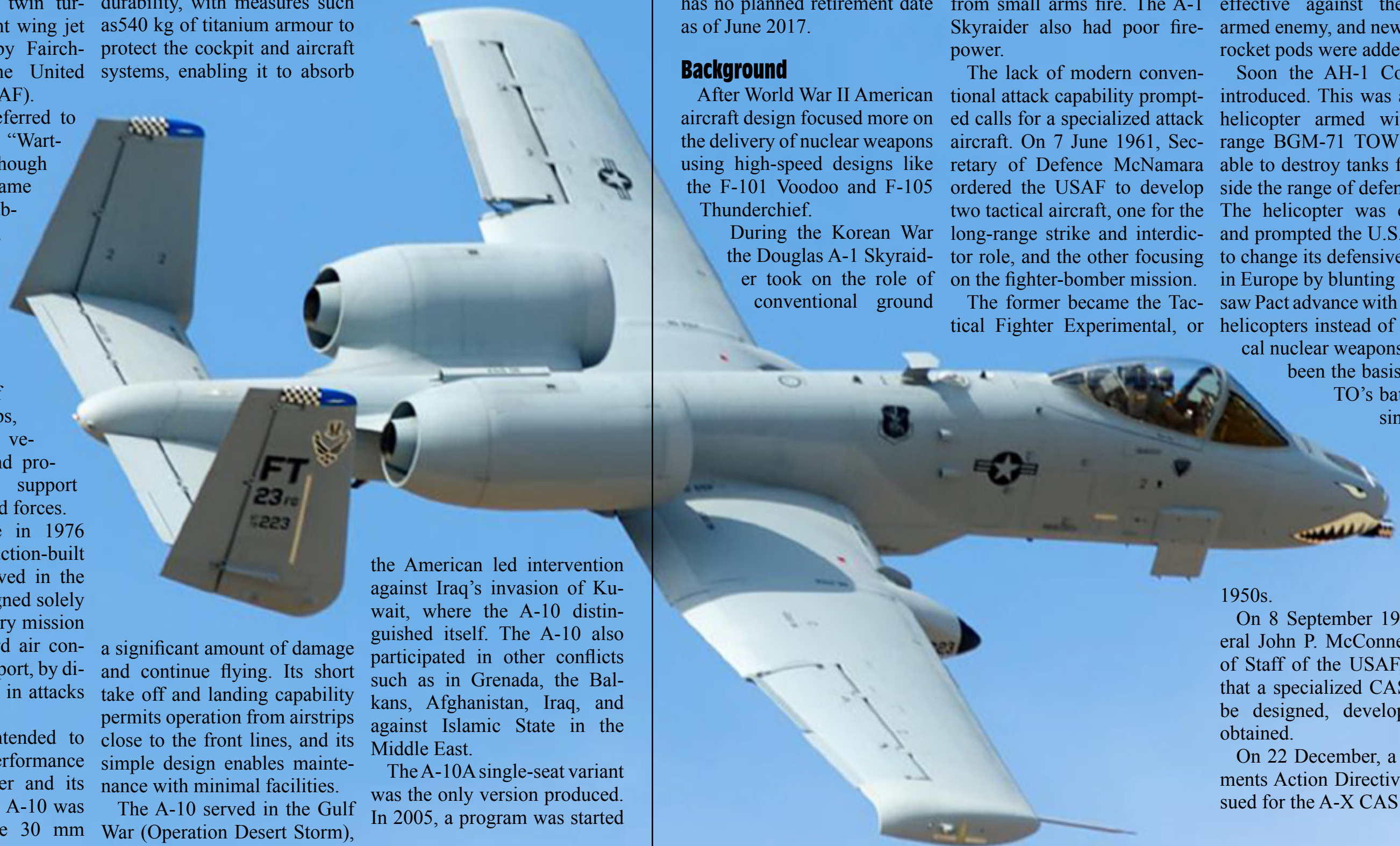
During this period, the United States Army had been introducing the UH-1 Iroquois into service. First used in its intended role as a transport, it was soon modified in the field to carry more machine guns in what became known as the helicopter gunship role. This proved effective against the lightly armed enemy, and new gun and rocket pods were added.

Soon the AH-1 Cobra was introduced. This was an attack helicopter armed with long-range BGM-71 TOW missiles able to destroy tanks from outside the range of defensive fire. The helicopter was effective, and prompted the U.S. military to change its defensive strategy in Europe by blunting any Warsaw Pact advance with anti-tank helicopters instead of the tactical nuclear weapons that had been the basis for NATO's battle plans since the

1950s.

On 8 September 1966, General John P. McConnell, Chief of Staff of the USAF, ordered that a specialized CAS aircraft be designed, developed, and obtained.

On 22 December, a Requirements Action Directive was issued for the A-X CAS airplane.



A-X Program

On 6 March 1967, the Air Force released a request for information to 21 defence contractors for the A-X. The objective was to create a design study for a low-cost attack aircraft.

The ideal aircraft should have long loiter time, low-speed manoeuvrability, massive cannon firepower, and extreme survivability. The specifications also demanded that each aircraft cost less than \$3 million (equivalent to \$20.9 million today).

In May 1970, the USAF issued a modified, more detailed request for proposals (RFP) for the aircraft. The threat of Soviet armoured forces and all-weather attack operations had become more serious.

The requirements now included that the aircraft would be designed specifically for the 30 mm rotary cannon. The RFP also specified a maximum speed of 740 km/h, take off distance of 1,200 metres, external load of 7,300 kg, 460 km mission radius, and a unit cost of US\$1.4 million (\$9.2 million today).

The A-X would be the first USAF aircraft designed exclusively for close air support. During this time, a separate RFP was released for A-X's 30 mm cannon with requirements for a high rate of fire (4,000 round per minute) and a high muzzle velocity.

Six companies submitted aircraft proposals, with Northrop and Fairchild Republic selected to build prototypes: the YA-9A and YA-10A, respectively. General Electric and Philco-Ford were selected to build and test GAU-8 cannon prototypes.



TANK KILLER: Click on the video link to see the A-10 in action.

Production and upgrades

On 10 February 1976, Deputy Secretary of Defense Bill Clements authorized full-rate production, with the first A-10 being accepted by the Air Force Tactical Air Command on 30 March 1976. Production continued and reached a peak rate of 13 aircraft per month. By 1984, 715 airplanes, including two prototypes and six development aircraft, had been delivered.

The A-10 has received many upgrades since entering service. In 1978, the A-10 received the Pave Penny laser receiver pod, which receives reflected laser radiation from laser designators to allow the aircraft to deliver laser guided munitions.

The Pave Penny pod is carried on a pylon mounted below the right side of the cockpit and has a clear view of the ground. In 1980, the A-10 began receiving an inertial navigation system.

In the early 1990s, the A-10 began to receive the Low-Altitude Safety and Targeting Enhancement (LASTE) upgrade, which provided computerized weapon-aiming equipment, an autopilot, and a ground-collision

warning system.

In 1999, aircraft began receiving Global Positioning System navigation systems and a multi-function display. The LASTE system was upgraded with an Integrated Flight & Fire Control Computer (IFFCC).

Overview

The A-10 has a cantilever low-wing monoplane wing with a wide chord. The aircraft has superior manoeuvrability at low speeds and altitude because of its large wing area, low wing aspect ratio, and large ailerons. The wing also allows short take off and landings, permitting operations from primitive forward airfields near front lines.

The aircraft can loiter for extended periods and operate under 300 metre ceilings with 2.4 km visibility. It typically flies at a relatively low speed of 560 km/h, which makes it a better platform for the ground-attack role than fast fighter-bombers, which often have difficulty targeting small, slow-moving targets.

The A-10 is designed to be refuelled, rearmed, and serviced with minimal equipment. Its simple design enables main-

tenance at forward bases with limited facilities.

An unusual feature is that many of the aircraft's parts are interchangeable between the left and right sides, including the engines, main landing gear, and vertical stabilizers.

The sturdy landing gear, low-pressure tires and large, straight wings allow operation from short rough strips even with a heavy aircraft ordnance load, allowing the aircraft to operate from damaged airbases, flying from taxiways, or even straight roadway sections.

The front landing gear is offset to the aircraft's right to allow placement of the 30 mm cannon with its firing barrel along the centreline of the aircraft.

During ground taxi, the offset front landing gear causes the A-10 to have dissimilar turning radii. Turning to the right on the ground takes less distance than turning left.

The wheels of the main landing gear partially protrude from their nacelles when retracted, making gear-up belly landings easier to control and less damaging. All landing gears retract forward; if hydraulic power is lost, a combination of gravity and aerodynamic drag can lower and lock the gear in place.

Durability

The A-10 is exceptionally tough, being able to survive direct hits from armour-piercing and high-explosive projectiles up to 23 mm.

It has double-redundant hydraulic flight systems, and a mechanical system as a backup if hydraulics are lost. Flight without hydraulic power uses

the manual reversion control system; pitch and yaw control engages automatically, roll control is pilot-selected.

In manual reversion mode, the A-10 is sufficiently controllable under favourable conditions to return to base, though control forces are greater than normal. The aircraft is designed to be able to fly with one engine, one half of the tail, one elevator, and half of a wing missing.

The cockpit and parts of the flight-control system are protected by 540 kg of titanium aircraft armour, referred to as a "bathtub". The armour has been tested to withstand strikes from 23 mm cannon fire and some strikes from 57 mm rounds.

It is made up of titanium plates with a thickness between 13 to 38 mm determined by a study of likely trajectories and deflection angles.

The armour makes up almost six percent of the aircraft's empty weight. Any interior surface of the tub directly exposed to the pilot is covered by a multi-layer nylon spall shield to protect against shell fragmentation. The front windscreen and canopy are resistant to small arms fire.

The A-10 was intended to fly from forward air bases and semi-prepared runways with high risk of foreign object damage to the engines. The unusual location of the General Electric TF34-GE-100 turbofan engines decreases ingestion risk, and allows the engines to run while the aircraft is serviced and rearmed by ground crews, reducing turn-around time. The wings are also mounted closer to the ground, simplifying ser-

vicing and rearming operations.

Weapons

Although the A-10 can carry a considerable amount of munitions, its primary built-in weapon is the 30×173 mm GAU-8/A Avenger auto-cannon. One of the most powerful aircraft cannons ever flown, it fires large depleted uranium armour-piercing shells that can literally chew tanks and armoured vehicles to pieces.

The GAU-8 is a hydraulically driven seven-barrel rotary cannon designed specifically for the anti-tank role with a high rate of fire. The cannon's original design could be switched by the pilot to 2,100 or 4,200 rounds per minute; this was later changed to a fixed rate of 3,900 rounds per minute.

The cannon takes about half a second to reach top speed, so 50 rounds are fired during the first second, 65 or 70 rounds per second thereafter.

The gun is accurate enough to place 80 percent of its shots within a 12.4 metre diameter circle from 1,220 metres while in flight.

The GAU-8 is optimized for a slant range of 1,220 metre with the A-10 in a 30-degree dive.

The fuselage of the aircraft is built around the cannon. The GAU-8/A is mounted slightly to the port side; the barrel in the firing location is on the starboard side at the 9 o'clock position so it is aligned with the aircraft's centreline.

The gun's 1.816 metre ammunition drum can hold up to 1,350 rounds of 30 mm ammunition, but generally holds 1,174 rounds.

To protect the GAU-8/A rounds from enemy fire, armour plates of differing thickness between the aircraft skin and the drum are designed to detonate incoming shells.

The AGM-65 Maverick air-to-surface missile is a commonly used munition for the A-10, targeted via electro-optical (TV-guided) or infrared. The Maverick allows target engagement at much greater ranges than the cannon, and thus less risk from anti-aircraft systems.

Other weapons include cluster bombs and Hydra rocket pods. The A-10 is equipped to carry GPS and laser-guided bombs, such as the GBU-39 Small Diameter Bomb, Paveway series bombs, JDAM, WCMD and glide bomb AGM-154 Joint Standoff Weapon.

A-10s usually fly with an ALQ-131 ECM pod under one wing and two AIM-9 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles under the other wing for self-defence.

Combat

The A-10 was used in combat for the first time during the Gulf War in 1991, destroying more than 900 Iraqi tanks, 2,000 other military vehicles and 1,200 artillery pieces.

A-10s also shot down two Iraqi helicopters with the GAU-8 cannon. The first of these was shot down by Captain Robert Swain over Kuwait on 6 February 1991 for the A-10's first air-to-air victory.

Four A-10s were shot down during the war by surface-to-air missiles. Another two battle-damaged A-10s and OA-10As returned to base and were written off. Some sustained ad-

ditional damage in crash landings.

The A-10 had a mission capable rate of 95.7 percent, flew 8,100 sorties, and launched 90 percent of the AGM-65 Maverick missiles fired in the conflict.

Shortly after the Gulf War, the Air Force abandoned the idea of replacing the A-10 with a close air support version of the F-16.

Since then the A-10 has seen combat in the Balkans, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya.

The future of the platform remains the subject of debate. In 2007, the USAF expected the A-10 to remain in service until 2028 and possibly later, when it would likely be replaced by the Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II.

However, critics have said that replacing the A-10 with the F-35 would be a "giant leap backwards" given the A-10's performance and the F-35's high costs.

In 2012, the Air Force consid-

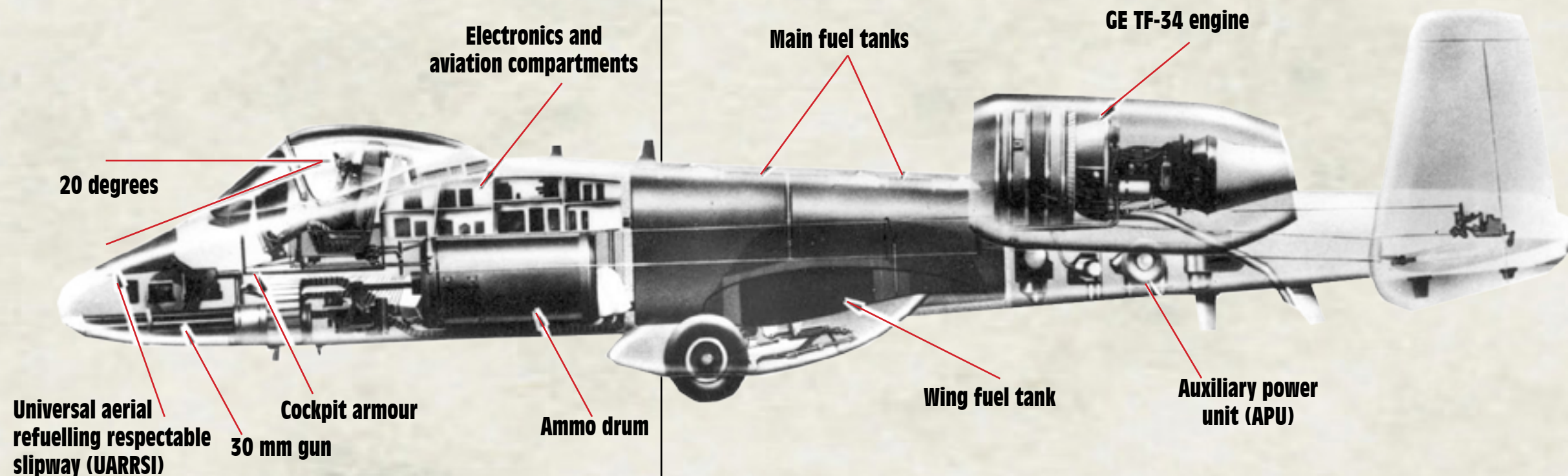
ered the F-35B STOVL variant as a replacement CAS aircraft, but concluded that the aircraft could not generate sufficient sorties.

In August 2013, Congress and the Air Force examined various proposals, including the F-35 and the MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aerial vehicle filling the A-10's role.

Proponents state that the A-10's armour and cannon are superior to aircraft such as the F-35 for ground attack, that guided munitions other planes rely upon could be jammed, and that ground commanders frequently request A-10 support.

General characteristics

- Crew: 1
- Length: 16.26 metres
- Wingspan: 17.53 metres
- Height: 4.47 metres
- Wing area: 47.0 m²
- Airfoil: NACA 6716 root, NACA 6713 tip
- Empty weight: 11,321 kg
- Loaded weight: 13,782 kg



- CAS mission: 21,361 kg
- Anti-armour mission: 19,083 kg
- Max. take off weight: 22,700 kg
- Internal fuel capacity: 4,990 kg
- Powerplant: 2 × General Electric TF34-GE-100A turbofans, 9,065 lbf (40.32 kN) each

Performance

- Never exceed speed: 833 km/h
- Maximum speed: 706 km/h
- Cruise speed: 560 km/h
- Stall speed: 220 km/h

Combat radius:

- CAS mission: 460 km at 1.88 hour loiter at 1,500 metres, 10 min combat
- Anti-armour mission: 467 km, 30 min combat
- Service ceiling: 13,700 metres
- Rate of climb: 30 m/s
- Wing loading: 482 kg/m²
- Thrust/weight: 0.36

Armament

- Guns: 1 × 30 mm GAU-8/A Avenger rotary cannon with 1,174 rounds (capacity 1,350 rounds)
- Hardpoints: 11 (8 × under-wing and 3 × under-fuselage pylon stations) with a capacity of 7,260 kg and provisions to carry combinations of:

Rockets:

- 4 × LAU-61/LAU-68 rocket pods (each with 19 × 7 × Hydra 70 mm/APKWS rockets, respectively)
- 6 × LAU-131 rocket pods (each with 7 × Hydra 70 rockets)

Missiles:

- 2 × AIM-9 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles for self-defence
- 6 × AGM-65 Maverick air-to-surface missiles

Bombs:

- Mark 80 series of unguided iron bombs or
- Mk 77 incendiary bombs or
- BLU-1, BLU-27/B, CBU-

20 Rockeye II, BL755 and CBU-52/58/71/87/89/97 cluster bombs or

- Paveway series of Laser-guided bombs or
- Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) (A-10C) or
- Wind Corrected Munitions Dispenser (A-10C)

Other:

- SUU-42A/A Flares/Infrared decoys and chaff dispenser pod or
- AN/ALQ-131 or AN/ALQ-184 ECM pods or
- Lockheed Martin Sniper XR or LITENING targeting pods (A-10C) or
- 2 × 2,300 litre Sargent Fletcher drop tanks for increased range/loitering time.

Avionics

- AN/AAS-35(V) Pave Penny laser tracker pod (mounted beneath right side of cockpit) for use with Paveway LGBs (currently the Pave Penny is no longer in use)
- Head-up display (HUD)

This is a very short article. Then again, it does deal with what is known as the shortest war in history. If this war was a rugby match, it would have been over before half time.

Most readers will know about the Six-Day War. This took place in 1967 when Israel took on seven countries and defeated them in only six days.

Let's be honest, six days is a pretty short war. Yet how about a war that lasted a mere 38 minutes. This made it the shortest recorded war in history.

The year was 1896, back at a time when Britain still ruled the waves, and often waived the rules.

Background

Zanzibar was an island country in the Indian Ocean, off the coast of Tanganyika; today it forms part of Tanzania. The main island, Unguja (or Zanzibar Island), had been under the nominal control of the Sultans of Oman since 1698 when they expelled the Portuguese settlers who had claimed it in 1499.

Sultan Majid bin Said declared the island independent of Oman in 1858, which was recognised by Great Britain, and split the sultanate from that of Oman.

Barghash bin Said, the second sultan and Khalid's father, had been forced by British ultimatum and a threat of blockade to abolish the slave trade in June 1873, though it was later discovered that instructions from London would have prohibited aggressive action being taken immediately if that ultimatum had been rejected.

The subsequent sultans established their capital and seat of government at Zanzibar Town where a palace complex was built on the sea front. By 1896, this consisted of the palace itself; the Beit al-Hukm, an attached harem; and the Beit al-Ajaib or "House of Wonders"—a ceremonial palace said to be the first building in East Africa to be provided with electricity.

The complex was mostly constructed of local timber and was not designed as a defensive structure. All three main buildings were adja-

cent to one another in a line, and linked by wooden covered bridges above street height.

Britain had recognised Zanzibar's sovereignty and its sultanate in 1886, after a long period of friendly interaction, and generally maintained good relations with the country and its sultans.

However, Germany was also interested in East Africa, and the two powers vied for control of trade rights and territory in the area throughout the late 19th century. Sultan Khalifah had granted rights to the land of Kenya to Britain and that of Tanganyika to Germany, a process resulting in the prohibition of slavery in those lands.

Many of the Arab ruling classes were upset by this interruption of a valuable trade, which resulted in some unrest.

In addition, the German authorities in Tanganyika refused to fly the flag of the Zanzibar Sultanate, which led to armed clashes between German troops and the local population. One such conflict in Tanga claimed the lives of 20 Arabs.

25 August

When Thuwaini died on 25 August, 1896, he was succeeded by Sultan Khalid bin Barghash.

The British authorities were keen on Hamud bin Muhammed becoming the new sultan as he was also pro-British. And the British felt that they had a say

in the matter of succession.

In accordance with a treaty signed in 1886, a condition for accession to the sultanate was that the candidate obtain the permission of the British consul, and Khalid had not bothered obtaining said permission.

The British considered this a *casus belli* (Latin expression meaning "an act or event that provokes or is used to justify war").

They sent an ultimatum to Khalid, demanding that he order his forces to stand down and that he leave the palace. In response, Khalid called up his palace guard and barricaded himself inside the palace. Not a wise move on his part.

26 August

At 10h00 on 26 August, the Archer-class protected cruiser *Racoon* arrived at Zanzibar Town and was anchored in line with Thrush and Sparrow.

At 14h00, the Edgar-class protected cruiser *St George*, flagship of the Cape and East Africa Station, steamed into the harbour. On board were Rear-Admiral Harry Rawson and further British marines and sailors.

At around the same time Lord Salisbury's reply arrived authorising Cave and Rawson to use the resources at their disposal to remove Khalid from power.

The telegraph read: "You are authorised to adopt whatever measures you may consider necessary, and will be supported in your action by Her Majesty's Government. Do not, however, attempt to take any action which you are not certain of be-

ing able to accomplish successfully."

Cave attempted further negotiations with Khalid, but these failed and Rawson sent an ultimatum, requiring him to haul down his flag and leave the palace by 09h00 on 27 August or he would open fire. During the afternoon, all merchant vessels were cleared from the harbour and the British women and children removed to *St George* and a British-India Steam Navigation Company vessel for their safety.

That night, Consul Mohun noted that: "The silence which hung over Zanzibar was appalling. Usually drums were beating or babies cried but that night there was absolutely not a sound."

27 August

At 08h00 on the morning of 27 August, after a messenger sent by Khalid requested parley from Cave, the consul replied that he would only have salvation if he agreed to the terms of the ultimatum.

At 08h30 a further messenger from Khalid declared that "We have no intention of hauling down our flag and we do not believe you would open fire on us"; Cave replied that "We do not want to open fire, but unless you do as you are told we shall certainly do so."

At 08h55, having received no further word from the palace, aboard *St George* Rawson hoisted the signal "prepare for action".

At exactly 09h00, General Lloyd Mathews ordered the British ships to commence the bombardment.

At 09h02 Her Majesty's Ships *Racoon*, *Thrush* and *Sparrow* opened fire at the palace simultaneously, *Thrush's* first shot immediately dismounted an Arab 12-pounder cannon.

Three thousand defenders, servants and slaves were present in the largely wooden palace, and even with barricades of crates, bales and rubber, there were many casualties from the high explosive shells.

Despite initial reports that he had been captured and was to be exiled to India, Sultan Khalid escaped from the palace.

A Reuters news correspondent reported that the sultan had "fled at the first shot with all the leading Arabs, who left their slaves and followers to carry on the fighting", but other sources state that he remained in the palace for longer.

The shelling ceased at around 09h40, by which time the palace and attached harem had caught fire, the Sultan's artillery had been silenced and his flag cut down.

The fighting ceased with the end of the shelling. The British controlled the town and the palace, and by the afternoon Hamud bin Muhammed, an Arab favourable to the British, had been installed as sultan with much reduced powers.

The British ships and crews had fired around 500 shells, 4,100 machine gun rounds and 1,000 rifle rounds during the engagement.

The sultan's forces suffered roughly 500 casualties, while only one British sailor was lightly injured.



So you've been up for a sortie against the Hun, shot down a couple of them, and returned to base for tea and medals. Air Mechanic Matt O'Brien will now repair and service your kite. You're in trouble.

England, 1940. The Luftwaffe is preparing for the invasion of Britain and the RAF need every man to stop it. They need you.

Join the ground crews as they struggle to keep the aircraft flying. Repair engine, patch bullet holes, rearm machine guns and more.

Plane Mechanic Simulator puts you in a role of an RAF ground crew technician at the start of the Battle of Britain.

You will face various tasks ranging from simple refuelling to engine repairs and gun harmonization. In order to bring you the best possible experience the developers have meticulously recreated three legendary British aircraft of that era:

- Supermarine Spitfire Mk.1
- De Havilland Tiger Moth
- De Havilland Mosquito

Plane Mechanic Simulator offers 81 missions, almost 800 parts to tinker with and an unprecedented attention to detail.

The game also features a unique campaign where you are assigned to a specific squadron with your own machine and pilot. Make a mistake and he might not return from a mission. Perform well and he will become an ace.

Now you're probably wondering why there are only three

aircraft available. Well this is because this is what is known as an 'early access' game.

In other words this is a game that is still being developed before the full game is released. Basically, you are testing the game for the developers.

As game developers Disaster Studio said, "Early access is a tool we consider to be priceless when it comes to assess the potential of our game. The feedback gathered from the Early Access Players will allow us to improve the game and tailor it to the fans of planes, mechanics and simulators."

The good news is that by buying a game while it's still in early access means you will pay a lot less. Normally under R100. When the full game is released it will often cost way more than this.

The other benefit is that as new updates are made to the game, you get them free of charge.

Some of the updates coming will be additional World War II planes, other planes (post World War II), extended missions, extra stories, more parts, and more game mechanics.

Right, now to the actual game. The game begins in May 1940 where you are an air mechanic at No. 1 Service Flying Training School at Netheravon

Airfield. You're not a pilot, you get to repair and service the aircraft instead.

You start off with the lowest rank and the object is to get promoted. This is achieved by completing missions. You are awarded points for each successful mission - get enough points and you are promoted.

My first mission was to repair damage that had been done to a Tiger Moth by a bird strike. I was given the following briefing by the pilot.

"Right after take-off we were hit by a bird. Luckily we were able to land safely. Please fix the damage and check the compression legs - the landing was rough."

My tasks included:

- Replace the front windscreen.
- Replace the propeller.
- Replace the compression legs.

It all sounded easy enough.

The first thing I did was a visual check on everything. It was clear that the propeller was damaged as half of it was missing.

I then checked the landing gear. The wheels were fine, but the compression legs were damaged. It was also clear to see that the front windshield was smashed.

The first thing I did was re-



move the propeller. Then I had to jack the aircraft up so that it didn't collapse when I removed the wheels and compression legs. Finally I removed the damaged windscreen.

As you gain experience you will actually be able to repair some parts. This earns you bonus points.

At this stage, however, I had to requisition the parts I needed (this cost me four points). I ordered a new propeller, windscreen and two compression legs.

I replaced the compression legs, put the wheels back on, and removed the jack.

Then I replaced the propeller and windscreen and my job was done. All I had to do was sign off the job.

I was given 319 points for completing a perfect job. I needed 500 points to get to the next rank.

My next mission was to service another Tiger Moth. I had to check the oil filters, check

the fuel filters, and refuel the aircraft.

I opened the left engine cowl and saw that the oil filter was fine but that the pressure filter was damaged. On opening the right engine cowling I saw that the fuel filter was also damaged.

Replacing both filters was not a simple task. I had to remove the entire engine cowling first. I also had to remove the oil filter to get to the pressure filter.

I discovered that I could repair both filters. I messed up repairing the fuel filter and had to buy a new one. I did, however, manage to repair the pressure filter.

I replaced the filters and then changed the oil before replacing the engine cowling.

I then put a ladder next to the plane, removed the fuel cap, got the fuel hose, and refuelled.

It was another perfect job and I now ended with 360 points. Still not enough to get a promotion though.

As you gain promotion the missions become harder. This is not a bad game. Especially for those interested in aircraft.

Not a bad game and one which will get even better. And it's at a really good price.



Publisher - PlayWay S.A.

Genre - Simulation

Score - 7.5/10

Price - R89 (on Steam)



Movie Review

1917

Released: 2019
Running time: 110 minutes
Director: Sam Mendes

Initially screened in London on 4 December 2019, this incredible movie is now showing in South Africa.

The film is dedicated to director Sam Mendes' grandfather, who was Lance Corporal in The Kings Royal Rifle Corps during The Great War. 1917 has been nominated for no fewer than 10 Academy Awards. And it's not difficult to see why.

There are not that many movies dedicated to World War I, and 1917 must surely rank as one of the best war movies in a long time.

It's April 1917 and the war has been going on for three years. The German army has pulled back from a sector of the Western Front in the north of France.

Aerial reconnaissance has spotted that the Germans are not in retreat but have made a tactical withdrawal to their new Hindenburg Line, where they are waiting to overwhelm the British with artillery. The Germans want to be attacked.

With field telephone lines cut General Erinmore (Colin Firth) needs to get a message to the Second Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment, calling off their planned attack, which might cost the lives of 1,600 men.

Two young lance corporals, Tom Blake (Dean-Charles Chapman) and Will Schofield (George MacKay) are ordered by General Erinmore

to hand-deliver a message to Colonel Mackenzie, the Officer Commanding the Devonshire Regiment, to call off the attack.

It is a sly move by General Erinmore to task Tom Blake with delivering the message. Blake's brother, Lieutenant Joseph Blake, is with the Second Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment.

If the attack goes ahead there is a strong possibility that Blake's brother will be killed. This gives him an added incentive to make sure that the message is delivered in time. It's a potential suicide mission, but Blake has no option but to do it. He asks his best friend, Will Schofield, to accompany him.

To get to the regiment they will need to cross through 14 kilometres of enemy territory. Time is of the essence and the journey will be fraught with danger.

The movie then follows their journey and the dangers they have to face almost every step of the way.

With Thomas Newman's score providing a creeping dread, here we find flies buzzing around horse carcasses and rats scuttling over human corpses, the faces of the soldiers all but eaten away. It's a waking nightmare, no less so because of the unforgiving daylight.

The camera work used by Mendes is outstanding. Nearly

everything was shot with one continuous shot with few noticeable cuts. It gives the movie a surreal quality.

I will not give away any of the movie because it's one that you really need to see.

Will Blake and Schofield manage to reach the Devonshire Regiment in time to stop the attack? Will Colonel Mackenzie follow orders? Will Blake and Schofield survive? Sorry, but you're going to have to see the movie for yourself to find out.

This is a movie I can highly recommend. It's been a long while since I saw a movie that was this good.



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

Paratus Magazine

Anyone that served in the SADF will surely remember Paratus, the monthly magazine of the Defence Force.

The very first issue came out in November 1970 with Cmdt I.D. van der Walt as the editor. That first issue would have cost you 10 cents.

The last issue of Paratus was published in April 1994, just before the SADF became the SANDF. The editor for that last issue was Mrs AD van der Westhuizen. That final issue cost R4.50. The magazine ran for 24 years and published an incredible 282 issues.

Now you can own all 282 issues of Paratus magazine in digital format, thanks to the sterling



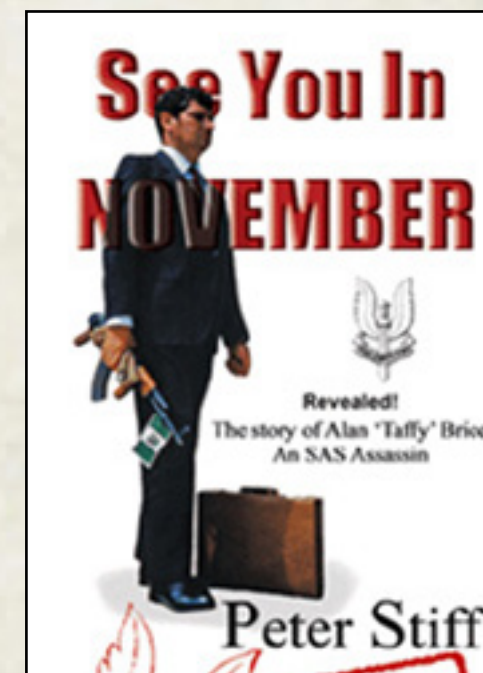
work of Bush War Books.

You receive all 282 issues on a memory stick for the cost of R650. Considering the amount of work that went into finding all of these issues and then having

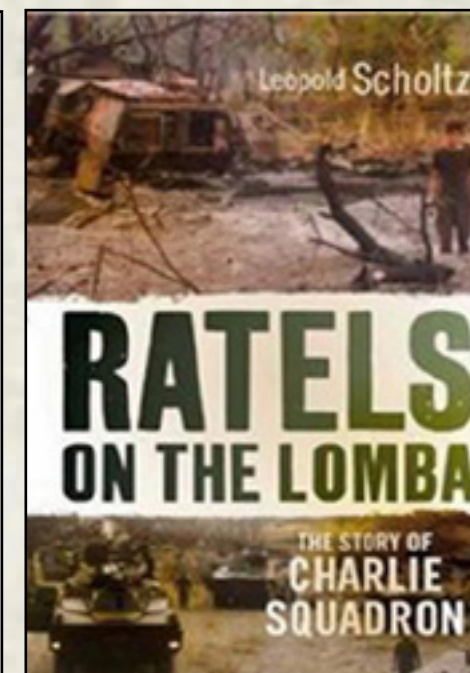


to scan them in, it's a bargain.

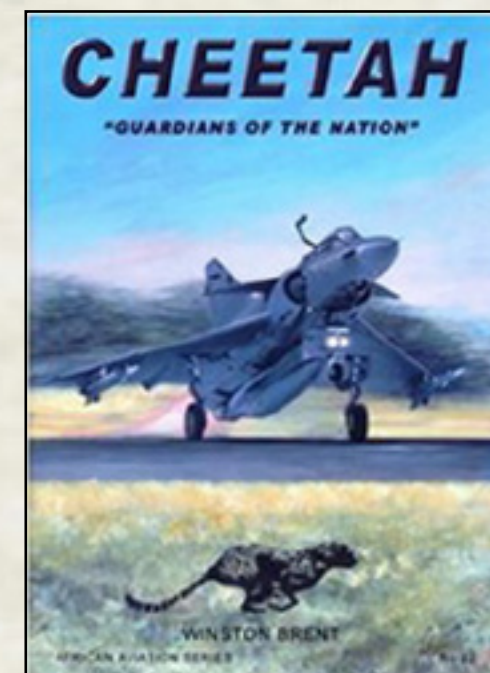
The articles will bring back memories and the odd tear to the eye. And it will provide you with reading material for quite some time.



See You In November
R300



Ratels on the Lomba
R240



Cheetah - Guardian of the Nation - R330

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

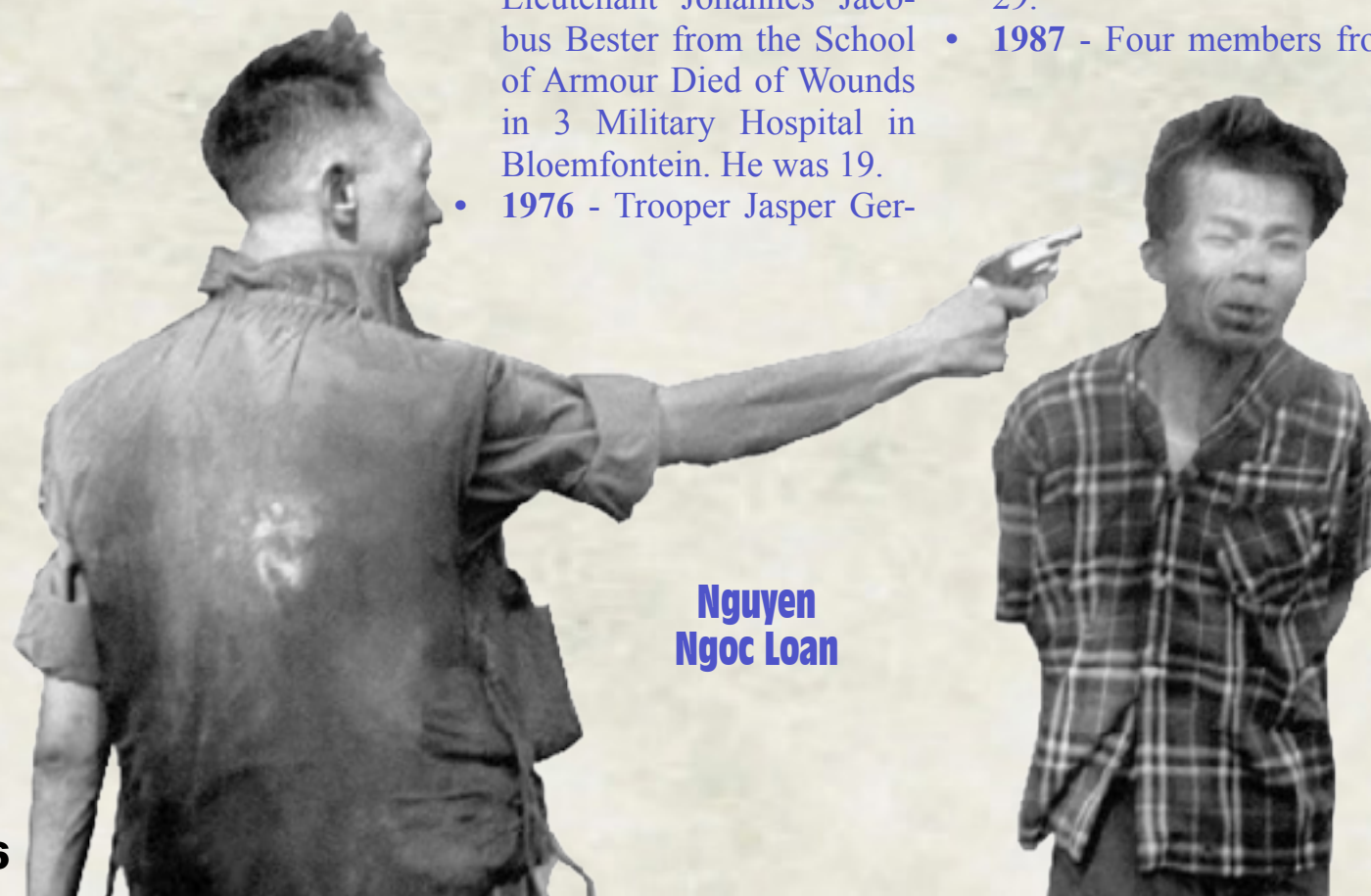
Some of the significant military events that happened in February. Highlighted in blue are the names of those members of the South African Defence Force (SADF) that lost their lives during the month of February.

1 February

- **1862** - Julia Ward Howe's "Battle Hymn of Republic" is published.
- **1920** - The South African Air Force is established, the first of the Commonwealth air forces. Lt-Col. Pierre van Ryneveld is appointed as Director of Air Services.
- **1943** - Marshal Paulus surrenders the German Sixth Army at Stalingrad.
- **1944** - Japanese learn Australia has formed a war crimes commission.
- **1951** - Alfred Krupp & 28 other German war criminals are freed.
- **1957** - Field Marshal Friedrich Paulus, dies at the age of 66.
- **1960** - Extreme right-wing rebels in Algiers surrender.
- **1961** - Minuteman ICBM is successful in its first full scale test.
- **1968** - Saigon: Nguyen Ngoc Loan summarily executes a Viet Cong murderer.
- **1968** - The Canadian Forces are formed, through the merger of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, an "experiment" that is ended in 2011.
- **1971** - Two members from the Armoured Corps were accidentally Killed or Died of Wounds when a 90mm High Explosive Anti-Tank round exploded in the gun breech of their armoured car during live firing exercises at De Brug, Bloemfontein. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant Johannes Jacobus Bester from the School of Armour Died of Wounds in 3 Military Hospital in Bloemfontein. He was 19.
- **1976** - Trooper Jasper Ger-

hardus Johannes Visser from 1 SSB was killed instantly in the explosion. He was 19.

- **1976** - Rifleman Nicolaas Pretorius from Regiment Springs was critically wounded by an accidental weapon discharge in Southern Angola on 31 Jan 1976. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria where he succumbed to his wounds the following day on 1 February 1976. He was 29.
- **1981** - France sells 60 Mirage fighters to Iraq.
- **1986** - Sergeant Gerhardus Frederick Nortje from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 29.
- **1987** - Four members from



Nguyen
Ngoc Loan

32 Battalion were Killed in Action during a first light attack on a PLAN camp in the Cassumbi area east of Cassinga during Operation Makebeen. Lance Corporal Joao and Rifleman Tolosi the MAG Gunner were killed instantly when a Soviet 82mm Mortar Bomb landed and exploded between them while the other two suffered fatal gunshot wounds during the fire-fight. The casualties were: Lance Corporal Evaristo Joao (32). Rifleman Gonsalves Antonio (22). Rifleman Kambala Tolosi (22). Rifleman Domingoes Zua (31).

- **1988** - Gunner Stephanus Petrus Stoop of 14 Artillery Regiment, attached to "P" Battery, 32 Battalion accidentally drowned while swimming somewhere in the Operational Area. He was 20.
- **1991** - Rifleman Joao Andrade from 201 Battalion SWATF died of natural causes in Hospital. He was 42.

2 February

- **1848** - The war between the U.S. and Mexico ended with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.
- **1901** - The U.S. Army Nurse Corps was formed on this day.
- **1942** - US ceases production of private cars to convert to war production.
- **1945** - Mass escape attempt

at Mauthausen concentration camp.

- **1957** - The United Nations (UN) adopts a resolution calling for Israeli troops to leave Egypt.
- **1971** - Idi Amin assumes power in Uganda following a coup that ousted President Milton Obote.
- **1972** - Irate Dubliners torch the British Embassy to protest 'Bloody Sunday' in Derry.
- **1973** - Captain Leslie John Marshall from Flying Training School Langebaanweg was Killed when his Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I, Serial No 485 crashed near Darling while he was practicing low level aerobatics. He was 26.
- **1975** - Rebels begin an offensive in Eritrea, Ethiopia. Ethiopia's military government orders bombers, armoured units and troops into operations against them in Eritrea Province.
- **1978** - Chief Matanzima announces that all South Africans seconded to the Transkei Army will leave Transkei by 31 March 1978.
- **1980** - Rifleman Willem Johannes Gerhardus Uys Olivier from 7 SAI was killed when the Buffel Troop Carrier in which he was a passenger, overturned at Ondangwa. He was 19.
- **1982** - Lance Corporal Johnny Atilla Nemith from 7 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident at Ha-

zyview. He was 19.

- **1984** - Rifleman Joshua Sitarara from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN Insurgents. He was 24.
- **1986** - Leading Seaman Cavan Rennie Boyd from SAS President Pretorius accidentally drowned whilst restrained in an overturned paddle ski off Bloubergstrand. He was 25.
- **1989** - Rifleman Christian Le Wack from Group 39 was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident, at Bloemfontein. He was 29.
- **1989** - Soviet troops leave Afghanistan, ending nine years of war.
- **1992** - Rifleman Benjamin Boorman from 3 SAI was accidentally shot and killed by a fellow Unit member during riot control operations at Mpophweni Township. He was 23.
- **2004** - Max Schmeling, former world heavyweight boxing champion and WW II Fallschirmjaeger, dies at the age of 99.

3 February

- **1838** - Piet Retief, seventy burghers and thirty mounted servants arrive at Dingaan's kraal Ungungundlovu (Home of the Elephant) for the signing of the Retief-Dingane treaty.
- **1903** - Britain conquers Kano from Nigerian rebel forces.

- **1915** - Battle of the Suez Canal: a Turkish attempt to cross the canal is defeated.
 - **1922** - General Christiaan Rudolph de Wet, well-known leader of Boer forces in the Second Anglo-Boer War, dies on his farm at the age of 67.
 - **1933** - Hitler informs his generals to prepare for war to secure *Lebensraum*.
 - **1943** - An extraordinary act of heroism occurred in the icy waters off Greenland after the U.S. Army transport ship *Dorchester* was hit by a German torpedo and began to sink rapidly. When it became apparent there were not enough life jackets, four U.S. Army chaplains on board removed theirs, handed them to frightened young soldiers, and chose to go down with the ship while praying.
 - **1943** - Troop transport 'Dorchester' torpedoed & sunk off Greenland with great loss of life.
 - **1977** - General Tafari Banti (Teferi Benti), Ethiopia's chief of state, is killed in gun battle that breaks out around Addis Ababa headquarters of the nation's feuding military leaders. Lieutenant-Colonel Haile Mariam Mengistu replaces him.
 - **1978** - Rifleman Afonso Da Silva from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with the enemy forces at Mamuandi during Operation Seiljag. He was 22.
 - **1983** - Lance Corporal Carl Leopold Albert Craemer from 8 SAI was Killed in Action when the Buffel Troop Carrier he was driving, detonated three boosted Yugoslavian TMA-3 Anti-Tank cheese mines that were triggered by a Soviet PMN "Black Widow" Anti-Personnel Mine on the road between Oshigambo and Ondangwa. He was 20.
 - **1988** - Lance Corporal Marius John Lecuona from 2 SSB attached to 61 Mech Battalion was killed during Operation Hooper in Southern Angola.
- #### 4 February
- **1861** - Apache Chief Cochise was arrested in Arizona by the U.S. Army for raiding a ranch. Cochise then escaped and declared war, beginning the period known as the Apache Wars, which lasted 25 years.
 - **1874** - British forces under Garnet Wolseley burn Kumasi, Ghana, ending Ashanti War.
 - **1899** - The Philippine-American War (Philippine Insurrection) begins with heavy fighting at Manila.
 - **1904** - Herero Revolt in German South West Africa: Omaruru is relieved after a fierce battle between Franke and the Ovaherero.
 - **1911** - Pieter Arnoldus Cronjé, Boer general during the Second Anglo-Boer War, dies in Potchefstroom.
 - **1938** - Hitler assumes direct control of the German Army.

- **1939** - The "Ossewabrandwag" (OB) is founded as an Afrikaans cultural and political organisation in Bloemfontein, under leadership of Col. J. Laas.
- **1944** - Japanese launch major offensive against British in the Arakan, Burma.
- **1961** - Civil war erupts in Angola.
- **1964** - The number of men required for military training in 1964 is to increase by 60%, i.e. from 10,368 to 16,537.
- **1967** - Crew of the US carrier *FDR* are refused leave in South Africa because of the apartheid laws.
- **1980** - Three members from 6 SAI were Killed in Action when their patrol was ambushed around mid-morning near Nkongo by PLAN Insurgents using heavy calibre weapons, mortars and RPG-7 Anti-Tank Rockets. The casualties were: Rifleman Michael Derek Loubser (20). Rifleman Jacobus Johannes Maritz (20). Rifleman Jacobus Johannes van der Star (20).
- **1980** - Rifleman Anthony Michael Scholtz from 41 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN Insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 17.
- **1981** - Corporal Daniel Johannes van Wyk from Sector 20 Headquarters was killed in a military vehicle accident near Rundu. He was 19.
- **1982** - 2nd Lieutenant Douglas Raymond Fincham from 82 Mechanised Brigade accidentally drowned in the Vaal River at Barkley West. He was 24.
- **1983** - Private Jan Gabriel Johannes van der Berg from 201 Battalion SWATF was accidentally killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned during follow-up operations in Southern Angola. He was 20.
- **1986** - Private Ronnie Marx from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed instantly when he was struck by lightning during a thunderstorm. He was 18.
- **1987** - Sapper Shawn Engelbrecht from 25 Field Squadron was Killed in Action when his Buffel Troop Carrier detonated a landmine in Northern Owamboland. He was 20.
- **1988** - Two members of 101 Battalion Romeo Mike were Killed in Action near Mupa in Southern Angola when their Casspir drove into an ambush and was struck by a Czechoslovakian RPG-75 Anti-Tank Rocket. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant Michael Sean McCann (21). Sapper Michael Colin Suter (20) from 25 Field Engineer Squadron attached to 101 Battalion Romeo Mike.
- **1988** - Two members of the South West Africa Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K (Koevoet) were Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. They

- **1989** - The Citizen reveals that Miss Olivia Forsyth who arrived at the British Embassy in Luanda, Angola, seeking sanctuary from the ANC, which, she alleged, has kept her in confinement for months and severely tortured her, was indeed a South African spy. Her claim to be a SA agent was formerly rejected by SA authorities.
 - **1990** - Nine Israeli tourists and two Egyptian guards are killed and twenty tourists wounded when masked assailants open fire on a bus en route to Cairo.
- #### 5 February
- **1840** - Hiram Stevens Maxim, inventor of the first practical machine gun, is born on this day.
 - **1900** - General Redvers Buller conquers Vaalkrans at the Tugela river, but shelling from both sides continues and the British forces have to evacuate their positions two days later.
 - **1915** - General Louis Botha leaves for South West Africa to take control of the Union troops who would conquer the area from Germany.
 - **1918** - Stephen W Thompson becomes the first US pilot to down an enemy airplane.
 - **1935** - Johannes Jacobus Geldenhuys (Jannie), former Chief of the South African Defence Force, is born in Kroonstad.
 - **1943** - Germans deport 12,000 Jews from Bialystok to death camps.
 - **1958** - A B-47 & F-86 collide at 36,000 feet off the Georgia coast, causing the loss of an H-Bomb, which is still missing.
 - **1970** - Captain Johannes Jacobus Lombard from 4 SAI was deliberately shot dead by a disgruntled soldier in the mess at Katima Mulilo. He was 29.
 - **1973** - Funeral for Lt Col William Nolde, last US soldier killed in Vietnam.
 - **1976** - The Defence Amendment Bill, making provision for the employment of South African conscripted troops anywhere outside South Africa, is approved.
 - **1976** - Sapper Jonathan Aschman from 21 Field Engineer Squadron, South African Engineer Corps was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Central Angola during Operation Savannah. He was 19.
 - **1976** - Trooper Willem Johannes Cronje from Regiment Oranje Rivier was Killed in Action in Central Angola during Operation Savannah. He was 26.
 - **1980** - Two members from 6 SAI were Killed in Action when their Temporary Base at Nkongo was attacked by PLAN insurgents. The casualties were: Rifleman Chris-

- **1989** - The Citizen reveals that Miss Olivia Forsyth who arrived at the British Embassy in Luanda, Angola, seeking sanctuary from the ANC, which, she alleged, has kept her in confinement for months and severely tortured her, was indeed a South African spy. Her claim to be a SA agent was formerly rejected by SA authorities.
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- to Swanepoel (19). Rifleman Bruce Edward Schultz (20).
- **1981** - Police announce the arrest of a number of Whites in connection with sabotage acts for which the Wit Kommando has claimed responsibility on 15 August 1980 and on 12 December 1980.
- **1981** - Rifleman Bernard Jacobus Leach from 1 SAI was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents while on patrol near the Cut-line. He was 21.
- **1982** - Two members from 4 SAI were killed at their Base at Ohiki, 18km North of Omauni when they tried to make a skyrocket by using a tent pole. They were: Rifleman Evert Phillipus Du Toit (20). Rifleman Robert Glenn Dunn (19).
- **1983** - Former Gestapo official Klaus Barbie brought to trial in Lyon, France.
- **1985** - Rifleman Paul Ismael from 101 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces. He was 24.
- **1987** - Rifleman Peter Benz Reynolds from 5 Recce Regiment was killed when the Kwêvoel vehicle he was driving, overturned when he tried to avoid cattle in the road between Ondangwa and Tsumeb. He was 22.
- **1991** - Lieutenant Johannes Francois Neuhoff from 85 Combat Flying School was killed when his Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I, Serial No. 604 crashed near Pietersburg. He was 25.
- **1992** - Rifleman Daniel Stephanus Hendrik Du Toit from the Regiment Botha was killed when he accidentally slipped at a waterfall and fell 30 metres to his death, while on Patrol at the Table Mountain in Natal. He was 33.
- **1993** - Up to 200 Somali youths hurl rocks at US forces and set tyre barricades ablaze in the belief that American troops shot to death a Somali man.

6 February

- **1838** - At the farewell function following the signing of Retief's treaty, Piet Retief, seventy of his men and thirty mounted servants are killed on the orders of Zulu King Dingane at Ungungundlovu. The Trekkers are bound and taken from the enclosure to a spot where they are spiked and clubbed to death.
- **1899** - Spanish-American War officially ends.
- **1901** - The battle of Chrissiesmeer (Lake Chrissie) takes place during the Second Anglo-Boer War.
- **1941** - Battle of Beda Fomm: British complete destruction of Italian Tenth Army.
- **1941** - British troops capture Bengazi, Libya.
- **1945** - Battle for Manila begins.
- **1945** - Over 4,000 American POWs are freed from prison camps on Luzon.
- **1970** - Israelis sink a 700-ton Egyptian minelayer in the Gulf of Suez in reprisal

for the sinking of two Israeli ships at Elath.

- **1977** - Rhodesian security forces launch a full-scale search for a gang, which massacred seven White Roman Catholic missionaries three Jesuits and four Dominican nuns at St Paul's Mission at Musami, near Mrewa.
- **1978** - Chad breaks links to Libya in protest to their support of Muslim guerrillas currently fighting in northern Chad.
- **1981** - Rifleman L Kavari from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1982** - Rifleman Hirite Vilho from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 20.
- **1982** - Rifleman Ningileymo Kondjeni Meulemo from 101 Battalion SWATF was killed during operations in Southern Angola. He was 22.
- **1984** - Rifleman Xavier Arico from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 24.
- **1984** - Special Constable M. Kaibotya from Koevoet was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in North-

ern Owamboland. He was 34.

- **1985** - Rifleman Immanuel Gabriel from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 28.
- **1985** - Trooper Hermanus Christoffel Helm from 2 Special Service Battalion collapsed and died after suffering a fatal heart attack during a physical training session at Walvis Bay. He was 18.
- **1985** - Corporal Noel Mbumba Marcel from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 30.

- **1994** - National Peacekeeping Force (NPKF), Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana, says that the NPKF will probably not be ready to keep the peace during the elections in April.
- **2004** - Chechen terrorists bomb the Moscow subway, 49 die, scores injured.

7 February

- **1900** - British forces, under Buller, are defeated by the Boers under Botha at the end of the three-day battle of Vaalkrans.
- **1900** - The British fail for the third time to relieve the Boer siege of Ladysmith.
- **1901** - Britain sends 30 000 additional troops to South Africa.
- **1942** - The 2nd SA Division moves into Tobruk.

- **1943** - Guadalcanal: U.S. troops advance on both coasts, as the Japanese complete the evacuation of their troops from the island.
- **1944** - Germans launch counteroffensive at Anzio.
- **1945** - General Douglas MacArthur returns to Manila.
- **1948** - Omar Bradley succeeds Dwight Eisenhower as Army Chief of Staff.
- **1964** - Somali troops invade Ethiopia to assert claim to Ogaden desert area.
- **1965** - US begins sustained air operations against North Vietnam.
- **1968** - Air Mechanic Philip Johannes Joubert from 24 Squadron was shot dead while on guard duty when he was struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 19.



Douglas MacArthur

- **1969** - Nigerian planes bomb and strafe a crowded market in a village in rebellious Biafra, killing more than 200 people.
 - **1973** - Two members from the Infantry School Instructor Staff were killed instantly in Oudtshoorn when a stockpile of old unstable explosives that they were preparing for demolition, accidentally detonated. The casualties were: WO Lukas Petrus Jacobus Steenkamp (45). Staff Sergeant Pieter Paul van Jaarsveld (30).
 - **1978** - Gunner Abraham Hattingh from 4 Artillery Regiment was killed instantly at Potchefstroom during a violent storm when the electric floor polisher he was using to polish the barracks floor, was struck by lightning. He was 17.
 - **1979** - Nazi war criminal Josef Mengele drowns in Brazil at the age of 67.
 - **1987** - Trooper Johann Labuschagne from 61 Mechanised Battalion died during a two week Infantry training exercise at Oshivello.
 - **1989** - Sapper Ian Steward Hanslo from the School of Engineers was killed while on guard duty at the Unit's main gate when he was accidentally run over by a 10-ton truck. He was 19.
- Heights, near Schuinshoogte (also called the Battle of Skuinshoogte) is fought in the Anglo-Transvaal War. Eight Boer and 100 British soldiers are killed. In this battle the Boer force of 100 men defeats the English force of 600 who are assisted by cavalry and four cannons.
- **1943** - Burma: Orde Wingate's Chindits begin raid against the Japanese.
 - **1943** - Red Army liberates Kursk.
 - **1978** - Three members of 32 Battalion were Killed in Action during in a fierce fire fight with superior enemy force at Mamuandi in Southern Angola during Operation Seiljag. They were: Rifleman Lucindo Laurindo (20). Rifleman Rodrigues Augusto (19). Rifleman Antonio Mussungu (20).
 - **1978** - Rifleman N. Bernade from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during in a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola between Onhunda and Oshipala during Operation Seiljag. He was 19.
 - **1979** - Gunner Pieter Du Toit from 10 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment received serious burns on 7 February while escorting a patient in an ambulance to 2 Military Hospital at Wynberg. He passed away on 8 February. He was 20.
 - **1981** - Rifleman Morgan John Williams from 5 SAI was Killed when he was

8 February

- **1865** - Martin Delany becomes first black major in the US Army.
- **1881** - The Battle of Ingogo

struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle in Northern Owamboland. He was 20.

- **1984** - Captain Sarel Jacobus Kruger from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was killed in a parachute training accident at Hoedspruit. He was 26.
- **1984** - Rifleman Hendrik Francois Taljaard from the Equestrian Centre was killed instantly when he was accidentally run over by a Samil 100 truck near Potchefstroom while on his way to stand guard at the North West Command Ammunition Dump. He was 19.
- **1984** - 2nd Lieutenant Johannes Petrus Verhoef from 8 SAI died from gunshot wounds accidentally sustained near AFB Ondangwa in Northern Owamboland. He was 21.
- **1988** - Rifleman Thomas Andries Dreyer from 5 SAI accidentally drowned while swimming in the Klip River. He was 24.

9 February

- **1900** - George Frederick Labram, mechanical engineer who built 'Long Cecil' for the defence of Kimberley during the siege by the Boers, is killed by a shell from a Boer 'Long Tom' only a few days before the siege was raised.
- **1904** - A predawn Japanese torpedo boat attack on the Russian Fleet outside Port

Arthur, initiates the Russo-Japanese War.

- **1916** - General Jan Christian Smuts is appointed commander of UK and South African troops in the East African campaign of World War I.
- **1916** - Britain adopts conscription for World War I.
- **1916** - The Cape Corps, consisting of thirty-two officers and 1022 soldiers, leaves for East Africa during the First World War.
- **1918** - U.S. Army Chaplains' School is established on this day.
- **1941** - The German troops of General Erwin Rommel move from Italy to North Africa.
- **1943** - During World War II in the Pacific, U.S. troops captured Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands after six months of battle, with 9,000 Japanese and 2,000 Americans killed.
- **1945** - Germans blow up dams on the Ruhr.
- **1977** - Rifleman Frederick Francois Oosthuizen from Meyerton Commando died from a gunshot wound resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while his patrol was busy preparing an ambush position north of Oshakati. He was 20.
- **1978** - South Africa is to make its own missiles. Kentron (Pty) Ltd, a newly formed subsidiary of ARMSCOR (the South African Armaments Corporation)

will produce these.

- **1987** - Corporal Marius Viljoen from 2 Special Service Battalion was killed at the Rooisloot Training Terrain at Zeerust when his Eland armoured car overturned during training exercises. He was 19.
- **1990** - Rifleman Gerhard Paul Heine from 5 SAI was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Umhlanga Rocks. He was 19.
- **1991** - Oupa Gqozo, head of the Ciskei, claims to have put down the second coup attempt in the space of two weeks, with the assistance of South African forces.
- **1992** - After two days of fighting between Islamic fundamentalists and security forces in Algeria, a state of emergency is declared.
- **1996** - WW II Luftwaffe ace Adolf Galland dies at the age of 83. He was the youngest man in Europe to become a general since Napoleon.
- **1999** - An Ethiopian plane bombs an Eritrean village full of homeless people, killing at least five civilians and escalating a border dispute.

Adolf Galland

10 February

- **1840** - Commandant-General M.W. Pretorius installs Mpande as King of the Zulus after the power of Mpande's brother, Dingane, is broken at a final battle at Magongo on the Umkuzi River.
- **1901** - General Christiaan de Wet invades the Cape Colony for the second time at Zanddrif, near Philippolis.
- **1906** - HMS 'Dreadnought' is launched, initiating a naval arms race.
- **1916** - Geneneral Jan Smuts is appointed commander of the Allied forces in East Africa.
- **1942** - The first Medal of Honor during World War II was awarded to 2nd Lt. Al-



exander Nininger (posthumously) for heroism during the Battle of Bataan.

- **1943** - Britain's Eighth Army reaches Tunisian border.
- **1943** - Battle of Krasny Bor: The Soviets attempt to break the siege of Leningrad, but defending German and Spanish troops hold.
- **1962** - USSR swaps U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for spy Rudolph Abel.
- **1964** - Australian carrier 'Melbourne' collides with the destroyer 'Voyager', which sinks, 82 die.
- **1972** - Lance Corporal James Charles Warren from 2 Squadron was killed in a aircraft ground mishap at the Squadron. He was in the process of removing an aircraft ejection seat when the drogue gun on the seat accidentally fired and he was fa-

tally injured. He was 23.

- **1983** - Rifleman Adao Salvador from 32 Battalion was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident, at Mosese. He was 22.
- **1988** - South Africa sends troops to Bophuthatswana to reinstate Lucas Mangope who was ousted by local defence force members on charge of corruption.
- **1989** - The Citizen reports that an alleged member of the SADF, Isaiah Moyo, was convicted in Lusaka, Zambia, on three counts of espionage and sentenced to fifty years' hard labour. The SADF denied any knowledge of Mr Moyo. The sentence was later reduced to thirty years.
- **1994** - Lieutenant Garth Harold Esterhuizen from 42 Squadron was killed when his Cessna 185A, Serial No. 720 crashed at Carletonville after flying into power lines during a low level cross country training flight. He was 23.

- **2017** - Lt. General Harold Gregory "Hal" Moore, Jr, hero of the Ia Drang Valley in Vietnam, dies at the age of 84.

11 February

- **1900** - The second British offensive begins with a British invasion of the Orange Free State when almost 50,000 men and 170 guns cross the border from Modder River and Graspan to a water-rich farm at Ramdam.
- **1935** - League of Nations debates the border dispute between Italy and Ethiopia, whilst Mussolini prepares to ship out 35,000 troops to East Africa.
- **1941** - Erwin Rommel lands in Tripoli to assume command of the Afrika Korps.
- **1963** - The defence minister, J.J. Fouché, announces in the House of Assembly that he intends to increase the strength of the permanent army by fifty per cent.
- **1971** - US, UK, USSR, others sign a treaty banning nuclear weapons on the seabed.
- **1975** - A Rhodesian government spokesman announces that elements of the South African police are withdrawing from certain forward positions on the Zambezi River, after undertakings from the Zambian government about guerrilla infiltrations there.
- **1978** - Lieutenant Johannes Hendrik Du Toit from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces during an ambush while operating in Zambia. He was 23.
- **1980** - Private Gert Petrus

Gerber from Central Flying School Dunnottar attached to 95 Tactical Airfield Unit, suffered critical head injuries when his fuel tanker vehicle overturned near Oluno in Northern Owamboland on 5 February 1980. He succumbed to his injuries in 1 Military Hospital on 11 February 1980. He was 19.

- **1981** - Rifleman Archie Ronnie Williams from the South African Cape Corps died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while on patrol in Northern Owamboland. He was 26.
- **1982** - Sapper Phillipus Johannes De Bruin from 5 Engineer Regiment was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 23.
- **1985** - Eight members of 32 Battalion were Killed in Action and five more Died of Wounds when Charlie Company Patrol was operating in the vicinity of the Bale River in Southern Angola during Ops Forte. The eight casualties that were killed in the initial contact were: Lieutenant David Gordon Light (26). Rifleman Jakob Eduardo Jamba (31). Lance Corporal Jose Alfredo Sachilombo (27). Rifleman Petrus Kalitoko Kahete (31). Rifleman Alberto de Almeida (19). Rifleman Paulo Jose (27). Rifleman Kausanga Galonga (27). Rifleman Jose Chihamba (30). After sunset while the casualties were being evacuated

to a temporary emergency base, another four of the wounded men, all suffering from massive chest wounds as a result of Rifle Grenades and RPG-7 Rockets, succumbed to their injuries. They were: Riflemen Joao Fernando (29). Rifleman Mateus Joaquim (26). Rifleman Zeferino Chipoya (22). Rifleman, Mateus Antonio Kinguelele (32). Rifleman Musose Muema (32) succumbed to his injuries the following day.

- **1990** - The South African Defence Force (SADF) admits the existence of a secret unit called the Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB), which was also allegedly involved in hit-squad actions against activists. President De Klerk said in March 1990 that he had been informed about the CCB only in January 1990.

12 February

- **1942** - The "Channel Dash": German battleships 'Scharnhorst' & 'Gneisenau', & heavy cruiser 'Prinz Eugen' escape from Brest to Germany.
- **1955** - Pres Eisenhower sends US advisors to South Vietnam.
- **1976** - Rifleman Johannes Jacobus Bruwer from 6 SAI Died in 1 Military Hospital from gunshot wounds accidentally sustained while in Northern Owamboland. He was 21.
- **1979** - The State Security Council (SSC) approves

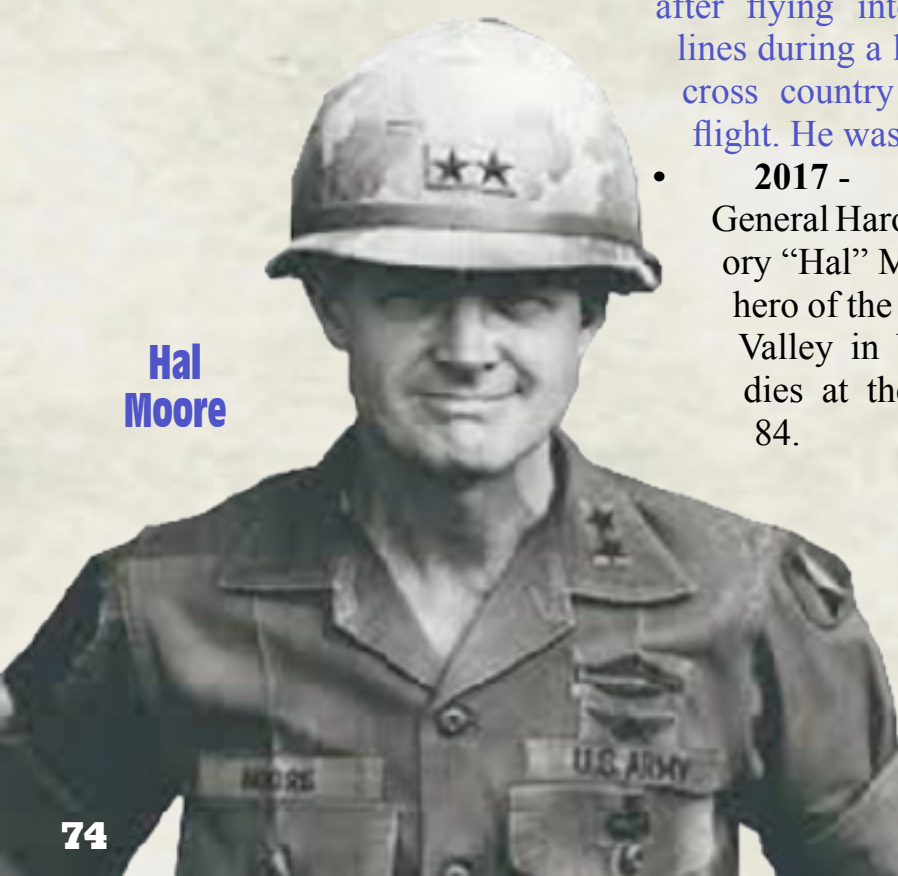
guidelines for the conducting of military operations against liberation movements in foreign countries.

- **1979** - Nationalist guerrillas in Rhodesia shoot down an Air Rhodesia airliner with a missile, killing fifty-nine people.
- **1985** - Captain Robert Raymond Rodel from 4 Squadron was Killed in Action in Northern Owamboland in Atlas MB326KC Impala Mk II, Serial No.1096. He was 26.
- **1985** - Five members from 102 Battalion SWATF and 1 SWA Engineer Regiment SWATF (attached) were Killed in Action in Western Koakoland when their Buffel Troop Carrier convoy was ambushed by a numerically superior force of approximately 40 heavily armed SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. The casualties were: Corporal Mannie Maheue (22). Sapper Willem Vallien (18). Sapper Gerhard van Wyk (19). Sapper Bartholomeus Kapindi (22). Sapper Niklaas Johannes Ferris (24).

13 February

- **1901** - Lord Kitchener meets with Gen. Louis Botha in an effort to end the Anglo-Boer War, but Botha finds the British conditions unacceptable. The battle of Wolwekuil is fought the same day.
- **1924** - Japanese Admiral Kenji Ide and his aide, Capt. Isoroku Yamamoto, visit the

Hal Moore



- U.S. Naval War College
 - **1941** - WW2: The 12th African Division, with 1st SA Infantry Brigade in command, captures Kismayu in Somaliland.
 - **1942** - Hitler finally cancels "Operation Seelöwe", the invasion of Britain.
 - **1945** - During World War II in Europe, British and American planes began massive bombing raids on Dresden, Germany. A four-day firestorm erupted that was visible for 200 miles and engulfed the historic old city, killing an estimated 135,000 German civilians.
 - **1960** - The first French atom bomb is tested in the Sahara desert.
 - **1961** - UN security council urges use of force to prevent civil war in the Congo.
 - **1972** - Patrol Officer Michael Fenton Hill, a South African National serving in the British South Africa Police stationed at Wedza, was killed in a motor vehicle accident while travelling on the Salisbury to Umtali Road. He was 20.
 - **1976** - General Murtula Ramat Muhammed, Nigerian head of state since a bloodless coup in 1975, is assassinated during a failed military coup.
 - **1980** - 2nd Lieutenant Ignatius Petrus Du Preez from 201 Battalion SWATF Died of Wounds during an operation in Southern Zambia when he accidentally triggered a booby trap while clearing a SWAPO/PLAN base. He was 21.
 - **1981** - Rifleman Jaco Marais from the South African Army was killed in a private motor vehicle accident in Pretoria He was 18.
 - **1993** - Angolan government troops break into Unita rebel-held highlands in an attempt to open a supply corridor to the embattled city of Huambo.
 - **1994** - Rifleman Mbhonono Johnson Myeni from 111 Infantry Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident at Alexandra. He was 27.
 - **1994** - Somali gunmen kidnap two Italian aid workers and an Egyptian UN peacekeeper is killed.
 - **1997** - Rebels under Laurent Kabila take Zairian town of Faradje while advancing on country's third largest city, Kisangani.
 - **1999** - Osama bin Laden, the Saudi millionaire suspected of being behind the bombings of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, is reported to have disappeared from his base in Afghanistan.
- 14 February**
- **1900** - General Buller starts his fourth attempt to relieve Ladysmith, Natal. The British withdraw from their positions around Colesberg and regroup at Arundel Sid-ing nearby.
 - **1940** - British merchant ships are armed against Ger-

- man submarines and raiders.
- **1941** - German 5th Light Division, Rommel's Afrika Corps, arrive at Tripoli.
- **1943** - The Soviets liberate Rostov from the Germans.
- **1973** - An Israeli fighter pilot shoots down a Libyan aircraft over the Sinai Desert. Seventy-four passengers and crew members die.
- **1981** - Eight Army officers are paraded by President Samora Machel at a mass rally in Maputo and are accused of treason and complicity with South Africa in the raid on the military base at Matola, where two of them were in command.
- **1987** - Three members from 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: Lieutenant Colonel G.L. Steyn (48). Sergeant Christoffel Lodewikus Fourie (28). Constable Ryk Ludolph Erasmus (20).
- **1988** - Four Members from B Company 1 SAI including two Cousins acting as the MAG Light Machine Gunner team, were Killed in Action in South Eastern Angola during a contact with elements of the 59th FAP-LA Brigade during Operation Hooper. The casualties were: Corporal Jan Hendrik Kleynhans (19). Rifleman Andre Schalk Groenewald (18). Rifleman Pieter Hen-

- rich Groenewald (19). Rifleman Vincent Vernon Nieuwenhuizen (19).
- **1990** - Corporal Pieter Gabriel Jacobus Haasbroek from 4 Reconnaissance Regiment was accidentally killed when his parachute failed during a practice jump at the Saldanha Airfield near Vredenburg. He was 21.
- **1991** - Lance Corporal Deon Schutte from Group 33 shot dead in a shooting incident near the Mozambique border. He was 20.

15 February

- **1898** - In Havana, the U.S. Battleship Maine was blown up while at anchor and quickly sank with 260 crew members lost. The incident inflamed public opinion in the U.S., resulting in a declaration of war against Spain on April 25, 1898, amid cries of "Remember the Maine!"
- **1900** - General French relieves Kimberley after a siege of 123 days. The town has suffered only 134 casualties among armed defenders and twenty-one civilians, but some 1,500 people, mostly Coloureds and Blacks, have died of famine and disease. The British lost at least 2,237 men of the relieving force.
- **1900** - The British threaten to use natives in the Boer War fight.
- **1915** - "Sepoy Mutiny" at Singapore: About 800 Indian troops run amok until subdued by loyal troops and police.
- **1942** - Singapore surrenders to the Japanese; greatest disaster in British military history.
- **1944** - The Allies commence bombing & shelling the Monastery of Monte Cassino.
- **1970** - Air Chief Marshal Hugh Caswall Tremenheere Dowding, who led "The Few" during the Battle of Britain, dies at the age of 87.
- **1970** - Corporal Stephanus Abraham Johannes Latsky from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident on the Old Pretoria / JHB Road, near Valhalla when his Kombi skidded on the wet road and overturned. He was 19.
- **1979** - Major Frederick Wilhelm Christiaan Brits from 3 Squadron was killed when his Mirage F1CZ Serial No.200, crashed near Cullinan during a training flight. He was 32.
- **1989** - Soviet Russia completed its military withdrawal from Afghanistan after nine years of unsuccessful involvement in the civil war between Muslim rebel groups and the Russian-backed Afghan government. Over 15,000 Russian soldiers had been killed in the fighting.
- **1990** - Captain Cecil de Jong from 17 Squadron was killed when his Alouette III, Serial 637 crashed at Murrayhill near Hammanskraal during a confined space landing/

take-off. He was 29.

- **1992** - Two members from the School of Armour were killed when the military vehicle in which they were traveling as passengers, burst a rear tyre near Verkeerdevlei and overturned. They were: Trooper Grant James Koekemoer (18). Trooper Gert Johannes Grobler (18).

16 February

- **1940** - 'Altmark' Incident: HMS 'Cossack' violates Norwegian territoriality to free British prisoners held aboard a German tanker.
- **1941** - Remaining Italian forces are expelled from the Sudan.
- **1945** - Venezuela declares war on Nazi Germany.
- **1959** - Fidel Castro becomes premier of Cuba after the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista. Cuban intervention in the Angolan war started during his office.
- **1982** - Rifleman Daniel Cloete from 911 Battalion SWATF accidentally drowned in a flooded shona/river bed. He was 18.
- **1983** - Rifleman L.K. Kam-bathi from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 21.
- **1986** - Two members from 101 Battalion Romeo Mike SWATF were Killed in Action when their Casspir was hit by an RPG-7 Anti-Tank Rocket during a contact with

enemy forces in Southern Angola. They were: Corporal Nandago Thomas (22). Rifleman R. Boas (19).

- **1986** - Special Constable Abel Uteuga from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 27.
- **1986** - French warplanes bomb Libyan airfield in northern Chad used as support centre for rebels in their offensive against President Hissene Habre's government.
- **1988** - An attempted coup by the Bophuthatswana Defence Force is crushed by the S.A. Defence Force.

17 February

- **1900** - General Piet Cronje is trapped against the Modder River on the farm Wolwekraal in the Paardeberg vicinity, and the next day the battle of Paardeberg, which was to last ten days, starts.
- **1909** - Apache Chief Geronimo died while in captivity at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He had led a small group of warriors on raids throughout Arizona and New Mexico. Caught once, he escaped. The U.S. Army then sent 5,000 men to recapture him.
- **1916** - British and French forces complete capture of Germany's African colony of Cameroon during World

War I.

- **1980** - Staff Sergeant Michael Johannes van der Linde from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 39.
- **1981** - Signaler Walter James Griffin from 2 Signal Regiment attached to 237 Troop (BRUSH) in Grootfontein, was accidentally killed while returning to Grootfontein when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Otjovasandu in Sector 30. He was 19.
- **1984** - Rifleman Hendrik Jacobus Smith from 1 Parachute Battalion was Reported Missing near the Epupa Falls in Kaokoland. The Cunene River was flowing strongly and making whirlpools between the rocks. One of his boots fell into the river and he jumped in to retrieve it. He never re-surfaced and despite an intensive search by the members of the patrol, he was never located and remains unaccounted for. He was 20.
- **1987** - Two members from 202 Battalion SWATF were Killed in Action when their Buffel Troop Carrier detonated a landmine in Southern Angola. The casualties were: Lance Corporal L. Aukhumb (22). Rifleman G.H. Edwards (19).
- **1987** - Rifleman K.S. Kambonde from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with

SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 23.

- **1988** - Staff Sergeant Aubrey Nelson Borchers from 101 Battalion SWATF died in 1 Military Hospital after suffering a fatal heart attack. He was 49.
- **1988** - Lance Corporal William Arthur Frederick Price from 1 SAI, attached to 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was Killed in Action in Southern Angola during Operation Hooper. He was 19.
- **2017** - Three members of the South African Navy died while trying to rescue three members from the Department of Public Works who were working in a sewage pit repairing the valve. The casualties were: Leading Seaman Amrithlall Tothara Ramdin (41). Able Seaman Francois William Mundell (26). Seaman Henro Ter Borg from the Maritime Reaction Squadron (21).

18 February

- **1884** - British forces under General Charles Gordon reach Khartoum in Sudan.
- **1900** - The Battle of Paardeberg, which was to last up to 27 February, starts with an attack by the British under Maj General Lord Kitchener on the Boers under General Cronje.
- **1915** - Germany proclaims a blockade of England.
- **1941** - Mega, the Italian headquarters in southern

Abyssinia, falls to SA forces.

- **1977** - Rifleman Willem Andries Haarhoff from 3 SAI was accidentally killed when a pole fell on him. He was 18.
- **1980** - Gunner Samuel Deon van Aswegen from the Potchefstroom University Regiment was Killed in Action when his Buffel Troop Carrier was hit by an RPG-7 Anti-Tank Rocket during an enemy night ambush at Omindamba in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
- **1982** - Rifleman Mark Mason from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed in a friendly fire incident when their patrol was engaged by SWATF forces near the Cut-Line. He was 18.
- **1982** - Tragedy struck the South African Navy when the Frigate SAS President Kruger was involved in a collision with the fleet replenishment ship SAS Tafelberg during exercises in the South Atlantic Ocean. The force of the collision buckled the plates and crushed Mess 12 on the President Kruger where the Petty Officers sleeping quarters were located, killing or trapping those inside. After the order to abandon ship was given, the following 16 ratings were Reported Missing and remain unaccounted for: Chief Petty Officer Johannes Petrus Booysen. Chief Petty Officer Hartmut Wilfried Smit. Chief Pet-

ty Officer Willem Marthinus Gerhardus Van Tonder. Chief Petty Officer Donald Webb. Petty Officer Stephanus Petrus Bothma. Petty Officer Graham Alexander Frank Brind. Petty Officer Robin Centlivre Bulterman. Petty Officer Granville Williams De Villiers. Petty Officer Evert Koen. Petty Officer Hjalmar Lotter. Petty Officer Roy Anthony McMaster. Petty Officer Roy Frederick Skeates. Petty Officer William Russel Smith. Petty Officer Michael Richard Bruce Whiteley. Petty Officer Coenraad Johannes Wium. Able Seaman Gilbert Timothy Benjamin.

- **1982** - Private Daniel Johannes Jakobus Rossouw from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident at Asab. He was 19.
- **1983** - Constable Anton Delpont from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was mortally wounded during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
- **1983** - Sergeant Paul Petrus van Zyl from Western Air Command, Windhoek, was killed in a private motor vehicle accident at Olifantshoek while travelling back to Pretoria to take up his new posting at Air Force Headquarters. He was 23.
- **1983** - Sergeant Tema Kanheto from 201 Battalion

SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents at Elundu in Northern Owamboland. He was 23.

- **1984** - Rifleman Kim Inglis from Hotel Company, Infantry School was accidentally killed after being struck in the heart by a small piece of mortar bomb shrapnel during a live ammunition fire and movement attack training exercise at Omutiya. He was 19.
- **1985** - Corporal Leon van Buisbergen from 6 SAI was accidentally killed in Southern Angola by friendly fire from another South African Infantry Unit. He was 20.
- **1987** - Rifleman C.V. Kavita from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.

19 February

- **1937** - Italian troops commence with raids into Addis Abeba, capital of Ethiopia.
- **1942** - Japanese Vice-Adm Nagumo's aircraft raid Darwin, NW Australia, inflicting heavy casualties.
- **1945** - US Marines land on Iwo Jima.
- **1963** - The minister of defence announces the re-establishment, as of 1 April 1963, of the 'Cape Corps' of Coloured to be employed in non-combatant roles.
- **1976** - The MPLA government in Angola is recognised

by most countries of the world. Foreign intervention is condemned, and the withdrawal of Cuban and South African troops demanded.

- **1978** - Two members from the South African Air Force and one civilian passenger were Killed in Action while returning from Katima Mulilo to Air Force Base M'pacha after attending a Sunday Church Service. The casualties were: Commandant Liam Myles Poole (44). Major Andries Petrus Els (54). Mr David Jacobus De Lange (47).
- **1978** - Rifleman Raymond O'Brien Hunter from 2 SAI was Killed in Action at Elundu. He was 20.
- **1978** - Rifleman Johan Lemmer Caparus Ferreira from 2 SAI was captured along with Sapper Johan Van der Mescht just before sunrise on 19 February 1978 during a surprise attack by a group of approximately 47 SWAPO/PLAN insurgents on their TB at Elundu. Unlike Van der Mescht, Ferreira refused to go along with his captors and was subsequently murdered. He was 20.
- **1979** - Sapper Rudolf Francois van Heerden from 52 Battalion was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion at Mahanene in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1980** - The South African Defence Force has taken over from the police the security of Northern Natal since the area is becoming a

third front in Security Force action against guerrilla infiltration.

- **1981** - Rifleman Shaun Reginald Jessop from 1 SAI was killed when his Ratel Infantry Fighting Vehicle overturned during military exercises at Kimberley. He was 21.
- **1985** - Rifleman Jan Petrus van Niekerk from Infantry School died from an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head while in Sunnyside, Pretoria. He was 22.
- **1987** - Rifleman Nicholas Andrew Stubbs from the Equestrian Centre was killed in a military vehicle accident at the Reitz Show Grounds. He was 19.
- **1987** - Detective Sergeant Pieter Johannes Collen from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 29.
- **1988** - Rifleman Lambert Hendrik Fick from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed in a private motor cycle accident while on his way to Potchefstroom. He was 22.

20 February

- **1902** - Colonel C.W. Park, commanding three columns and accompanied by about 300 National Scouts and a commando of armed Blacks, surprise General Chris H. Muller in the Bothasberg,

about 60 km north-east of Middelburg and captures 153 burghers of Colonel Trichardt's commando while two burghers are killed.

- **1942** - Combined Japanese amphibious and airborne attack on Timor.
- **1943** - German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel broke through American lines at Kasserine Pass in North Africa as inexperienced U.S. Troops lost their first major battle of World War II in Europe, with 1,000 Americans killed.
- **1944** - Allied bombers begin five days of intensive air attacks on German aircraft production facilities and air bases, while their fighter escorts devastate defending Luftwaffe squadrons.
- 1966 - American Fleet Admiral Chester W Nimitz, at 80.
- **1977** - Rifleman H.M. Dos Santos from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 31.
- **1981** - Rifleman Sarel Philippus Piek from 2 Field Engineer Regiment died in the Sick Bay at M'pacha after contracting cerebral meningitis. He was 21.
- **1983** - Special Constable Johannes Joseph 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 North-

ern Owamboland. He was 23.

- **1986** - Rifleman I Tjisemo from 102 Battalion SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 24.
- **1988** - Major Edward Richard Every from 1 Squadron was Reported Missing during an Operational sortie over Southern Angola after his Mirage F1AZ 245 was shot down by a Soviet SA-13 Gopher Surface-to-Air Missile at Cuatir near Menongue. He was 31.

21 February

- **1916** - Battle of Verdun in France begins with a massive German artillery bombardment. It is the longest and bloodiest battle of World War 1, with more than one million killed.
- **1917** - The troopship SS Mendi collides with the Darro near the Isle of Wright. It sinks with a contingent of Black SA troops, on their way to France to fight on the British side. "Be quiet and calm, my countrymen. What is happening now is what you came to do ... you are going to die, but that is what you came to do. Brothers, we are drilling the death drill. I, a Xhosa, say you are my brothers ... Swazis, Pondos, Basotho ... so let us die like brothers. We are the sons of Africa. Raise your war-cries, brothers, for though they made us leave

our assegais in the kraal, our voices are left with our bodies" reputed to be the last words of Rev Wauchope Dyobha on the sinking ship SS Mendi.

- **1918** - Australians capture Jericho from the Turks.
- 1919 - Mary Edwards Walker, feminist and physician, Civil War Army contract surgeon, the only woman ever awarded a Medal of Honor, dies at the age of 86.
- **1944** - Prime Minister Tojo takes over direct control of the Japanese Army as Chief of Staff.
- **1978** - Lieutenant Phillip Joseph Castle from Regiment Windhoek, SWATF was Killed in Action in Northern Owamboland during a close-quarter battle with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents at Olusjandja Dam after his Patrol was ambushed just before sunrise. He was 20.
- **1979** - Rifleman Francis William John Snyman from 7 SAI was Killed in Action when the Bedford he was driving, detonated a land mine outside Oshakati. He was 19.
- **1980** - South Africa warns Mozambique it will not hesitate to strike back if Mozambique continues to shelter guerrillas conducting murderous operations and acts of sabotage against South Africa.
- **1981** - Commandant Pieter Gouws from 1 SWA Squadron SWATF was Reported Missing when his Civilian

aircraft, a Cherokee 6 PA32-300, Registration ZS-EXG, disappeared without trace while flying an aerial reconnaissance sortie up the South West African Coastline. He was 49.

- **1983** - Corporal Kallie Vermeulen from the Northern Logistical Command was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 21.
- **1984** - Rifleman Rinho Jepau from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 27.
- **1985** - Special Constable Johannes Tobias from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
- 1988 - Two members from 5 Signals Regiment and one member from Infantry School were Killed in Action in Southern Angola during Operation Hooper when their position was attacked by Angolan Air Force MiG Fighter Bombers. The casualties were: Sergeant Gerhardus Marthinus Maritz (25). Corporal Van Zyl Venter (20). Signaler Jacques de Lange (19).

22 February

- **1915** - Germany begins "restricted" submarine warfare.
- **1940** - A Stuka of Kamp-

ffgeschwader 30 sinks two destroyers in a single attack in the North Sea off Bor-kum. Unfortunately for him the two ships, the 'Lebrecht Maas' and 'Max Schultz', are both German.

- **1967** - The Minister of Defence, P.W. Botha, discloses that South Africa's northern borders are protected by a radar complex constituting an early warning system and that her coasts will be covered by the Decca navigational system costing R6m.
- **1975** - The Military government of Ethiopia announces that 2,300 guerrillas have been killed in fighting in Eritrea.
- **1977** - Lieutenant Neil Bradley Liddell from 17 Squadron was Killed in Action when his Alouette III, Serial No. 76 was shot down by concentrated small arms fire during anti-insurgent operations in Southern Zambia. He was 28.
- **1978** - Rifleman Andre Bosch from 2 SAI Died of Wounds in 1 Military Hospital after being shot while standing guard at Elundu when their position was overrun by SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 18.
- **1980** - Sapper Phillipus Jurie Wynand Swane-

poel from 25 Field Squadron, South African Engineer Corps was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.

- **1984** - Special Constable Patisiu Tobias 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 24.
- **1985** - Private Philip Nat Gould from 61 Base Workshops was critically injured when he accidentally fell off a moving vehicle. He was admitted to 1 Military Hospital where he later succumbed to his injuries. He was 18.
- **1988** - Sapper Steven Eric Lelong from 1 Parachute Battalion Combat Engineering Unit was accidentally shot dead when his team of Combat Engineers were mistakenly ambushed by a 102 Battalion SWATF Reac-

tion Force Unit in Southern Angola. He was 19.

- **1988** - Corporal Petrus Jacobus Louw from 102 Battalion SWATF accidentally drowned in the Officers/NCO's swimming pool at the Headquarters. He was 19.
- **1991** - Major Richard John Miller from 85 Combat Flying School was killed when his Atlas MB326KM Impala Mk II, Serial No. 1008 crashed while carrying out an aerobatics display at Air Force Base Pietersburg. He was 33.

23 February

- **1917** - Caporale Benito Mussolini, 11th Bersaglieri, is seriously wounded in a mortar accident.
- **1942** - During World War II, the first attack on the U.S. mainland occurred as a Japanese submarine shelled an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing minor damage.
- **1945** - Iwo Jima: the 28th Marines raise the flag on Mount Suribachi.
- **1978** - Captain Andries Johannes van Ellewee from 41 Battalion was critically wounded at Narubis near Keetmanshoop during a live fire exercise. He was 26.
- **1980** - Staff Sergeant Am-

Iwo
Jima

erindo Maurao Da Costa PMM from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action when he detonated a booby trap after his team had walked into an enemy ambush. He was 35.

- **1981** - The Prime Minister declares that Soviet threats will not prevent South Africa from attacking ANC bases in Mozambique.
- **1983** - Private Ronald Richard Erasmus from 5 Maintenance Unit died in hospital from natural causes. He was 19.
- **1983** - Rifleman Simon Hamutenya from 101 Battalion SWATF Killed in Action during a contact with insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 23.
- **1983** - Lance Corporal William Francis Moag from 7 SAI died from gunshot wounds accidentally sustained in the Operational Area. He was 20.
- **1984** - Special Warrant Officer Lukus Likuis from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 31.
- **1986** - Special Sergeant Abel Matiasta from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 36.

• **1987** - Three members from 101 Battalion Romeo Mike Team SWATF were Killed in Action close to Vinticet in Southern Angola after their Casspir was hit by Soviet RPG-7 Anti-Tank Rockets when they drove into a SWAPO/PLAN Battalion ambush. They were: Corporal Hector Lucas Strydom (24). Rifleman Tom Job (23). Rifleman Esau Simon (24).

- **1987** - Two members from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) were Killed in Action and one wounded during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. They were: Special Sergeant Mwainbange Mwanyengange (23). Special Sergeant Johannes Naffral (35). Sergeant Christiaan Petrus Momberg. (Wounded and evacuated but died in 1 Military Hospital on 25 February 1987).
- **1989** - Rifleman Mhluteki Absalon Makatini from 111 Battalion died from gunshot wounds sustained in a shooting incident in Swaziland. He was 20.
- **1991** - In Desert Storm, the Allied ground offensive began after a devastating month-long air campaign targeting Iraqi troops in both Iraq and Kuwait.

24 February

- **1966** - A military coup in Ghana deposes President

Kwame Nkrumah while he is out of the country on his way to China.

- **1984** - Special Warrant Officer Herman Hosea 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.
- **1987** - Airman Nicolaas Wilhelmus Jacobus van Rheede van Oudtshoorn from Air Force Base Grootfontein died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while serving at the Base. He was 19.

25 February

- **1885** - Germany annexes Tanganyika and Zanzibar.
- **1902** - At least fifty-three British soldiers die, 130 are wounded and 500 captured in a surprise attack by Boer troops at Ysterspruit in the Klerksdorp vicinity.
- **1916** - Verdun: The Germans capture Fort Douaumont.
- **1954** - Military coup ousts Pres Adib el-Shishakli of Syria.
- **1981** - Hansard reports that on this date 289 servicemen of the SADF are in detention, of which 137 are being punished for reasons of conscientious objection.
- **1981** - Private Cornelius Tobias van Schalkwyk from the Dog Training Centre died in hospital at Oshakati after contracting Malaria in

Southern Angola while attached to an Infantry Unit as a dog handler. He was 19.

- **1986** - Captain Brian Du Preez from 116 Battalion was killed in a military motorcycle accident at Messina. He was 27.
- **1987** - Sergeant Christiaan Petrus Momberg from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was wounded in the head during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland on 23 February 1987. He was evacuated to Eenhana where he later lapsed into a coma prior to being evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria. He remained on life support until declared brain dead on 25 February 1987. He was 23.
- **1988** - Bombardier Clinton Hendricks from 10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment, was Killed in Action in Southern Angola near Cuito during Operation Hooper while operating with a 61 Mechanised Battalion Group SAM-7 Anti-Aircraft team. He was 19.
- **1988** - Lance Corporal Leon Francis van Wyk from Regiment Molopo was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola when his Olifant Tank was knocked out by a Soviet 130mm field gun. He was 30.
- **1993** - US marines and Nigerian soldiers blast at snipers in central Mogadishu,

Somalia, in a five-hour battle that kills one Somali.

- **2005** - Militiamen kill nine United Nations Bangladeshi peacekeepers in Ituri, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, in the worst attack against the UN force in the country. Ituri is one of the DRC's worst trouble spots, where ethnic militias have killed 50 000 civilians since 1999.

26 February

- 1852 - An English troop carrier, the Birkenhead with Robert Salmond as captain, carrying reinforcements for the 8th Frontier War, runs aground at Danger Point. Of the 638 passengers, only 184 could be rescued, as there were insufficient lifeboats. The women and children were sent ashore first, while the men remained standing on deck until they perished under the waves.
- **1916** - German U-Boat sinks the French liner 'Provence', 930 die.
- **1935** - Germany announces the existence of the Luftwaffe under Herman Göring.
- **1942** - German battleship 'Gneisenau' disabled by a British bomb.
- **1952** - Winston Churchill announces that Britain has produced its own atomic bomb.
- **1974** - Ethiopian army units seize Asmara, second largest city in Ethiopia, and demand better pay and living conditions.

- **1976** - Corporal Jan Andries Swanepoel from 8 Signal Regiment was Killed when the Unimog vehicle he was a passenger overturned at Chitado, Southern Angola. He was 25.
- **1980** - Rifleman Jakobus Andries Petrus Bosman from Witwatersrand Rifles was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 27.
- **1982** - Lieutenant Commander Robert Desmond Kohne from SAS Drakensberg was killed when he accidentally fell into lift shaft on the SAS Drakensberg during construction and maintenance work on the Ship at the Shipyards in Durban.. He was 29.
- **1984** - Scout Adrian Bruce Berend from the Intelligence School in Kimberley was killed in a civilian motor vehicle accident while on weekend pass. He was 19.
- **1990** - Defence Minister General Magnus Malan says all activities of the clandestine Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB) have been suspended pending the outcome of a judicial investigation.
- **1990** - Moscow begins pulling 73,000 troops out of Czechoslovakia.
- **1999** - Ethiopian troops breach Eritrean lines in a disputed border area, and Eritrea soon says it will accept an African peace plan for the ten-month war.

27 February

- **1881** - Boers defeat the British force at Majuba Hill, in the Anglo-Transvaal War. More than 200 British soldiers and two Boers are killed.
- **1900** - British troops under Gen. Redvers Buller break through the Boer lines during the Battle of Pietersburg.
- **1900** - The Boer general Piet Cronje surrenders with 3 919 men (nearly 10% of the total republican fighting strength) to the British at Paardeberg on the 10th day of the battle.
- **1902** - On the same day both the oldest and the youngest prisoners of war to be deported, are captured at Dwaalspruit. They are Gideon J. van Zyl of Vrede seventy-eight years old, and Johannes van Heerden of Heidelberg, only seven years old.
- **1973** - Candidate Officer Cornelis Ferreira Oosthuysen from 1 SSB was killed in a military vehicle accident in Bloemfontein. He was 19.
- **1974** - Ethiopia's cabinet resigns as military mutiny spreads from the captured city of Asmara.
- **1980** - Rifleman Leon Grobler from 2 Parachute Battalion died from wounds sustained on 20 February. He was 19.
- **1982** - Rifleman Peter Williams Hayfeni Naikaku from 32 Battalion was killed in action. He was 29.

- **1984** - Lance Corporal George Diederick Vorster from North West Command Provost Unit was killed on the Klerksdorp-Potchefstroom Road while carrying out convoy escort duty. He was 19
- **1986** - Special Constable Thomas Amunyongi from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
- **1987** - Sapper Norman Cecil van der Leeuw from 5 Military Works Unit, M'pacha, was accidentally killed after falling off the back of a moving truck at Katima. He was 20.
- **1988** - Rifleman Antonio Luis Cambinda from 32 Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident at Rundu. He was 22.
- **1988** - Special Warrant Officer Felix Creneus from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 29.
- **1991** - In Desert Storm, the 100-hour ground war ended as Allied troops entered Kuwait just four days after launching their offensive against Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces.

28 February

- **1844** - During a demonstration of naval fire power, one of the guns aboard the USS Princeton exploded, killing several top U.S. government officials on the steamer ship, and narrowly missed killing President John Tyler.
- **1900** - The British relieves Ladysmith after a siege of four months when reinforcements under Buller arrive.
- **1944** - Marshal of the Soviet Union Nikolai Fyodorovich Vatutin, is mortally wounded in an ambush by Ukrainian partisans and dies 15 April.
- **1977** - Private Craig Murray Irvine from 32 Field Workshop Squadron was killed in a military vehicle accident on the Bagani-Rundu Road. He was 22.
- **1979** - Sergeant Bernhard Fritz Wilhelm Kirchner from 41 Battalion was Killed in Action during a Contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 21.
- **1988** - South African commandos raid Gaborone, Botswana, in search of ANC members.
- 1994 - NATO conducted its first combat action in its 45 year history as four Bosnian Serb jets were shot down by American fighters in a no-fly zone.



QUIZ

World War II Weapons

1. Lee Enfield No.4 Mk.1
2. Tokarev SVT-40
3. PPSH-41
4. M1903 Springfield
5. Thompson submachine gun
6. Type 38 Cavalry Carbine
7. Karabiner 98k
8. M3 submachine gun
9. Mosin-Nagant M1891/30
10. Sturmgewehr 44
11. M1 Garand
12. Bren LMG
13. M1 and M1A1 carbine
14. MP40 submachine gun
15. Sten submachine gun



Useful links

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

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



Military Despatches Website



"Things don't have to change the world to be important."
Steve Jobs



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



Have you checked out the bookshelf on the website? Here you can open and read individual articles on screen with no need to download anything.

You will find articles on numerous different topics that have been published over the past two years as well as video clips and documentaries.

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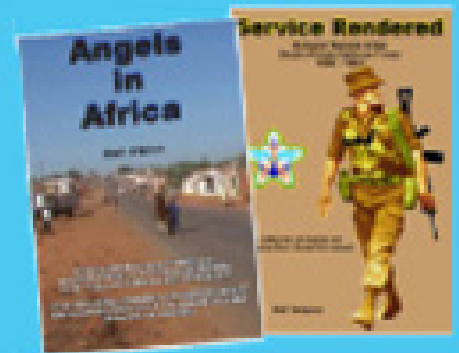
Online Magazines

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.