



Myths and misconceptions

Things we still get wrong about the Vietnam War

Turning back the clock

93 year old Arctic Convoy veteran visits Russian ship

Battle of Ia Drang

First battle between the Americans and NVA



For the military enthusiast

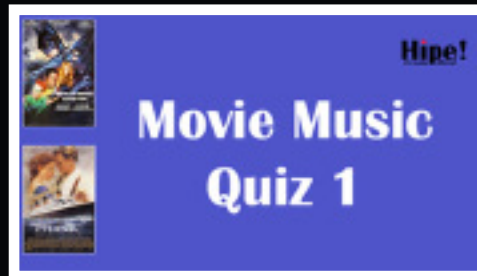


Click on any video below to view



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

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



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



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



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



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

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

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How well do you know the weapons of the Vietnam War?



Editor's Sitrep

I'm just recovering from Saint Patrick's Day 2019, and here it is upon us again. I just can't seem to win.

As soon as I've finished this editorial I think I'll take out the old bottle of Bushmills and get an early start on Saint Paddy's Day.

How many of you managed to watch the SONA (State of the Nation Address) on television this year? I'm still trying to decide whether I find it scary or hilarious.

One of the things that goes with being the editor of Military Despatches is that I get a lot of e-mails on a daily basis.

Many of these are complimentary, something I am really grateful for. I've had one or two critical e-mails, normally about something I got wrong. I also get e-mails from people sending in articles for publication.

I do, however, receive a lot of spam and scam e-mails. Many of them are from companies (mainly from China for some reason) trying to sell me some totally unrelated product like plastic pipes or perfume.

The vast majority of these type of e-mail are from people telling

me that I have won a vast sum of money or from those wishing to give me money.

I calculated that in February alone I won or was donated the total sum of \$217 million. If only it was true.

Of course I never respond to any of these e-mails. They are deleted straight away. But I must admit that some of them are creative.

I received one from a Colonel Dr (Mrs) Someone-or-other that informed me that she was a doctor with the US Military in Afghanistan. Her husband was also a colonel and doctor in Afghanistan and he was killed in action. He had found a large stockpile of gold and had smuggled it out of the country and converted it to cash.

She discovered that she has some disease and only has six months to live. So she was donating the money to me (\$30 million). Naturally it would cost me to get the money released. Do they really think these scams still work?

Until next time.

Matt

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Front Cover

The Chinese Navy's Type 054A frigate Weifang (550) sits in berth in Cape Town harbour.

Photo: Regine Lord



Ten myths about the Vietnam War

The Vietnam War lasted 19 years, 5 months, 4 weeks and 1 day, and the lives of more than 58,000 American troops. Although it ended almost 45 years ago, there are still many myths and misconceptions about the Vietnam War. We look at ten myths and misconceptions.

The Vietnam War, also known as the Second Indochina War, and in Vietnam as the Resistance War Against America or simply the American War, was a conflict in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia from 1 November 1955 to the fall of Saigon on 30 April 1975.

It was the second of the Indochina Wars and was officially fought between North Vietnam and South Vietnam.

The war, considered a Cold War-era proxy war by some, lasted more than 19 years, with direct U.S. involvement ending in 1973, and included the Laotian Civil War and the Cambodian Civil War, which ended with all three countries becoming communist in 1975.

It was one of the most controversial wars that America was ever involved in. America was left divided when it came to the war with those that supported the war and those that were against it. In fact there was a strong anti-war movement within the United States.

Many Vietnam Veterans felt betrayed by their country and feel that they were never given the recognition that they deserved for fighting for their country.

Although the war ended almost 45 years ago, there are still many myths and misconcep-

tions about the Vietnam War.

In this article we take a brief look at ten of them.

10. Vietnam was an American war.

The Vietnam War is largely remembered as a contest between North and South Vietnam with the United States intervening on behalf of the latter. Yet this is not the case.

Both South and North Vietnam enjoyed considerable help from a host of other world powers both large and small.

In fact, more than 10 other nations took an active role in the decade-long fight, losing more than 15,000 lives in the process. While some countries' contributions are widely known, others might come as a surprise. Let's examine some of the Vietnam War's other participants.

Allies of the South

Between 1964 and 1973, more than 2.7 million American troops served in Vietnam. A total of 58,318 Americans were killed in Vietnam and 303,644 were wounded.

Yet despite this hefty commitment, Washington was eager to portray the war as a multinational effort aimed at countering communist aggression.

To that end, the White House

invited (and pressured) a number its allies in the region to lend a hand in South Vietnam. More than 400,000 troops from six other countries answered the call.

South Korea - They were by far the most committed foreign ally of the American-led war effort in South East Asia.

Between 1965 and early 1973, more than 320,000 South Korean troops served in the war alongside U.S. and ARVN forces, although ROK troop levels never reached more than 50,000 at any given time.

All told, more than 5,000 South Korean soldiers were killed in nine years of fighting; 10,000 were wounded.

Australia - In total, more than 61,000 Australian soldiers also served in the war between 1962 and 1972, although that commitment never exceeded 8,000 troops at one time.

In addition to sending infantry, airborne, special forces, medical and armoured units, Australia's task force also included squadrons of helicopters, transport planes and even Canberra bombers. The Royal Australian Navy contributed a destroyer to the effort as well.

One of the units heavily committed to Vietnam were the Australian Special Air Service Regiment (SASR). They con-

ducted nearly 1,200 patrols and inflicted heavy casualties on the Viet Cong. Their own losses totalled one killed in action, one died of wounds, three accidentally killed, one missing and one death from illness. Twenty-eight men were wounded.

More than 500 Australian personnel were killed during 10 years of operations and 3,000 were wounded.

Philippines - The next largest partner in the U.S.-led war was the Philippines. Beginning in 1966, Manila deployed upwards of 10,000 troops to help support the Saigon government, but kept its contribution limited to medical and logistical operations.

Filipino casualties were minimal, yet the decision by the administration of Ferdinand Marcos to deploy troops to Indochina was still controversial domestically.

New Zealand - Between 1964 and 1972, more than 3,800 New Zealanders served as part of the Allied war effort. In addition to providing artillery batteries, combat engineers and medical personnel, Wellington sent elements of the country's elite Special Air Service. Pilots also served as part of the larger Australian contingent.

New Zealand Special Air Service (NZSAS) also sent a troop, consisting of an officer and 25 other ranks, to fight in Vietnam.

In all, 37 troops were killed during the eight-year mission and 187 were wounded.

Thailand - In 1965 Bangkok committed a small army contin-

gent to South Vietnam, known as the Queen's Cobra Battalion. It also pledged its national police force's air assets to monitor several segments of the Ho Chi Minh trail that passed through neighbouring Laos.

Taiwan - One of the earliest foreign contributors to the Saigon government was the ardently anti-communist Republic of China. In fact, Taiwan provided transport aircraft and secretly offered several hundred of its special forces soldiers to the cause beginning in 1961.

Over the next 11 years, three aircraft were lost to enemy ground fire and a number of Taiwanese commandos were captured while on missions in North Vietnam. In all, 25 Taiwanese died in action in Vietnam.

Canada - Although not officially a military contributor to the American war effort, Canadian industry supplied the U.S. with more than \$2.5 billion worth of war materiel during the 1960s and early 1970s.

More than 30,000 citizens volunteered to fight in the conflict. At least 100 Canadians died in American uniform during the war and one even won the Medal Of Honour in 1970 for heroism under fire.

Allies of the North

As America's role in the war widened, the communist world was keen to see Hanoi prevail. While support to North Vietnam largely came in the form of weapons and material, a number of countries sent advisors and even a handful of combatants.

Soviet Union - Moscow proved to be North Vietnam's chief ally throughout the conflict, supplying both weapons and military advisors.

In addition to maintaining a troop commitment that topped 3,000 men at its peak, the Soviet's lavished Hanoi with more than 2,000 tanks, 7,000 artillery pieces, 5,000 anti-aircraft guns and nearly 200 surface to air missile batteries.

Aid from Russia eventually reached \$2 million a day. In at least one incident, Soviet advisors engaged American forces in combat. During an air raid on the North in 1965, Soviet anti-aircraft gunners fired on and destroyed American F-4 jets near Hanoi at Thanh Hoa.

China - Beginning in 1965, the People's Republic of China provided both military engineers and anti-aircraft batteries to the North Vietnamese war effort. This followed Beijing's policy of supplying millions of dollars in rice and more than 90,000 assault rifles to the communist regime.

By 1968, China began to withdraw its support following a widening rift with Hanoi's chief ally, the Soviet Union. Beijing gradually shifted its support to the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia.

Following the victory over the south in 1975, the unified Vietnam waged a four year war against Cambodia. China invaded Vietnam in 1979 by way of retaliation.

North Korea - Pyongyang also contributed to the commu-

nist north. In 1966, the reclusive regime dispatched two squadrons of MiG-17s and a squadron of MiG-21s - 30 planes in all. More than 200 of the country's aviators eventually rotated in and out of country throughout the war during which time many flew combat missions.

Two full regiments of air defence troops were also dispatched. North Korean dictator Kim Il Sung reportedly urged his men to protect the skies above Vietnam as if they were "their own."

Cuba - They have never formally confirmed their participation in the Vietnam War, although several thousand military engineers reportedly aided the communist war effort. In addition, military advisors from Havana are believed to have taken part in the interrogation of at least 19 captured U.S. fliers. In fact, their supposedly brutal methods have since been dubbed "the Cuban Program".

Castro himself visited Quang Tri shortly after it fell to the communists in 1972.

9. Ho Chi Minh led the North

Everyone knows that Ho Chi Minh, known as *Bác Hồ* (Uncle Ho), was the man that led North Vietnam to victory and independence. In reality Ho Chi Minh was nothing more than a figurehead.

It was Lê Duẩn who was the architect, main strategist and commander in chief of North Vietnam's war effort. The quiet, stern Duan shunned the spotlight but he possessed the iron



I AWAIT YOUR ORDERS: Ho Chi Minh in conversation with Le Duan, the man who was the actual power behind North Vietnam.

will, focus and administrative skill necessary to dominate the Communist Party.

Along with his right-hand man, the indomitable Le Duc Tho, who would later spar with Henry Kissinger during the Paris peace negotiations. Duan constructed a sturdy militarist empire that still looms over Hanoi today. Their hawkish policies led North Vietnam to war against Saigon and then Washington, and ensured that a negotiated peace would never take the place of total victory.

Duan ruled the party with an iron fist and saw Ho and Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap, renowned for defeating the French at Dien Bien Phu, as the greatest threats to his authority. He sidelined Ho, General Giap and their supporters when making nearly all key decisions.

In 1963-4, Duan blackmailed Ho into silence when the aging leader opposed the controversial decision to escalate the war and seek all-out victory

before American forces could intervene. And in 1967-8, there was a large-scale purge in Hanoi when Ho, General Giap and their allies opposed Mr. Duan's plans for the Tet Offensive.

He became the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and held the position from 10 September 1960 and remained in power until his death on 10 July 1986 at the age of 79.

8. Most US troops were conscripts

Popular culture is rife with examples of poor and minority soldiers arriving in Vietnam via the draft and then dying.

This is a common theme in books and movies about the Vietnam War. In his 1989 book "More Like Us" author James Fallows says that the Vietnam War was "the most blatant class war since the Civil War."

Yet the facts show otherwise.



GIANT CENTIPEDE: The Vietnamese or Jungle centipede (*Scolopendra subspinipes*) could grow to insane sizes.

Between 1964 and 1973, volunteers outnumbered enlisted troops by nearly four to one. Nor did the military rely primarily on disadvantaged citizens or African Americans.

According to the Report of the President's Commission on an All-Volunteer Armed Force in February 1970, African Americans "constituted only 12.7 % of nearly 1.7 million enlisted men serving voluntarily in 1969."

A higher proportion of African Americans were drafted in the early years of the war, but they were not more likely to die in combat than other soldiers.

Seventy-nine percent of troops had at least a high school education (compared with 63% of Korean War veterans and 45% of World War II veterans). And according to VFW Magazine, 50% were from middle-income backgrounds, and 88% were white (representing 86% of the deaths).

Percentage wise, there were more American volunteers in the Vietnam War than during World War II.

7. South Vietnamese troops were useless

Some contend that the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), the South's army, was not up to the job. Andy Walpole, formerly of Liverpool John Moores University, wrote that "they were [unwilling] to engage in combat with their guerrilla counterparts and were more interested in surviving than winning." Harry F. Noyes, who served in Vietnam, complained about this widespread belief: "Everybody 'knows' they were incompetent, treacherous and cowardly."

But those who fought alongside the ARVN tell a different story. Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey, adviser to the South Vietnamese Airborne Division, be-

moaned that "the sacrifice and valour and commitment of the South Vietnamese Army largely disappeared from the American political and media consciousness."

He wrote of the tenacious fighting spirit of those troops, particularly at the Battle of Dong Ha, where they were charged with supporting American Marine units. "In combat, the South Vietnamese refused to leave their own dead or wounded troopers on the field or abandon a weapon," he recalled.

6. The VC were masters of the jungle

Many believe that the VC (Viet Cong) and, to a lesser extent, the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) were masters of the jungle. They were at home in the hostile terrain and knew the jungle like the back of their hands. Yet this may not be the case.

In 1996, as a journalist, I was invited on a tour of Vietnam as they were trying to promote the country as a tourist destination.

One of the places I visited was an old tunnel complex that is now preserved as a museum and tourist attraction. The curator was an elderly gentleman who had once been a major in the NVA and I was lucky enough to have a long chat with him.

He thought it very amusing when I mentioned how the VC had this huge advantage in the jungle.

"I think that the VC adapt-

ed better to the jungle than the Americans,” he told me. “But to be honest with you, we were probably more terrified of the jungle than the Americans were. You must remember that we knew what was in the jungle. And just about everything in the jungle could kill or injure you.”

I later learnt of just some of the animal, insect and plant life that was in the jungle and he hadn't been joking when he said that nearly all of it was dangerous.

Take the *Scolopendra subspinipes* for example. Known as the Vietnamese Centipede or Jungle Centipede, they could grow to insane sizes. They were extremely aggressive and their venomous bite was very painful. And giant scorpions were another danger to face.

Being bitten by a weaver ant can be likened to having a lit cigarette put out on your flesh - it's that painful. So image an entire nest of these red ants attacking you.

Snakes thrive in a hot and humid environment, and Vietnam was no exception. The jungle is filled with Cobras, Kraits, Vipers and many more species, most of which are deadly. The snakes that weren't venomous were all giant constrictors, still very capable of crushing you in your sleep.

The jungles of Southeast Asia are also home to aggressive tiger species, leopards, and bears.

Even the plant life can be dangerous. Vietnam's most beautiful trees and flowers are also

its deadliest. Heartbreak Grass, Flame Lillies, Twisted Cord Flowers, and Bark Cloth Trees are all powerful enough to kill a human or cause blindness upon contact or accidental ingestion.

“You must remember that most rural Vietnamese were farmers,” the major said. “They worked in large open fields. The jungle was considered a hostile place and you stayed out of it if at all possible.

5. US involvement began under John F. Kennedy

Many historians take it as fact that it was John F. Kennedy who first dispatched American military advisors to Vietnam, and that it was the Kennedy administration which orchestrated the CIA supported coup d'état which led to the overthrow of the Diem government.

In fact, Kennedy's Department of Defense and Robert McNamara wanted to retain Diem in exile, and when he and his brother were killed during the coup Kennedy was shocked, not at the overthrow of the Diem government, but at the murder of the Diem brothers.

It was Truman and Eisenhower that expanded American activity in Vietnam. In 1950, under the administration of President Harry Truman, US military advisors were embedded within the military hierarchy of Vietnam at all levels. While the French fought the Viet Minh and their communist supporters the United States provided financial and covert

support to aid the French in the recovery of their former colony.

When the French withdrew in 1954, the newly formed independent state of South Vietnam was given financial and military training support by the United States under the Eisenhower administration. American military advisors helped to train the South Vietnamese army throughout the 1950s, as well as arm it through foreign military aid programs.

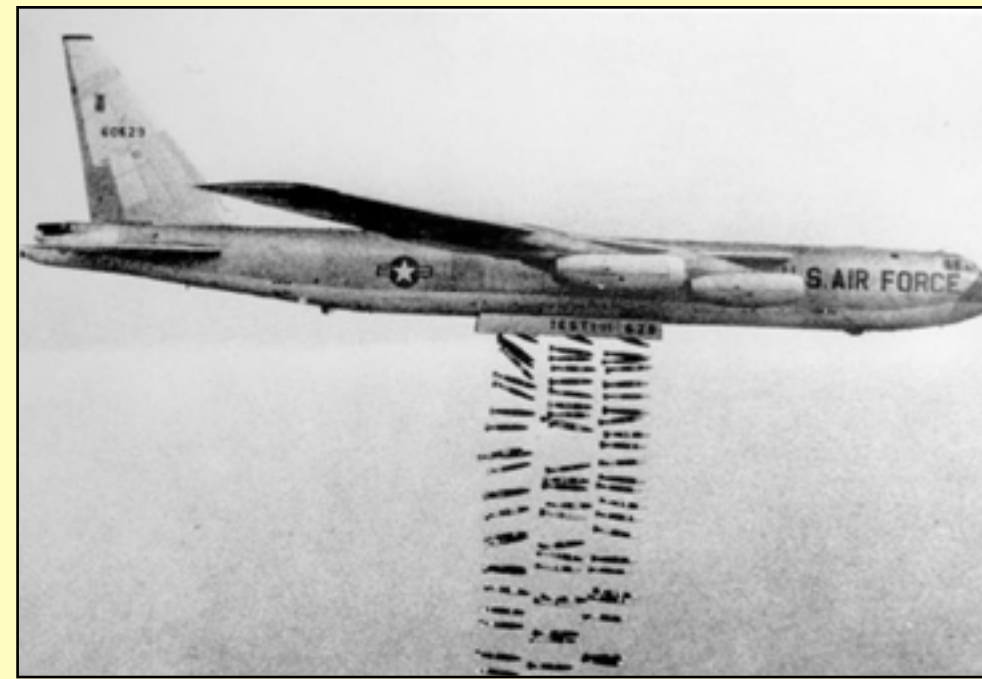
4. US bombing missions were restricted

History would have us believe that in late 1964, just before the landslide election of Lyndon B. Johnson to the Presidency, the United States launched a restrained tactical bombing campaign against North Vietnamese units and Viet Cong positions.

This was in accordance with Johnson's election campaign, in which he had presented himself as the candidate of “reason and restraint”, as opposed to his opponent, Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater, who had advocated for a more vigorous response.

Johnson tried to prevent the war from escalating by restricting the bombing raids by US airplanes to military targets as the first American bombing campaign of the war began.

The fact is that the United States began bombing targets in Laos in October, 1964. Before the election was held in the United States, American aircraft struck targets in Laos, flown by both American and



CARPET BOMBING: The US dropped more than seven million tons of aerial bombs in Southeast Asia. This was more than three times the amount dropped by them in World War II.

South Vietnamese pilots, in an attempt to interdict supplies reaching North Vietnamese and Viet Cong units in South Vietnam.

Johnson was presented with options in December on how to bring the North Vietnamese to an agreement to withdraw their forces from South Vietnam. Johnson's choices included heavy air launched reprisals against North Vietnamese and Viet Cong units, followed by “graduated air war”, and the deployment of ground troops to support the South Vietnamese. By December, 1964, the planning to deploy American combat forces was well advanced.

3. The North Vietnamese were a peasant army

During and since the war the North Vietnamese leadership presented themselves and their

troops as simple peasants who had first resisted French colonialism and during the American phase of the war were resisting American imperialism.

They depicted themselves as freedom fighters, determined to ensure that a unified Vietnam was established which represented Vietnamese traditions, religious beliefs, and freedoms. Ho Chi Minh was their spiritual leader and figurehead.

Almost forgotten in America today is that Ho Chi Minh died in September 1969, years before the American withdrawal.

The North Vietnamese troops were well-trained, professional soldiers. The North Vietnamese army was far from an army of lightly armed peasant freedom fighters. Communist advisors from China and the Soviet Union provided training and armaments, with heavy artillery, tanks, and anti-aircraft batteries

supplied to their Southeast Asia ally.

Ships of the Soviet Navy detected incoming American air raids and provided early warnings to the North Vietnamese defences.

Czechoslovakia, Cuba, and North Korea likewise provided aid to the North Vietnamese. Communist aid to the North Vietnamese was cited as supportive of the so-called domino theory early in the war, but by 1968 - the year of the Tet Offensive - the domino theory had been largely discounted by military planners and diplomats.

2. The US conducted a limited bombing campaign

Many still believe that the United States conducted a limited bombing campaign in Vietnam. There are those who believe that the American aerial bombing campaign was designed to limit air strikes to strategic targets and to interdict the movement of supplies into Vietnam via the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

American bombers and fighter bombers targeted these and anti-aircraft weapons emplacements, rather than targeting cities and civilian targets, such as industrial facilities.

The bombing was conducted with precision, using the techniques developed through the experiences of the Second World War and the Korean War, especially in the area of close air support of units deployed on the ground.

The air war was intended to support the units of the US military and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), not stand on its own.

Yet that facts speak for themselves. Over seven million tons of aerial bombs were dropped in Southeast Asia by American aircraft during the Vietnam War, more than three times the total tonnage dropped in all of the Second World War in the European and Pacific Theatres combined.

The tonnage dropped on Laos alone was equivalent to one ton for every resident in the nation. About four million tons were dropped on targets in South Vietnam, including suspected troop and Viet Cong concentrations, villages and towns, and targets called in by troops heavily engaged on the ground. Besides aerial bombing,

Vietnam was also heavily targeted by big guns from US Naval warships, including cruisers and destroyers and in 1968 the battleship USS New Jersey.

1. The US won every major battle in Vietnam

According to the Americans the US Army won the battles in which it fought, and Vietnam was lost to the communists by gutless politicians. The claim does not hold up to the light of day.

The first major battle fought between US troops and the North Vietnamese was during the Pleiku Campaign in 1965, in the Ia Drang Valley.



WE WERE SOLDIERS: Lt Colonel Hal Moore led the American troops at the Battle of Ia Drang in 1965. He called the battle a draw for the Americans at best.

One of the American commanders who fought in the battle, which was the first in which high casualties figures of dead and wounded Americans occurred, was stunned by the tactics employed by the North Vietnamese.

The United States claimed a clear victory, basing the claim on the higher number of casualties inflicted upon the enemy, later determined to have been inflated by more than 30%. The United States claimed that the kill ratio inflicted upon the enemy was more than 10:1.

Yet Lieutenant Colonel Harold G. Moore, known as Hal, said that the battle was at best a draw for the Americans. And he should know. He commanded the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry at the Battle of Ia Drang in 1965.

Moore fought in the battle

from onset until it was finished, and his appraisal did not award a victory to the US Army.

In his book "We Were Soldiers", he wrote: "The peasant soldiers had withstood the terrible high-tech firestorm delivered against them by a super-power and had at least fought the Americans to a draw."

He also wrote about the North Vietnamese, "By their yardstick a draw against such a powerful opponent was the equivalent of a victory."



Weapons of the 'Nam

These 15 weapons all saw action during the Vietnam War. You tell us what they are, and as a bonus tell us which country they are from. You'll find the answers to the quiz on page 90.



Special Forces - South Vietnam

Part Thirteen of a series that takes a look at Special Forces units around the world. This month we look at South Vietnam

The Army of the Republic of Vietnam Special Forces (*Lực Lượng Đặc Biệt Quân Lực Việt Nam Cộng Hòa* or LLDB) were the elite military units of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN).

Following the establishment of the Republic of Vietnam (commonly known as South Vietnam) in October 1955, the Special Forces were formed at Nha Trang in February 1956. During the rule of Ngô Đình

Diệm, the Special Forces were run by his brother, Ngô Đình Nhu, until both were assassinated in November 1963 in a coup.

The Special Forces were disbanded in 1975 when South Vietnam ceased to exist after the Fall of Saigon.

Early years

The Special Forces came into being at Nha Trang in February 1956 under the designation of the First Observation Battalion/Group (FOG). By 1960, most Special Forces units were in-

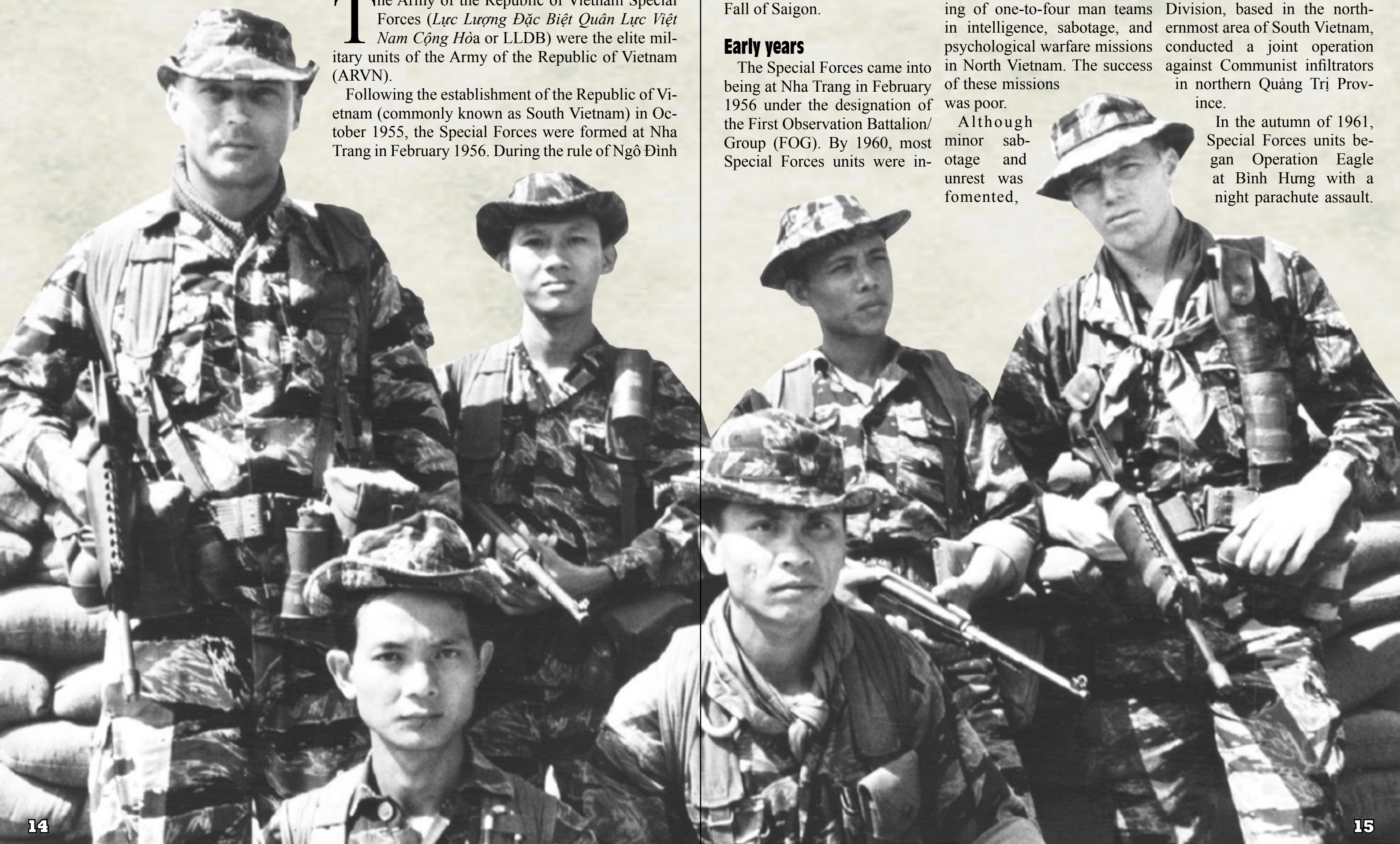
volved in the FOG program.

At Long Thành, they were trained in intelligence gathering, sabotage and psychological operations (PSYOP). The main duties of the Special Forces entailed the recruitment and training of one-to-four man teams in intelligence, sabotage, and psychological warfare missions in North Vietnam. The success of these missions was poor.

Although minor sabotage and unrest was fomented,

Hanoi declared that all agents were to be killed or captured. Those who were captured were interrogated and executed. In 1961, the Special Forces and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) 1st Infantry Division, based in the northernmost area of South Vietnam, conducted a joint operation against Communist infiltrators in northern Quảng Trị Province.

In the autumn of 1961, Special Forces units began Operation Eagle at Bình Hưng with a night parachute assault.



In September 1962, United States Special Forces personnel assumed responsibility of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)'s border surveillance and Civilian Irregular Defence Group (CIDG) programs and began working with the ARVN Special Forces. The Special Forces continued to expand and began to increasingly operate with the CIDG.

Diem era

During the rule of President Ngô Đình Diệm, the Special Forces were used mainly for repressing dissidents.

Despite the fact that South Vietnam was struggling against the communist insurgency of the Viet Cong in the rural areas, the Special Forces were mostly kept in the capital Saigon, where they were used to prevent coups or harass regime opponents.

Under Diệm, the Special Forces were headed by Colonel Lê Quang Tung, who had been trained by the CIA in the United States and commanded some 1,840 men under the direction of Nhu.

Tung's most notable military activity was leading a group run by the CIA, in which ARVN personnel of northern origin were sent into North Vietnam, posing as locals, in order to gather intelligence as well as sabotaging communist infrastructure and communications.

They were trained in bases at Nha Trang, Đà Nẵng and sometimes offshore in Taiwan, Guam and Okinawa. Of the eighty groups of operatives, numbering six or seven per group, that were deployed in 1963 via par-

achute drops or night time sampan journeys, nearly all were captured or killed.

Those who were captured were often used for propaganda by the North Vietnamese. Tung was heavily criticised for his management of the operations.

Buddhist crisis

In 1963, South Vietnam faced civil unrest in the face of Buddhist protests against discrimination by the Catholic-oriented Diệm regime. In the wake of the shootings of nine Buddhist protesters on the birthday of Gautama Buddha for defying a ban on the Buddhist flag, mass protests calling for religious equality erupted around the country.

With opposition to Diệm growing, Nhu plotted an attack against Xá Lợi Pagoda, the largest Buddhist centre in Saigon, where the movement was organizing its activities.

Tung's special forces under Nhu's orders were responsible for the raid on 21 August 1963, in which 1,400 monks were arrested and hundreds were estimated to have been killed, as well as extensive property damage.

These attacks were replicated across the country in a synchronised manner. Following the attacks, U.S. officials threatened to withhold aid to the Special Forces unless they were used in fighting communists, rather than attacking dissidents.

Another infamous religious assault on the Buddhist community was carried out by Tung's men in 1963. In a small pond near Đà Nẵng, a hugely oversized carp was found swimming. Local Buddhists began to



**81st Airborne
Commando Battalion**

believe the fish was a reincarnation of one of Gautama Buddha's disciples.

As pilgrimages to the pond grew larger and more frequent, so did disquiet among the district chief and his officials, who answered to Ngô Đình Cẩn, another younger brother of Diệm.

The pond was mined, but the fish swam on unhindered. After raking the pond with machine gun fire, the fish still lived.

To deal with the problem, Tung's forces were called in. Grenades were thrown into the pond, killing the carp. The incident generated more publicity as newspapers across the world ran stories about the miraculous fish.

ARVN helicopters began landing at the site, with ARVN paratroopers filling their bottles with water which they believed had magical powers.

Tung was reported to have been planning an operation at the request of Nhu to stage a government organised student demonstration outside the US Embassy, Saigon.

In this plan, Tung and his operatives would assassinate U.S. ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., other key officials and Buddhist leader Thích Trí Quang, who was given asylum after being targeted in the pagoda raids.

On 1 November 1963, a coup was launched by the ARVN against Diệm.

Knowing Tung was a loyalist who would order his Special Forces to defend Diệm, the generals invited him to Joint General Staff (JGS) headquarters on the pretext of a routine meeting. He was arrested and later executed along with his deputy and younger brother, Lê Quang Triệu. Diệm and Nhu were also executed after being captured at the end of the successful coup and the ARVN's leadership consequently changed.

In 1964, the U.S. Army's 5th Special Forces Group was officially assigned to Vietnam. The LLDB worked closely with the U.S. command and although the Americans funded the CIDG camps, the LLDB assumed ultimate responsibility.

These camps were commanded by the ARVN Special Forces, supplemented by U.S. Special Forces advisors. From 24 June to 1 July 1964 under Project DELTA, LLDB teams performed five parachute drops into Laos to gather intelligence.

By 1965, LLDB personnel were working with the ARVN in recruiting and training as well as sending groups into communist areas in South Vietnam to gather information. US Special Forces referred to the LLDB as "LL" or "LIMA-LIMA" using the phonetic alphabet. Over the

radio they were called "XRAY" so it would not reveal the unit as CIDG.

1970s

In March 1970, aware of the impending withdrawal of U.S. Special Forces from Vietnam as part of a general withdrawal, the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) agreed to convert CIDG camps into ARVN Border Ranger camps.

The most highly regarded of the CIDG units, the Mobile Strike Force followed the conversion and integration into the ARVN as well. The LLDB were eventually disbanded.

The former indigenous reconnaissance team personnel previously assigned to work with MACV-SOG (the US military reconnaissance office for MACV) were regrouped into the Intelligence Directorate of the JGS.

This directorate was usually known by the nickname "the 7th Technical Directorate" and was divided into three sections:

- the Coastal Defence Office to deal and manage with all maritime-related reconnaissance activities.
- the Liaison Office to manage the reconnaissance and military intelligence in the northern part of South Vietnam and the adjoining tri-border area (Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia).
- the Topography Office to manage the field reconnaissance activities within South Vietnam.

The ARVN also fielded a airborne-qualified special strike unit, 81st Airborne Ranger

group (Vietnamese: Liên đoàn 81 Biệt cách dù), under the direct command of the JGS.

It can be counted as part of the Special Forces and was under the Special Forces command, later being placed under the JGS command.

The unit was bloodied during the 1968 Tet Offensive and the 1972 Easter Offensive when it was launched into battle to relieve the garrison of An Lộc northwest of Saigon from a People's Army of Vietnam siege.

Some former LLDB personnel were formed into a new clandestine unit, the Vietnamese Special Mission Service (SMS), while others went to serve in the Republic of Vietnam National Police Field Force.

Approximately 5,000 personnel served in the Special Forces during the Vietnam War. After the Fall of Saigon, those who did not managed to escape were sent to re-education camps.

Effectiveness

The LLDB's largest operation occurred with the CIDGs, an immense network of ethnic minorities and montagnards funded and trained with CIA-U.S. Special Forces resources.

Historically, the South Vietnamese considered such minorities inferior, especially the semi-primitive mountain tribes, and this diminished effective cooperation and a mutual sense of purpose between the LLDB and its Central Highland militia.

Command and control was frequently strained, a factor that contributed to an unsuccessful

rebellion in September 1964, by tribal groups loyal to the United Front for the Liberation of Oppressed Races (FULRO).

The degree to which the tribal minorities influenced the war cannot be underestimated. They provided intelligence, acted as scouts, and in many cases became effective guerrilla soldiers.

Thus, the South Vietnamese, despite their racist attitudes, needed the assistance they received from the montagnards, and U.S. Special Forces and Australian Special Air Service (SAS) advisers acted as intermediaries when clashes occurred between the LLDB and the montagnards.

Ultimately, however, the advisers could not exercise complete jurisdiction because the South Vietnamese were technically, though not realistically, in charge of these programs.

During the period of Vietnamization (1969-1972), the number of U.S. advisers was reduced, then eliminated, which forced the LLDB to assume complete control over tens of thousands of ethnic troops, which the ethnic troops resented.

Weapons

The South Vietnam Special Forces were armed mostly with M1 Garand, M1 Carbine and early M16 rifles.

Like the American Special Forces in Vietnam, they would often make use of captured AK-47 and AKM assault rifles.

The M79 grenade launcher, or Thump Gun, was also issued to them. The standard side arm was the .45 Colt pistol.

**Weapons used by
South Vietnam Special Forces**



M1 Garand



M1 Carbine



M16



AK-47



M79 Grenade Launcher



Colt M1911A1



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”

Turning back the clock

When the Russian missile cruiser Marshal Ustinov berthed in Cape Town harbour, she welcomed aboard a 93 year old World War II Arctic Convoy Veteran. History had come a full circle. Regine Lord was there to record the event.

During the last week of November 2019, Cape Town welcomed several warships from two of South Africa's BRICS partners – the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China.

They had come to participate in Exercise Mosi, the first trilateral naval training exercise involving the South African, Russian and Chinese navies in the Southern African oceans.

The theme of Exercise Mosi was to promote safe navigation and maritime economic security, by developing good relations between the three nations, improving interoperability, and training a multinational task force able to counter security threats at sea in order to ensure regional maritime peace, security and stability. It included surface gunnery exercises, helicopter cross-deck landings, assistance to vessel in distress

simulations, anti-piracy and boarding operations and disaster control exercises. The ships' crews also participated in various military social and cultural activities and tours onshore.

From the South African side, the SAS Amatola (F145) Valour-class frigate, the SAS Drakensberg (A301) fleet replenishment ship, and the SAS Protea hydrographic survey vessel were joined by the Chinese Navy's Type 054A frigate Weifang (550), as well as the Russian Navy's Slava-class missile cruiser Marshal Ustinov (055), the Kalingradneft-class medium sea-going tanker Vyaz'ma, and the Project Sliva sea rescue tug SB-406.

The three warships – SAS Amatola, Marshal Ustinov and Weifang – were berthed at Jetty 2 in the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, right in front of the

luxury Table Bay Hotel. All three were open to the public on Tuesday, 26 November, attracting a steady stream of curious visitors, local and overseas.

A particularly special visitor to the Marshal Ustinov was a 93-year-old veteran of the Russian Arctic Convoys of World War II, Mr Joseph Wilkinson, who was accompanied by his daughter Michele and Dr Elna Komarova Tagar. The visit had been arranged thanks to the close cooperation of Consul Dmitry Polyansky from the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Cape Town and Russian Compatriots South Africa.

Captain 1st Rank Vladimir V. Kuzmin graciously and respectfully welcomed Mr Wilkinson on board his ship, and expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Russian people for the role he had played in the Arctic

Convoys. These convoys had come at a time when the Soviet Union was in desperate need of both military and humanitarian supplies, in order to repel the Nazi threat on the Eastern Front. The Russian people have always been very appreciative of the immense sacrifices made by the men who participated and risked their lives in the Atlantic and Arctic Convoys. This was also evident from the reactions of the officers and sailors on board the ship, who immediately recognised the medals Mr Wilkinson wore on his chest; they greeted him with respectful nods and friendly smiles, and some even approached to

shake his hand.

Mr Wilkinson and his entourage were given a tour of the deck of the cruiser.

Bristling with antennas and high-tech equipment, the Marshal Ustinov is an impressive sight indeed. It is named after Dmitry Fyodorovich Ustinov (1908 to 1984), a former Soviet Minister of Defence. With its fearsome attack missile weapons (the ‘Volcano’), air defence missile systems (‘Fort’ and ‘Osa-M’), anti-aircraft artillery systems (‘AK-130’ and ‘AK-630’) and anti-submarine weapons, the cruiser is designed to repel airstrikes and destroy surface ships, underwater targets and coastal targets, as well as to protect and defend convoys and airborne troops during sea crossings.

With a maximum length of 186 metres and a maximum width of 20.8 metres, a maximum speed of 34 knots (63 km/h) and a cruising range of 12,000 km (specifications from the ship’s display poster), it can accommodate a crew of 520 and it carries enough food reserves for 30 days.

As he was shown around the cruiser, Mr Wilkinson remarked that it was significantly larger than the sloop he had sailed on during World War II, when he and his shipmates participated in the Atlantic and Arctic Convoys, which transported tanks, fighter planes, fuel, ammunition, raw materials and food from the United States, Canada and Iceland to Britain and onwards to ports in the north-western Soviet Union.

He commented that he was amazed at the nature of the ar-



CHINESE NAVY: The Chinese Navy’s Type 054A frigate Wei-fang (550)

maments on board and the excellent condition of the ship, and that he had never seen anything quite so shipshape!

Interestingly, the Marshal Ustinov is assigned to the 43rd Missile Ship Division of the Russian Northern Fleet, whose homeport is at Severomorsk, a town located on the Barents Sea along Kola Bay, not far from Murmansk.

The Arctic Convoys, which operated between August 1941 and May 1945, delivering military hardware and supplies to Murmansk and Archangelsk, ended mainly in this area of Kola Bay. This historic connection made Mr Wilkinson’s visit to the Marshal Ustinov all the more special.

During a subsequent interview, Mr Wilkinson graciously shared some of his life story with me, focusing especially on his military service during World War II.

In the next edition of Military Despatches we will be bringing you the full story of Mr Wilkin-

son, including his experiences on the Arctic Convoys, the Atlantic Convoys, D-Day, the time he met King George VI, and his own part in history. It is an article that should not be missed.

Authors Note: With much gratitude to Mr Joseph Wilkinson for sharing his life story with me so generously; I am also indebted to his son Brian and daughter Michele for their gracious assistance and feedback, and for giving me access to their archive material. And I am very grateful to Dr Elina Komarova Tagar for arranging the visit to the Marshal Ustinov and her feedback on this article.

Photo Credits:
Regine Lord



WELCOME ABOARD: Captain 1st Rank Vladimir V. Kuzmin shaking hands with Royal Navy veteran Mr Joseph Wilkinson.

BELOW: Captain Kuzmin welcomes Dr Elina Komarova Tagar aboard.



Hats off to GB Old Boys

SATS General Botha Old Boys Association award bursaries to Sea Cadets to study at Lawhill Maritime Centre. Article by Lt Cdr Glenn Von Zeil.

Two Sea Cadets from TS Woltemade were awarded S.A.T.S. General Botha Old Boys Association bursaries to further their maritime studies at Simon's Town High School, Lawhill Maritime Centre in Simon's Town from 2020. The Sea Cadets are AB Gracia Pillay and AB Juvandre Williams.

In addition, four Sea Cadets from TS Attakwa and TS Woltemade were also awarded maritime bursaries, from undisclosed sources, to Lawhill. They are - AB Cloe Griewelaar (TS Attakwa), Sea Meche Mini (TS Woltemade), AB Sylvino October (TS Attakwa) and Sea Jamie van Rooyen (TS Woltemade).

Sea Cadet Training Ships attract youth from 13 to 17 with an interest in nautical, maritime and naval matters. It is one of many Units located around the country in coastal and Gauteng region staffed by volunteer adult Instructors.

Captain Tony Nicholas, Chairman of the S.A.T.S. General Botha Old Boys Association, indicated that their Bursary Fund intended to establish a long term relationship with the Sea Cadet Corps to provide suitable maritime scholars and thereby keep their organisation relevant. This kind gesture would provide much needed funding for those who had the aptitude however were short of funding. The Maritime economy would ultimately benefit from a core of enthusiastic, well trained

and specialised job seekers.

SATS General Botha

In 1920 the British Cruiser HMS Thames was purchased by Captain TBF Davis, a Master Mariner, entrepreneur, yachtsman and philanthropist as a training platform for the Cape Town Naval Cadet Corps.

A crew was assembled under command of Captain FB Renouf and consisted of a Sea Cadet Officer, 20 Cadets and other skilled men. The ship was renamed the TS General Botha and sailed from England on 8 February 1921 arriving in Cape Town on 26 March 1921 after an eventful journey and much adventure.

It was soon realised that a part time Cadet organisation would be unable to finance and maintain the ship and after negotiation the ship was handed over to the South African Government. It continued to be used for the full time training of young men for careers at sea and for the next 20 years was moored in Simon's Bay. During this period 1276 Cadets were trained with an excellent reputation.

Due to the possibility of German submarine attack during World War II and the risk this imposed on the Cadets were rehoused ashore on Red Hill. The ship was commandeered by the navy and moored in the harbour for accommodation and as a detention quarters.

The S.A.T.S. General Botha was sunk in False Bay on 13 May

1947. The Cadets continued to be trained in Gordons Bay at what has now become Naval College where all SA Navy Officers receive their training. Later the General Botha was relocated to Granger Bay where a custom facility was built. In 1987 the General Botha ceased to exist as the training was taken over by the Cape Technikon. The +3,000 Cadets trained are always spoken of with respect as they all uphold their motto "Honour and Duty".

Traditionally the TS Woltemade Sea Cadets provide a Guard of Honour at the annual General Botha War Memorial Service in central Cape Town. The association between the Sea Cadets and General Botha Old Boys Association is also reflected by the navy blue and dark green colours of the Sea Cadet Ensign and the insignia (eg. ties, cravats, etc) which are used by the Old Boys.

It is therefore significant that the General Botha Old Boys Association wishes to continue the tradition of supporting Sea Cadets in furthering their maritime training.

Lawhill Maritime Centre

The Lawhill Maritime Centre is associated with the Simons Town High School and offers a maritime studies program. This industry focused course provides the school leavers with finding employment in the maritime environment.

Founded in 1995 as a pilot program more than 3000 young southern Africans have success-



LEFT TO RIGHT: Chairman of the S.A.T.S. General Botha Old Boy's Association, Captain Tony Nicholas, and Captain Peter Coetzee, with AB Gracia Pillay and AB Juvandre Williams from TS Woltemade after their award for maritime bursaries to study at Lawhill Maritime School.

fully completed their studies and have gone into various aspects of the maritime and related industries.

The Centre receives no state funding and its students the majority who come from financially stressed homes, are dependant on bursaries provided by the maritime industry to cover their Grade 10 to 12 studies.

The following two quotes sum up the excellent work at the Centre.

"The Lawhill programme has shown that we can find and nurture maritime talent amongst those who have no idea such an industry exists, let alone knowing about exciting careers it offers." Brian Ingpen, Lawhill Maritime Centre

"Many schools do a good job of educating the youth, but few schools prepare young students for a career. A school such as Lawhill Maritime Centre at Simons Town School is exactly what South Africa needs considering the country's high levels of unemployment." Sean Day, South African born

Chairman of the Teekay Corporation (and an ex cadet of the General Botha).

The TS Woltemade Cadets

AB Gracia Pillay resides in Kuilsriver and has attended Simon's Town High School where maths and science are included in her curriculum. She explained that she was "honoured to have been given the opportunity to study maritime subjects" by both General Botha and Lawhill. She aspires to be a harbour pilot and this opportunity is the start of her journey towards this goal. She started as a Sea Cadet mascot from the age of 7 as she was too young to attest. When not actively participating at TS Woltemade she enjoys family interaction, outdoor activities, reading and swimming.

AB Juvandre Williams resides in De Gama Park. Maths and science were subjects he chose with a view to a future career. He is a described by his peers as a gentleman, enjoys outdoor activities, swimming and his dream is to be a marine engineer.

Officer Commanding TS Attikwa and TS Woltemade, Ens Juwayriah Syster and Lt Cdr Paul Jacobs, expressed their delight at the opportunity afforded the Sea Cadets knowing that they would both make good use of the opportunities provided.

May these Sea Cadets dreams become a reality as they are inspired by the teaching staff and scholars at Lawhill Maritime Centre. May they also provide a platform for other youth to follow their maritime dreams.

Should you wish to assist any of the following please contact:

SATS General Botha Old Boys Association
Captain Tony Nicholas, Chairman
www.generalbotha.co.za
cptchairman@generalbotha.co.za

Lawhill Maritime Centre
www.lawhill.org
info@lawhill.org

South African Sea Cadets
Lt Cdr Glenn von Zeil
seacadetswc@gmail.com

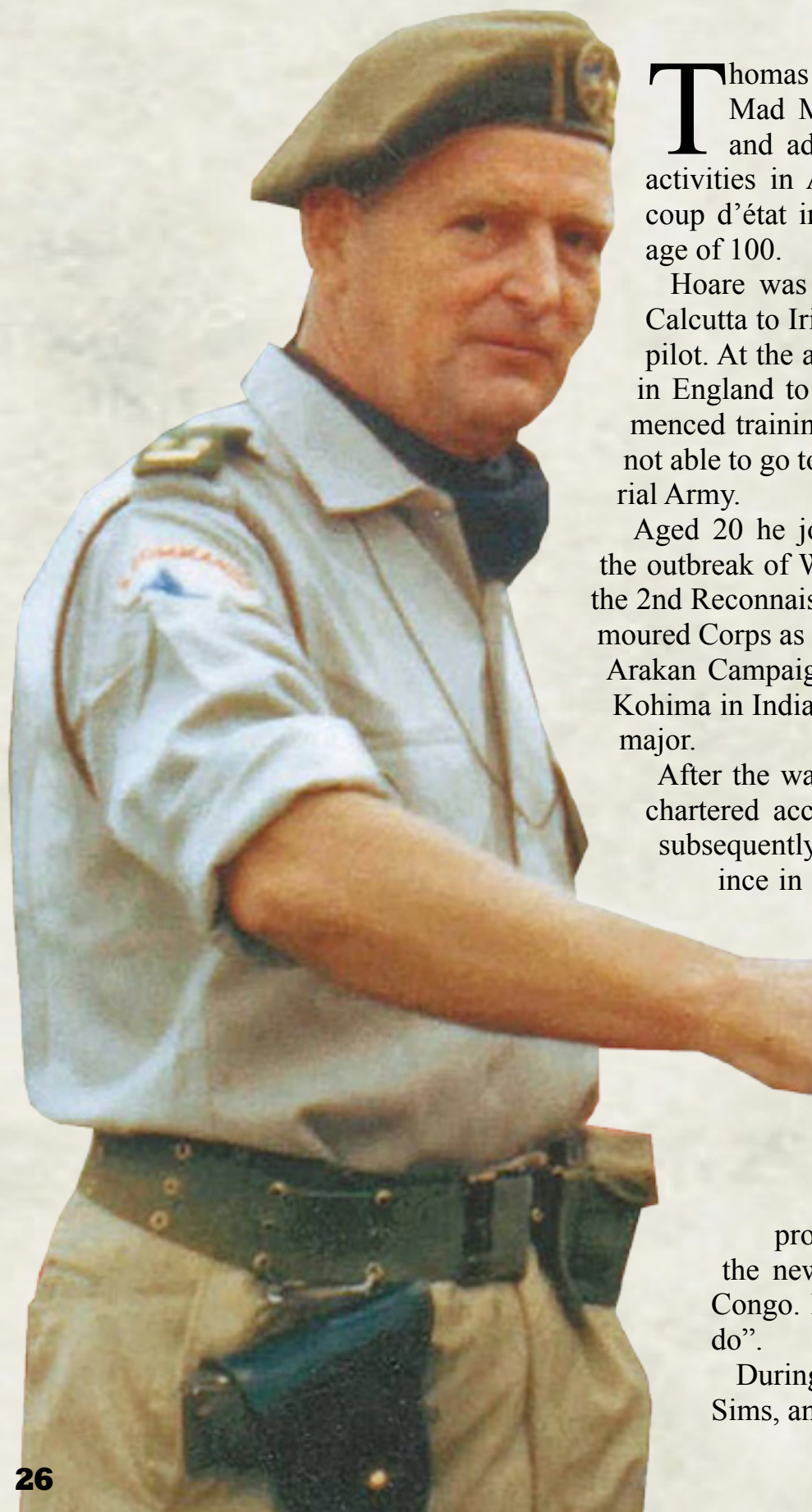
An interesting note:

Captain Iain Peddle, a Master Mariner, was trained in the General Botha and is retired from sea. He served on the staff of the Lawhill Maritime Centre where he taught aspects of seamanship and cargo stowage. On a Saturdays he gives instruction to the TS Woltemade Sea Cadets on navigation and other related seamanship subjects.

Are there perhaps other experienced seafarers who may wish to assist the Sea Cadets around the country?

'Mad Mike' Hoare dies aged 100

Michael "Mad Mike" Hoare, widely considered one of the world's best known mercenary, has died aged 100.



Thomas Michael Hoare, better known as Mad Mike Hoare, a soldier of fortune and adventurer known for his military activities in Africa and attempt to conduct a coup d'état in the Seychelles, has died at the age of 100.

Hoare was born on Saint Patrick's Day in Calcutta to Irish parents. His father was a river pilot. At the age of eight he was sent to school in England to Margate College and then commenced training in accountancy and, as he was not able to go to Sandhurst, he joined the Territorial Army.

Aged 20 he joined the London Irish Rifles at the outbreak of World War II, later he then joined the 2nd Reconnaissance Regiment of the Royal Armoured Corps as a 2nd lieutenant and fought in the Arakan Campaign in Burma and at the Battle of Kohima in India. He was promoted to the rank of major.

After the war, he completed his training as a chartered accountant, qualifying in 1948. He subsequently emigrated to Durban, Natal Province in the Union of South Africa where

he later ran safaris and became a soldier-for-hire in various African countries.

The Congo crisis

Hoare led two separate mercenary groups during the Congo Crisis. Hoare's first mercenary action was in 1961 in Katanga, a province trying to break away from the newly independent Republic of the Congo. His unit was called "4 Commando".

During this time he married Phyllis Sims, an airline stewardess.



THE WILD GEESE: Mad Mike Hoare (centre) on the set of the 1978 film 'The Wild Geese'. Hoare was the technical advisor. With him are Roger Moore (left) and Richard Burton (right).

In 1964, Congolese Prime Minister Moïse Tshombe, his employer in Katanga, hired Major Hoare to lead a military unit called 5 Commando, *Armée Nationale Congolaise* (5 Commando ANC) made up of about 300 men most of whom were from South Africa.

His second-in-command was a fellow ex-British Army officer, Commandant Alistair Wicks. The unit's mission was to fight a revolt known as the Simba rebellion.

Later Hoare and his mercenaries worked in concert with Belgian paratroopers, Cuban exile pilots, and CIA-hired mercenaries who attempted to save 1,600 civilians (mostly Europeans and missionaries) in Stanleyville from the Simba rebels in Operation Dragon Rouge.

This operation saved many

lives. Hoare was later promoted to lieutenant-colonel in the *Armée Nationale Congolaise* and 5 Commando expanded into a two-battalion force. Hoare commanded 5 Commando from July 1964 to November 1965.

Speaking on the conflict, he said, "I had wanted nothing so much as to have 5 Commando known as an integral part of the AMC, a 5 Commando destined to strike a blow to rid the Congo of the greatest cancer the world has ever known - the creeping, insidious disease of communism."

Later, Hoare wrote his own account of 5 Commando's role in the 1960s Congo mercenary war, originally titled *Congo Mercenary* and much later repeatedly republished in pa-

perback simply as *Mercenary* (subtitled "The Classic Account of Mercenary Warfare").

The Wild Geese

In the mid-1970s, Hoare was hired as technical adviser for the film *The Wild Geese*, the fictional story of a group of mercenary soldiers hired to rescue a deposed African president.

The character "Colonel Alan Faulkner" (played by Richard Burton) was modelled on Hoare.

At least one of the actors in the film, Ian Yule, had been a mercenary under Hoare's command, before which he had served in the British Parachute Regiment and Special Air Service (SAS).

Of the actors playing mercenaries, four were born in Africa, two were former POWs, and most had received military training. The film also starred Roger Moore, Richard Harris, and Hardy Kruger.

The Seychelles Affair

In 1978, Seychelles exiles in South Africa, acting on behalf of ex-president James Mancham, discussed with South African Government officials launching a coup d'état against the new president France-Albert René, who had "promoted" himself from prime minister while Mancham was out of the country.

The coup was seen favourably by some in Washington, D.C., due to the United States' concerns over access to its new military base on Diego Garcia island, the necessity to move operations from the Seychelles to Diego Garcia, and the de-

termination that René was not someone who would be in favour of the United States.

Associates of Mancham contacted Hoare, then in South Africa as a civilian resident, to fight alongside fifty-three other mercenary soldiers, including ex-South African Special Forces, former Rhodesian soldiers, and ex-Congo mercenaries.

In November 1981 Hoare gathered together a group of white, middle class mercenaries, and dubbed them “Ye Ancient Order of Froth Blowers” (AOFB) after a charitable English social club of the 1920s.

The plan was to fly the group into the Seychelles on a chartered flight. In order for the plan to work, he disguised the mercenaries as a rugby club, and hid AK-47s in the bottom of his luggage, as he explained in his book ‘The Seychelles Affair’.

“We were a Johannesburg beer-drinking club. We met formally once a week in our favourite pub in Braamfontein. We played Rugby. Once a year we organised a holiday for our members. We obtained special charter rates. Last year we went to Mauritius. In the best traditions of the original AOFB we collected toys for underprivileged kids and distributed them to orphanages ... I made sure the toys were as bulky as possible and weighed little. Rugger footballs were ideal. These were packed in the special baggage above the false bottom to compensate for the weight of the weapon.”

The fighting started prematurely when one of Hoare’s men accidentally got into the “something to declare” line at which

the customs officer insisted on searching his bag.

The rifles were well-concealed in the false-bottomed kitbags; however, one rifle was found and a customs officer sounded the alarm. One of Hoare’s men pulled his own, disassembled AK-47 from the concealed compartment in the luggage, assembled it, loaded it and shot the escaping customs man before he could reach the other side of the building.

The plan for the coup proceeded despite this set-back with one team of Hoare’s men attempting to capture a barracks.

Fighting ensued at the airport and in the middle of this, an Air India jet (Air India Boeing aircraft Flight 224), landed at the airport, damaging a flap on one of the trucks strewn on the runway.

Hoare managed to negotiate a ceasefire before the aircraft and passengers were caught in the crossfire. After several hours, the mercenaries found themselves in an unfavourable position and some wanted to depart on the aircraft, which needed fuel.

Hoare conceded and the captain of the aircraft allowed them on board after Hoare had found fuel for the aircraft.

On board, Hoare asked the captain why he had landed when he had been informed of the fighting taking place, to which the pilot responded once the aircraft had started to descend he did not have enough fuel to climb the aircraft back to cruising altitude and still make his destination.

Hoare’s men still had their

weapons and Hoare asked the captain if he would allow the door to be opened so they could ditch the weapons over the sea before they returned to South Africa, but the captain laughed at Hoare’s out-of-date knowledge on how pressurized aircraft functioned, telling him it would not be at all possible.

Four of the mercenary soldiers were left behind and were convicted of treason in the Seychelles.

In January 1982 an International Commission, appointed by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 496, inquired into the attempted coup d’état. The UN report concluded that South African defence agencies were involved, including supplying weapons and ammunition.

Being associated with the South African security services, the hijackers were initially charged with kidnapping, which carries no minimum sentence, but this was upgraded to hijacking after international pressure.

Hoare was found guilty of aeroplane hijacking and sentenced to ten years in prison. In total, 42 of the 43 alleged hijackers were convicted. One of the mercenaries, an American veteran of the Vietnam War, was found not guilty of hijacking, as he had been seriously wounded in the firefight and was loaded aboard while sedated.

Many of the other mercenaries, including the youngest of the group, Raif St Clair, were quietly released after three months in their own prison wing. Hoare’s brother-in-law Robert Sims and Sims’ common-law wife Susan Ingles were not charged. Hoare



Click above to watch a trailer for the film ‘The Wild Geese’.

spent 33 months in prison until released after a Christmas Presidential amnesty.

Private life

Hoare was a chartered accountant and member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. Previously the Institute had said

it could not expel him despite protests from members as he had committed no offence and paid his membership dues. His imprisonment allowed the ICAEW to expel him from membership in 1983.

Hoare married Elizabeth Stott in New Delhi in 1945 and together they had three children,

Chris, Tim and Geraldine.

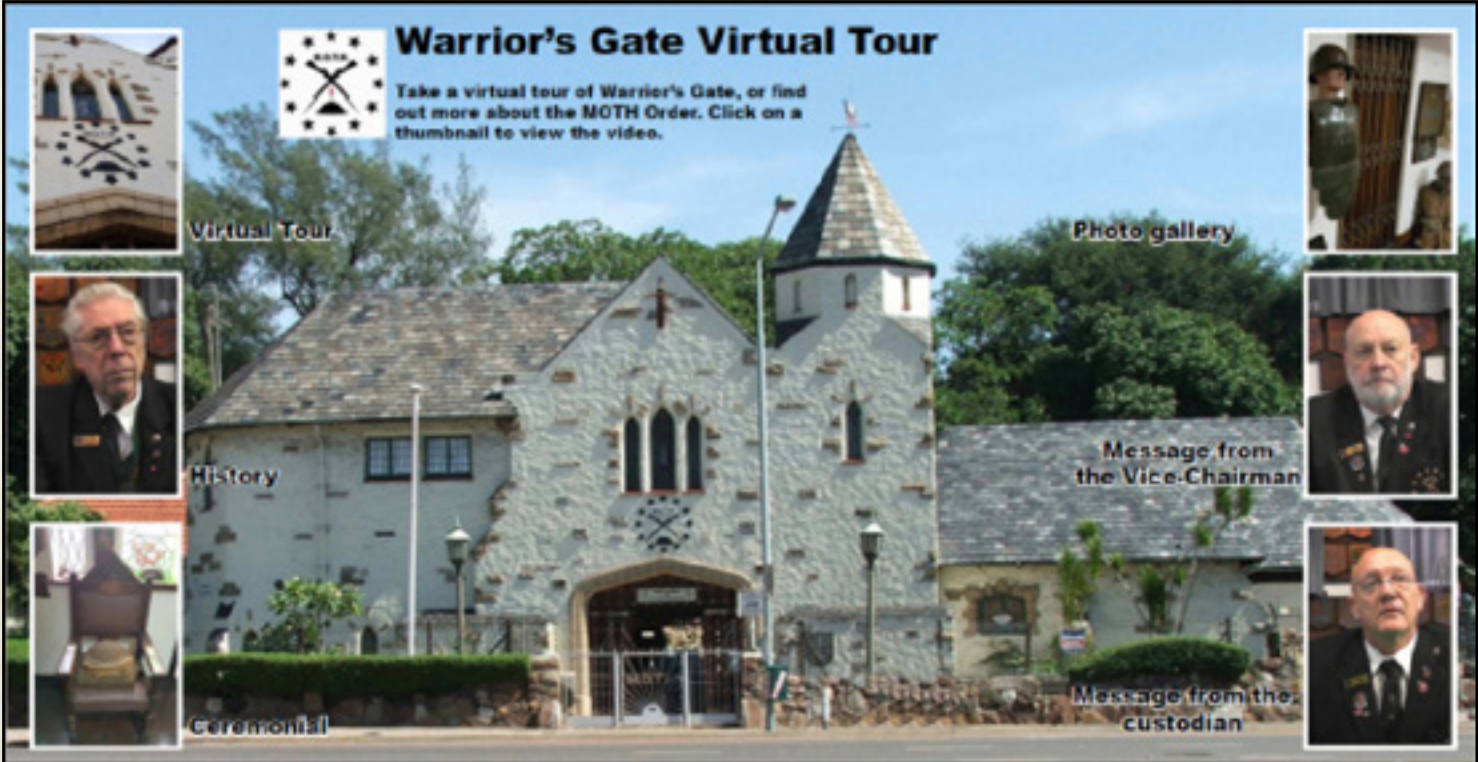
He left accountancy and ran a motor car business. In 1954, he motorcycled across Africa from Cape Town to Cairo.

In 1958 he set up a safari business in the Kalahari and the Okavango delta. A keen sailor, he had a yacht in Durban, then later bought a 23 metre Baltic trader called Sylvia in which he sailed the Western Mediterranean for three years with his family and wrote a book about the travels.

After divorcing in 1960, he married airline stewardess Phyllis Sims in 1961 and they had two children, Michael Jeremy and Simon.

Thomas Michael Hoare died in Durban on 2 February 2020, just over a month short of his 101st birthday.

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.



Youth support appreciated

Ex TS Woltemade Sea Cadet assists the youth of Cape Town. And the support and belief in our youth is appreciated. By Lt Cdr Glenn von Zeil, SA Naval Reserves.

An ex-Sea Cadet from TS Woltemade, now resident in Namibia, recently reached into his heart to give South African youth the same opportunities and experience he was given as a teenage boy – that of learning seamanship, sailing and things maritime.

In 1976 father Arie and son Bart Reiman took the lead and with the TS Woltemade ship's company constructed a much needed slipway and quay opposite the unit in Lakeside. For the first time the Sea Cadets could launch and recover their pulling and sailing boats. At the time Bart was also a Sea Cadet at TS Woltemade. As a result he has a close association with unit and as a citizen with a conscience has had a desire to give something back to the youth, especially where discipline and maritime skills are taught and implemented.

Over the years the Officers and Sea Cadets from TS Woltemade have repaired the slipway and quay. However, the soil under the slipway had become eroded and the wheels of the dollies carrying the Saldanha dingies, built at the unit and used for pulling and sail training, dropped off the lip. This resulted in the Sea Cadets struggling to retrieve their boats and an operation far beyond their capacity.

Due to the long history with



SUPPORT: Ex TS Woltemade Sea Cadet Bart Reiman addresses the guests and ship's company at the opening ceremony of the refurbished slipway.

the unit Admiral (JG) (Ret) Koos Louw, Chairman of the Sea Cadet Board, approached Bart to assist financially with repairing the slipway. He assessed his finances and kindly made a sizable sum available for the repairs which created leverage for the project so that Adm Louw could start the project.

A contractor was recommended by a Captain in the SANDF Reserves and this proved to be good advice. The contractor, GMC Diving & Marine Civil, accepted the offer and agreed to add 50% to complete the task. The reconstruction included placing new concrete slabs for a reconstructed slipway and repairs to the jetty. This was undertaken by divers.

While conducting the reconstruction they were exposed to the Sea Cadets in training and were impressed with their pas-

sion, commitment, discipline, seamanship training and skills. As a result the company donated the full cost of the work to the Sea Cadets.

Bart Reiman and his family attended the TS Woltemade Prize giving Parade and opened the new slipway.

Thank you to Bart Reiman, ex TS Woltemade Sea Cadet now resident Walvis Bay, Namibia, Robert Bower of GMC Diving & Marine Civil for ensuring that the Sea Cadets can continue to launch and recover their boats.

The Sea Cadet organisation would like to invite other ex-Sea Cadets to follow the example of Bart Reiman. Please contact your old Training Ship Officer Commanding to see how you can assist the youth who are experiencing some challenging times.



OFFICIALLY OPEN: Ex TS Woltemade Sea Cadet Bart Reiman cuts the ribbon at the opening of the refurbished slipway at TS Woltemade, giving youth in Cape Town the same opportunities he experienced as a teenager.



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The Voice of the Valley on 88.5 fm

US Marine uniform and kit - Vietnam 1960s

Coat Tropical WR Class II

The tight weave on this shirt made it wind-resistant and almost waterproof. The fabric was found to offer a good mix of breathability and defence against biting insects.

M1 Helmet

The M1 was a slightly modified version of the famous World War II helmet. It featured a pressure clip, which was introduced to reduce the risk of choking.



1941 Pack

This small pack was used to hold rations and personal effects, while the rolled sheet of camouflage canvas formed half of a “pup” tent when joined to a second sheet.



Angle head flashlight



Local map



Parachute flare

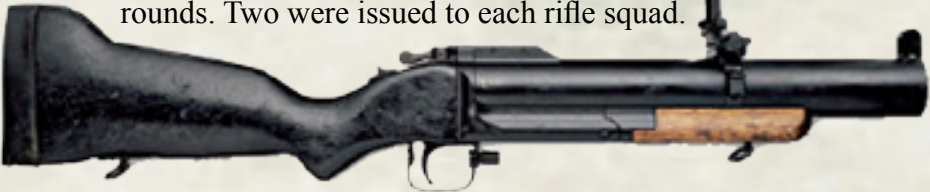
M14 rifle

Designed to use the then standard NATO round, the US M14 replaced the old M1 rifle. The M14 possessed a fully automatic fire capability and was equipped with a larger magazine. By the late 1960s, it was replaced by the M16.



M79 Grenade Launcher

With a maximum range of 300m, the M79 grenade launcher bridged the gap between the hand grenade and the mortar. As well as firing high explosive, the M79 could fire anti-personnel, smoke, and illuminating rounds. Two were issued to each rifle squad.



M67 Grenades

The M67 “baseball” grenade had a notched-wire interior designed to fragment into many small pieces on the detonation of its high-explosive charge.



M61 Webbing

The straps of the M61 webbing looped over the Marine infantryman’s shoulders to help take the weight of the equipment hung around his waistbelt.



M60 Machine gun

The M60 was the US example of the general-purpose machine gun - inheriting some design features from the German MG42. It was widely used by the US Marine Corps in Vietnam and is still in service today.

Jungle Boots

These tropical combat (or jungle) boots were among the most common type issued to Marines. Their hard rubber soles were directly molded on since stitching tended to rot in the hot climate. From 1967, Panama sole boots were issued, with an embedded steel plate to protect against punji-stick booby-traps.



A matter of survival - Fish and fishing

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 fish as a food source.

By now you should have a better idea of how to trap and hunt on land. There is, however, another potential source of food - and that can be found in water.

If you are near a river or lake, then you will probably be able to find fish.

Fish are a valuable food source, containing protein, vitamins and fats. All fresh-water fish are edible, but some tropical fish can be dangerous.

It takes skill to catch fish by conventional methods, but, by considering their feeding habits and following the simple methods given here, you can be successful.

Fish range in size from tiny tiddlers to some of prodigious size. They differ widely in their eating habits and diet.

Different kinds of fish feed at different times and at different levels in the water. Some prey on other fish, others eat worms and insects, but the can all be attracted and hooked with appropriate bait.

If you are an experienced angler you can apply your skills, especially if you have plenty of time on your hands, and will probably gain a lot of pleasure, but if you are fishing for survival the sporting angler's techniques are not the most effective.

Two of the most useful methods are the night line and the gill net.

Where to fish

Fish choose the places in the water where they are most comfortable and where they most easily find their prey. This will be affected by the temperature of the day.

If it is hot and the water is low, fish in shaded water and where there are deep pools. In a lake fish retreat to the coolness of deep water in hot weather.

In cold weather choose a shallow place where the sun warms the water. Lake fish will tend to keep to the edges which are warmer.

If the river is in flood, fish where the water is slack - on the outside of a bend - for example, or in a small tributary feeding the mainstream if its flow is different - quite possible for the flood may not be due to local rainfall.

Fish like to shelter under banks and below rocks and submerged rocks.

When to fish

As a general rule leave lines out overnight and check the just before first light. Some fish feed at night during a full moon.

If a storm is imminent fish before it breaks. Fishing is poor in a river after a heavy rain.

Indications of fish feeding

Signs that fish are feeding, and therefore likely to take a

bait, are when the jump out of the water, or you see frequent clear ring ripples breaking out where the fish are taking flies on the surface.

Where lots of little fish are darting about they may well be pursued by a larger predatory fish.

ANGLING

Fishing with a hook and line is the popular way of fishing (though other methods are usually more effective) and they are part of your survival kit.

Hooks can be improvised from wire, pins, bones, wood and even thorns.

Large hooks will catch large fish but small ones will catch both large and small fish.

Near the end of the line you will probably need to attach another short length with a weight to take the hook down and stop the line being carried along the surface of the water, especially if fishing deep.

If it is a long line you also need another length with a float which will be pulled down when you get a bite.

A rod is not essential as you can fish effectively with a handline but makes it easier to land fish and to cast away from the bank.

Image refraction

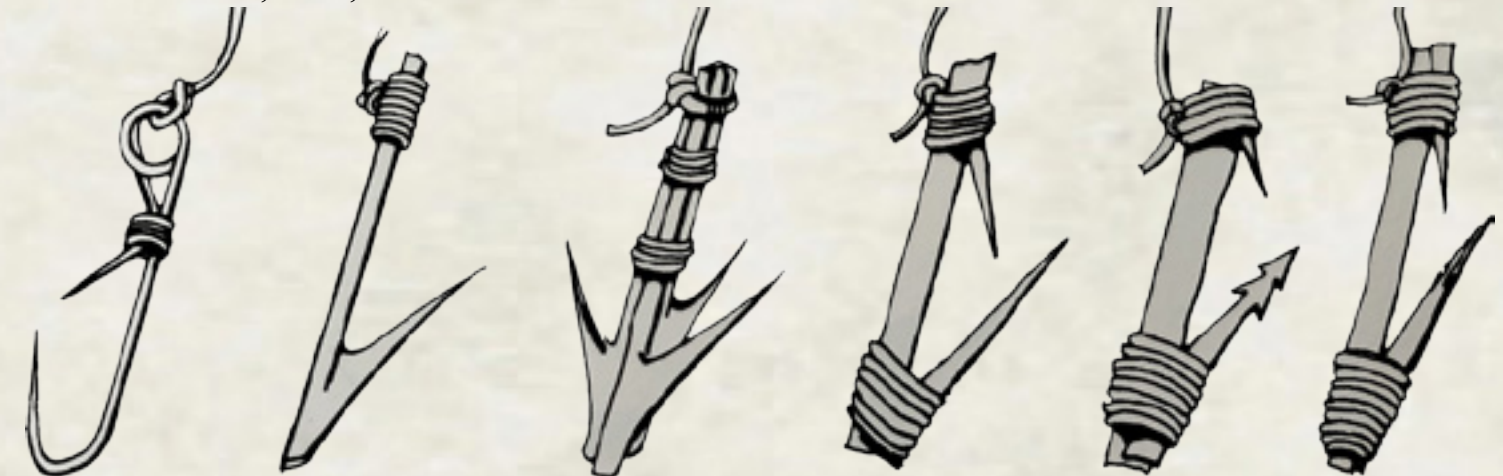
Water refracts light so that the fish sees things above the water at a slightly different angle - and can probably see more on the bank than you think.

It is always better to fish from a sitting or kneeling position than standing up so that you are less likely to be in vision.

Keep back from the edge. Always try to keep your shadow off the water you are fishing.



You can improvise hooks from all kinds of materials. Below (from left to right) a pin, a thorn, a bunch of thorns, nails, bone and wood have been used.

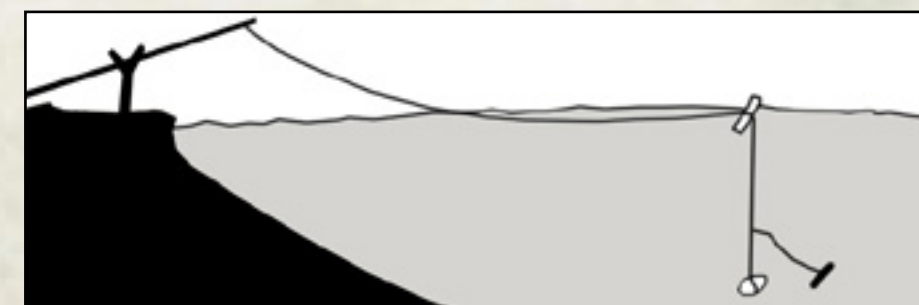
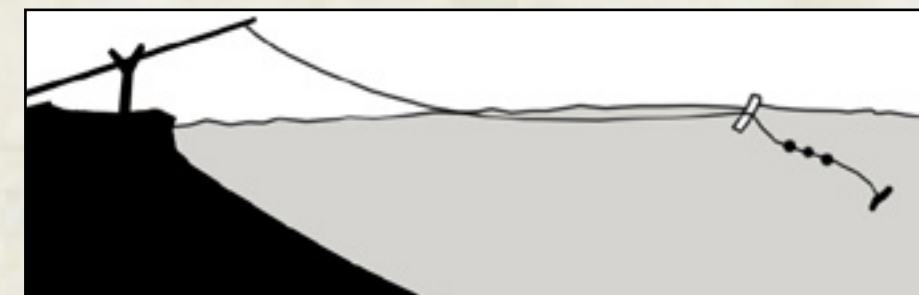
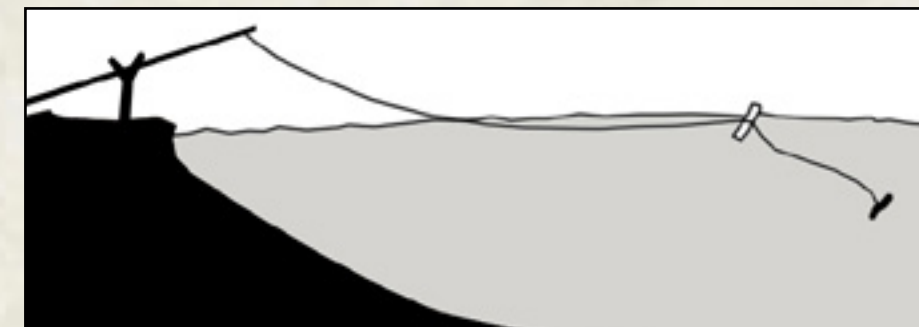


Using floats and weights

Along the line attach a small floating object, easily visible from the bank, and you will be able to see when you have a bite. Its position will help control where the line descends.

Small weight between the float and the hook will stop the line from trailing along the water or prevent it from being too near the surface in a current.

A deeper hook position can be ensured by extending the line to a weight below the hook.



Rank Structure - South Vietnam

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 Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN).

The Republic of Vietnam Military Forces (*Quân lực Việt Nam Cộng hòa*), were the official armed defence forces of South Vietnam, a state that existed from 1955 to 1975 in the southern half of what is now Vietnam. The RVNMF was responsible for the defence of South Vietnam since the state's independence from France in October 1955 to its demise in April 1975. After the liberation of Saigon, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and United States major combat operations were all the US military adviser program from the United States Department of Defence.



Army (1967-1975)

NCO's & Warrant Officer



Binh Nhất
Private First Class



Hạ Sĩ
Corporal



Hạ Sĩ Nhất
Corporal First Class



Trung Sĩ
Sergeant



Trung Sĩ Nhất
Sergeant First Class



Thượng Sĩ
First Sergeant



Thượng Sĩ Nhất
Sergeant Major

Officers



Sinh viên Sĩ quan
Officer Cadet



Chuẩn úy
Aspirant



Thiếu úy
Second Lieutenant



Trung úy
First Lieutenant



Đại úy
Captain



Thiếu tá
Major



Trung tá
Lieutenant Colonel



Đại tá
Colonel



Chuẩn tướng
Brigadier General



Thiếu tướng
Major General



Đại tướng
General



Trung tướng
Lieutenant General



Thống tướng
General of the Army

Navy (1967-1975)

NCO's & Warrant Officer



Binh Nhất
Seaman



Hạ Sĩ
Able Seaman



Hạ Sĩ Nhất
Leading Seaman



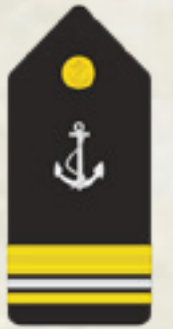
Trung Sĩ
Petty Officer Second Class



Trung Sĩ Nhất
Petty Officer First Class



Thượng Sĩ
Chief Petty Officer



Thượng Sĩ Nhất
Warrant Officer

Officers



Sinh viên Sĩ quan
Officer Cadet



Chuẩn úy
Midshipman



Thiếu úy
Ensign



Trung úy
Lieutenant Junior Grade



Đại úy
Lieutenant



Thiếu tá
Lieutenant Commander



Trung tá
Commander



Đại tá
Captain



Phó đề đốc
Commodore



Đề đốc
Rear Admiral



Phó đô đốc
Vice Admiral



Đô đốc
Admiral



Thủy sư Đô đốc
Admiral of the Fleet

Marines (1967-1975)

NCO's & Warrant Officer



Binh Nhất
Private First Class



Hạ Sĩ
Corporal



Hạ Sĩ Nhất
Corporal First Class



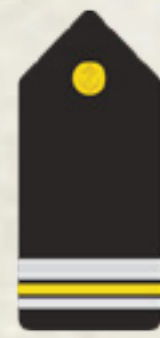
Trung Sĩ
Sergeant



Trung Sĩ Nhất
Sergeant First Class



Thượng Sĩ
First Sergeant



Thượng Sĩ Nhất
Sergeant Major

Officers



Sinh viên Sĩ quan
Officer Cadet



Chuẩn úy
Aspirant



Thiếu úy
Second Lieutenant



Trung úy
First Lieutenant



Đại úy
Captain



Thiếu tá
Major



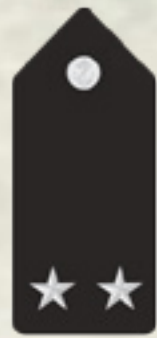
Trung tá
Lieutenant Colonel



Đại tá
Colonel



Chuẩn tướng
Brigadier General



Thiếu tướng
Major General



Trung tướng
Lieutenant General

Air Force (1967-1975)

NCO's & Warrant Officer



Binh Nhì
Airman



Binh Nhất
Airman First Class



Hạ Sĩ
Corporal



Hạ Sĩ Nhất
Corporal First Class



Trung Sĩ
Sergeant



Trung Sĩ Nhất
Sergeant First Class



Thượng Sĩ
First Sergeant



Thượng Sĩ Nhất
Sergeant Major

Officers



Sinh viên Sĩ quan
Officer Cadet



Chuẩn úy
Aspirant



Thiếu úy
Second Lieutenant



Trung úy
First Lieutenant



Đại úy
Captain



Thiếu tá
Major



Trung tá
Lieutenant Colonel



Đại tá
Colonel



Chuẩn tướng
Brigadier General



Thiếu tướng
Major General



Trung tướng
Lieutenant General



Đại tướng
General



Thống tướng
General of the Air Force

Military Strength

In the seventh of a series of articles, we examine Infantry Fighting Vehicles (IFV) used by the ten strongest current military forces.

Last month we looked at the Main Battle Tank (MBT) used by the ten strongest military forces. This month we look at Infantry Fighting Vehicles (IFV) that each of these countries uses.

An infantry fighting vehicle, also known as a mechanized infantry combat vehicle (MICV), is a type of armoured fighting vehicle used to carry infantry into battle and provide direct-fire support.

The infantry fighting vehicle (IFV) concept evolved directly out of that of the armoured personnel carrier (APC).

South Africa were the first country to use wheeled IFV as opposed to ones with tracks.



10. Germany

Total military personnel – 210,305

Marder 1A3

The Marder (German for “marten”) is a German infantry fighting vehicle operated by the German Army as the main weapon of the *Panzergranadiere* (mechanized infantry) from the 1970s through to the present day.



- Designer: Rheinmetall Landsysteme
- Designed: 1960–1969
- Manufacturer: Rheinmetall Landsysteme, Maschinenbau Kiel
- Weight: 33.5 tonnes
- Length: 6.79 metres
- Width: 3.24 metres
- Height: 2.98 metres
- Crew: 3+6
- Armour: Welded steel, protection up to 20 mm APDS

- Main armament: 20 mm Rheinmetall MK 20 Rh 202 automatic cannon; MILAN ATGM launcher
- Secondary armament: 7.62 mm MG3 machine gun
- Engine: MTU MB 833 Ea-500 diesel engine
- 441 kW (591 hp)
- Operational range: 520 km
- Speed: 65 km/h

Puma

The Puma is a German infantry fighting vehicle (Schützenpanzer or short SPz) designed to replace the aging Marder IFVs currently in service with the German Army. Production of the first batch of 350 vehicles began in 2010 and is scheduled for completion by August 2020.



- Designer: Krauss-Maffei Wegmann; Rheinmetall Landsysteme
- Designed: 1996–2009
- Manufacturer: Rheinmetall Landsysteme
- Weight: 31,45 tonnes
- Length: 7.6 metres
- Width: 3.9 metres
- Height: 3.6 metres

- Crew: 3+6
- Armour: Modular AMAP composite armour
- Main armament: 30 mm MK30-2/ABM auto-cannon
- Secondary armament: 7.62 mm MG5; Spike LR anti-tank guided missile; 6-shot 76 mm grenade launcher
- Engine: MTU V10 892 diesel
- Operational range: 460 km
- Speed: 70 km/h



9. Turkey

Total military personnel – 891,300

FNSS ACV-15

ACV-15 is the designation of an amphibious armoured combat vehicle family developed by the Turkish defence company FNSS Savunma Sistemleri A.Ş. The ACV-15 is based on the American Advanced Infantry Fighting Vehicle.



- Manufacturer: FNSS Defence Systems
- Weight: 14 tonnes
- Length: 5.26 metres
- Width: 2.83 metres
- Height: 2.88 metres
- Crew: 3+8
- Armour: Aluminium hull
- Main armament: 25mm

- Secondary 7.62mm machine gun
- Engine: Detroit Diesel Model 6V-53T
- Operational range: 490 km
- Speed: 65 km/h



8. United Kingdom

Total military personnel – 157,500

Warrior

The Warrior tracked vehicle family is a series of British armoured vehicles, originally developed to replace the older FV430 series of armoured vehicles. The Warrior started life as the MCV-80, “Mechanised Combat Vehicle for the 1980s”.

- Designer: GKN Sankey
- Designed: 1984
- Manufacturer: BAe Systems
- Weight: 25.4 tonnes
- Length: 6.3 metres
- Width: 3.03 metres
- Height: 2.8 metres
- Crew: 3+7
- Armour: Aluminium and



- appliqué
- Main armament: 30 mm L21A1 RARDEN cannon
- Secondary armament: L94A1 coaxial 7.62 mm chain gun; 7.62 mm machine gun
- Engine: Perkins V-8 Condor Diesel
- Operational range: 660 km
- Speed: 50 km/h



7. Republic of Korea

Total military personnel – 3,699,000

K21

A replacement for the South Korean K200-series infantry fighting vehicles, formerly designated as K300 or XK21 KNIFV (Korea Next-generation Infantry Fighting Vehicle), is currently called the K21. The initial production began in 2009.

- Designer: Agency for Defense Development
- Designed: 1999–2008
- Manufacturer: Hanwha Defence
- Weight: 25.6 tonnes
- Length: 6.9 metres
- Width: 3.4 metres



- Height: 2.6 metres
- Crew: 3+9
- Armour: Reinforced ceramic armour
- Main armament: K40 40 mm auto-cannon
- Secondary armament: 7.62 mm M60 GPMG
- Engine: Doosan-D2840LXE diesel
- Operational range: 500 km
- Speed: 40 km/h



6. Japan

Total military personnel – 310,457

Mitsubishi Type 89

The Mitsubishi Type 89 IFV is a Japanese infantry fighting vehicle that entered service with the Japan Ground Self-Defence Force in 1989. There were 58 vehicles in service as of 1999 and a total of 120 produced by 2014 with 300 planned.

- Designer: Mitsubishi Heavy Industries
- Designed: 1989–2004
- Manufacturer: Mitsubishi Heavy Industries
- Weight: 26.5 tonnes
- Length: 6.8 metres
- Width: 3.2 metres
- Height: 2.5 metres
- Crew: 3+7



- Armour: Steel ceramic composite armour
- Main armament: 35 mm KDE cannon
- Secondary armament: 2 × Type 79 Jyu-MAT missile; Type 74 7.62 mm coaxial machine gun
- Engine: Mitsubishi 6SY31WA Water-cooled 6-cylinder diesel
- Operational range: 400 km
- Speed: 70 km/h



5. France

Total military personnel – 426,265

VBCI

The Véhicule Blindé de Combat d’Infanterie is a French Infantry fighting vehicle designed to replace the AMX-10P.

- Manufacturer: Giat Industries / Renault VI
- Weight: 28.5 tonnes
- Length: 7.6 metres
- Width: 2.98 metres
- Height: 3 metres
- Crew: 3+8
- Armour: Protection against 14.5 mm API
- Main armament: Canon mitrailleur GIAT modèle M811 NATO calibre 25 mm



- Secondary armament: Co-axial 7.62 mm NATO machine gun
- Engine: Renault Diesel 550 hp
- Operational range: 750 km
- Speed: 100 km/h



4. India

Total military personnel – 2,598,921

BMP-2 “Sarath”

BMP-2 “Sarath” (“Chariot of Victory”), also known as BMP-II - Indian licence-produced variant of the BMP-2, built by Ordnance Factory Medak.

- Manufacturer: Kurgan-mashzavod
- Weight: 14.3 tonnes
- Length: 6.735 metres
- Width: 3.15 metres
- Height: 2.45 metres
- Crew: 3+7
- Armour: 33 millimetre plate
- Main armament: Turret with 30 mm auto-cannon 2A42



- and 9M113 Konkurs ATGM
- Secondary armament: 7.62 mm machine gun (PKTM)
- Engine: Diesel UTD-20/3
- 300 hp
- Operational range: 600 km
- Speed: 45 km/h

Abhay

Abhay (“Fearless”) is an Infantry Combat Vehicle (ICV) being developed in India by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Abhay is being developed as a technology demonstrator for replacing Indian Army BMP-2s.

- Designer: DRDO
- Manufacturer: Ordnance Factory Medak
- Weight: 23 tonnes
- Length: Not known
- Width: Not known
- Height: Not known
- Crew: 3+7
- Armour: Kanchan Armour with Optional ERA



- Main armament: 40 mm L/70 auto-cannon
- Secondary armament: 30 mm automatic Grenade Launcher; 7.62 mm PKT co-axial machine gun; 2 × Konkurs-M or MILAN
- ATGM
- Engine: Diesel UTD-20/3
- 300 hp
- Operational range: 400 km
- Speed: 35 km/h



3. China

Total military personnel – 2,545,000

The People’s Liberation Army Ground Force makes use of eight different types of IFV. These are:

- CS/AA5 – Specialized IFV variant based on Type 08.
- ZBL-08 – IFV variant of Type 08 modular infantry fighting vehicle.
- ZBD-05 – amphibious infantry fighting vehicle.
- ZBD-04A – infantry fighting vehicle.
- BMD-3 – airborne infantry fighting vehicle.
- ZBD-03 – airborne infantry fighting vehicle.
- ZSD-89-II – IFV based on Type 89 APC.
- Type 86 – Chinese copy of Russian BMP-1.

ZBD-04

The ZBD-04 or Type 04 (industrial designation WZ502) is a Chinese infantry fighting vehicle. It bears some external resemblance to the BMP-3, particularly with regards to its turret and main armament

- Weight: 20 tonnes
- Length: 7.2 metres
- Width: 3.2 metres
- Height: 2.5 metres
- Crew: 3+7
- Armour: Welded steel
- Main armament: 100 mm rifled gun; 30 mm auto-can-



- non
- Secondary armament: 7.62 mm coaxial machine gun; 4 x HJ-8 anti-tank missiles
- Engine: 670 hp diesel
- Operational range: 500 km
- Speed: 75 km/h

South African first

The Ratel, a South African infantry fighting vehicle, was the first wheeled infantry fighting vehicle to enter service worldwide and was built on a modified MAN truck chassis.

The Ratel was designed in response to a South African Army specification for a light armoured vehicle suited to the demands of rapid offensives combining maximum firepower and strategic mobility.

Unlike most contemporary IFVs, Ratels were not intended to fight in concert with tanks in a major conventional war, but provide strategic mobility to mechanised infantry units accustomed to operating independently across the vast distances of Southern Africa. Specialised variants of the Ratel carried mortars, anti-tank guided missiles, or a turret-mounted 90mm rifled gun.



2. Russia

Total military personnel – 3,586,128

BMP-3

The BMP-3 is a Soviet and Russian infantry fighting vehicle, successor to the BMP-1 and BMP-2. The abbreviation BMP stands for *boevaya mashina pehoty*, literally “infantry combat vehicle”

- Manufacturer: Kurgan-mashzavod
- Weight: 18.7 tonnes
- Length: 7.14 metres
- Width: 3.2 metres
- Height: 2.4 metres
- Crew: 3+7
- Armour: Aluminium alloy + steel



- Main armament: 2K23 turret with 100 mm gun/launcher 2A70
- Secondary armament: 2 × 7.62 mm PKT machine guns
- Engine: UTD-29M diesel
- Operational range: 600 km
- Speed: 45 km/h



1. United States

Total military personnel – 4,397,128

M2 Bradley

The Bradley is designed for reconnaissance and to transport a squad of infantry, providing them protection from small arms fire, while also providing firepower to both suppress and eliminate most threats to friendly infantry. It is designed to be highly manoeuvrable and to be fast enough to keep up with heavy armour during an advance.

- Manufacturer: BAE Systems Land & Armaments
- Weight: 27.6 tonnes
- Length: 6.55 metres
- Width: 3.6 metres
- Height: 2.98 metres



- Crew: 3+6
- Armour: Spaced laminate armour
- Main armament: 25 mm M242 Chain Gun; 2 × TOW Anti-Tank Missile
- Secondary armament: 7.62 mm coaxial M240C machine gun
- Engine: Cummins VTA-903T 8-cylinder diesel
- Operational range: 483 km
- Speed: 56 km/h

William C. Westmoreland

As a United States Army General, Westmoreland commanded the US forces during the Vietnam War from 1964 to 1968 and later became the Chief of Staff of the US Army.

Although he only spent four years as the commander of the United States forces during the Vietnam War, his name will always be synonymous with that war.

William Westmoreland was sent to Vietnam in 1963. In January 1964, he became deputy commander of Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV), eventually succeeding Paul D. Harkins as commander, in June.

He served in this post until June 1968, shortly after the Tet Offensive, when he was replaced by General Creighton Abrams.

Westmoreland adopted a strategy of attrition against the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army, attempting to drain them of manpower and supplies.

He also made use of the United States' edge in artillery and air power, both in tactical confrontations and in relentless strategic bombing of North Vietnam.

Many of the battles in Vietnam were technically United States victories, with the United States Army in control of the field afterward; holding territory gained this way proved difficult, however.

Early Life

William Childs Westmoreland was born in Spartanburg County, South Carolina, on 26 March 1914 to Eugenia Talley Childs and James Ripley Westmoreland.

His upper middle class family was involved in the local banking and textile industries. At the age of 15, William became an Eagle Scout at Troop 1 Boy Scouts, and was recipient of the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award and Silver Buffalo from the Boy Scouts of America as a

young adult.

After spending a year at The Citadel, officially the Military College of South Carolina, in 1932, he was appointed to attend the United States Military Academy on the nomination of Senator James F. Byrnes, a family friend.

His motive for entering West Point was "to see the world". He was a member of a distinguished West Point class that also included Creighton Abrams and Benjamin O. Davis Jr. Westmoreland graduated as first captain - the highest cadet rank - and received the Pershing Sword, which is "presented to cadet with highest level of military proficiency".

Westmoreland also served as the superintendent of the Protestant Sunday School Teachers.

World War II

Following graduation from West Point in 1936, Westmoreland became an artillery officer and served in several as-

signments with the 18th Field Artillery at Fort Sill.

In 1939, he was promoted to first lieutenant, after which he was a battery commander and battalion staff officer with the 8th Field Artillery at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

In World War II, Westmoreland saw combat with the 34th Field Artillery Battalion, 9th Infantry Division, in Tunisia, Sicily, France and Germany; he commanded the 34th Battalion in Tunisia and Sicily.

He reached the temporary wartime rank of colonel, and on 13 October 1944, was appointed the chief of staff of the 9th Infantry Division.

After the war, Westmoreland completed Airborne training at the Infantry School in 1946. He then commanded the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division.

From 1947 to 1950, he served as chief of staff for the 82nd Airborne Division. He was an instructor at the Army Command and General Staff College from 1950 to 1951.

He then completed the Army War College as a student in 1951, and stayed as an instructor from 1951 to 1952.

Korean War

Westmoreland was promoted to Brigadier General in November 1952 at the age of 38, making him one of the youngest U.S. Army generals in the post-World War II era.

He commanded the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team in operations in Korea

from 1952 to 1953. After returning to the United States, Westmoreland was deputy assistant chief of staff, G-1, for manpower control on the Army staff from 1953 to 1955.

In 1954, he completed a three-month management program at Harvard Business School. As Stanley Karnow noted, "Westy was a corporation executive in uniform."

After the war, Westmoreland was the United States Army's Secretary of the General Staff from 1955 to 1958. He then commanded the 101st Airborne Division from 1958 to 1960. He was Superintendent of the United States Military Academy from 1960 to 1963.

In 1962, Westmoreland was admitted as an honorary member of the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati. He was promoted to lieutenant general in July 1963 and was Commanding General of the XVIII Airborne Corps from 1963 to 1964.

Vietnam

Westmoreland was sent to Vietnam in 1963. In January 1964, he became deputy commander of Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV), eventually succeeding Paul D. Harkins as commander, in June.

Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara told President Lyndon B. Johnson in April that Westmoreland was "the best we have, without question".

As the head of the MACV, he was known for highly publicized, positive assessments of

U.S. military prospects in Vietnam.

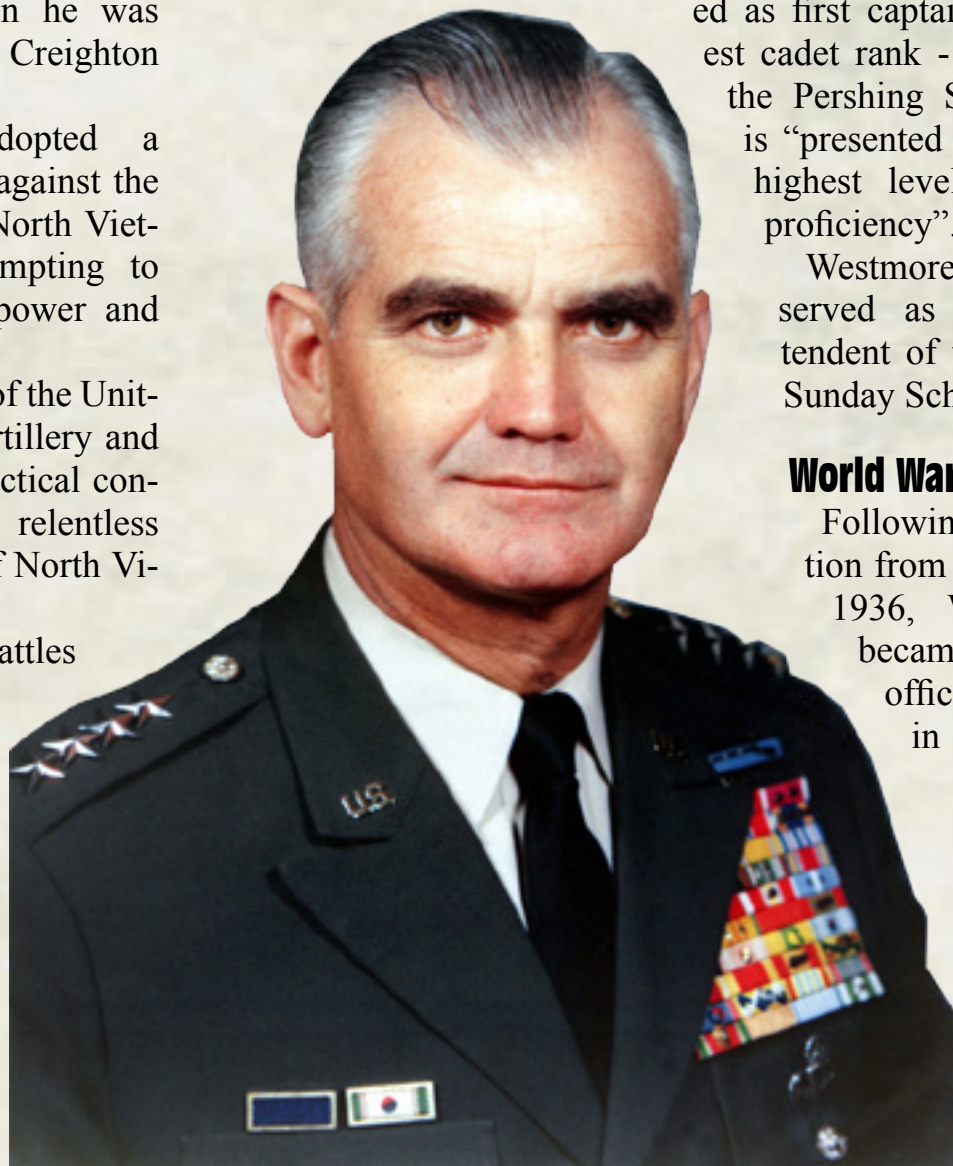
However, as time went on, the strengthening of communist combat forces in the South led to regular requests for increases in U.S. troop strength, from 16,000 when he arrived to its peak of 535,000 in 1968 when he left.

On April 28, 1967, Westmoreland addressed a joint session of Congress. "In evaluating the enemy strategy", he said, "it is evident to me that he believes our Achilles heel is our resolve. ... Your continued strong support is vital to the success of our mission. Backed at home by resolve, confidence, patience, determination, and continued support, we will prevail in Vietnam over the communist aggressor!"

Westmoreland claimed that under his leadership, United States forces "won every battle". The turning point of the war was the 1968 Tet Offensive, in which communist forces attacked cities and towns throughout South Vietnam.

At the time, Westmoreland was focused on the Battle of Khe Sanh and considered the Tet Offensive to be a diversionary attack. It is not clear if Khe Sanh was meant to be distraction for the Tet Offensive or vice versa - sometimes this is called the Riddle of Khe Sanh.

Regardless, U.S. and South Vietnamese troops successfully fought off the attacks during the Tet Offensive, and the communist forces took heavy losses, but the ferocity of the



assault shook public confidence in Westmoreland's previous assurances about the state of the war. Political debate and public opinion led the Johnson administration to limit further increases in U.S. troop numbers in Vietnam.

Nine months afterward, when the My Lai Massacre reports started to break, Westmoreland resisted pressure from the incoming Nixon administration for a cover-up, and pressed for a full and impartial investigation by Lieutenant General William R. Peers.

However, a few days after the tragedy, he had praised the same involved unit on the "outstanding job", for the "U.S. infantrymen had killed 128 Communists in a bloody day-long battle".

Post 1969 Westmoreland also made efforts to investigate the Phong Nhì and Phong Nhất massacre a year after the event occurred.

Westmoreland was convinced that the Vietnamese communists could be destroyed by fighting a war of attrition that, theoretically, would render the Vietnam People's Army unable to fight.

His war strategy was marked by heavy use of artillery and air power and repeated attempts to engage the communists in large-unit battles, and thereby exploit the US's vastly superior firepower and technology.

Westmoreland's response, to those Americans who criticized the high casualty rate of Vietnamese civilians, was: "It does deprive the enemy of the population, doesn't it?"

However, the North Vietnam-



LEADER AND FUTURE LEADER: General Westmoreland (left) in discussion with Major Norman Schwarzkopf Jr (centre). As a general, Schwarzkopf would later lead the coalition forces during the Gulf War in 1990-1991.

ese Army (NVA) and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam (NLF) were able to dictate the pace of attrition to fit their own goals: by continuing to fight a guerrilla war and avoiding large-unit battles, they denied the Americans the chance to fight the kind of war they were best at, and they ensured that attrition would wear down the American public's support for the war faster than they.

Westmoreland repeatedly rebuffed or suppressed attempts by John Paul Vann and Lew Walt to shift to a "pacification" strategy.

Westmoreland had little appreciation of the patience of the American public for his time frame, and was struggling to persuade President Johnson to approve widening the war into Cambodia and Laos in order to interdict the Ho Chi Minh trail.

He was unable to use the absolutist stance that "we can't win unless we expand the war".

Instead, he focused on "positive indicators", which ultimately turned worthless when

the Tet Offensive occurred, since all his pronouncements of "positive indicators" did not hint at the possibility of such a last-gasp dramatic event.

Tet outmanoeuvred all of Westmoreland's pronouncements on "positive indicators" in the minds of the American public.

Although the communists were severely depleted by the heavy fighting at Khe Sanh when their conventional assaults were battered by American firepower, as well as tens of thousands of deaths in the Tet Offensive, American political opinion and the panic engendered by the communist surprise sapped U.S. support for the war, even though the events of early 1968 put the United States and South Vietnam into a much stronger military position.

At one point in 1968, Westmoreland considered the use of nuclear weapons in Vietnam in a contingency plan codenamed Fracture Jaw, which was abandoned when it became known to the White House.

Army Chief of Staff

In June 1968, Westmoreland was replaced by General Creighton Abrams, the decision being announced shortly after the Tet Offensive. Although the decision had been made in late 1967, it was widely seen in the media as a punishment for being caught off guard by the communist assault.

He was mentioned in a Time magazine article as a potential candidate for the 1968 Republican presidential nomination.

Westmoreland served as Chief of Staff of the United States Army from 1968 to 1972. In 1970, as Chief of Staff, in response to the My Lai Massacre by United States Army forces (and subsequent cover up by the Army chain of command), he commissioned an army investigation that compiled a comprehensive and seminal study of leadership within the army during the Vietnam War demonstrating a severe erosion of adherence to the army's officer code of "Duty, Honor, Country".

The report, entitled Study on Military Professionalism, had a profound influence on Army policies, beginning with Westmoreland's decision to end the policy that officers serving in Vietnam would be rotated into a different post after only six months.

However, to lessen the impact of this damaging report, Westmoreland ordered that the document be kept on "close hold" across the entire Army for a period of two years and not disseminated to War College attendees. The report only became known to the public

after Westmoreland retired in 1972.

Many military historians have pointed out that Westmoreland became Chief of Staff at the worst time in history with regard to the army.

Guiding the army as it transitioned to an all-volunteer force, he issued many directives to try to make Army life better and more palatable for United States youth - for example allowing soldiers to wear sideburns and to drink beer in the mess hall. However, many hard-liners scorned these as too liberal.

Later years

Westmoreland retired from the Army in 1972. Westmoreland ran unsuccessfully for governor of South Carolina in the 1974 election. He published his autobiography the following year. Westmoreland later served on a task force to improve educational standards in the state of South Carolina.

In 1986, Westmoreland served as grand marshal of the Chicago Vietnam Veterans parade. The parade, attended by 200,000 Vietnam veterans and more than half a million spectators, did much to repair the rift between Vietnam veterans and the American public.

Westmoreland died on July 18, 2005, at the age of 91 at the Bishop Gadsden retirement home in Charleston, South Carolina. He had suffered from Alzheimer's disease during the final years of his life. He was buried on July 23, 2005, at the West Point Cemetery, United States Military Academy.

He left behind his wife Kath-

erine (Kitsy), two daughters, Katherine Stevens and Margaret Childs, and a son, James Ripley II.

He had met his wife when he was stationed at Fort Sill in Oklahoma. She was only nine years old and was the daughter of the post executive officer, Colonel Edwin R. Van Deusen.

Westmoreland met her again in North Carolina when she was nineteen and a student at University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The couple married in May 1947.

U.S. decorations and awards

Westmoreland earned the following decorations and awards.

- Army Distinguished Service Medal with three bronze oak leaf clusters.
- Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters.
- Bronze Star Medal.
- Air Medal with nine Oak Leaf Clusters.
- Army Presidential Unit Citation.
- American Defence Service Medal with one bronze service star.
- American Campaign Medal.
- European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with seven service stars.
- World War II Victory Medal.
- Army of Occupation Medal with "Germany" clasp.
- National Defence Service Medal with oak leaf cluster.
- Korean Service Medal with two 3/16" bronze stars.
- Vietnam Service Medal with six 3/16" bronze stars.

Westmoreland also earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, Basic Army Aviator Badge, and Master Parachutist Badge.

Grumman A-6 Intruder

Following the good performance of the propeller-driven Skyraider in the Korean War, the United States Navy issued preliminary requirements in 1955 for an all-weather carrier-based attack aircraft. The Grumman A-6 Intruder was the result.

The A-6 was developed during the late 1950s and early 1960s in response to a requirement issued by the United States Navy for an all-weather jet-powered carrier-based attack aircraft.

It was designed as a successor for multiple existing medium-sized attack aircraft, such as the piston-engined Douglas A-1 Skyraider. Unlike its predecessors, and even some contemporaries, the A-6 made extensive use of interconnected avionics.

Operated by a crew of two

in a side-by-side seating configuration, the workload were divided between the pilot and weapons officer. In addition to conventional munitions, the type was also compatible with the Navy's air-based nuclear weapons, which were deployable via a toss bombing techniques.

On 19 April 1960, the prototype performed the type's maiden flight.

The A-6 was in service with the United States Navy and Marine Corps between 1963 and

1997, multiple variants of the type being introduced during this time.

Background

Following the good performance of the propeller-driven Skyraider in the Korean War, the United States Navy issued preliminary requirements in 1955 for an all-weather carrier-based attack aircraft.

The U.S. Navy published an operational requirement document for it in October 1956. It released a request for proposals

(RFP) in February 1957.

This request called for a 'close air support attack bomber capable of hitting the enemy at any time'. Aviation authors Bill Gunston and Peter Gilchrist observe that this specification was shaped by the service's Korean War experiences, during which air support had been frequently unavailable unless fair weather conditions were present.

In response to the RFP, a total of eleven design proposals were submitted by eight different companies, including Bell, Boeing, Douglas, Grumman, Lockheed, Martin, North American, and Vought.

Grumman's submission was internally designated as the Type G-128. Following evaluation of the bids, the U.S. Navy announced the selection of Grumman on 2 January 1958.

The company was awarded a contract for the development of their submission, which had

been re-designated A2F-1, in February 1958.

Design

The Grumman A-6 Intruder is a two-seat twin-engined monoplane, equipped to perform carrier-based attack missions regardless of prevailing weather or light conditions.

The cockpit used an unusual double pane windscreen and side-by-side seating arrangement in which the pilot sat in the left seat, while the bombardier/navigator sat to the right and slightly below.

The incorporation of a second crew member with separate responsibilities, along with a unique cathode ray tube (CRT) display that provided a synthetic display of terrain ahead, were

favourable characteristics in its low-level attack role and operating within all weather conditions.

The A-6's wing was relatively efficient at subsonic speeds, particularly when compared to supersonic fighters such as the McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II, which are also limited to subsonic speeds when carrying a payload of bombs.

The wing was also designed to provide a favourable level of manoeuvrability even while carrying a sizable bomb load. A very similar wing would be put on pivots on Grumman's later supersonic swing-wing Grumman F-14 Tomcat, as well as similar landing gear.

The Intruder was also



equipped with the “Deceleron”, a type of airbrake on the wings with two panels that opened in opposite directions; in this case, one panel went up, while another went down.

For its day, the Intruder had surprisingly sophisticated avionics, with a high degree of integration. Some felt that this could lead to extraordinary maintenance requirements to identify and isolate equipment malfunctions.

Hence, the aircraft was provided with automatic diagnostic systems, some of the earliest computer-based analytic equipment developed for aircraft.

These were known as Basic Automated Checkout Equipment, or BACE (pronounced “base”). There were two levels, known as “Line BACE” to identify specific malfunctioning systems in the aircraft, while in the hangar or on the flight line; and “Shop BACE”, to exercise and analyse individual malfunctioning systems in the maintenance shop.

This equipment was manufactured by Litton Industries. Together, the BACE systems greatly reduced the Maintenance Man-Hours per Flight Hour, a key index of the cost and effort needed to keep military aircraft operating.

The Intruder was equipped to carry and launch nuclear weapons (B43, B57, B61) and Navy crews regularly planned for assigned nuclear missions.

Because the A-6 was a low-flying attack aircraft, a semi-automated toss bombing method was developed. Known as LABS-IP (Low Altitude Bombing System - Initial



TOUCH DOWN: An A-6 Intruder lands on the deck of an aircraft carrier after returning from a bombing mission.

Point) it called for a high-speed low-level approach. Nearing the target point, the pilot would put the aircraft into a steep climb.

At a computer-calculated point in the climb, the weapon would be released, with momentum carrying it upwards and forwards.

The pilot would continue the climb even more steeply, until near a vertical position the aircraft would be rolled and turned, heading back in the direction from which it came. It would then depart from the area at maximum acceleration.

During this time, the bomb would rise to an apex, still heading in its original direction, then begin to fall towards the target while traveling further forward.

At a pre-programmed height, it would detonate. By that time, the Intruder would be several miles away, traveling at top speed, and thus able to stay ahead of the shock wave from the explosion. This unusual manoeuvre was known as an “over the shoulder” bomb launch.

Vietnam War

The Intruder received a new standardized US DOD designation of A-6A in the Autumn of 1962, and entered squadron service in February 1963.

The A-6 became both the U.S. Navy’s and U.S. Marine Corps’s principal medium and all-weather/night attack aircraft from the mid-1960s.

A-6 Intruders first saw action during the Vietnam War, where the craft were used extensively against targets in Vietnam. The aircraft’s long range and heavy payload (8,200 kilograms) coupled with its ability to fly in all weather made it invaluable during the war.

However, its typical mission profile of flying low to deliver its payload made it especially vulnerable to anti-aircraft fire, and in the eight years the Intruder was used during the Vietnam War, the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps lost a total of 84 A-6 aircraft of various series.

The first loss occurred on

14 July 1965 when an Intruder from VA-75 operating from USS Independence, flown by LT Donald Boecker and LT Donald Eaton, commenced a dive on a target near Laos.

An explosion under the starboard wing damaged the starboard engine, causing the aircraft to catch fire and the hydraulics to fail. Seconds later the port engine failed, the controls froze, and the two crewmen ejected. Both crewmen survived.

Of the 84 Intruders lost to all causes during the war, ten were shot down by surface-to-air missiles (SAMs), two were shot down by MiGs, 16 were lost to operational causes, and 56 were lost to conventional ground fire and AAA.

The last Intruder to be lost during the war was from VA-35, flown by LT C. M. Graf and LT S. H. Hatfield, operating from USS America; they were shot down by ground fire on 24 January 1973 while providing close air support.

The airmen ejected and were rescued by a Navy helicopter. Twenty U.S. Navy aircraft carriers rotated through the waters of Southeast Asia, providing air strikes, from the early 1960s through the early 1970s.

Nine of those carriers lost A-6 Intruders: USS Constellation lost 11, USS Ranger lost eight, USS Coral Sea lost six, USS Midway lost two, USS Independence lost four, USS Kitty Hawk lost 14, USS Saratoga lost three, USS Enterprise lost eight, and USS America lost two.

Although capable of embarking aboard aircraft carriers,

most U.S. Marine Corps A-6 Intruders were shore based in South Vietnam at Chu Lai and Da Nang and in Nam Phong, Thailand.

To provide U.S. Navy squadrons with a defence suppression aircraft to attack enemy anti-aircraft defence and SAM missile systems, a mission dubbed “Iron Hand” by the U.S. Navy, 19 A-6As were converted to A-6B version during 1967 to 1970.

The A-6B had many of its standard attack systems removed in favour of specialized equipment to detect and track enemy radar sites and to guide AGM-45 Shrike and AGM-78 Standard anti-radiation missiles, with AN/APQ-103 radar replacing earlier AN/APQ-92 used in the A-6A, plus AN/APN-153 navigational radar replacing earlier AN/APN-122, again used in the A-6A.

Between 1968 and 1977, several Intruder squadrons operated A-6Bs alongside their regular A-6As. Five were lost to all causes, and the survivors were later converted to A-6E standard in the late 1970s.

Lebanon and later action

A-6 Intruders were later used in support of other operations, such as the Multinational Force in Lebanon in 1983. On 4 December, one LTV A-7 Corsair II and one Intruder were downed by Syrian missiles.

The Intruder’s pilot, Lieutenant Mark Lange, and bombardier/navigator Lieutenant Robert “Bobby” Goodman ejected immediately before the crash.

Lange died of his injuries while Goodman was captured

and taken by the Syrians to Damascus where he was released on 3 January 1984.

Later in the 1980s, two Naval Reserve A-7 Corsair II light attack squadrons, VA-205 and VA-304, were reconstituted as medium attack squadrons with the A-6E at NAS Atlanta, Georgia and NAS Alameda, California, respectively.

Intruders also saw action in April 1986 operating from the aircraft carriers USS America and Coral Sea during the bombing of Libya (Operation El Dorado Canyon). The squadrons involved were VA-34 “Blue Blasters” (from USS America) and VA-55 “Warhorses” (from USS Coral Sea).

During the Gulf War in 1991, U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps A-6s flew more than 4,700 combat sorties, providing close air support, destroying enemy air defences, attacking Iraqi naval units, and hitting strategic targets. They were also the U.S. Navy’s primary strike platform for delivering laser-guided bombs.

The U.S. Navy operated them from the aircraft carriers USS Saratoga, USS John F. Kennedy, USS Midway, USS Ranger, USS America and USS Theodore Roosevelt, while U.S. Marine Corps A-6s operated ashore, primarily from Shaikh Isa Air Base in Bahrain. Three A-6s were shot down in combat by SAMs and AAA.

The Intruder’s large blunt nose and slender tail inspired a number of nicknames, including “Double Ugly”, “The Mighty Alpha Six”, “Iron Tadpole” and also “Drumstick”.

Following the Gulf War, In-

truders were used to patrol the no-fly zone in Iraq and provided air support for U.S. Marines during Operation Restore Hope in Somalia. The last A-6E Intruder left U.S. Marine Corps service on 28 April 1993.

The A-6 also saw further duty over Bosnia in 1994.

Retirement

Despite the production of new airframes in the 164XXX Bureau Number (BuNo) series just before and after the Gulf War, augmented by a rewinging program of older airframes, the A-6E and KA-6D were quickly phased out of service in the mid-1990s in a U.S. Navy cost-cutting move driven by the Office of the Secretary of Defence to reduce the number of different type/model/series (T/M/S) of aircraft in carrier air wings and U.S. Marine aircraft groups.

The A-6 was intended to be replaced by the McDonnell Douglas A-12 Avenger II, but that program was cancelled due to cost overruns.

The Intruder remained in service for a few more years before being retired in favour of the LANTIRN-equipped F-14D Tomcat, which was in turn replaced by the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet in the U.S. Navy and the twin-seat F/A-18D Hornet in the U.S. Marine Corps.

During the 2010s, the Unmanned Carrier-Launched Airborne Surveillance and Strike programme was at one point intended to produce a unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) successor to the Intruder’s long distance strike role, but the initiative has since changed priorities towards the tanker mission instead. The

last Intruders were retired on 28 February 1997.

Many in the US defence establishment in general, and Naval Aviation in particular, questioned the wisdom of a shift to a shorter range carrier-based strike force, as represented by the Hornet and Super Hornet, compared to the older generation aircraft such as the Intruder and Tomcat.

However, the availability of USAF Boeing KC-135 Stratotanker and McDonnell Douglas KC-10 Extender tankers modified to accommodate USN, USMC and NATO tactical aircraft in all recent conflicts was considered by certain senior decision makers in the Department of Defence to put a lesser premium on organic aerial refuelling capability in the U.S. Navy’s carrier air wings and self-contained range among carrier-based strike aircraft.

Although the Intruder could not match the F-14’s or the F/A-18’s speed or air-combat capability, the A-6’s range and load-carrying ability are still unmatched by newer aircraft in the fleet.

At the time of retirement, several retired A-6 airframes were awaiting rewinging at the Northrop Grumman facility at St. Augustine Airport, Florida; these were later sunk off the coast of St. Johns County, Florida to form a fish haven named “Intruder Reef”.

Surviving aircraft fitted with the new wings, as well as later production aircraft (i.e., BuNo 164XXX series) not earmarked for museum or non-flying static display were stored at the AMARG storage center at Da-

vis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona.

General characteristics

- Crew: 2 (pilot, bombardier/navigator)
- Length: 16.69 metres
- Wingspan: 16.15 metres
- Width: 7.67 metres - wing folded
- Height: 4.93 metres
- Wing area: 49.14 m2
- Aspect ratio: 5.31:1
- Empty weight: 12,093 kg
- Max take off weight: 27,397 kg (shore-based operations)
- Fuel capacity: 9,030 litres (internal fuel)
- Zero-lift drag coefficient: 0.0144
- Powerplant: 2 × Pratt & Whitney J52-P8B turbojets, 9,300 lbf (41 kN) thrust each

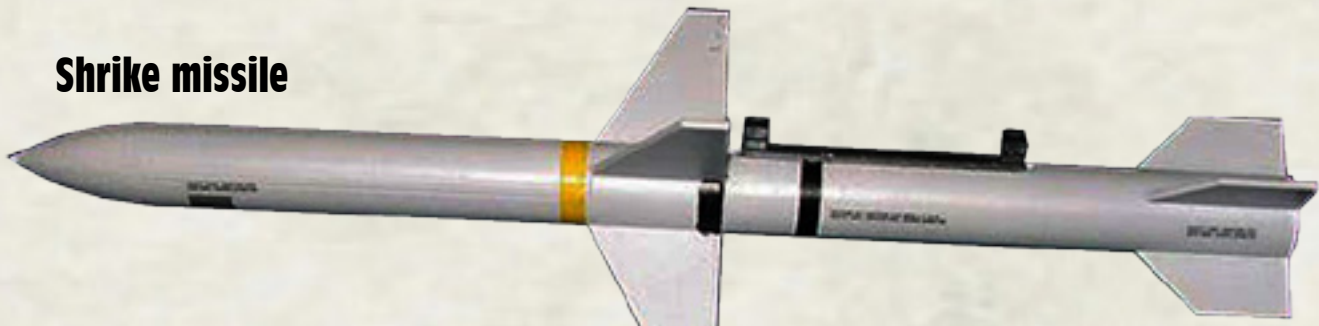
Performance

- Maximum speed: 1,040 km/h at sea level
- Cruise speed: 763 km/h
- Stall speed: 181 km/h (flaps down)
- Never exceed speed: 1,300 km/h
- Combat range: 1,626 km (with max payload)
- Ferry range: 5,219 km
- Service ceiling: 12,900 metres
- g limits: -2.4 to 6.5
- Rate of climb: 38.7 m/s
- Lift-to-drag: 15.2
- Take-off run to 15 metres: 1,380 metres
- Landing run from 15 metres: 770 metres

Armament

Hardpoints: Five hardpoints with a capacity of 1,600 kg each (4 under wings, one under fuselage), 8,200 kg total, with provi-

Shrike missile



sions to carry combinations of:

Rockets:

- 12x LAU-10 4-round 5 inch Zuni pods
- 12x LAU-68 7-round 2.75 inch FFAR pods
- 12x LAU-61/LAU-68 19-round 2.75 inch FFAR pods

Missiles:

- AGM-45 Shrike anti-radar missile
- AGM-78 Standard ARM anti-radar missile
- AGM-62 Walleye TV-guided glide bomb

AGM-65 Maverick air-to-

- AGM-65 Maverick air-to-ground missile
- AGM-84 Harpoon anti-ship missile/AGM-84E Standoff Land Attack Missile
- AGM-88 HARM anti-radar missile
- AGM-123 Skipper air-to-ground missile
- AIM-9 Sidewinder air-to-air missile
- ADM-141 TALD decoy missiles

Bombs:

- 28× Mk 82 227 kg GP bombs or Mk 20 Rockeye II cluster

bomb

- 13× Mk 83 454 kg GP bombs
- 5× Mk 84 907 kg GP bombs
- 5x GBU-12/16/10 laser-guided bombs
- 5x CBU-72 Fuel-Air Explosives
- Up to three B43/B57/B61 “Special Weapons” (Nukes)

Other:

- Mk 60 Captor Mine
- Up to five 1,100 litres drop tanks
- Various practice stores, chaff launchers, baggage pods, flares.



The Battle of Ia Drang was the first major battle between the United States Army and the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN), and was part of the Pleiku Campaign conducted early in the Vietnam War. Both sides claimed the battle as a victory.

The Battle of Ia Drang comprised two main engagements, centred on two previously scouted helicopter landing zones (LZs), known as LZ X-Ray and LZ Albany.

The first involved the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment and supporting units under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Hal Moore, and took place November 14–16, 1965 at LZ X-Ray, located at the eastern foot of the Chu Pong Massif in the central highlands of Vietnam.

The second engagement involved the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment plus supporting units under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Robert McDade, and took place on November 17 at LZ Albany, farther north in the Ia Drang Valley. It is notable for being the first large scale helicopter air assault and also the first use of Boeing B-52 Stratofortress strategic bombers in a tactical support role.

Surrounded and under heavy fire from a numerically superior force, the American forces at LZ X-ray were able to hold off and drive back the North Vietnamese forces over three days of battle, largely through the support of both air power and heavy artillery bombardment, which the North Vietnamese lacked. LZ X-ray was considered an American tactical victory, as the Americans were able to exact an almost 10:1 kill ratio.

At LZ Albany, the American forces were ambushed in close quarters. They were unable to use air and artillery support due to the close engagement of the North Vietnamese, the American forces were badly defeated, suffering a more than 50% casualty rate before being extricated from the battle. Both sides, therefore, were able to claim victory in the battle.

Background

By early 1965, the majority of rural South Vietnam was under limited Viet Cong (VC) control, increasingly supported by Vietnam Peo-

ple's Army (PAVN) regulars from North Vietnam. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) General William C. Westmoreland had secured the commitment of upward of 300,000 U.S. regulars from President Lyndon B. Johnson and a build-up of forces took place in the summer of 1965.

Viet Cong forces were in nominal control of most of the South Vietnamese countryside by 1965 and had established military infrastructure in the Central Highlands, to the northeast of the Saigon region. Vietnamese communist forces had operated in this area during the previous decade in the First Indochina War against the French, winning a notable victory at the Battle of Mang Yang Pass in 1954.

There were few reliable roads into the area, making it an ideal place for the communist forces to form bases, relatively immune from attack by the generally road-bound ARVN forces. During 1965, large groups of North Vietnamese Army regulars moved into the area to conduct offensive operations. Attacks to the southwest from these bases threatened to cut South Vietnam in two.

By 1964 North Vietnam had established the B3 Front in the central highlands of South Vietnam. By early November 1965 three PAVN regiments – the 32nd, 33rd and 66th – and the

H15 Local Force Battalion had been assembled in the area. The B3 Front commander,

Maj. Gen. Chu Huy Man, planned to target South Vietnamese positions in the Kon Tum and Pleiku provinces. The city of Pleiku was the location of the South Vietnamese II Corps headquarters, commanded by General Vinh Loc, who had at his disposal nine South Vietnamese battalions; four ranger, three airborne and two marine.

The U.S. command saw this as an ideal area to test new air mobility tactics.[15] Air mobility called for battalion-sized forces to be delivered, supplied and extracted from an area of action using helicopters.

Since the heavy weapons of a normal combined-arms force could not follow, the infantry would be supported by coordinated close air support, artillery and aerial rocket fire, arranged from a distance and directed by local observers.

The new tactics had been developed in the U.S. by the 11th Air Assault Division (Test), which was renamed as the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

The division's troopers dubbed themselves the "Air Cav" (Air Cavalry) and in July 1965 began deploying to Camp Radcliff, An Khê, Vietnam. By November, most of the division's three brigades were ready for operations.

Landing Zones

Col. Brown selected Lt. Col. Moore and his men for the mission, with the explicit orders not to attempt to scale the mountain. There were several clearings in

the area that had been designated as possible helicopter landing zones, typically named for a letter of the NATO phonetic alphabet. Moore selected:

- LZ X-Ray as his landing zone, a flat clearing surrounded by low trees at the eastern base of the Chu Pong Massif and bordered by a dry creek bed on the west. The Ia Drang River was about 2 km to the northwest.
- LZ Albany: about 2.5 km to the northeast of X-Ray
- LZ Columbus: about 2.2 km east of Albany
- LZ Tango: about 2 km to the north of X-Ray
- LZ Yankee: a similar distance south of X-Ray. LZ Yankee was on sloping ground and could only fit about 6–8 helicopters at one time.
- LZ Whiskey: 2.1 km southeast
- LZ Victor: about 6 km to the south-southeast.
- Artillery support would be provided from firebase "FB Falcon", about 8 km to the northeast of X-Ray

General Knowles stated that he had selected the initial landing zone used by Hal Moore and his troops knowing quite well that the enemy lacked anti-aircraft guns and heavy mortars that had been destroyed during the attack on the Plei Me camp and that the enemy could have positioned on the hillsides overlooking the landing zone to gun down the helicopters and to decimate the cavalry troops landing on the ground.

LZ X-Ray was approximately the size of a misshapen football field, some 100 meters in length

(east to west). It was estimated that only eight UH-1 Hueys could fit in the clearing at a given time.

The 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry (1/7) was typical for U.S. Army units of the time, consisting of three rifle companies and a heavy weapons company: A-Alpha Company, B-Bravo Company, C-Charlie Company, and D-Delta Company - about 450 men in total of the 765 of the battalion's authorized strength.

They were to be shuttled by 16 Huey transport helicopters, which could generally carry 10 to 12 equipped troopers, so the battalion would have to be delivered in several "lifts" carrying just less than one complete company each time. Each lift would take about 30 minutes.

Lt. Col. Moore arranged the lifts to deliver Bravo Company first, along with his command team, followed by Alpha and Charlie Companies, and finally Delta Company. Moore's plan was to move Bravo and Alpha Companies northwest past the creek bed, and Charlie Company south toward the mountain.

Delta Company, which comprised special weapons forces including mortar, recon, and machine gun units, was to be used as the battlefield reserve. In the centre of the LZ was a large termite hill that was to become Moore's command post. Furthermore, the Bravo Company of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry closed in at 18h00.

The battle

The Battle of Ia Drang lasted for five days, from 14 November 1965 to 18 November 1965.

There is not enough space in this article to go into a detailed account of the five-day battle.

At 10:48, the first troops of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry (1/7) arrived at LZ X-Ray with members of B Company touching down after about 30 minutes of bombardment via artillery, aerial rockets, and air strikes. The troops were inserted about 200 meters from the position of the NVA 9th Battalion belonging to the 66th Regiment.

The last troops of the battalion were landed at 15:20, by which time the troops on the ground were already heavily engaged, with one platoon cut off. Faced with heavy casualties and unexpected opposition, 1st Battalion was reinforced by B Company 2nd Battalion 7th Cavalry.

Fighting continued the following day when the LZ was further reinforced by A Company 2/7 and also by 2nd Battalion 5th Cavalry, and the lost platoon was rescued.

The last Vietnamese assaults on the position were repulsed on the morning of the 16th. As the Vietnamese forces melted away, the remainder of 2/7 and A Company of 1st Battalion 5th Cavalry arrived.

By mid-afternoon 1/7 and B Company 2/7 had been airlifted to LZ Falcon, and on the 17th of November 2/5 marched out towards LZ Columbus while the remaining 2/7 and 1/5 companies marched towards LZ Albany.

The latter force became strung out and, in the early afternoon, were badly mauled in an ambush before they could be reinforced and extricated.



HELP FROM THE SKIES: Helicopters were used to bring in reinforcements and supplies. They were also used to casevac the wounded and dead.

Effects and aftermath

On the last day of the battle (18 November), General Westmoreland and General Cao Van Vien, visited the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry. They were briefed by Lt. Col. Moore about the battle at LZ X-Ray.

Westmoreland told them they were being recommended for a Presidential Unit Citation. They then flew to the 3rd Air Cavalry Brigade commanded by Col. Brown who gave them a briefing and they flew over the operation area.

Before leaving Pleiku, they also had a meeting with General Vinh Loc, II Corps Commander and General Larsen, IFFV Commander who were involved in the battle at corps level. In this session, with Col. Brown's presence, they reviewed and agreed that the execution of the Battle of Ia Drang was in line with the National Campaign Plan developed by General Thang and General DePuy, the two J-3's of the JGS

and MACV.

They then flew to Qui Nhon and went to the hospital to visit the troops of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry who were wounded in the LZ Albany engagement.

After the battle, General Westmoreland instructed his J2 and J3 Chiefs to gain more improvements and "to bring a B-52 strike down within seven hours after acquiring suitable intelligence".

As the fight at LZ Albany was coming to an end, the ARVN II Corps Command decided to "finish off" the campaign by introducing the ARVN Airborne Brigade into the battlefield on 17 November with the establishment of a new artillery support base at LZ Crooks, secured by the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry.

The 5-day B-52 airstrike operation were carried on for two more days: on 19 November the carpet bombing aimed at the positions of units of the 66th and 33rd Regiments; and on

20 November units of the 32nd Regiment.

The ARVN Airborne Brigade pursued the two remaining 635th and 334th Battalions of the 320th Regiments and executed two ambushes: the first on 20 November at the north side and the second on 24 November on the south side of the Ia Drang River. On 26 November, witnessing no further contact, the ARVN withdrew from the area.

A 1966 NVA Central Highlands Front report claimed that in five major engagements with U.S. forces, NVA forces suffered 559 soldiers killed and 669 wounded. NVA histories claim the United States suffered 1,500 to 1,700 casualties during the Ia Drang Campaign.

The U.S. military confirmed 305 killed and 524 wounded (including 234 killed and 242 wounded between 14 and 18 November, 1965), and claimed 3,561 NVA were killed and more than 1,000 were wounded during engagements with the 1st Cavalry Division troops.

According to ARVN intelligence sources, each of the three NVA regiments' initial strength was 2,200 soldiers: 1st Battalion-500, 2nd Battalion-500, 3rd Battalion-500, Mortar Company-150, Anti-Aircraft Company-150, Signal Company-120, Transportation Company-150, Medical Company-40, Engineer Company-60, Recon Company-50.

ARVN's II Corps Command recapitulates the losses of the NVA from 18 October to 26 November, as follows: KIA (body count) 4,254, KIA (est) 2,270, WIA 1293, CIA 179, weapons

(crew served) 169, (individual) 1,027.

NVA casualty figures advanced by II Corps Command relied especially on NVA regimental command posts' own loss reports (as indicated by Maj. Gen. Kinnard), intercepted by ARVN radio listening stations.

Furthermore, they include NVA troop casualties caused by the five-day Arc Light airstrike that the NVA and U.S. sides fail to take into account.

As the outcome of the entire campaign, the ARVN claimed that the NVA were unable to achieve their objectives of overrunning the camp and destroying the relief column at Plei Me, which is confirmed in the B3 Front commander's account, as well as that the entire B3 Field Force strength had been wiped out and the survivors pushed over the Cambodian border.

This battle can be seen as a blueprint for tactics by both sides. The Americans used air mobility, artillery fire and close air support to accomplish battlefield objectives.

The NVA learned that they could neutralize that firepower by quickly engaging American forces at very close range. North Vietnamese Col. Nguyễn Hữu An included his lessons from the battle at X-ray in his orders for Albany, "Move inside the column, grab them by the belt, and thus avoid casualties from the artillery and air."

Both Westmoreland and An thought this battle to be a success. This battle was one of the few set piece battles of the war and was one of the first battles to popularize the U.S. concept of

the "body count" as a measure of success, as the U.S. claimed that the kill ratio was nearly 10 to 1.

The vast majority of casualties inflicted on US forces was through small-arms and light-mortar fire, with Lt. Col. Moore noting the NVA/PAVN's accurate shooting, well-placed ambushes and coordinated targeting of officers and overwhelmed US positions in small-unit tactics

On the other hand, US forces had emerged from the battle by inflicting casualties through B-52 strikes, aerial rockets and artillery and relying on overwhelming firepower.

Both sides probably inflated the estimates of their opponent's casualties.

Notable awards

Three US officers, 2nd Lt. Walter Marm and Capt. Ed Freeman and Maj. Bruce Crandall who were helicopter pilots during the battle, were awarded the Medal of Honour.

Lt. Col. Hal Moore was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Journalist Joseph Galloway was the only civilian awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroism during the Vietnam War.

He had travelled into the battle on one of the helicopters and covered the entire battle. On 1 November 1965 he disregarded his own safety to help rescue two wounded soldiers while under fire.

He was finally awarded his Bronze Star on 8 January 1988.



Matt O' Brien *attempts to become shogun and rule Japan with an iron fist. First, however, he has to remove his iron foot from his mouth.*

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

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

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

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

If you do not have a dojo then you will have to build one. This costs money, as does recruiting new units. In some cases you will have to construct special buildings that allow the construction of other buildings.

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

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

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

Raise the taxes and you will find yourself very unpopular and your citizens not happy campers. Raise them too high and they could even revolt. A revolt can lead to buildings being damaged. They will have to be repaired, and again this will cost money. Finding a happy balance with taxes is not easy.

Another way of getting in money is through trade with other provinces. You can build farms, grow crops to feed your

citizens and trade any excess crops that you have.

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

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

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

Each army should have a general. They provide experience and morale to the troops. They can gain experience points in battle and can then be upgraded.

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

Sword infantry are well balanced troops. If they can get in



among the enemy they can be devastating.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

You can enter into negotiations with other clans and set up alliances or trade agreements.

The game also has naval elements and this bring in a whole new dimension.

To use ships you will first have to build a port. Your port is where you build ships.

First of all you can build fishing boats. These can bring in resources to feed your troops and civilian population. Gather enough fish and you can even trade them.

You will need ships that can

transport goods to other clans via the sea. Of course transport ships are needed to carry troops.

Above all you will need ships that can fight and offer protection to your fleet.

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



Publisher - Bohemia Interactive

Genre - RTS

Score - 8.5/10

Price - R299 (on Steam)



Flight of the Intruder

Released: 1991
Running time: 115 minutes
Director: John Milius

Flight of the Intruder is a 1991 war film directed by John Milius, and starring Danny Glover, Willem Dafoe, and Brad Johnson. It is based on the novel of the same name by former Grumman A-6 Intruder pilot Stephen Coonts.

Lieutenant Jake “Cool Hand” Grafton (Brad Johnson) and his bombardier/navigator and best friend Lieutenant Morgan “Morg” McPherson (Christopher Rich) are flying a Grumman A-6 Intruder during the Vietnam War over the Gulf of Tonkin towards North Vietnam. They hit their target, a ‘suspected truck park’, which actually turns out to be trees.

On the return to carrier, Morg is fatally shot in the neck by an armed Vietnamese peasant. Landing on the USS Independence with Morg dead, a disturbed Jake, covered in blood, walks into a debriefing with Commander Frank Camparelli (Danny Glover) and Executive Officer, Commander “Cowboy” Parker (J. Kenneth Campbell).

Camparelli tells Jake to put Morgan’s death behind him and to write a letter to Sharon, Morg’s wife. New pilot Jack Barlow (Jared Chandler), nicknamed “Razor” because of his youthful appearance, is then introduced.

Lieutenant Commander Virgil Cole (Willem Dafoe) ar-

rives on board and reports to Camparelli, who later tells Jake’s roommate Sammy Lundeen (Justin Williams) to take Jake, Bob “Boxman” Walkowitz (Tom Sizemore) and “Mad Jack” (Dann Florek) to fly into Subic Bay the next day and help Jake unwind. Jake goes to see Sharon, but she has already departed.

He runs into a woman named Callie Troy (Rosanna Arquette), who is packing Sharon’s things, and they have a small, tense encounter. After an altercation with civilian merchant sailors in the Tailhook Bar, Jake runs into Callie again.

After they reconcile, dance and spend the night together, she reveals her husband was a Navy pilot himself and was killed on a solo mission over Vietnam.

Cole and Jake are paired on “Iron Hand” A-6Bs loaded with Standard and Shrike anti-radiation missiles for SAM suppression. During the mission, after a successful strike, they encounter and manage to evade a North Vietnamese MiG-17.

Jake suggests to Cole that they bomb Hanoi, which would be a violation of the restrictive rules of engagement (ROE) and could get them court-martialed. Cole initially rejects the idea. On the next raid, Boxman hits the suspected target, but is shot down by another SAM and

killed. The North Vietnamese in Hanoi gloat on TV over the downing of U.S. aircraft. Cole then agrees with Jake’s plan to attack Hanoi, deciding to hit “SAM City,” a surface-to-air missile depot.

Sent to bomb a power plant in the vicinity of Hanoi, they drop two of their Mark 83 bombs, keeping eight for the missile depot and set a new course for Hanoi for their independent bombing mission.

While the movie didn’t receive favourable reviews from the critics, it is not a bad movie and is well worth a watch.



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

“Mad Mike” Hoare: The Legend

Colonel Mike Hoare led 300 ‘Wild Geese’ across the Congo to crush a communist rebellion, rescue 2000 nuns and priests from barbarity, beat Che Guevara ... and become a legend.

Of Irish blood, Mike was schooled in England and, during World War 2, was the ‘best bloody soldier in the British Army’. He demobbed as major, qualified in London as a chartered accountant and emigrated to South Africa.

Going rogue, he started living dangerously to get more out of life, including trans-Africa motorbike trips, bluewater sailing, exploring remote areas, and leading safaris in the Kalahari Desert.

Here Mike got to know the

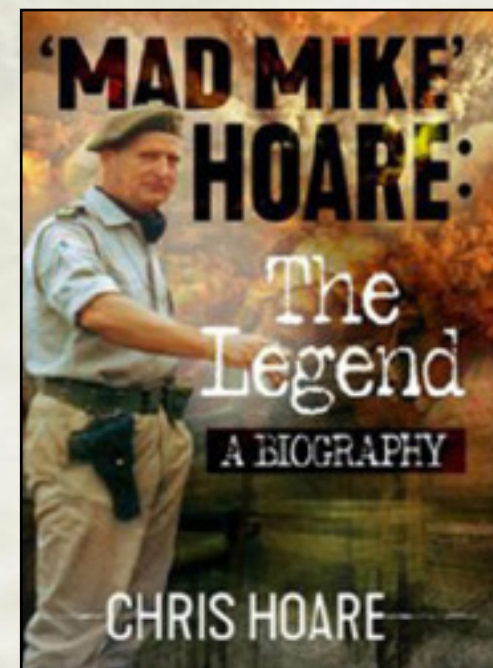
CIA agent who was to change his life ... and who was to stop Nelson Mandela.

Later Mike was technical advisor to the film The Wild Geese, which starred Richard Burton playing the Mike Hoare character.

In 1981 Mike led 50 ‘Frothblowers’ in a bid to depose the socialist government of the Seychelles. Things went wrong and Mike was sentenced to ten years in jail for hijacking a Boeing 707.

In this biography – rich in new material – Chris Hoare separates the man from the myth in a way only a son can, and concludes his ‘mad dad’ was an officer and a gentleman with a bit of pirate thrown in.

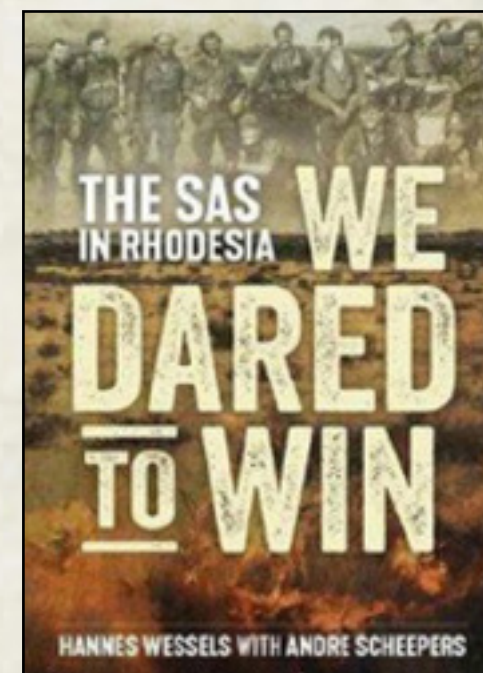
Mike Hoare passed away on



2 February 2020 at the age of 100.

Softcover, 302 pages with photos.

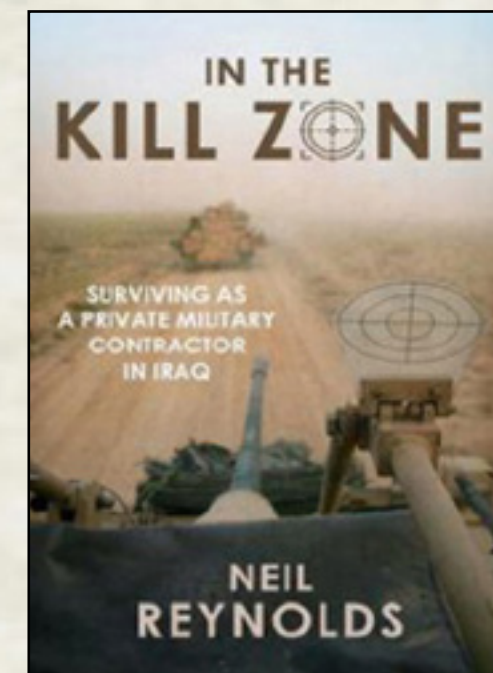
Price: R350



We Dare to Win
R300



Against All Odds
R650



In The Kill Zone
R300

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

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

1 March

- **1896** - Ethiopian forces defeat Italians at Adwa, northern Ethiopia, ending Italy's quest to create a substantial African colony.
- **1941** - German troops enter Bulgaria.
- **1951** - Pilots Doug McKellar and "Dizzy" Deans of the SA Air Force's No 2 (Flying Cheetah) Squadron, assisting the UN in the Korean War, locate seven trucks hidden in hilly terrain and strike target dive-bombing with napalm a procedure used for the first time by the squadron.
- **1954** - Bikini: US detonates 15 megaton hydrogen bomb.
- **1981** - Rifleman Peter Hall from 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was accidentally killed during anti-insurgent operations in the Eenhana Area. He was 19.
- **1988** - Special Constable Thomas Kanitus 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 23.
- **1990** - State President F.W. de Klerk announces plans to bring covert operations by government agents under Cabinet control.
- **1990** - Two members of the

SADF were killed while traveling as passengers in a military minibus vehicle when the vehicle was involved in a head-on collision with a truck on the Pretoria-Potchefstroom Road. They were: Private Gerhardus Stephanus De Bruin (22) from Danie Theron Combat School. Gunner Jaques Terblanche (19) from 10 Artillery Brigade.

2 March

- **1900** - A council of war at Poplar Grove, OFS, gives Danie Theron permission to form a Scout Corps consisting of about 100 men.
- **1938** - Stalin initiates the Purges.
- **1943** - During World War II in the Pacific, a Japanese convoy was attacked by 137 American bombers as the Battle of Bismarck Sea began.
- **1945** - Philippines: Japanese resistance on Corregidor ends.
- **1951** - Two pilots of the SA Air Force's Cheetah Squadron, Lieutenant D.A. Ruiter and Captain W.J.J. Badenhorst, are killed in action while assisting the United Nations in the Korean War.
- **1955** - Egypt and Syria sign a defensive alliance.
- **1962** - Coup in Burma initiates an ongoing military regime.

- **1982** - Rifleman Lewis Francesco from 31 Battalion (201 Battalion SWATF) Died of Wounds accidentally sustained in an explosion inside an ammunition bunker at Omega Base. He was 22.
- **1984** - Rifleman Hendrik Francois van der Merwe from the Vanderbijl Park Commando apparently drowned in unknown circumstances. He was officially declared dead by the State President in 1986. He has no known grave and remains unaccounted for. He was 25.
- **1985** - Rifleman Hilton Isaac Jacobs from the South African Cape Corps was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Kuils River. He was 20.
- **1986** - Sapper Daniel Wilhelmus van Schalkwyk from 11 Field Engineer Regiment was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Messina. He was 22.
- **1988** - Special Sergeant Hepute Wakumbilwa 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.
- **1999** - Eight foreigners die in a shoot-out in a Ugandan

game reserve as soldiers try to free fifteen tourists who were kidnapped by Rwandan rebels.

- **2005** - At least fifty Congolese militiamen are killed by South African and Pakistani United Nations peacekeeping troops in a bloody gunfight in the Congolese district of Ituri. Several South African soldiers of 12 SA Infantry Battalion (12 SAI) are slightly hurt in the action.

3 March

- **1901** - The Battle of Lichtenburg takes place. The British soldiers move their horses into the Dutch Reformed Church building to shelter them from the fire of General De la Rey's troops.
- **1918** - Russia withdraws from WW I, signs Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Germany.
- **1945** - RAF bombs The Hague in error, 511 die.
- **1964** - Rifleman Brian Ivan Dummer from the Tygerberg Commando was killed in a military vehicle accident at Bethlehem. He was 19.

- **1976** - President Samora Machel of Mozambique closes his frontier with Rhodesia, seizes all Rhodesian assets in the country and places Mozambique on a war footing as a result of a "hot pursuit" attack by Rhodesian security forces during the previous week in which twenty-four guerrillas were killed inside Mozambique.
- **1976** - US government under President Gerald Ford discloses that it has decided to sell weapons to Egypt.
- **1980** - Rifleman Manuel Yenga from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action when he triggered a Soviet POM-Z2 Anti-Personnel Picket Mine inside an enemy bunker near Naulila during Operation Makalani. He was 25.
- **1983** - Special Constable Sam Iyambo 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 26.
- **1988** - The South West Afri-

ca Territory Force claims to have killed sixty Swapo insurgents in various skirmishes in the previous month, bringing the total this year to eighty-six. According to the SWATF, the security forces suffered no losses.

- **1991** - Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) chief-of-staff Chris Hani says as long as the SADF continues recruitment and training, his organisation will continue recruiting members and building underground structures.
- **1993** - An American soldier is killed by a land mine in Somalia and a second dies in a truck crash, bringing to six the number of Americans killed in Operation Restore Hope.
- **2004** - Angered by the way President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was forced to flee his country, the 15-nation Caribbean Community says it will not provide troops for the UN peacekeeping force to Haiti. Aristide claimed that he was abducted at gunpoint by US Marines and sent into exile in South Africa.

4 March

- **1900** - Boers are defeated by Lord Roberts at Driefontein in the Free State.
- **1945** - US Army Air Force B-24s accidentally bomb Zurich.
- **1945** - Finland declares war on Nazi Germany.
- **1968** - Leading Air Mechanic James Ross Brum-



Chris Hani

- mer from Air Operations School Langebaanweg was accidentally killed while mounting a radio antenna on the roof of a hanger at AFB Langebaanweg. The asbestos roofing gave way and he fell to his death. He was 24.
- **1970** - French submarine 'Eurydice' explodes while submerged in the Mediterranean, 57 die.
 - **1981** - Rifleman Frans Karel Petrus Burger from the Cape Town Highlanders was Reported Missing while crossing a river when on a patrol near Ruacana. He disappeared under the water and despite an intensive search, his body was never located. He was 22.
 - **1982** - Two members of 31 Battalion (201 Battalion SWATF) were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-line. They were: Rifleman Mahorison Rodriques (21). Rifleman Llewellyn Verwey (20).
 - **1983** - Two members from 32 Battalion were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola during Operation Snoek. They were: Sergeant Augusto Mande (30). Rifleman Joao Daniel Kativa (26).
 - **1984** - Rifleman Patrick Kudumo from 902 Battalion SWATF was accidentally shot dead by a fellow soldier while on duty in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
 - **1986** - Private Petrus Dolf from the Army Catering Corps was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident, at Osahakati. He was 24.
 - **1986** - Rifleman Benjamin Tjenda from 201 Battalion SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 19
 - **1990** - Ciskei's President Lennox Sebe is overthrown in a coup. The homeland's new military leader, Brigadier Oupa Gqozo, announces that his government's ultimate goal is reincorporating the territory into South Africa. Looting and burning continue for two days and about twenty-seven people die in violence.
- ### 5 March
- **1916** - SA troops led by General Jan Smuts invade East Africa in their confrontation with German forces in World War I.
 - **1936** - Maiden flight of the prototype Supermarine Spitfire.
 - **1942** - Burma: British appoint Sir Harold Alexander Commander-in-Chief.
 - **1942** - The US Navy Seabees are established.
 - **1945** - US VII Corps captures Cologne.
 - **1953** - Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin dies at the age of 73.
 - **1968** - Rifleman Cornelius Andre Grobler from 6 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident in Grahams-town. He was 20.

- **1974** - Rifleman Gerhardus Johannes Jacobus van Rhyn from 6 SAI died from gunshot wounds accidentally sustained at Bwabwata, Western Caprivi. He was 18.
- **1980** - Rifleman Johannes Jacobus Maass from Regiment Erongo was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 24.
- **1980** - Rifleman Eric Norman van Reenen from 52 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-line in Northern Owamboland. He was 29.
- **1990** - SA sends troops to Ciskei to suppress mob attacks on factories and shops after military coup under Brigadier Gqozo ousted authoritarian President Sebe.
- **1993** - Lance Corporal Sydwell Boer from 3 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident on the N3 at Keyridge. He was 25.

6 March

- **1836** - Fort Alamo fell to Mexican troops led by General Santa Anna. The Mexicans had begun the siege of the Texas fort on 23February, ending it with the killing of the last defender. "Remember the Alamo" became a rallying cry for Texans who went on to defeat Santa Anna in the Battle of San Jacinto in April.
- **1881** - Armistice negotiations are concluded during the First Anglo-Boer War.

- **1944** - USAF begins daylight bombing of Berlin.
- **1971** - Private Francois Nel from the Army Service Corps was killed in a private motor vehicle accident in Pretoria. He was 16.
- **1976** - Sergeant Trevor Walter August Booysen from Regiment Westelike Provinsie was accidentally killed at Ruacana when he fell off the back of a moving vehicle. He was 29.
- **1980** - Lance Bombardier Matthew Johannes Naus from 14 Artillery Regiment died from a gunshot wound that was apparently self-inflicted. He was 19.
- **1983** - Two members from 1 Medium Battery, 4 Artillery Regiment that were attached to 61 Mech Battalion, were Killed in Action while on guard duty on a farm near Tsumeb that was located well below the "Red Line". A small group of SWAPO/PLAN insurgents attacked the farm and shot them both at point blank range. The casualties were: Gunner Christo Francois Bezuidenhout (20). Gunner Jameson Bosse (19).
- **1984** - Martin Niemöller, WW I U-boat skipper, anti-Nazi clergyman, at 92.
- **1985** - Special Constable Matheus Oukongo from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 28.
- **1986** - Private Dawid Johannes Retief from 6 Maintenance Unit accidentally drowned in the operational area when his Military vehicle skidded off the road and landed in a river, leaving him trapped inside the vehicle. He was 19.
- **1986** - Corporal Pieter Jeremias Smith from the Specialist Unit died in the Tygerberg Hospital from multiple shrapnel wounds sustained in an accidental mortar bomb explosion. He was 21.
- **1993** - Unita rebels capture Angola's second largest city, Huambo, after a two-month battle with government troops.

7 March

- **1876** - During the second invasion of Abyssinia by Egypt, the Egyptian forces are defeated at Gura by the Ethiopians under King Yohannes.
- **1900** - The Battle of Poplar Grove (or Modderivierspoort) takes place. President Paul Kruger escapes with the help of General De Wet.
- **1902** - General De la Rey defeats and captures General Methuen in the Battle of Tweebosch (or De Klipdrift) in Western Transvaal, the last important battle won by the Boer forces. Methuen

and more than 870 soldiers are captured.

- **1936** - Hitler breaks the Treaty of Versailles, sends troops into the Rhineland, and the Allies fail to act.
- **1941** - WWII: British troops invade Italian-occupied Abyssinia, now Ethiopia.
- **1941** - Gunther Prien, daring submarine captain of 'U-47', is killed in action at the age of 34.
- **1942** - First black cadets graduate from the USAAF flying school at Tuskegee.
- **1943** - Japanese refuse a German request to join war against Russia.
- **1945** - Troops of the US 9th Armored Div, commanded by German-born Lt. Karl Timmerman, capture the Ludendorff Bridge over the Rhine at Remagen.
- **1952** - Job Masego, WW2 veteran who sunk a German supply boat while a prisoner of war after the capture of Tobruk, dies in Springs, Tvl. A street and a school in Kwa Thema have been named after him and in 1997 the SAS Kobie Coetzee was renamed SAS Job Masego.

- **1977** - The Defence Amendment Bill, first published on 31 January 1977, becomes law. Under it the State President is empowered to invoke powers of censorship and of commandeering premises. Service in defence of the Republic now includes anti-terrorist operations as well as the prevention and suppression of internal dis-

order and there can be greater flexibility and speed in mobilisation.

- **1980** - Three members from 13 Field Engineer Squadron were Killed in Action at the Chandelier near Elundu when a booby-trapped landmine coupled together with other improvised explosive devices, exploded while they were in the process of defusing it. The casualties were: Sergeant Deon van der Vyver (21). Corporal Antonie Oberholzer (22). Sapper Willem Johannes Steenkamp Prinsloo (22).
- **1982** - Six Front Line States meet in Maputo and decide to coordinate further their military and economic policies to counter South Africa's economic and military aggression.
- **1983** - Lance Corporal Owen Christopher Williams from 5 SAI, attached to 101 Battalion Romeo Mike was accidentally killed in a Rifle Grenade explosion while on operations in Southern Angola. He was 21.
- **1985** - Corporal Deon van Niekerk from the Northern Transvaal Command Provost Unit was Reported Missing in Clubview, Pretoria while on official traffic control duty during a military exercise. A large truck filled with tons of builders gravel jack-knifed on the Old Johannesburg Road and overturned in the area where he had been doing duty. His body was only dis-

covered two days later when the builders gravel was removed. He was 20.

- **1986** - The State of Emergency imposed on 21 July 1985, is lifted.
- **1991** - 2nd Lieutenant Steven van Rooyen from the Dog Training Centre accidentally drowned in the Blyde River at Belvedere. He was 19.
- **1993** - Angola says its troops have withdrawn from Huambo after two months of fighting with rebels that left 10,000 dead.
- **1993** - The SADF's Battalion 31, composed primarily of the San (Bushmen) battalion who fought in the war in Namibia and has lately been deployed in South African townships, is disbanded at a public ceremony in the Cape province. The 1,000 soldiers will be transferred to other units in the northern Cape and will help patrol the border to Namibia.
- **1994** - Multinational African army installs new government in Liberia.
- **2004** - Zimbabwe seizes a US-registered cargo plane carrying sixty-four suspected mercenaries and military equipment. Simon Mann, of the mercenary outfit Executive Outcomes, is arrested along with five others on the tarmac, after the Zimbabwean authorities have been tipped off by the SA government.

8 March

- **1902** - General De la Rey releases General Lord Methuen after his wounds are treated.
- **1916** - Battle of Dujaila: The Turks beat off a British attempt to relieve the siege of Kut.
- **1942** - Netherlands Indies surrender to the Japanese.
- **1950** - USSR announces they have developed the atomic bomb.
- **1963** - Air Mechanic Pieter Jacobus Hattingh from 35 Squadron was killed in a Ferret Armoured car accident while carrying out in-lying Picket duty patrol of the Security Fence at Air Force Base Ysterplaat. He was 20.
- **1964** - General of Infantry Paul Emil von Lettow-Vorbeck, dies aged 83.
- **1965** - First US combat troops (3,500 Marines) arrive in Vietnam.
- **1972** - Trooper Hubert Terrance Caddy from 1 Special Service Battalion was killed at Zeerust when his Eland Armoured Car overturned during a training exercise. He was 20.
- **1973** - Maritime headquarters at Silvermine is opened.
- **1977** - Corporal Abraham Liebergh Pelser from 7 SAI saved the lives of his fellow soldiers on the afternoon of 08 March 1977. Some of the troops used to straighten the pins on the hand grenades, making them easier

to extract and then hook the grenades into their webbing via the grenade handle. Unfortunately, when Abraham took off his webbing after returning to Nkurukuru Base from a patrol, his thumb caught on the grenade pin and pulled it out. The armed M26 grenade fell onto the floor in the middle of the tent and without hesitation, he dived onto the grenade and absorbed the full force of the explosion that killed him instantly but saved the lives of all the others in the tent. He was 21.

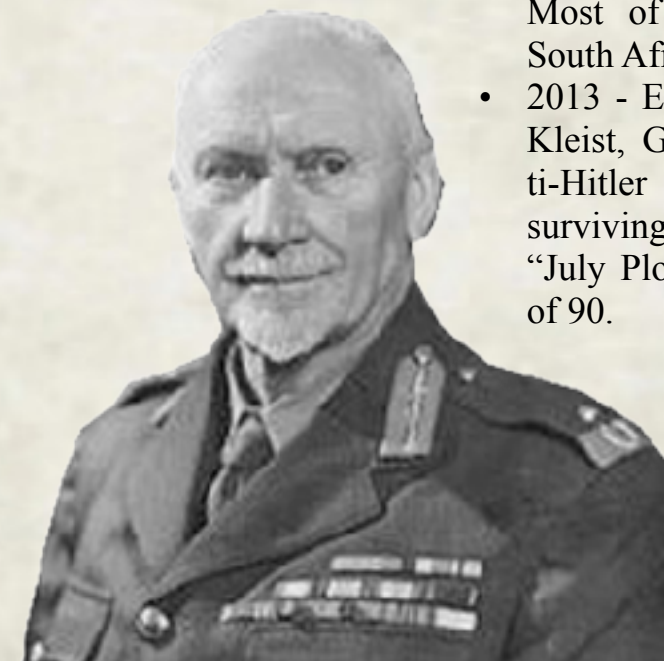
- **1983** - Rifleman Adriaan Jacobus Booysen Thirion from the Boksburg Commando was accidentally killed in a mortar bomb explosion in Southern Angola. He was 24.
- **1987** - Two members from 54 Battalion were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents at Elundu. They were: Corporal Irvine Manuel Daniels (28). Rifleman Henry Jo-

hannes Metcalfe (27).

- **1987** - Private Allen Alberto Mariano from 101 Field Workshops was accidentally killed at Omauni in Owamboland while loading a damaged vehicle onto a low-bed. The crane lift chain broke and the vehicle fell onto him, killing him instantly. He was 19.
- **1988** - Trooper Mark Steven Bannell from 1 Special Service Battalion was killed whilst doing riot patrol on the outskirts of East London when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned. He was 19.
- **1994** - President Lucas Mangope calls out troops as unrest flares in Bophuthatswana.
- **1996** - Lt Col John "Mad Jack" or "Fighting Jack" Churchill, DSO, MC, who fought WW II with a longbow, claymore, & bagpipes, dies at the age of 89.
- **2004** - Fifteen suspected mercenaries are arrested in Equatorial Guinea, including the alleged leader of the advance party, Nick du Toit. Most of the suspects are South African.
- **2013** - Ewald-Heinrich von Kleist, German officer, anti-Hitler conspirator, last surviving veteran of the "July Plot", dies at the age of 90.

9 March

- **1831** - The French Foreign Legion is founded in Algeria to serve in the French colonies in Africa.
- **1864** - Ulysses S. Grant was commissioned as a Lieutenant General and became commander of the Union armies.
- **1916** - Germany declares war on Portugal.
- **1922** - General Jan Smuts declares martial law in the Transvaal after mobilising the active citizen force in a bid to quell the dispute of striking mineworkers.
- **1945** - US B-29s drop 1,665 tons of incendiaries on Tokyo, creating a firestorm; by dawn on the 10th between 80,000-120,000 have died, the highest toll in a single air raid, exceeding even the atomic bombs
- **1969** - Lt General Moneim Riad, chief of staff of Egypt's armed forces, is killed during Israeli-Egyptian gun battle across Suez Canal.
- **1977** - Lieutenant Gerrit Keulder from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action whilst on patrol in Henombe area of Southern Angola. He was 21.
- **1977** - Rifleman P. Katanga from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a Contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 19.
- **1982** - Lance Corporal Errol Carl Moolman from the



Jan Smuts

Rand Light Infantry was accidentally drowned in a rowing boat accident while serving in the Operational Area. He was 20.

- **1982** - Rifleman John Verrooy from the South African Cape Corps attached to Wenela Base was accidentally drowned when he fell off a pont near Wenela Base in Eastern Caprivi. He was 21.
- **1984** - Rifleman W.K. Matende from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 20.
- **1985** - Two members from 6 SAI were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Grahamstown. The casualties were: Rifleman Shaun Patrick Atkins (21). Rifleman Orlando de Portugal Goncalves (19).
- **1985** - Rifleman Eduardo Jonas from 101 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents. He was 23.
- **1987** - Corporal Matthew William Wallace McGregor from 2 Field Engineer Regiment attached to 25 Field Squadron was critically wounded in Action during operations in South Western Angola.
- **1988** - Special Constable Fransiskus Lukas 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.

- **2007** - Chief of the SA Air Force (SAAF) Lieutenant-General Carlo Gagiano announces Waterkloof air force base the country's most prominent air force base is closing for all flying operations for eighteen months in order to upgrade the base's main runway. Work is to start in July and should last about eighteen months.

10 March

- **1880** - The Salvation Army was founded in the United States. The social service organization was first founded in England by William Booth and operates today in 90 countries.
- **1900** - The British under Lord Roberts defeats the Boers in the battle of Driefontein.
- **1922** - Angry White workers, on strike since 28 December, storm and occupy police stations, railway installations and mines on the Rand. They also attack the city's main post office and power station in a mass protest that has, in a few hours, turned into open rebellion against the state. Within four days the revolt is crushed. 153 people, including 72 of the state forces, lie dead, 534 are injured.
- **1944** - Severe restrictions

are imposed on all private travel in the UK, in preparation for D-Day.

- **1964** - US begins reconnaissance flights over East Germany.
- **1966** - North Vietnamese capture US Green Beret Camp in the Ashau Valley.
- **1970** - Corporal Hermanus Stephanus van der Merwe from Northern Air Defence Sector, Devon was killed while travelling in a military bus as part of a convoy en route to Devon. He was 18.
- **1982** - Rifleman Joao Baptista from 32 Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident near Rundu. He was 26.
- **1982** - The trial begins in the Natal Supreme Court of the mercenaries accused of hijacking an airliner to flee from the Seychelles after a failed coup on 25-26 November 1981.
- **1986** - Rifleman Pinecas Amupolo from 101 Battalion SWATF Died of Wounds received when his Samil 100 Kwevoel vehicle was hit by a Soviet RPG-7 anti-tank rocket. He was 25.
- **1988** - Rifleman Lodewickus Johannes Moolman from Regiment Bloemspruit was killed when he was attacked and trampled to death by an elephant during a patrol near the Nwamedzi Base in the Kruger National Park. He was 29.
- **1997** - South African arms manufacturer Denel an-

nounces that it will unveil six new products at a United Arab Emirates weapons exhibition to increase its sales, especially in the Middle East.

11 March

- **1779** - The US Army Corps of Engineers is established.
- **1941** - During World War II, the Lend-Lease program began allowing Britain to receive American weapons, machines, raw materials, training and repair services. Ships, planes, guns and shells, along with food, clothing and metals went to the embattled British while American warships began patrolling the North Atlantic and U.S troops were stationed in Greenland and Iceland.
- **1942** - Paris: First deportation train leaves for Auschwitz.
- **1945** - 1,000 Allied bombers drop over 4,000 tons of bombs on Essen.
- **1979** - Rifleman Paul William Ernest Carroll from 7 SAI was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 20.
- **1984** - Staff Sergeant David John Ward from 101 Battalion SWATF was critically wounded in the hip when his team was ambushed by SWAPO/PLAN and FAPLA forces in Southern Angola. He died from blood loss be-

fore he could be evacuated. He was 24.

- **1985** - Rifleman K. Iyango from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN and FAPLA forces in Southern Angola. He was 24.
- **1987** - Rifleman E. Nangula from 101 Battalion Romeo Mike Team 901 SSC-RM-3 SWATF was Killed in Action in Southern Angola after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds when he triggered a Soviet POM-Z2 Anti-Personal Picket Mine. He was 22.
- **1988** - Rifleman Pietter Leon Hendrik van Dyk from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned during anti-crime operations in Mamelodi Township. He was 18.
- **1994** - Three AWB members shot and killed during the invasion of Bophuthatswana.
- **1879** - A convoy of the British 80th Regt. is over-run at Ntombe River, northern Zululand by a force of 2 000 Zulus. Of the sixty men in the camp, only fifteen escape.
- **1918** - The British submarine 'D-3' is sunk off the French coast, by a French airship which mistook her for a U-boat.
- **1938** - Nazis invaded Austria, then absorbed the country into Hitler's Reich.

12 March

- **1945** - Anne Frank, dies in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp of typhus. She was 14.
- **1951** - North Korean/Red Chinese troops driven out of Seoul.
- **1962** - Defence Minister J.J. Fouché outlines the basic principles of South Africa's defence policy and gives details of measures being taken to build up the Defence Forces and to make South Africa self-supporting in military equipment.
- **1963** - Major Anthony Dennis Michael Lawrenson AFC from Air Force Base Waterkloof was killed when his Dornier Do-27A, Serial No. 5431 crashed near Belfast while on a training flight. He was 43.
- **1968** - P.W. Botha, the Minister of Defence, reports to the Senate on the progress of the Arms Industry and defines the main aims of South Africa's defence policy.
- **1975** - Lieutenant Christopher Stuart Franklin from 7 Squadron was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed near Oudtshoorn. He was 21.
- **1984** - Rifleman L. Dala from 31 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents. He was 22.
- **1987** - Rifleman J.W.L. Johannes from 5 Recce Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy

- forces. He was 24.
- **1987** - Rifleman Faustino Sikote from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with FAPLA forces near Evale in Southern Angola during Operation Kakebeen. He was 27.
 - **1987** - Special Constable Simon Venusiu 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.
 - **1988** - Rifleman Stephen Ebenezer Futchter from 32 Battalion was Reported Missing after he disappeared in the Okavango River one night while swimming behind the Pont near Buffalo Base. It is suspected that he was either taken by a crocodile or a hippo. His body was never located despite an intensive search. He remains unaccounted for. He was 20.
 - **1989** - Rifleman Thulani Maxwei Khuluse from 121 Battalion was killed in a shooting incident in the Community Hall at Verulam. He was 25.
 - **1999** - Poland, Hungary, & the Czech Republic join NATO.

13 March

- **1900** - British forces under Lord Roberts take Bloemfontein.
- **1933** - Hitler makes Josef

Goebbels Minister of Information.

- **1942** - Julia Flikke, of the Nurse Corps, becomes the first woman colonel in the US Army.
- **1942** - The U.S. Army K9 Corps is established.
- **1943** - A plot to kill Hitler by German army officers failed as a bomb planted aboard his plane failed to explode due to a faulty detonator.
- **1954** - General Giap's Viet Minh attack That Bien Phu.
- **1977** - Rifleman Jacobus Frederick Steyn from 5 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident at the Kongola Bridge. He was 19.
- **1982** - Three members of 32 Battalion were Killed in Action during Operation Super in Southern Angola. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant Petrus Johannes Stephanus Nel (HC Posthumous) (19). Corporal Phillip Thomas Stewart (23). Corporal Yombi João (32).
- **1983** - Rifleman Andrew Matthews Smit from 5 SAI was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion in Southern Angola. He was 18.
- **1986** - Corporal Victor Rodrigues Pedro from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment accidentally drowned in Durban during a training exercise. He was 31.
- **1988** - Private Carel Johannes Beneke from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed when his military vehicle

overturned near Buffalo. He was 18.

- **1988** - Lieutenant (Doctor) Herman Jan Roelof Gerding from the SA Medical Corps Headquarters was killed while travelling as a passenger in a military ambulance. He was 35.
- **2002** - The Angolan government announces a unilateral ceasefire in its 27-year civil war against Unita, to begin the next day.

14 March

- **1915** - German cruiser 'Dresden' scuttled off Chile.
- **1933** - Winston Churchill calls for better air defensive of Britain.
- **1941** - German Air Raid on Clydbank: After two night of bombing nearly every building the town is damaged or destroyed, more than 500 are dead, and over 50,000 homeless.
- **1961** - Two members from Air Force Base Zwartkop were killed when their Ferret Scout Car overturned while on a night Base Perimeter Patrol. The casualties were: Air Sergeant James George McKelvey (30). Air Sergeant Nicolaas Jacobus Neveling (23).
- **1979** - Two members of 12 Squadron deployed to Grootfontein for Operation Rekstok and Safraan were killed in action. They were: Lieutenant (Pilot) Dewald Wally Marais (24). 2nd Lieutenant (Navigator)

Owen John Doyle (21).

- **1980** - 2nd Lieutenant Phillipus Jacob Rudolph Oosthuizen from 5 SAI was Killed in Action after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds during an ambush on the Chandelier Road, about 10km from Nkongo Base when a Soviet 82mm High Explosive mortar bomb exploded next to him. He was 20.
- **1984** - Lieutenant Stanley Saillard Ponder from the South African Medical Corps, a Dental Practitioner attached to 2 Field Engineer Regiment, was killed at Grootfontein when his vehicle was involved in a head-on collision with a police vehicle while he was traveling to a nearby clinic. He was 25.
- **1985** - 2nd Lieutenant Guy Claude Udo Winsto Mogens De Beurges from 121 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy

forces in Southern Angola. He was 20.

- **1985** - Special Constable Joans Andungi 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 23.
- **1987** - Special Constable Ndjendjela Vilho 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 26.
- **1988** - Rifleman Zwelithini Andrias Lukhelo from 121 Battalion was killed while on patrol in the Tembe Elephant Park when he was trampled to death by an enraged elephant. He was 32.
- **1992** - Rifleman Marius Gottfreidt Uitenweerde from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed in a private motor vehicle accident near Benoni. He was 26.

15 March

- **1900** - Lord Roberts issues his first proclamation, offering amnesty to burghers, except for the leaders.
- **1922** - The artillery bombards the strikers' strong-

hold at Fordsburg Square during the Rand Revolt and it falls to the government. Before presumably committing suicide in this building, the two communist leaders, Fisher and Spendiff, left a joint note: 'We died for what we believed in the Cause'.

- **1943** - Third Battle of Kharkov: Germans under Manstein retake the city from the Soviets.
- **1944** - The ancient Abbey of Monte Cassino is destroyed by Allied bombing and shelling.
- **1957** - Britain becomes the third nation to detonate a nuclear bomb.
- **1972** - Rifleman Werner Albrecht from the Technical Service Corps attached to 1 Field Ambulance Unit was accidentally killed when a steam pressure cooker exploded at Elandsfontein. He was 19.
- **1982** - Rifleman Johannes Jasva from Northern Transvaal Command was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 18.
- **1986** - Special Constable Ernesto Hishidivali 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.
- **1988** - Angola releases the bodies of two SA Defence Force commandos killed in



Josef Goebbels

a raid on Cabinda oil depots in 1985, and the SADF repatriates twelve captured MPLA soldiers.

16 March

- **1802** - The U.S. Military Academy at West Point opens its doors on this day.
- **1916** - The new Dutch passenger liner 'Tubatina' is torpedoed off the Netherlands, Germany denies responsibility despite recovery of portions of the torpedo.
- **1935** - Hitler announces German rearmament, after years of covert efforts under the Weimar Republic, in violation of the Treaty of Versailles.
- **1968** - During the Vietnam War, the My Lai Massacre occurred as American soldiers of Charlie Company murdered 504 Vietnamese men, women, and children. Twenty-five U.S. Army officers were later charged with complicity in the massacre and subsequent cover-up, but only one was convicted, and later pardoned by President Richard Nixon.
- **1983** - Chief Petty Officer Nadiem Mooi from the South African Navy Provost Unit was accidentally killed while attached to 102 Battalion SWATF. He was 34.
- **1984** - Two members of the South African Cape Corps and one from the Army Catering Corps were killed after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in an accidental mortar bomb ex-

plosion at Ruacana. They were: Corporal Theo Christopeus Noel Maseti (Army Catering Corps) (21). Rifleman Charles Johannes Coram (19). Rifleman Willem Swartz (22).

- **1984** - Rifleman P. Hauptindi from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 20.
- **1984** - Prime Minister P.W. Botha and President Samora Machel of Mozambique sign the Nkomati Accord at the common border on the banks of the Komati River a step hailed as a major move towards peace, stability and international co-operation in Southern Africa.
- **1987** - Two members from 5 SAI were killed when their Samil 50 vehicle overturned 10km east of Colenso while ferrying troops from Durban Airport to the 5 SAI Base at Ladysmith. They were: Rifleman Gavin Gainsford (18). Rifleman John Adriaan Marlow (18).

17 March (St Patrick's Day)

- **1900** - President Kruger and President Steyn appoint Count Georges de Villebois-Mareuil as general in Kroonstad during the South African War. He is killed three weeks later in combat in Boshof, Free State.
- **1900** - A Great combined Republican Council of War is held at Kroonstad, attended by both presidents and com-

manders of the Boer forces, during which far-reaching tactical decisions are taken about the future conduct of the war.

- **1916** - The Imperial Japanese Naval Air Service is established.
- **1942** - Belzec Concentration Camp opens.
- **1966** - US mini-sub locates a missing H-bomb in the Mediterranean off Palomares, Spain.
- **1977** - Sapper Christo Kemp from 14 Field Regiment was Killed in Action during mine clearing operations. He was 23.
- **1977** - Angolan troops invading Zaire take important copper-mining centre of Kolwezi.
- **1981** - Rifleman Petrus Jacobus Viljoen from the Pietermaritzburg Commando was Killed in Action during a skirmish with FRELIMO troops near Ponta do Ouro. He was 23.
- **1984** - A Defence Force spokesman confirms in Cape Town that South Africa is to stop supplying the United States and Britain with intelligence reports on the movements of Soviet warships around the Cape by the end of the year.
- **1987** - Two members from 101 Battalion SWATF were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents in Southern Angola just north of the Cutline. The Casualties were: Rifleman Craig Douglas

Wetton (19). Rifleman M. Moses (20).

- **1997** - Denel says no deal has been reached over the sale of arms to Syria.

18 March

- **1915** - British & French lose six ships attempting to force the Dardanelles.
- **1917** - French battleship 'Danton' is sunk off Sardinia by a German u-boat, 296 die.
- **1922** - The strike by mine-workers on the Witwatersrand, also known as the Rand Revolt, ends. More than 200 people were killed during the strike, which put thousands out of work and caused a devastating loss in coal and gold production.
- **1940** - Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini hold a meeting at the Brenner Pass during which the Italian dictator agrees to join in Germany's war against France and Britain.
- **1944** - German troops seize control of Hungary.
- **1949** - The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is founded.
- **1952** - Communist offensive in Korea begins.
- **1963** - War of independence is launched against Portugal in Guinea-Bissau.
- **1969** - Minister of Defence, P.W. Botha, attends the launching in France of the first of three Daphne class submarines being built for the South African Navy.
- **1975** - Herbert Chitepo, 52,

ZANU leader, is killed in Lusaka when his car blows up in an explosion.

- **1986** - Warrant Officer Class 1 Frederick Petrus Johannes Cornelius from 5 Maintenance Unit was critically wounded in Northern Owamboland when his vehicle detonated a landmine. Evacuated back to the RSA, he succumbed to his wounds in 1 Military Hospital later that evening. He was 31.
- **1987** - Israel freezes military contracts and imposes cultural and tourism sanctions on South Africa.

19 March

- **1858** - War against the Basuto is declared in Bloemfontein.
- **1945** - Adolf Hitler orders total destruction of German infrastructure.
- **1979** - Private Louis Gerhard Nel was critically injured in an aircraft ejection seat accident on the Squadron and succumbed to his injuries in 1 Military Hospital. He was 20.
- **1981** - Gunner Cornelius Johannes Janse van Rensburg from 14 Field Regiment died in 1 Military Hospital after being diagnosed with a brain tumor. He was 19.
- **1988** - Major Jan Willem van Coppenhagen from 1 Squadron was Reported Missing in Action in Southern Angola when his Dassault Mirage F1AZ failed to return from a low level night diversion strike on enemy

installations at Baixa Longa in Angola with radio silence being enforced. After an intensive search, the wreckage of the aircraft together with the body of the pilot were located inside Angola, not far from the Cut Line. He was 33.

- **1989** - Maiden flight of the Boeing V-22 Osprey VTOL aircraft.
- **1994** - Rifleman Phethiso Simeon Makhatha from 115 Battalion was killed after suffering multiple head injuries when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned while on Township Patrol. He was 27.
- **2003** - The United States launched an attack against Iraq to topple dictator Saddam Hussein from power. The attack commenced with aerial strikes against military sites, followed the next day by an invasion of southern Iraq by U.S. and British ground troops.

20 March

- **1896** - The second Matabele war breaks out.
- **1902** - In the British House of Commons David Lloyd George suggests that there are as many as 30 000 armed Blacks in British military employ in South Africa.
- **1933** - The Nazis open their first concentration camp, at Dachau, near Munich.
- **1942** - General Douglas MacArthur vows "I shall return".
- **1981** - Seaman Derek Jerome Meyer of the 1st Ma-

- rine Brigade, South African Marine Corps, was killed instantly in a shooting incident while participating in military exercises being held near Vryburg. He was 19.
 - **1982** - Rifleman Dumba Katibelo from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action near the Cut-Line during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents. He was 23.
 - **1983** - Special Sergeant Atytale Amalua from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 32.
 - **1984** - Gunner Joachim Jacobus Badenhorst from 61 Mechanised Battalion was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned on a wet road at Tsumeb. He was 19.
 - **1985** - Rifleman Jan Andries Coetzee from 7 SAI was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident on the Witbank Highway. He was 20.
 - **1988** - Corporal Gregory MacKenzie Steward from 44 Parachute Pathfinder Company was called up for a three-month camp in March 1988. He was officially Reported Missing after participating in a Sunday night practice parachute jump at Murray Hill just north of Pretoria. An intensive search was launched and his body was located an hour later and recovered. He was 20.
 - **1989** - Lance Corporal Philip Swartz from 52 Battalion was killed in a motor cycle accident at Oshakati. He was 28.
 - **1999** - The African People's Liberation Army (APLA), armed section of the PAC, is disbanded in the Umtata stadium by Dr Stanley Mogoba.
- 21 March**
- **1918** - During World War I, the Second Battle of the Somme began as German General Erich von Ludendorff launched an all-out drive to win the war.
 - **1943** - A suicide/assassination plot by German Army officers against Hitler failed as the conspirators were unable to locate a short fuse for the bomb which was to be carried in the coat pocket of General von Gersdorff to ceremonies Hitler was attending.
 - **1945** - Okinawa: Japanese use Okha suicide planes for the first time.
 - **1946** - The US Strategic Air Command is established.
 - **1966** - Two members from Central Flying School Dunsfott were killed when their AT-6 Harvard crashed near Eendrag during a routine training flight. They were: Lieutenant (Pilot Instructor) Johannes Nicolaas Taljaard (22). Candidate Officer (Pupil Pilot) Ian Ashton Fraser

- (19).
- **1975** - Two members from 17 Squadron were killed when their Alouette III, Serial Number 23 struck power lines 7km North of Windhoek and caught fire. The Crew and civilian passengers were killed during the subsequent emergency landing. The Crew were: Lieutenant (Pilot) Geoffrey Herbert Clark (28). Sergeant (Flight Engineer) Christiaan Hermanus Pretorius (29).
- **1976** - Warrant Officer Class II Keith Hugh Hamilton from 250 Air Defence Artillery Group, South African Air Force died in 1 Military Hospital after developing blood clots on the lungs. He was 30.
- **1979** - Lance Corporal Johannes Gerhardus Olivier from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in South Eastern Angola near the Kavangoland Border. He was 22.
- **1979** - Rifleman John Henry van Drutten from the Lydenburg Commando collapsed and died from heat exhaustion during a Route March at Phalaborwa. He was 23.
- **1980** - Rifleman Carlos Conceicao Da Trindade from 32 Battalion Died of Wounds in the Grootfontein Hospital after being critically wounded on 13 March 1980 during Operation Makalani in Southern Angola. He was 20.

- **1981** - Major Carel Arnold Briers from 101 Battalion Romeo Mike was accidentally electrocuted at the Miershoop training base just south of Okatope. He was 27.
- **1984** - Rifleman Eugene Cedric Terblanche from 6 SAI contracted malaria and was admitted to the Grahamstown Provincial Hospital where he died on 21 March 1984. He was 19.
- **1984** - Soviet sub collides with USS 'Kitty Hawk' (CV-63) off Japan.
- **1990** - Authorities ordered an inquiry into the funding of the Civil Co-operation Bureau, a secret military unit, accused of political assassinations.
- **1997** - South African mercenaries, hired by the Papua New Guinea government to help crush a separatist rebellion, arrive back in South Africa. Executive Outcomes say that the men should not be seen as mercenaries, but as consultants.

23 March

22 March

- **1900** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War the Portuguese government sanctions the passage of British troops and stores via Beira, Mozambique, thereby violating their previous policy of neutrality.
- **1945** - Patton's Third Army crosses the Rhine.

- **1881** - During the First Anglo-Boer War a peace agreement between the Transvaal Republic and England is ratified and the final agreement is incorporated into the Pretoria Convention, which was signed on 3 August 1881.
- **1881** - The 3-months siege of British soldiers in the Old Fort in Potchefstroom ends amicably with Boer leader Piet Cronje inviting the British officers to dinner at the Royal Hotel. Twenty-five British soldiers and six Boer soldiers died during the siege.
- **1918** - Paris is shelled by German very-long range artillery.
- **1944** - RAF Flight Sergeant

Nicholas Alkemade survives a 5,500 m fall without a parachute after his Lancaster is hit near Berlin.

- **1962** - French government uses fighter planes and tanks in attempt to end insurrection by European rightists in Algeria.
- **1965** - Two SAAF members, one from 7 Squadron and one from 8 Squadron were killed when their AT-6 Harvard crashed near Bloemfontein during a night cross country exercise. It appears that the crew may have become disorientated as the aircraft flew vertically into the ground while still under full power. The crew were: 2nd Lieutenant (Pilot Instructor) Jacobus Johannes le Roux (22). Candidate Officer (Pupil Pilot) Robin Leslie Jarman (21).
- **1965** - Gunner Leonard Edward Parsons from Eastern Province Command was accidentally electrocuted. He was 18.
- **1980** - Corporal Renier Stephanus van Zyl from Regiment Namutoni SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 24.
- **1980** - Rifleman Robert Frederick McShane from the Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg was critically injured in a hit-and-run accident just outside Hoopstad on 18 November 1979 while hitch-hiking home to Cape



**George S
Patton**

Town on weekend pass. He succumbed to his injuries in hospital on 23 March 1980. He was 19.

- **1982** - Rifleman Johannes Dimbo from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds from a Soviet 60mm mortar bomb explosion during a SWAPO/PLAN insurgent attack near Nkongo. He was 22.
- **1982** - South Africa is to expand its military call-up to include all White men aged between seventeen and sixty-five, almost doubling the size of its forces. Commando units are to be strengthened.
- **1985** - 2nd Lieutenant Delarey Matthee from 3 SAI was accidentally shot and killed by own forces in his own ambush at Kamanjab. He was 24.
- **1988** - Constable Jacobus Ignatius van Zyl from the SWA Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action when his Z4S Casspir was hit by a Soviet RPG-7 Anti-Tank Rocket during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1990** - Commandant Henry Walter Venter from 4 Vehicle Reserve Park was killed in a military vehicle accident on the Old Warmbaths Road near Pretoria. He was 40.
- **1997** - The first wave of a US military task force moves

cautiously into central Africa, preparing for a possible evacuation of Americans from Zaire.

- **2006** - Desmond Doss, conscientious objector who had earned a Medal of Honour as a medic on Okinawa, dies at the age of 87.

24 March

- **1900** - Newly appointed Combat General Count Georges de Villebois-Mareuil leaves Kroonstad with a 'flying column' consisting of fifty Dutchmen, twenty-five Frenchmen and eleven Afrikaners, aiming to blow up the railway line south of Kimberley to disrupt British lines of communications.
- **1941** - Donald Duck enlists in the US Army, for the first of six war cartoons.
- **1944** - The Great Escape: 76 Allied officers flee Stalag Luft 3.
- **1945** - Operation Varsity: Allied airborne crossing of the Rhine.
- **1951** - Two pilots of SA Air Force's No 2 (Flying Cheetah) Squadron, assisting the United Nations in the Korean War, blast a convoy of twelve stationary and camouflaged trucks with rocket-fire and destroy ten. In another operation, two "Flying Cheetahs" wipe out nine trucks.
- **1963** - Five members of the South African Defence Force were killed when the military vehicle in which

they were traveling as passengers, overturned at Voortrekkerhoogte. They were: Private Jacobus Gerhardus Roos Runkel (18). Signaller Ivan Leslie Taylor (19). Signaller Ulrich Andre Mulder from 2 Signal Regiment (18). Signaller Jacobus Johannes Helberg (17). Signaller Abraham Lodewicus Botha (20).

- **1972** - Private Leon George Muller from the Air Force Gymnasium died from heat exhaustion in 1 Military Hospital. He was 19.
- **1974** - Uganda crushes a coup attempt against President Idi Amin.
- **1975** - Rifleman Peter John van der Walt from 4 SAI died from a gunshot wound as a result of the accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while stationed in the Caprivi Strip. He was 18.
- **1976** - Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, British field marshal during World War 2 and commander of the Eighth Army in North Africa, dies at the age of 88.
- **1982** - Rifleman Gringo Jose' Manuel from 32 Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident at Buffalo. He was 23.
- **1986** - Commandant Charles Vernon Hochapfel from the South West Africa Gymnasium attached to 101 Battalion SWATF, died in 1 Military Hospital from Wounds received during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 44.

25 March

- **1858** - The battle of Koranaberg takes place during the Orange Free State-Basuto War.
- **1915** - First USN submarine disaster: USS 'F-4' sinks off Hawaii, 21 die.
- **1945** - US First Army breaks out of the Remagen bridgehead.
- **1966** - Lieutenant Francois Theron Mentz from Central Flying School Dunnottar was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed after flying into rising ground during low level flying near Middelburg. He was 22.
- **1976** - Trooper Reginald Edward Smith from the Natal Mounted Rifles died in Northern Owamboland from a gunshot wound as a result of an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 23.
- **1976** - Lance Corporal Willem Christoffel Swanepoel from 2 Parachute Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents north of Oshikango. He was 30.
- **1977** - Five members from Regiment Westelike Provinsie were killed and 71 injured on when a goods train loaded with iron ore collided with their stationary troop train at the Keetmanshoop station. The Casualties were: Rifleman Gary Albert Bricknell (22). Rifleman Petrus Johannes Jacobus Holtzhausen (27). Rifleman Wilhelm Hugo (26). Rifleman Hermanus Johannes Uys (25). Rifleman Paul Kady Donovan van Zyl (24).
- **1978** - Rifleman R. Desenga from 31 Battalion was accidentally shot and killed by a fellow soldier in Northern Owamboland. He was 20.
- **1980** - Two members from 42 Squadron were killed when their AM-3C Bosbok, Serial No. 923 crashed near Potchefstroom while carrying out low level flying. The crew were: Lieutenant Edwin Johannes le Roux (20). Lieutenant Pieter Frederick Smit (22).
- **1980** - Two crewmembers from 44 Squadron and a SAAF female Personnel Officer (passenger), were killed when their C-47 Dakota, based at Air Force Base Grootfontein, crashed between Tsumeb and Grootfontein while carrying out unauthorised low level flight. The casualties were: Lieutenant Johan Heinrich Leeuw (22). Lieutenant Cornelis Johannes Wessels (21). Candidate Officer (Miss) Elna Susan Swart (23).
- **1982** - Two members of Witwatersrand Command Headquarters were killed in a Military Vehicle Accident in Houghton. They were: Rifleman Johannes Theodorus Lombard (21). Rifleman Ivan John van Heerden (20).
- **1982** - In announcing the 1982 Defence Budget, Owen Horwood reaffirms

that the government's highest priority remains that of giving South Africa an effective defence capability and a self-sufficient arms industry.

- **1985** - Rifleman Colin Graham Dockerill from 6 SAI, detached to the Equestrian Centre, was killed instantly in Northern Owamboland while returning from a waterhole when he fell off his galloping horse and hit a tree trunk, breaking his neck. He was 20.
- **1988** - Rifleman Nicolaas Jacobus Vermeulen from 54 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 23.
- **1988** - Rifleman Simon Haindula from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 22.
- **1994** - Lance Corporal Phiti Joel Mokgolo from 7 SAI was killed in a motor vehicle accident near Rustenburg. He was 27.
- **1994** - American troops withdraw from Somalia after a 16-month humanitarian mission marred by fighting with the Somalis.

26 March

- **1917** - First Battle of Gaza: The Turks hold the British.
- **1945** - Seventh Army attacks Worms on the Rhine.
- **1957** - Two members from Central Flying School Dun-

nottar were killed when their Harvard flew into rising ground near Trichardt during a night cross country flight. The aircraft disintegrated on impact and burnt out. The crew were: Lieutenant Andre Dewald de Klerk (25). 2nd Lieutenant Neil Rhodes Edward Ken-nauth (23).

- **1965** - Rifleman Andrew Mark Newton-Thompson from 1 SAI collapsed from heat exhaustion while on a cross country run and died in the Groote Schuur Hospital. He was 21.
- **1965** - Rifleman Johannes Rudolf Fourie from 5 SAI died from a gunshot wound resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle during a training exercise at Ladysmith. He was 18.
- **1976** - Rifleman Hermanus Stephanus Lombard Moss from the Kaffrarian Rifles was Killed in Action when his Unimog detonated a landmine just north of Ondangwa in Northern Owamboland. He was 23.
- **1977** - Rifleman Joao Antonio from 32 Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident at Buffalo while delivering supplies to the Base. He was 27.
- **1978** - Corporal Nicolaas Johannes Koekemoer from the Johannesburg Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Rhodesia. He was 24.
- **1979** - Camp David peace

treaty is signed, ending 30 years of war between Egypt and Israel.

- **1980** - Rifleman John Stephen Botha from 32 Battalion died at Buffalo Base from a gunshot wound apparently accidentally self-inflicted. No foul play was suspected. He was 19.
- **1984** - Lieutenant Hendrik Hans Jacob Maree from the South African Medical Corps attached to 202 Battalion SWATF was killed in a motor vehicle accident at Rundu. He was 23.
- **1991** - Soldiers overthrow Mali's military dictator after days of rioting and protests that leave dozens dead.

27 March

- **1881** - A Boer force of 150 men storms Majuba and drives out 400 British troops in the decisive battle of the Anglo-Transvaal War.
- **1900** - General Piet Joubert, commandant-general of the Boer forces and vice-president of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek, dies of gastritis in Pretoria.
- **1933** - Japan leaves the League of Nations.
- **1941** - Himmler orders building of the Auschwitz concentration camp.
- **1945** - The last German V-2 rocket attack on Britain: 134 people, many of them Jewish, are killed Whitechapel, London.
- **1964** - UN peacekeeping troops arrive on Cyprus.

• **1968** - Captain Andries Jacobus Mouton from Air Operations School was killed when his De Havilland Vampire T-55 Mk II was involved in a mid-air collision with a Canadair C13L Sabre piloted by Lt Liebenberg of 1 Squadron near Pietersburg. He was 29.

- **1975** - Minister of Defence P.W. Botha presents a White Paper outlining defence policy and justifying the increased expenditure which now accounts for one-fifth of the country's revenue budget.
- **1979** - Rifleman Dixon Njunge from 201 Battalion SWATF was accidentally shot dead by a fellow soldier during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1981** - Rifleman Daniel Johannes Louw from the South African Cape Corps killed at M'pacha after suffering a fatal gunshot wound as a result of an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 20.
- **1983** - Three members from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. They were: Special Sergeant Edward Mutuku (29). Special Constable Matheus Funet (24). Special Constable Johannes Muyongo (25).

- **1987** - Rifleman Manuel Maundu from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 22.

28 March

- **1879** - Nearly one hundred officers and men of Wood's column are killed in a desperate fight against a Zulu impi on Hlobane Mountain during the Anglo-Zulu War.
- **1915** - German submarine 'U-28' torpedoes the British liner 'Falaba' in St. George's Channel, 104 die.
- **1942** - Operation Chariot: Nocturnal Royal Navy/Royal Marine commando raid blocks the 'Normandie' dock in Nazi-occupied St Nazaire. Five VCs are awarded as a result of the raid.
- **1945** - Last V-1 buzz bomb attack on London.
- **1969** - Dwight D. Eisenhower, US President, 5-star general and Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in Europe, dies at the age of 78.



V1
'Buzzbomb'

• **1978** - Sapper Michael Andries Stephanus Nel from 101 Field Engineer Regiment was Reported Missing while swimming in the Okavango River after he was attacked by a crocodile. He has no known grave and remains unaccounted for. He was 19.

- **1979** - The World Campaign against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa is launched in London, with the support of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid. Several Heads of State and Government are its patrons and Abdul S. Minty its Director.
- **1979** - Sergeant Robert Daniel Burt from Sector 70 Headquarters SWATF was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 26.
- **1979** - Rifleman Dennis Colin Golden from 1 Parachute Battalion was accidentally killed by own forces near Otavi. He was 19.
- **1979** - Rifleman Nikos Pavlakis from Infantry School Died of Wounds when his patrol, while moving along the Cut-line, was ambushed by a numerically superior force of SWAPO/PLAN insurgents between Beacon 11 and Beacon 12. He was 20.
- **1980** - Trooper Leon Oosthuizen from 1 Special Service Battalion was killed after suffering multiple shrap-

nel wounds in an accidental hand grenade explosion at the General De Wet Training Area. He was 18.

- **1981** - Three members of 1 Parachute Battalion died of multiple shrapnel wounds at the Barracks in Bloemfontein. The casualties were: Rifleman Petrus Jacobus Pieterse (18). Rifleman Johannes Daniel van der Westhuizen (19). Rifleman Elias Jacobus Nicolaas Beukes (18).
- **1982** - ARMSCOR's Chairman announces that South Africa has produced a world-beating 155-millimetre artillery system the G5 gun.
- **1983** - Special Constable Ng-hiwaniva Nghiyayela 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 26.
- **1985** - Rifleman Kleopas Mbango from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut Line. He was 23.
- **1987** - Special Sergeant Martin Lukas from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 32.

- **1988** - Special Constable Manuel Sevelenu 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.
- **1990** - Commandant John Orr, Officer Commanding 2 Squadron returned from a training sortie in his Mirage IICZ and while debriefing at the Squadron, he suddenly collapsed. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria where he succumbed. He was 37.
- **1977** - Staff Sergeant Gert Jacobus Voges from 29 Field Workshops died from injuries sustained in a military vehicle accident at the Otavi-Tsumeb crossroads. He was 39.
- **1988** - Gunner Hendrik Jacobus van der Westhuizen from Regiment Potchefstroom University was killed when he accidentally shot himself in Southern Angola during operations against FAPLA Forces near Cuito Cuanavale. He was 33.
- **1994** - Cease-fire ends Serbo-Croat War.

30 March

- **1945** - Soviet troops enter Austria.
- **1945** - The Red Army captures Danzig.
- **1972** - Private Sydney Eric Wienand from the Air Force Gymnasium was killed in a military vehicle accident in Pretoria. He was 19.
- **1973** - Private Andrew James MacPherson from Natal Command Headquarters was killed in a military vehicle accident in Durban. He was 18.



**M1911
.45 ACP
Pistol**

29 March

- **1879** - The battle of Kambula during the Anglo-Zulu War, takes place.
- **1911** - The U.S. Army adopts the M1911 .45 ACP pistol as its official sidearm.
- **1962** - The minister of defence, J.J. Fouché, discloses that South Africa is buying supersonic Mirage III jet fighters from France, and that South African forces are being equipped with French alouette helicopters.
- **1971** - 1st Lt William L Calley Jr found guilty in the My Lai massacre.
- **1973** - Private Johan Marthinus Kruger from 2 Mobilisation Centre was killed in a military vehicle accident at Petrusburg. He was 18.
- **1973** - Last US troops leave Vietnam, nine years after the Tonkin Gulf Resolution.

- **1984** - Four members from the Congella Regiment and one member from Group 10 attached to the Regiment were killed and one critically injured when their Military Landrover Vehicle was struck and flattened by an articulated vehicle loaded with logs that jack-knifed across the road approximately 9 km outside Richmond. The casualties were: Staff Sergeant Kevin Ernest Parker (37). Lance Corporal Roderrick William Bekker (28). Rifleman Winston Churchill (25). Rifleman Stefan Henry Conrad (27). Rifleman Grant Edward Brierley (27) died from his injuries on 31 March 1984.
- **1984** - Corporal Daniel Matsetse from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with

SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 24.

- **1987** - Sergeant (Flight Engineer) Daniel Lan from 16 Squadron was Killed in Action after being hit by enemy small arms fire while acting as door gunner in Alouette III 624 during a close-air support operation against SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in the Oshivello area. He was 27.

31 March

- **1900** - General Christiaan de Wet and his men, in a battle that marks the first of the guerrilla phase of the Second Anglo-Boer War, clash with British forces under General R Broadwood and capture 421 men, seven guns and 83 wagons. The battle is fought at Sannaspost (Sannahs Post), east of Bloemfontein.
- **1921** - The Royal Australian Air Force is established.
- **1941** - Germans launch a counter-offensive in North Africa in World War II.
- **1943** - USAAF accidentally bombs a residential area of Rotterdam, 326 die.
- **1954** - USSR offers to join NATO.
- **1960** - Four more regiments

of the Citizens' Force are mobilised. Legal authorities in Johannesburg state the emergency regulations create a situation of virtual martial law.

- **1970** - Marshal of the Soviet Union Semion Timoshenko dies at the age of 75.
- **1977** - A Defence White Paper analyses South Africa's defence requirements in the context of the Soviet and Cuban intervention in Angola. South Africa is to be placed on a war footing.
- **1977** - Private Wilhelm Jacobus Johannes van Nieuwenhuizen from 32 Field Workshop Squadron was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 28.
- **1989** - Johan Papenfus, a SA Defence Force rifleman captured in Angola nearly a year previously, returns to South Africa from Cuba. His return is part of an exchange for prisoners held by Unita.
- **1992** - UN Security Council votes to ban flights and arms sales to Libya, branding it a terrorist state for shielding six men accused of blowing up Pan Am Flight 103 and a French airliner.
- **1994** - South African President F.W. de Klerk declares a state of emergency in Natal and orders the army into the Zulu stronghold.



**Semion
Timoshenko**



QUIZ

Weapons of the 'Nam

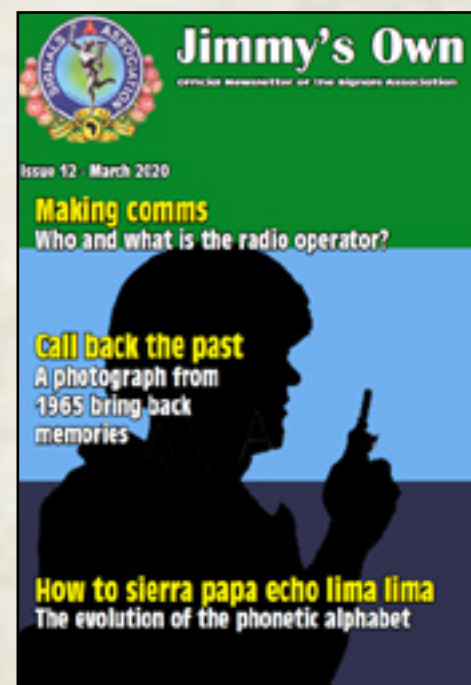
1. M60 machine gun - USA
2. MiG-17 - USSR
3. SKS carbine- USSR
4. M14 rifle - USA
5. MAS-36 - French
6. AK47 - USSR
7. Douglas A-1 Skyraider - USA
8. Sterling submachine gun - Australia
9. RPD - USSR
10. Stoner 63 - USA
11. M48 Patton tank - USA
12. M79 Grenade Launcher - USA
13. M18/M18A1 Claymore - USA
14. M16 - USA
15. SA2 missile - USSR



Useful links

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

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



Military Despatches Website



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

Steve Jobs



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



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Hipe!

media

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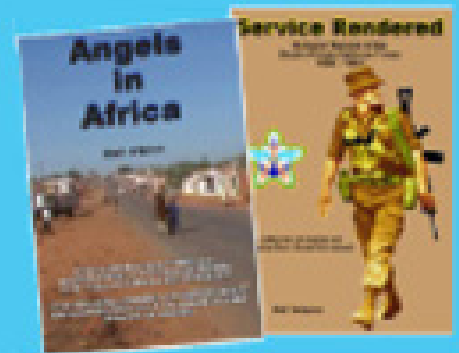
Online Magazines

Flip book magazines with pages that can be turned.



E-books

Produced in any electronic format required.



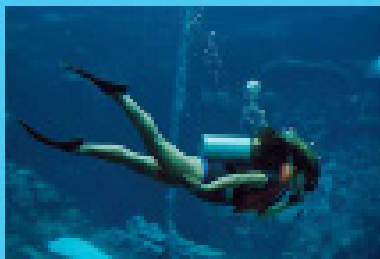
2D & 3D Animation

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.