



Military Despatches

Vol 36 June 2020

Overlord

D-Day - Facts, figures and trivia

Bite the bullet

Sayings that originated from the military

Oskar Dirlewanger

The most evil man in the SS

Warsaw Uprising

One of the greatest betrayals of World War II

For the military enthusiast



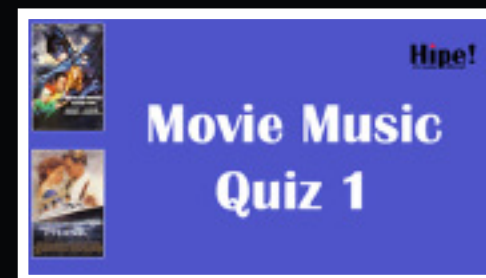
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How much do you know about movie theme songs? Take our quiz and find out.



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



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



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



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



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

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

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Editor's Sitrep

Next month will see the third birthday of Military Despatches.

In the three years that the magazine has been running, it has always been free of charge. And it will remain so.

However, a situation has arisen where I want to make an appeal to our readers for help.

As most of you know I host a radio show on Zone Radio 88.5 FM. It is something that I really enjoy doing.

Unfortunately the Covid-19 pandemic has hit the station hard. It is not cheap to run a radio station and revenue for the station is generated via advertising.

The lockdown has meant that most of the advertising has dried up. So I am appealing to our readers to donate anything they can to keep the station on air.

Now you may well ask why this is important. Well six of the presenters at Zone Radio are military veterans and most of them have contributed articles at some time to Military Despatches. All of us love what we do and would hate to see the station close down.

So if you can help, please e-mail me at matt@hipe.co.za and I will give you the details.

So from 1 June we move into Stage Three of the lockdown. I get

the feeling that many people think that everything is back to normal. Trust me, it is not.

On 6 June it will be 76 years since the D-Day landings at Normandy. It is frightening to realise just how few of those brave men that carried out those landings are still with us.

On 6 June I for one will bow my head in remembrance of those brave men, and I trust that many of you will do the same.

At least from 1 June we will be able to buy something to drink. For those poor people that smoke, well you're just going to have to wait a bit longer. How long? Only the Minister of Silly Hats seems to know.

Of course you can still buy cigarettes. That's if you're willing to pay between R150 and R300 for a box of 20 cigarettes. It all feels like madness to me. And what really gets me is that the country is losing R35 million per day in taxes. Can we really afford it?

That's about it for this month. Please consider supporting Zone Radio.

Until next time.

Matt

Hipe!

media

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Ten strongest militaries in Africa

Africa is no stranger when it comes to wars. So it makes sense that nearly every country in Africa likes to have a strong military force. We look at the 10 strongest military forces in Africa.

It was Gaius Plinius Secundus, commonly known as Pliny the Elder, who is credited with coining the Latin phrase “*ex Africa semper aliquid novi*”, meaning “out of Africa there is always something new”, although the original source was more likely the Greek philosopher Aristotle.

One of those new things that Pliny may have been talking about is war. And let's face it, Africa is no stranger to war.

The continent has seen some of the most costly wars in the 20th century as well as in the first 20 years of this century.

I doubt whether there has been a country in Africa that has not experience war in the last 200 years. This includes wars between African nations, civil wars, and wars involving non-African nations that took place within Africa.

It encompasses colonial wars, wars of independence, secessionist and separatist conflicts, major episodes of national violence (riots, massacres, etc.), and global conflicts in which Africa was a theatre of war.

In fact, as I write this article, there are no fewer than 13 conflicts currently taking place in Africa.

- Egypt- ongoing insurgency since 2013.
- Libya - ongoing Second Lib-

yan Civil War since 2014.

- Tunisia - ongoing ISIL insurgency since 2015.
- Algeria - ongoing insurgency in the Maghreb since 2002.
- Morocco - ongoing insurgency in the Maghreb since 2002.
- Burundi - ongoing Burundian unrest since 2015.
- Cameroon - ongoing Anglophone Crisis since 2017.
- Mali - ongoing Northern Mali conflict since 2012.
- Mauritania - ongoing insurgency in the Maghreb since 2002.
- Nigeria - ongoing Boko Haram insurgency since 2009.
- DR Congo - ongoing Batwa-Luba clashes since 2013.
- DR Congo - ongoing Kamwina Nsapu rebellion since 2016.
- Chad - ongoing insurgency in the Maghreb since 2002.

So it makes sense that nearly every country in Africa likes to have a strong military force. Not only to protect them from external enemies but, more often than not, internal enemies as well.

According to statistics from various renown sources, these are the 10 strongest military forces in Africa in 2020.

10. Tunisia

The modern Tunisian army was formed in 1831 by Al-Husayn II ibn Mahmud.

During the period of the French Protectorate (1881–1956) Tunisians were recruited in significant numbers into the French Army, serving as *tirailleurs* (infantry) and *spahis* (cavalry).

These units saw active service in Europe during both World Wars, as well as in Indo-China prior to 1954. The only exclusively Tunisian military force permitted under French rule was the Beylical Guard.

Tunisia has an army, air force and naval and a total of an estimated 36,000 military personnel.

The army has a total of 181 tanks, 878 armoured vehicles, 20 self-propelled artillery, and 165 towed artillery.

The air force has a total of 147 planes, including 12 fighters, 14 transport aircraft, 29 trainers, and 92 helicopters.

The navy has a total of 50 assets including 28 patrol boats and six mine warfare vessels.

Tunisia has an annual defence budget of \$550 million.

9. Libya

The original army under the Libyan monarchy of King Idris I was trained by the United King-

dom and the United States. Since Muammar Gaddafi rose to power in 1969, Libya received military assistance from the Soviet Union.

The Libyan military fought in several wars, including the Libyan–Egyptian War (1977) and the Chadian–Libyan conflict (1978–1987).

After the 2011 civil war and the fall of Gaddafi, the armed forces consisted mostly of local militias that were frequently created or ceased to be active and made temporary shifting alliances.

Libya has an army, air force and naval and a total of an estimated 30,000 military personnel.

The army has a total of 250 tanks, 450 armoured vehicles, 50 self-propelled artillery, 100 towed artillery, and 55 rocket launchers.

The air force has a total of 114 planes, including 17 fighters, four transport aircraft, 62 trainers, and 26 helicopters including seven attack helicopters.

The navy has a total of five assets that includes one frigate.

Libya has an annual defence budget of three billion Dollars.

8. DR Congo

The *Forces armées de la république démocratique du Congo* (Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo) or FARDC is the state organisation responsible for defending the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The majority of FARDC members are land forces, but it also has a small air force and an even smaller navy. In 2010–11 the three services may have num-

bered between 144,000 and 159,000 personnel.

In addition, there is a presidential force called the Republican Guard, but it and the Congolese National Police (PNC) are not part of the Armed Forces.

The army has a total of 175 tanks, 100 armoured vehicles, 16 self-propelled artillery, 120 towed artillery, and 57 rocket launchers.

The air force has a total of 53 planes, including two fighters, 13 transport aircraft, and 34 helicopters including eight attack helicopters.

The navy has a total of 20 assets that includes one patrol boat.

7. Ethiopia

The Ethiopian National Defence Force (ENDF) is the military of Ethiopia. Civil direction of the military is carried out through the Ministry of Defence, which oversees the ground forces, air force, as well as the Defence Industry Sector.

Being a landlocked country, Ethiopia today has no navy. Ethiopia reacquired a coastline on the Red Sea in 1950 and created the Ethiopian Navy in 1955. Eritrea's independence in 1991 left Ethiopia landlocked again, but the Ethiopian Navy continued to operate from foreign ports until it finally was disbanded in 1996.

The Ethiopian National Defence Force has a strength of about 162,000 personnel.

The army has a total of 400 tanks, 114 armoured vehicles, 67 self-propelled artillery, 650 towed artillery, and 183 rocket launchers.

The air force has a total of 86 planes, including 24 fighters, 9 transport aircraft, 20 trainers, and 33 helicopters including eight attack helicopters.

6. Morocco

The Royal Moroccan Armed Forces are the military forces of the Kingdom of Morocco. They consist of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Royal *Gendarmerie*, and the Royal Guard

The Royal Moroccan Armed Forces are large, expensive and well-trained with extensive experience in counter-insurgency, desert warfare and combined air-land operations. Further experience has come from participating in peace-keeping operations.

However, as Morocco has not fought a conventional interstate war since the Algerian-Moroccan war of 1963, they have little experience in state-on-state warfare. Morocco has about 510,000 military personnel.

The army has a total of 1,1143 tanks, 2,901 armoured vehicles, 505 self-propelled artillery, 200 towed artillery, and 144 rocket launchers.

The air force has a total of 214 planes, including 46 fighters, 31 transport aircraft, 67 trainers, and 64 helicopters.

The navy has a total of 121 assets that includes three frigates, four corvettes, and 105 patrol boats.

Morocco has an annual defence budget of 10 billion Dollars.

5. Angola

The *Forças Armadas Angolanas* (Angolan Armed Forces)

or FAA are the military of Angola.

The FAA include the General Staff of the Armed Forces and three components: the Army (*Exército*), the Navy (*Marinha de Guerra*) and the National Air Force (*Força Aérea Nacional*).

The FAA succeeded to the previous People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola (FAPLA) following the abortive Bicesse Accord with the Armed Forces of the Liberation of Angola (FALA), armed wing of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

As part of the peace agreement, troops from both armies were to be demilitarized and then integrated. Integration was never completed as UNITA and FALA went back to war in 1992.

Angola has an estimated 107,000 military personnel.

The army has a total of 379 tanks, 595 armoured vehicles, 28 self-propelled artillery, 357 towed artillery, and 115 rocket launchers.

The air force has a total of 295 planes, including 72 fighters, 30 transport aircraft, 47 trainers, and 126 helicopters including 15 attack helicopters.

The navy has a total of 57 assets that includes 37 patrol boats and two mine warfare vessels.

Angola has an annual defence budget of 2,15 billion Dollars.

4. Nigeria

The Nigerian Armed Forces are the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Its origins lie in the elements of the Royal West African Frontier Force that became Nigerian when independence was granted in 1960. In 1956 the Nigeria Regiment of the Royal West African Frontier Force (RWAFF) was renamed the Nigerian Military Forces, RWAFF, and in April 1958 the colonial government of Nigeria took over from the British War Office control of the Nigerian Military Forces.

Since its creation the Nigerian military has fought in a civil war – the conflict with Biafra in 1967–70 – and sent peace-keeping forces abroad both with the United Nations and as the backbone of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) in Liberia and Sierra Leone. It has also seized power twice at home (1966 & 1983).

Nigeria has an army, air force and navy with about 81,300 military personnel.

The army has a total of 195 tanks, 1,789 armoured vehicles, 25 self-propelled artillery, 339 towed artillery, and 36 rocket launchers.

The air force has a total of 129 planes, including eight fighters, 21 transport aircraft, 47 trainers, and 44 helicopters including 14 attack helicopters.

The navy has a total of 75 assets that includes 100 patrol boats and two mine warfare vessels.

Angola has an annual defence budget of seven billion Dollars.

3. South Africa

The South African National Defence Force comprises the armed forces of South Africa. The commander of the SANDF is appointed by the President of South Africa from one of the armed services. They are in turn accountable to the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans of the Defence Department.

The military as it exists today was created in 1994, following South Africa's first multiracial election in April of that year and the adoption of a new constitution.

It replaced the South African Defence Force and also integrated uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) and the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA) guerilla forces.

South Africa has an estimated 107,000 military personnel.

The army has a total of 379 tanks, 2,000 armoured vehicles, 43 self-propelled artillery, 72 towed artillery, and 50 rocket launchers.

The air force has a total of 226 planes, including 17 fighters, 23 transport aircraft, 88 trainers, and 91 helicopters including 12 attack helicopters.

The navy has a total of 30 assets that includes four frigates, three submarines, 31 patrol boats, and two mine warfare vessels.

South Africa has an annual defence budget of 4,27 billion Dollars.

2. Algeria

The Algerian People's National Armed Forces is the military forces of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.



SILENT SERVICE: Two SA Navy submarines escort the US Navy Los Angeles class nuclear submarine USS San Juan into Simon's Town.

Algeria has a large military to counter foreign and domestic threats. It is the direct successor of the *Armée de Libération Nationale* (ALN), the armed wing of the nationalist National Liberation Front, which fought French colonial rule during the Algerian War of Independence (1954-1962).

The People's National Army include ground forces, the Algerian Air Force, the Navy, and the Algerian Air Defence Force. The antecedents of the army were the conventional military units formed in Morocco and Tunisia during the war of independence from France.

Except for clashes with Morocco in 1963 and 1976, the armed forces have not been involved in hostilities against a foreign power.

Their combat capabilities in defence of the country has thus remained untested, however the Algerian military is argu-

ably recognized to be one of the most professional and well-trained militaries in both Africa and the Arab world.

Algeria has an estimated 280,000 military personnel.

The army has a total of 880 tanks, 7,361 armoured vehicles, 320 self-propelled artillery, 240 towed artillery, and 316 rocket launchers.

The air force has a total of 551 planes, including 103 fighters, 59 transport aircraft, 87 trainers, and 257 helicopters including 45 attack helicopters.

The navy has a total of 201 assets that includes five frigates, three corvettes, six submarines, and 25 patrol boats.

Algeria has an annual defence budget of 13 billion Dollars.

1. Egypt

The Egyptian Armed Forces are the state military organisation responsible for the defence of Egypt. They consist of

the Egyptian Army, Egyptian Navy, Egyptian Air Force and Egyptian Air Defence Forces.

All branches, forces, armies, regions, bodies, organs and departments of the Armed Forces are under the command of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, who is at the same time the Minister of Defence.

The armament of the Egyptian armed forces varies between eastern and western sources through mutual military cooperation with several countries, led by the United States, Russia, France, China, Italy, Ukraine and Britain.

Much of the equipment is manufactured locally at Egyptian factories. The Egyptian armed forces celebrate their anniversary on October 6 each year to commemorate the victories of the October War.

Egypt has an estimated 920,000 military personnel.

The army has a total of 4,295 tanks, 11,700 armoured vehicles, 1,139 self-propelled artillery, 2,189 towed artillery, and 1,084 rocket launchers.

The air force has a total of 1,054 planes, including 215 fighters, 59 transport aircraft, 387 trainers, and 294 helicopters including 81 attack helicopters.

The navy has a total of 316 assets that includes two aircraft carriers, seven frigates, seven corvettes, eight submarines, 45 patrol boats, and 31 mine warfare vessels.

Egypt has an annual defence budget of 11,2 billion Dollars.

Special Forces - Special Boat Service

Part sixteen of a series that takes a look at Special Forces units around the world. This month we look at Britain's Special Boat Service (SBS).

Anyone with even the remotest interest in military matters will have at least heard about the Special Air Service (SAS). Yet the same cannot be said about the Special Boat Service (SBS).

The Special Boat Service (SBS) is the special forces unit of the United Kingdom's Royal Navy. The SBS can trace its origins back to the Second World War when the Army Special Boat Section was formed in 1940.

After the Second World War, the Royal Marines formed special forces with several name

changes - Special Boat Company was adopted in 1951 and re-designated as the Special Boat Squadron in 1974 - until on 28 July 1987 when the unit was renamed as the Special Boat Service after assuming responsibility for maritime counter-terrorism.

Most of the operations conducted by the SBS are highly classified, and are rarely commented on by the British government or the Ministry of Defence due to their sensitive nature.

The Special Boat Service is the maritime special forces unit of the United Kingdom Special Forces and is described as the sister unit of the British Army 22 Special Air Service Regiment (22 SAS), with both under the operational control of the Director Special Forces.

In October 2001, full com-

mand of the SBS was transferred from the Royal Marines to the Royal Navy; whilst retaining the green beret.

On 18 November 2003, the SBS were given their own cap badge with the motto "By Strength and Guile".

This follows opening recruitment from only the Royal Marines to all three services of the British Armed Forces. The SBS has traditionally been manned mostly by Royal Marines Commandos.

The principal roles of the SBS are Special reconnaissance (SR), including information reporting and target acquisition; Offensive Action (OA), in-

cluding direction of air strikes, artillery and naval gunfire, designation for precision guided munitions, use of integral weapons and demolitions; and Support and Influence (SI), including overseas training tasks.

The SBS also provide immediate response Military Counter Terrorism (CT) and Maritime Counter Terrorism (MCT) teams.

The operational capabilities of the SBS and the SAS are broadly similar. However, the SBS (being the principal Royal Navy contribution to UKSF) has the additional training and equipment required to lead in the maritime, amphibious and riverine environments.

Both units come under the

operational command of HQ Directorate of Special Forces (DSF) and undergo an identical selection process. They enjoy significant interoperability in training and on operations.

All of the SBS's four squadrons, C, Z, M and X, are configured for general operations, and rotate through the Maritime Counter Terrorism Role, also known as Black Role.

The SBS also operates on land, with recent operations in the mountains of landlocked Afghanistan and in the deserts of Iraq. Their main tasks in-



clude intelligence gathering, counter-terrorism operations (surveillance or offensive action), sabotage and the disruption of enemy infrastructure, capture of specific individuals, close protection of senior politicians and military personnel, plus reconnaissance and direct action in foreign territory.

History

The Special Boat Section was founded in July 1940 by a Commando officer, Roger Courtney on the shores of Glen Sannox, Isle of Arran. Courtney became a commando recruit in mid-1940 and was sent to the Combined Training Centre in Scotland.

He was unsuccessful in his initial attempts to convince Admiral of the Fleet Sir Roger Keyes and later Admiral Theodore Hallett, commander of the Combined Training Centre, that his idea of a folding kayak brigade would be effective.

He decided to infiltrate HMS Glengyle, a Landing Ship, Infantry anchored in the River Clyde. Courtney paddled to the ship, climbed aboard undetected, wrote his initials on the door to the captain's cabin, and stole a deck gun cover.

He presented the soaking cover to a group of high-ranking Royal Navy officers meeting at a nearby Inveraray hotel. He was promoted to captain and given command of twelve men, the first Special Boat Service / Special Boat Section.

It was initially named the Folboat Troop, after the type of folding canoe employed in raiding operations and then renamed No. 1 Special Boat Sec-

tion in early 1941.

In April 1943, 1st SAS was divided, with 250 men from the SAS joining the Small Scale Raiding Force to form the Special Boat Squadron under the command of Major the Earl Jellicoe. They moved to Haifa and trained with the Greek Sacred Regiment for operations in the Aegean.

So effective were they that, by 1944, the 200–300 men of the SBS were holding down six German divisions.

Postwar

In 1946, the SBS, whether of Commando or SAS parentage, were disbanded. The functional title SBS was adopted by the Royal Marines. It became part of the school of Combined Operations under the command of “Blondie” Hasler.

The SBS went on to serve in the Korean War deployed on operations along the North Korean coast as well as operating behind enemy lines destroying lines of communication, installations and gathering intelligence.

In 1972, the SBS and SAS came into prominence when members of a combined SBS and SAS team parachuted into the Atlantic Ocean after a bomb threat on board the cruise liner RMS Queen Elizabeth 2. A thorough search of the ship found no evidence of any device drawing the conclusion that it was a hoax.

In 1987, they were renamed Special Boat Service, and became part of the United Kingdom Special Forces Group alongside the Special Air Service and 14 Intelligence Com-

pany.

In the Gulf War, there was no amphibious role assigned to the SBS, an “area of operations line” was drawn down the middle of Iraq, the SAS would operate west of the line and the SBS to the east.

As well as searching for mobile scud launchers, their area contained a mass of fibre-optic cable that provided Iraq with intelligence, the location of the main junction was 51 kilometres from Baghdad;

On 22 January 1991, 36 SBS members were inserted by two Chinook helicopters from No. 7 Squadron RAF, into an area full of Iraqi ground and air forces as well as spies and nomads, avoiding them and destroying a 36 metre section of the cable with explosives, destroying what was left of the Iraqi communication grid.

The SBS carried out one of its most high-profile operations when it liberated the British Embassy in Kuwait, abseiling from helicopters hovering above the embassy.

They were also responsible for carrying out diversionary raids along the Kuwaiti coast which in effect diverted a number of Iraqi troops to the SBS area of operations and away from the main thrust of the coalition build up.

In September 2000 the SBS was involved in Operation Barras, a hostage rescue operation in Sierra Leone. They also saw extensive action in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

On 27 February 2011, during the Libyan Civil War, the BBC reported that C Squadron assisted in the evacuation of 150 oil



BY STRENGTH AND GUILF: The SBS are equally at home on land or water.

workers in three flights by RAF C-130 Hercules from an airfield near Zella to Valletta.

On 8 March 2012, a small Special Boat Service (SBS) team, attempted to rescue two hostages, Chris McManus (British) and Franco Lamolinara (Italian), being held in Nigeria by members of the Boko Haram terrorist organisation loyal to al-Qaeda. The two hostages were killed before or during the rescue attempt. All the hostage takers were reportedly killed.

Organisation

The Ministry of Defence does not comment on special forces matters, therefore little verifiable information exists in the public domain. The SBS is under the Operational Command of Director Special Forces and are based in Hamworthy barracks, Poole, Dorset.

In 1987, when renamed the Special Boat Service, the SBS was also reformed along SAS lines, with 16-man troops instead of the traditional sections.

About 200–250 men make up the SBS at any one time, and once qualified, personnel are known as “Swimmer Ca-

noeists”. They are experts in swimming, diving, parachuting, navigation, demolition and reconnaissance.

Since the SBS joined the UKSF Group in the 1980s, it has been restructured. Instead of one squadron being tasked with a permanent role the unit adopted the same system of squadron rotation as the SAS.

Each Squadron rotates through counter terrorism duties and conventional operations and tasking.

There are four active squadrons and a reserve unit:

- C Squadron
- X Squadron
- Z Squadron
- M Squadron
- SBS Reserve or SBS(R) – provides individual reservists to augment the regular SBS, rather than forming independent teams. Recruits need to be serving members of UK reserve forces and a high level of commitment is required. The SBS(R) is based at various locations throughout the United Kingdom, but training is carried out in the South of England.

Recruitment

In the past, the SBS was staffed almost entirely by the Royal Marines. Volunteers for the SBS are now taken from all branches of the British Armed Forces, although volunteers still predominantly come from the Royal Marines Commandos.

Candidates wishing to serve with the Special Boat Service must have completed at least two years regular service and will only be accepted into the SBS after completion of the selection process.

Until recently, the SBS had its own independent selection programme to qualify as a Swimmer Canoeist, but its selection programme has now been integrated into a joint UKSF selection alongside candidates for the Special Air Service.

All members of the United Kingdom Armed Forces can be considered for special forces selection, but approximately 40% of all UK Special Forces are recruited from the Royal Marines.

There are two selections a year, one in winter and the other in summer, and all the instructors are full members of the Special Air Service Regiment.

Before being accepted onto a UKSF Selection course, a candidate must complete a two-week[citation needed] Special Forces Briefing Course. The course tests the candidates' physical fitness and observes their willingness to conduct water-borne operations.

The UKSF course is broken down into two main parts, Selection and Continuation Training.

Selection

Aptitude Phase (hill phase) – four weeks. This phase is conducted in the Brecon Beacons, South Wales.

The Aptitude Phase is designed to select those individuals who are suitable for special forces training.

The initial three weeks are devoted to gradual physical training and progressive exercises designed to develop physical and navigational ability.

Candidates will be expected to complete the Basic Combat Fitness Test (Infantry) on the first day of the course. Exercise HIGH WALK (Fan Dance) will take place on Day Six and takes the form of an escorted hill march over approximately 23 km. As with all assessment marches, additional time may be added for inclement weather conditions.

Exercise HIGH WALK identifies those individuals that are not adequately prepared to continue on the course. All other training during this initial period is directed at preparing volunteers for “Test Week” which is the fourth and final week of the Aptitude phase.

“Test Week” consists of five timed marches of between 23–28 km conducted on consecutive days, followed by a final endurance march of 64 km; candidates must complete this within 20 hours. Bergen weights carried during “Test Week” increase from 18 kg to 25 kg for the endurance march; in addition a rifle without a sling is carried on all marches.

Volunteers are also required to pass the UKSF swimming test that consists of high water

entry (3 metres), treading water for nine minutes followed immediately by a swim of 500 metres wearing Combat 95. The test finishes with an underwater swim of 10 metres including a retrieval of a small weight.

There is also a selection course for those wishing to join the reserve. This involves a number of tests over a four day initial selection course.

The tests include the Combat Fitness Test, Swim Test, Gym Tests and two Advanced Combat Fitness Tests.

Their training involves parachute exercises, helicopter training and boat training.

Continuation training

Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) – 9 weeks.

Those who pass the Aptitude Phase will undertake an intensive period of instruction and assessment of Special Forces Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs), including SF weapons and Standard Operation Procedures.

The majority of this period is spent in the jungle, an environment that is suitable for SF training and ideal to achieve the purpose of this phase. Much of the training is aimed at discovering an individual’s qualities. Continuation training, which consists of SOP and Tactical training in temperate and jungle environments, lasts nine weeks. This is conducted in the UK and Brunei.

Employment Training – 14 weeks

Employment Training consists of surveillance and reconnaissance training (2 weeks), army combat survival



SBS BADGE: The badge of the Special Boat Squadron. Their motto is “By strength and guile”. The Special Boat Service wear the green commando beret, but with their own cap badge.

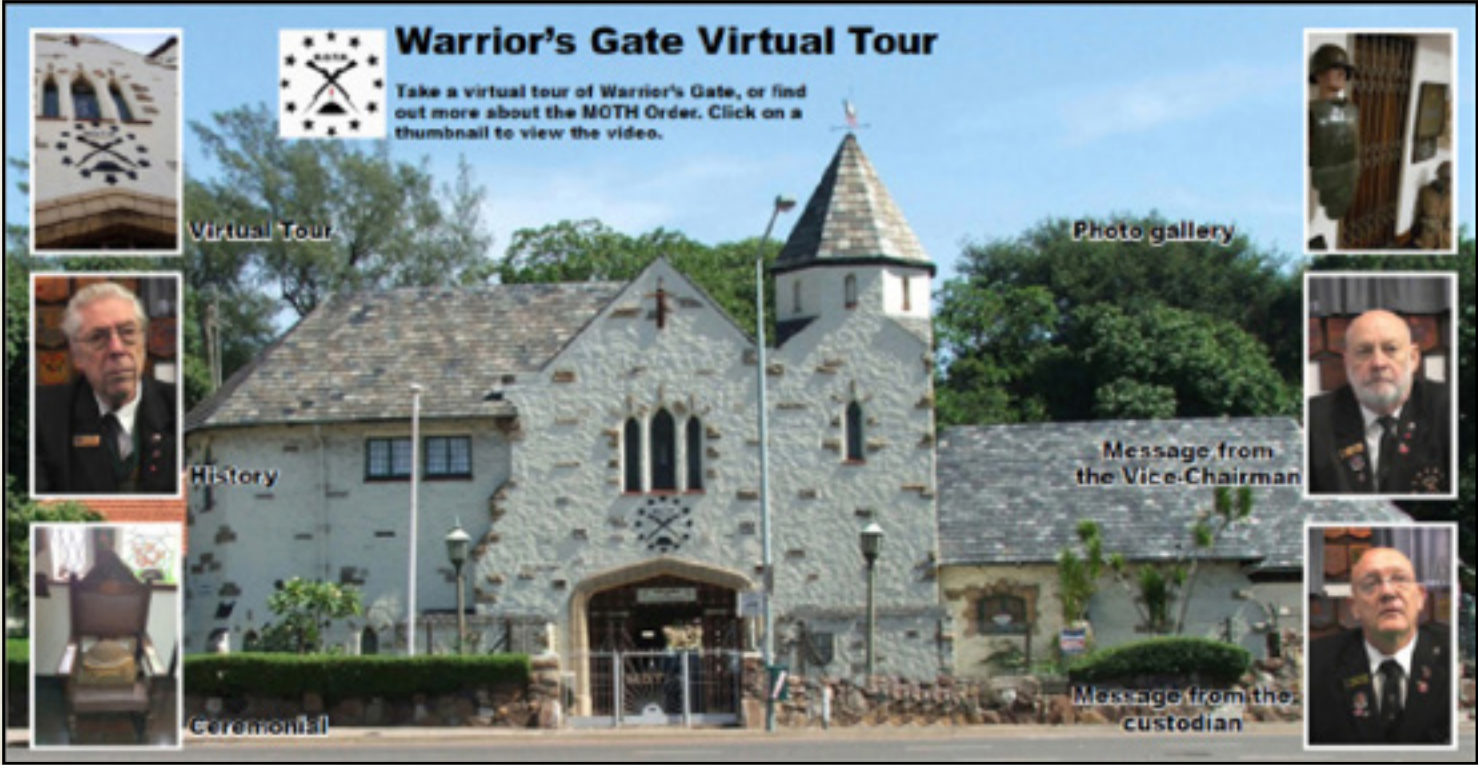
(2 weeks), SF parachute training (4 weeks), counter terrorist course (3 weeks), signals training (1 week), patrol training and squadron induction training (2 weeks), and 1 week officers week for potential officers. At the end of the resistance to interrogation phase the surviving candidates are transferred to an operational squadron.

When accepted into an operational squadron, the candidates must complete the SBS Swimmer Canoeist Course, SC3 Course. The course lasts for several months and covers long distance Dives, Swims and Kayaks in open sea, often in poor weather. Underwater demolitions, Maritime counter terrorism, are also practised. On completing SBS troopers will be put on one year probation.

Special Boat Service Weapons



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.



D-Day - facts, figures and trivia

A few facts, figures and trivia about D-Day, the Allied invasion to liberate Europe during World War II. This is a reprint of an article that we did in Volume 5, but we decided to feature it again in remembrance of D-Day.

On Tuesday 6 June 1944 the largest seaborne invasion force in history landed on an 80 km stretch of the Normandy coast in France. Codenamed Operation Neptune, it was part of Operation Overlord, the liberation of German-occupied northwestern Europe from Nazi control. It was also the launch of the long-awaited second front. It was simply termed D-Day.

Figures

On D-Day, General Dwight D. Eisenhower commanded a force without parallel in history.

NAVAL FORCES

Ships

- 138 warships
- 221 destroyers, frigates, corvettes
- 187 mine sweepers
- 495 smaller vessels
- 58 submarine chasers
- 4,000 landing craft of all types
- 441 auxiliary Naval craft and small boats
- 864 Merchant Navy ships
- Over 300 other small craft

Servicemen

- 112,824 British sailors
- 52,889 American sailors
- 4,998 other Allied servicemen
- 25,000 Merchant navy
- Total - 195,701

AIR FORCES

Aircraft

- 11,590 aircraft
- 3,500 gliders

Air Crew

- 31,000 (not including airborne troops or their aircrews)

LAND FORCES

Vehicles

- 20,000 (including over 1,000 tanks)

Men landed on the beaches

- American sector - 57,500 (Utah - 23,250, Omaha - 34,250)
- British sector - 75,215 (Gold - 24,970, Juno - 21,400, Sword - 28,845)

Troops parachuted or landed by glider

- Americans - 15,500
- British - 7,990
- Total - 24,900

Total land forces deployed

- 156,205

Trivia

- Planning for Operation Overlord began in earnest in 1943 with Dwight D Eisenhower made supreme commander. British general Bernard Montgomery, hero of the Eighth Army in North Africa, was put in charge of the ground troops.
- About 3,200 reconnaissance missions were launched in the run-up to the invasion to take photos of vital locations.
- In the summer of 1943 an early copy of the plans blew out of a window in Norfolk House, London. A man who was passing by handed them

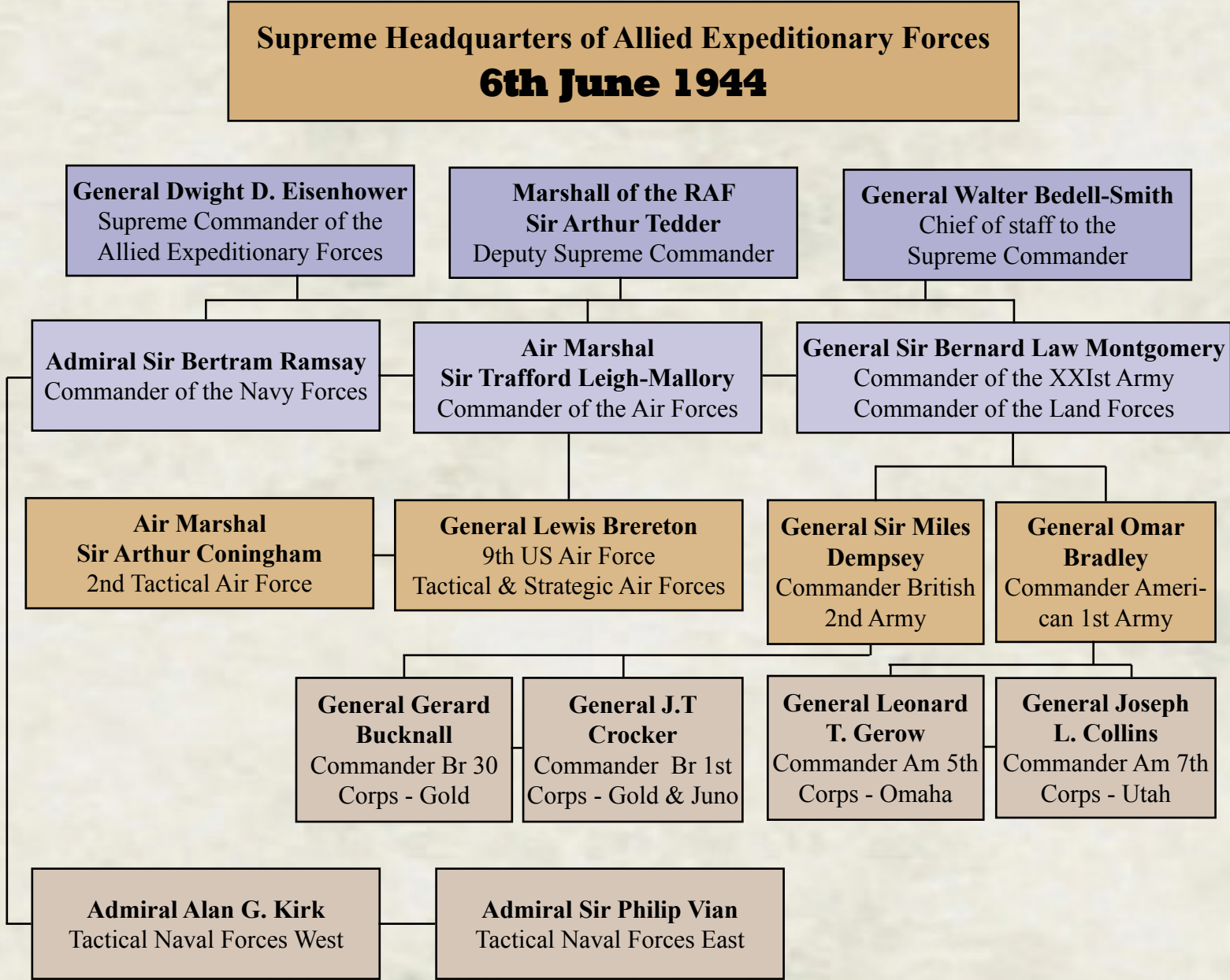
in, saying his sight was too bad to read them.

- Beach landings in Normandy were chosen instead of the Pas-de-Calais because defences were lighter and advancing troops would have fewer rivers and canals to cross.

- There were to be five landing zones along a 80 km stretch of coast. The Americans would attack at Utah and Omaha, the British at Gold and Sword and Canadian troops at Juno.

- It was vital that D-Day take place on the date of the highest half-tide at the most Westerly beach (Utah), 40 minutes after first light and following a night when the moon rose between 01h00 and 02h00. Such occasion occur only three days each month and in June 1944 they were the 5th, 6th and 7th of that month. If the invasion wasn't launched on one of those three days it would have had to be postponed for another month.

- D-Day was originally set for June 5 but had to be postponed for 24 hours because of bad weather.
- During D-Day preparations top-secret code names were used to hide the allies' plans from the enemy. 'Utah', 'Omaha', 'Gold', and 'Sword' were beaches on the Normandy coastline, 'Nep-



tune' was the code name for the landings, 'Overlord' was the ensuing battle for Normandy and a 'Bigot' was the code name for someone who had high level security clearance.

- In 1944 authorities became concerned when a number of secret code names appeared as answers in the Daily Telegraph's crossword puzzle. In the month before the D-Day attacks, no less than five code names, including 'Utah', 'Omaha' and 'Neptune' were spotted in the puzzle answers. Alarm bells rang at MI5, which suspect-

ed someone was trying to pass information to the enemy, although a search of the writer's home and office turned up nothing.

- Operation Overload was the name given to the whole of the Normandy Invasion. Each separate task was named differently. Operation Neptune was the amphibious invasion, Operation Pointblank the massive bombing campaign prior to the invasion, and Operation Bodyguard to ensure information of the invasion never reached the Germans.
- Hitler anticipated that the

Allied Forces would invade France from the northern coast. To fortify and prepare for this, he assigned Erwin Rommel to head construction of defenses. Rommel was placed in charge of finishing Hitler's Atlantic Wall which consisted of 3,800 km of bunkers, landmines, and various obstacles to make a beach landing more difficult and hazardous for the Allies.

- A phantom army of dummy camps, planes and tanks was constructed in Kent and Essex in order to deceive Germans into thinking the invasion would be at Calais.

- On 28 April 1944, eight ships full of US servicemen and equipment were making their way to the Devon coast in the UK to take part in a rehearsal for the D-Day landings. Unfortunately, a mistake in their paperwork meant the ships were using different radio frequencies, so when a group of German boats picked up on the heavy radio traffic, the slow-moving US landing ships and their lack of communication proved to be easy targets for the German torpedoes. In total some 800 people were killed in the botched operation, a heavier loss than on some of the D-Day beaches. Worried about leaked intelligence and a drop in morale, Allied commanders ordered a blackout on all information about the attack and some families never found out how their relatives had died.
- Terence Otway, whose unit was tasked with attacking the Merville battery on D-Day, wanted to be sure that his men wouldn't leak this highly sensitive information in advance, so to test security he sent thirty of the prettiest members of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, in civilian clothes, down to the local pubs. The women were told to do all they could try and get the information. None of the men fell into the trap.
- Despite his well-documented capacity for inspirational speeches, on the night before D-Day Winston Churchill was feeling less than confi-



NOT THE REAL THING: A dummy tank is moved into place. An entire phantom army was created in order to deceive the Germans into thinking the invasion would be at Calais.

dent. He apparently confided his fears to his wife the evening before the landings telling her: "Do you realise that by the time you wake up in the morning 20,000 men may have been killed?"

- Over the years many people have wondered what the 'D' in D-Day stands for; some have suggested Disembarkment-Day, Decision-Day and even Death-Day. In reality the D just stands for 'Day'. D-Day and H-Hour represent the secret time and day an operation is set to begin, so before and after WWII many other operations had a 'D-Day'. The day before D-Day was known as 'D-1' and the day after as 'D+1', meaning that if the day of the operation changed, all the dates in the plans did not have to be changed.
- New gadgets designed for D-Day included a "swimming tank" and a flame throwing tank called "the crocodile". There were even collapsible motorbikes.
- Eisenhower's famous state-

ment to the troops as he gave the order for Operation Overlord open with "You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you."

- US General Dwight D. Eisenhower wrote a letter that was to be opened 'in case of failure'. In it he wrote "Our landings in the Cherbourg-Havre area have failed to gain a satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops. My decision to attack at this time and place was based upon the best information available. The troops, the air and the Navy did all that bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone." The letter is mistakenly signed July 5 instead of June 5; presumably he was a little preoccupied at the time.
- Coded messages were sent to alert French Resistance to begin a programme of sabotage. Phrases used included



D-1: At 23h00 on 5 June 24,000 British and American airborne troops dropped behind German lines. Their objective was to seize vital roads and bridges ahead of the landings at Normandy.

"le dés est sur le tapis" (the dice is on the carpet) – an order to destroy trains and railway lines.

- High command thought a successful landing would cost 10,000 dead and 30,000 wounded – 30,000 stretchers and 60,000 blankets were issued.
- From 23h00 on 5 June some 24,000 airborne troops were delivered behind the German lines to secure important roads and bridges. Along with more than 2,000 aircraft, 867 gliders were used.
- To add to the illusion, early on D-Day morning "Ruperts" – dummies dressed in paratrooper uniforms complete with boots and helmets – were dropped in Normandy and the Pas-de-Calais. The dummies were equipped with recordings of gunfire, while the real troops supplied additional sound effects to create the illusion of a large scale airborne attack. This operation, code-named "Titanic," was designed to distract the German military while the main forces landed further to the west.
- The first British casualty on D-Day was Lt "Den" Brotheridge, shot in the neck shortly after landing in France in a glider at 00h16. His unit was tasked with taking the crucial target of Pegasus Bridge, an objective that was achieved.
- Many paratroopers that day were dropped in the wrong place including US Private John Steele. His parachute famously became snagged on the church steeple at Sainte-Mère-Eglise. He was trapped for two hours before being taken prisoner.
- At 03h00 1,900 Allied bombers attacked German lines. A staggering three million kilograms of bombs were dropped that day. A total of 10,521 combat aircraft flew a total of 15,000 sorties on D-Day, with 113 lost.
- A naval bombardment from seven battleships, 18 cruisers, and 43 destroyers began at 05h00 and went on until 06h25. Midget submarines, called X-boats, lay submerged in the sea off the coast of France, surfacing on the morning of D-Day to guide in the invading craft

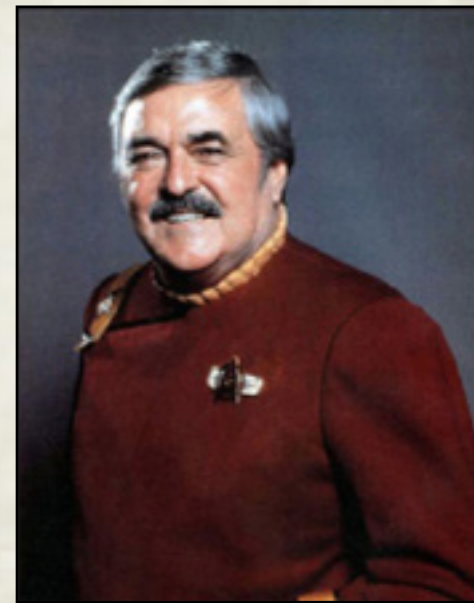
using beacons.

- Defences on the beaches included concrete gun emplacements, wooden stakes, mines, anti-tank obstacles, barbed wire and booby traps. Around 50,000 German troops opposed the landing forces.
- General Dwight Eisenhower once said "Andrew Higgins is the man who won the war for us". But who is Andrew Higgins? Higgins is the man who designed and built LCVPs, the amphibious vehicles that enabled the Allied forces to cross the channel. Eisenhower is reported to have said, "If Higgins had not designed and built those LCVPs, we never could have landed over an open beach. The whole strategy of the war would have been different."
- The flat-bottomed landing craft were originally designed to rescue flood victims on the Mississippi river in the US.
- US troops went ashore on the landing beaches at 06h31, followed an hour later by the British and Canadians on their beaches. There were 61,715 British troops, 21,400 Canadian soldiers and 73,000 Americans.
- The heaviest losses were on Omaha beach where US forces suffered 2,000 casualties.
- Field Marshal Erwin Rommel was in charge of defending northern France from the expected Allied invasion. On 6 June he was at home in Germany celebrating his wife's 50th birthday



HITTING THE BEACHES: American troops come ashore from one of the landing craft. By the evening of the first day more than 150,000 troops had been landed on the five beaches.

- having been told the sea was too rough for a landing.
- Nazi leader Adolf Hitler was asleep when word of the invasion arrived. No one dared wake him and it's said vital time was lost in sending reinforcements.
- Spanish-born double agent Garbo plied the Germans with misinformation that led them to believe the Normandy landings were just a ruse.
- The newly developed drug penicillin went with troops on D-Day and saved thousands of lives.
- Condoms were issued to soldiers – most were used for covering the end of their rifles to keep them dry.
- Despite setbacks, including the failure to capture the city of Caen, D-Day saw the Allies establish a successful beachhead from which they could continue the invasion of Normandy. By the evening of the first day, along with more than 150,000 men, 20,000 vehicles had been landed.
- The Allies ferried two pre-fabricated harbours called Mulberries across the Channel to help supply the beachhead with equipment. The one at Arromanches involved 600,000 tons of concrete.
- Total Allied casualties on D-Day were much lighter than feared – around 10,000 with 4,572 killed including 1,641 Brits. The Germans are estimated to have lost about 9,000.
- Actor Richard Todd starred in *The Longest Day*, a 1962 film about D-Day, as Major John Howard. He was involved in the real landings as an officer in the 7th Parachute Battalion.
- James Doohan, who would go on to find fame as Scotty in *Star Trek*, was a lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Artillery on D-Day and lost a finger during the fray.
- The stunning Omaha Beach scene in the 1998 movie *Saving Private Ryan*, starring Tom Hanks, cost \$9,24 million to film and used 1,000 extras.
- Famous photographer Robert Capa captured some of the most memorable images of the action though only a handful of the frames he took survived. The others were accidentally destroyed by a lab technician.
- The victory in Normandy



BEAM ME UP SCOTTY: James Doohan, who played the part of chief engineer Montgomery Scott in *Star Trek* took part in the D-Day landings.

- can't be traced to a single moment. The Germans had been unable to complete the Atlantic Wall and the deception tactics had paid off with many of the German forces diverted from the key coasts. Even the French Resistance, having heard from their English sources of the invasion, had launched successful attacks that slowed German reinforcements.
- The Allies failed to achieve any of their goals on the first day. Carentan, St. Lô, and Bayeux remained in German hands, and Caen, a major objective, was not captured

until 21 July. Only two of the beaches (Juno and Gold) were linked on the first day, and all five beachheads were not connected until 12 June. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill landed on the beach at Gray-sur-Mer (Juno) on 12 June, General de Gaulle on 14 June and King George VI on 16 June. On 6 June the Canadian 50th Infantry Division had landed at Juno and by the end of the day had landed 21,400 men, 3,200 vehicles and 1,100 tons of supplies.

Key Allied role players - D-Day



Dwight D. Eisenhower



Arthur Tedder



Walter Bedell-Smith



Bertram Ramsay



Trafford Leigh-Mallory



Bernard Montgomery

That didn't last long

Some wars continue for years, decades, or even centuries. Yet some wars have been over almost as quickly as they began. We look at the ten shortest wars in history.

The aim of every military commander must surely be to end a war as quickly as possible. They want to defeat the enemy, and end both their will and ability to fight. And they aim to achieve this while suffering the minimum amount of casualties on their side.

Things, however, do not always go according to plan. Some wars can drag on for years, resulting in a huge loss of life and financial cost.

Take World War I for example. This lasted four years, three months and two weeks.

World War II lasted even longer. It began with the invasion of Poland on 1 September 1939 and ended six years and one day later with the surrender of Japan.

The Vietnam War lasted for nearly two decades, a total of 19 years, five months, four weeks and one day.

Our own Border War lasted even longer than the Vietnam War. It continued for 23 years, six months, three weeks and two days.

Yet the duration of these wars pale into insignificance when compared to some of the wars throughout history.

There have been seven wars that lasted more than a century. This meant that people could fight in a war that their great-grandchildren would still be fighting.

The Seleucid-Parthia War, for

example, began in 238 BC and only ended 109 years later in 129 BC.

Although it was named 'The Hundred Years' War', this conflict between England and France lasted a bit longer than that. In fact it went on for 116 years.

The Byzantine-Ottoman War which began in 1265 continued for 214 years before finally coming to an end.

Two wars actually went on for more than two centuries. The Byzantine-Seljuq did not end for 260 years and the Arauco War dragged on for 282 years.

While the Dutch-Scilly War lasted 335 years it was characterized by a complete absence of battles and bloodshed.

The conflict began on March 30, 1651, as a by-product of the English Civil War. The Dutch, long-time allies of England, decided to take the side of the Parliamentarians.

The Royalists, with whom the Dutch had formerly had friendly relations, took this as a betrayal, and in their anger raided Dutch shipping vessels as a punishment to their betraying friends. However, by 1651 the Royalists had been chased away from the entirety of England except for a tiny group of islands, namely the 'Isles of Scilly'.

When the Royalists surrendered to the Parliamentarians, the Dutch had essentially forgotten that they had declared a

war. It was only three centuries later that historian Roy Duncan accidentally stumbled upon a historical footnote in Scilly regarding the war.

He invited the Dutch ambassador to Great Britain to visit Scilly and negotiate an armistice. The peace treaty was signed on April 17, 1986, thus ending the 'phony war' between the Dutch and the Scilly Isles.

The Roman Persian Wars were a series of wars that took place over a period of 721 years between the Roman world and two successive Iranian empires, namely the Parthians and the Sassanids.

The title for the longest war in history goes to the Iberian Religious Wars.

The Iberian Religious Wars, or the 'Reconquista', was a period in the history of the Iberian Peninsula (including modern Spain and Portugal) spanning around 781 years, from 711 to 1492. The period marked by a long series of battles between the Christian kingdoms and the Muslim Moors for control over the Peninsula.

Yet this article is about the ten shortest wars in history. And when we say short - we mean short. Not one of them lasted more than a month.

Georgian-Armenian War

The Georgian-Armenian War was a short border dispute fought in December 1918 between the newly-independent

Democratic Republic of Georgia and the First Republic of Armenia, largely over the control of former districts of Tiflis Governorate, in Borchaly (Lori) and Akhalkalaki.

When the Ottomans signed the Armistice of Mudros in October, they were subsequently required to withdraw from the region. Armenia quickly took control of territory previously controlled by the Ottomans, and skirmishes between Armenia and Georgia arose starting on 18 October.

Open warfare began on 7 December, after diplomatic efforts failed to resolve the issue of the disputed border, and continued until 31 December, when a British-brokered ceasefire was signed, leaving the disputed territory under joint Georgian and Armenian administration.

Duration

24 days.

Norman Conquest

The Norman conquest of England was the 11th-century invasion and occupation of England by an army of Norman, Breton, Flemish, and French soldiers led by the Duke of Normandy, later styled William the Conqueror.

When William landed in southern England. Harold marched south to oppose him, leaving a significant portion of his army in the north. Harold's army confronted William's invaders on 14 October 1066 at the Battle of Hastings; William's force defeated Harold, who was killed in the engagement. William became king.

While William was not secure on his throne until after 1072,

the war was really over after the Battle of Hastings.

Duration

17 days.

Serbo-Bulgarian War

The Serbo-Bulgarian War or Serbian-Bulgarian War was a war between the Kingdom of Serbia and Principality of Bulgaria that erupted on 14 November 1885 and lasted until 28 November 1885.

Despite Bulgaria being a vassal state of the Ottoman Empire, the Turks did not intervene in the war. Serbia took the initiative in starting the war but was decisively defeated. Austria demanded Bulgaria stop its invasion, and a truce resulted.

Final peace was signed on 3 March 1886 in Bucharest. The old boundaries were not changed. As a result of the war, European powers acknowledged the act of Unification of Bulgaria which happened on 18 September 1885.

Duration

14 days.

Indo-Pakistani War

The Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 was a military confrontation between India and Pakistan that occurred during the liberation war in East Pakistan from 3 December 1971 to the fall of Dacca (Dhaka) on 16 December 1971. The war began with preemptive aerial strikes on 11 Indian air stations, which led to the commencement of hostilities with Pakistan and Indian entry into the war of independence in East Pakistan on the side of Bengali nationalist forces.

Duration

13 days.

War of the Stray Dog

Officially known as 'The Incident at Petrich', it is also known as the 'War of the Stray Dog'.

It was a Greek-Bulgarian crisis in 1925, in which there was a short invasion of Bulgaria by Greece near the border town of Petrich, after the killing of a Greek captain and a sentry by Bulgarian soldiers. The incident ended after a decision of the League of Nations.

There are two versions of how the incident started. In the first version, the incident began on October 18, when a Greek soldier ran after his dog, which had strayed across the border from Greece at the pass Demir Kapia on Belasitsa; thus, it is sometimes referred to as the War of the Stray Dog. The border was guarded by Bulgarian sentries, and one of them shot the Greek soldier.

In the second version, the Greco-Bulgarian frontier incident was caused when, on 18 October, Bulgarian soldiers crossed the Greek border, attacked a Greek outpost at Belasitsa and killed a Greek captain and a sentry.

Duration

11 days.

Slovenian Independence War

The Slovenian War of Independence was a brief conflict that followed Slovenia's declaration of independence from Yugoslavia on 25 June 1991.

It was fought between the Slovenian Territorial Defence (*Teritorialna obramba Republike Slovenije*) and the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA).

It lasted from 27 June 1991

until 7 July 1991, when the Brioni Accords were signed. It marked the beginning of the Yugoslav Wars. It is also known as 'The Ten-Day War'.

Duration

10 days.

Russo-Georgian War

The Russo-Georgian War was a war between Georgia, Russia and the Russian-backed self-proclaimed republics of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

The war took place in August 2008 following a period of worsening relations between Russia and Georgia, both formerly constituent republics of the Soviet Union. The fighting took place in the strategically important Transcaucasia region. The war ended in a victory for Russia, South Ossetian and Abkhaz.

It was regarded as the first European war of the 21st century.

Duration

Six days.

Six-Day War

Also known as the June War, the Six-Day War took place between Israel and the neighbouring states of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. It lasted from 5 to 10 June 1967.

While the fighting continued for six days, the war was really over in just six hours.

When Israeli intelligence informed their government that an invasion by Egypt and Syria was imminent, the Israelis decided to launch *Operation Moked* (Focus) a pre-emptive strike.

At 07h10 on 5 June, sixteen Israeli Air Force Fouga Mag-

ister training jets took off and pretended to be what they were not. Flying routine flight paths and using routine radio frequencies, they looked to Arab radar operators like the normal morning Israeli combat air patrol.

At 7:15 a.m., another 183 aircraft—almost the entire Israeli combat fleet—roared into the air. They headed west over the Mediterranean before diving low, which dropped them from Arab radar screens.

This was also nothing new: for two years, Egyptian, Syrian and Jordanian radar had tracked Israeli aircraft - though never this many Israeli aircraft - taking off every morning on this same flight path, and then disappearing from their scopes before they returned to base.

But that morning, instead of going home, the Israeli armada of French-made Mirage and Super Mystere jets turned south toward Egypt, flying under strict radio silence and just 18 metres above the waves.

The Israelis knew that if they had any chance of winning the war they would have to control the skies. Yet the Arabs had more than three times the number of aircraft, including many Soviet-supplied MiG fighters. Israeli leaders also worried over Egypt's thirty Soviet-made Tu-16 Badger bombers, each of which could drop ten tons of bombs on Israeli cities.

The Israeli plan was simple - take out the Arab air forces while they were still on the ground.

The plan had been worked out and practiced for several years. IAF (Israeli Air Force) pilots flew repeated practice missions

against mock Egyptian airfields in the Negev Desert, while Israeli intelligence collected information on Egyptian dispositions and defences.

The timing of the attack was sheer genius. Military doctrine dictates that the best time for an attack is at first light. The Israeli air strike was planned for 08h45 Egyptian time.

The relative lateness of the hour was chosen for a number of reasons. First of all the Egyptians would be hit when they least expected it.

By that time the early morning mist in the Nile Delta had lifted. Most importantly, the Egyptian air patrols and radar surveillance had been stood down with the passing of the time for a classic dawn attack. More over the change-over of watches within the Egyptian air command was taking place.

The initial Israeli air strike was against eight Egyptian airfields in Sinai, on the Suez Canal and around Cairo.

As can be expected the Israeli intelligence was spot on and the target identification by the pilots was outstanding. Dummy installations and aircraft were ignored while the real targets were destroyed.

Once the eight original airfields had been dealt with the Israelis extended their operations to cover a further nine Egyptian airfields. They then moved on to cover the Jordanian, Iraqi and Syrian fronts.

One of the main reasons for the Israeli success was their quick turn-around time. From the time a plane landed it could be refuelled and rearmed and be ready to take-off again in seven



TAKE A BREAK: Israeli troops take a break after capturing Jerusalem during the Six-Day War.

minutes.

On the first day they annihilated the Jordanian Air Force and inflicted such heavy losses on the Syrian Air Force that it took virtually no active part in the war.

The fact of the matter is that the Jordanian and Syrian Air Forces had been destroyed within the space of 25 minutes.

Six hours or so after the first IAF aircraft had soared into the morning sky, Israel had won the Six-Day War. Not that the tank crews and paratroopers on the ground wouldn't face some hard fighting in the Sinai, the Golan and Jerusalem.

But destroying the Arab air forces didn't just mean that Israeli troops could operate without air attack; it also meant that Israeli aircraft could relentlessly bomb and strafe Arab ground troops, which turned the Egyptian retreat from Sinai into a rout. A total of 418 Arab aircraft were destroyed for the loss of 27 Israeli aircraft.

Duration

Six days.

Football War

Many wars have been started for the strangest reasons. Like a football match for example.

Known in Spanish as *La guerra del fútbol* it was a brief war fought between El Salvador and Honduras in 1969.

It was triggered by rioting during a play-off in the 1970 World Cup (El Salvador won 3-2 after extra time). But there had been tensions between the two countries long before that.

The war began on 14 July 1969, when the Salvadoran military launched an attack against Honduras. The Organization of American States (OAS) negotiated a cease-fire on the night of 18 July (hence "100 Hour War"), which took full effect on 20 July. Salvadoran troops were withdrawn in early August.

Duration

Four days or 100 hours.

Anglo-Zanzibar War

The Anglo-Zanzibar War was a military conflict fought between the United Kingdom and

the Zanzibar Sultanate on 27 August 1896. It is the shortest war in history.

The immediate cause of the war was the death of the pro-British Sultan Hamad bin Thuwaini on 25 August 1896 and the subsequent succession of Sultan Khalid bin Barghash. The British authorities preferred Hamud bin Muhammed, who was more favourable to British interests, as sultan.

The British sent an ultimatum to Khalid demanding that he order his forces to stand down and leave the palace. In response, Khalid called up his palace guard and barricaded himself inside the palace.

Around 2,800 Zanzibaris defended the palace; most were recruited from the civilian population, but they also included the sultan's palace guard and several hundred of his servants and slaves.

The defenders had several artillery pieces and machine guns, which were set in front of the palace sighted at the British ships. A bombardment, opened at 09:02, set the palace on fire and disabled the defending artillery.

A small naval action took place, with the British sinking the Zanzibari royal yacht HHS Glasgow and two smaller vessels. Some shots were also fired ineffectually at the pro-British Zanzibari troops as they approached the palace. The flag at the palace was shot down and fire ceased. The war was over.

Duration

38 minutes.

Bite the bullet and chance your arm

Many sayings that were once popular, and some we still use to this day, had their origins in the military. So, pull your finger out and find out more. By Ryan Murphy.

Back in 1962 when I was a youngster growing up in Ireland we had a next door neighbour that I was convinced was off his head.

He would often rant and rave without any reason, especially at the neighbourhood kids.

Another thing about him is that he never walked anywhere - he marched. He would always snap to attention and salute anyone who was dressed in anything vaguely resembling a uniform.

My mom told me that he had been in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and had fought in the trenches of World War I.

My own father had fought in World War II and he didn't carry on like the old nutter next door.

An incident that I still clearly remember was when some mates and I were playing football in the street. I guess we may have been a bit noisy, because the neighbour came outside and berated us. I will never forget what he said to me.

"You young louts have no discipline. No backbone. A good spell in the army would do you good," he shouted. I was seven years old at the time and somehow I doubted whether the army would have found me a suitable candidate.

"You need to pull your finger out and stop chancing your arm. You need to be taken down a peg or two," he continued.

I always wondered about

that expression. Where exactly did he think my finger was that it needed to be pulled out. And how was I chancing my arm. Did he want to cut it off or something.

The last one also left me a bit perturbed. The only pegs I could think of were the ones my mother used to hang the washing on the line with.

Many years later I did do a spell in the army, and the old gezzer had been right, it did do me good.

And it was while I was serving in the army that I heard one of those expressions again.

We had an old drill sergeant, and when I say old, I mean old. Rumours were that he had fought in the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

One morning while we were standing at attention on the parade ground my nose was itching like mad. Naturally I gave it a quick scratch. This, of course, was a cardinal sin.

The old drill sergeant came up to me and stuck his face in my face so that his nose was touching my nose (which was still itching, by the way).

"Did I give you permission to start dancing on my parade ground," he shouted in a voice that could have raised the dead. "You need to pull your finger out sonny boy, or I will have you!"

Again with the "pull your finger out". Was this perhaps some sort of army thing?

Later I learnt that it was indeed an "army thing". It was one of just many expressions that had its origins in the military.

Here are a few more expressions that we can thank the military for.

To **Beat A Hasty Retreat** means to abandon something, to leave quickly and avoid the consequences of remaining in the same position.

This term dates back to the time when a marching army would take its orders from the drummer.

Positioned next to the commanding officer, the drummer boy would beat the orders to an army on a battlefield.

At night time, or during a battle when things were not going well, the drummer would be ordered to beat a 'retreat' and on hearing the signal a fighting army would immediately cease battle and return to company lines as quickly as they could.

To **Chance Your Arm** is to take an uncalculated risk, where the outcome is completely unknown: a blind bet, if you like.

There are several suggestions for the origin of this saying, one being that military men, whose rank was displayed in the way of stripes on their sleeves, would take battlefield risks, which could equally lead to promotion or demotion, depending on the outcome.

A better explanation (and being Irish, I like this one) dates back to Ireland as long ago as 1492. During a feud between two distinguished families, the Kildares and the Ormonds, during which Sir James Butler, the Earl of Ormond, and his family took sanctuary inside St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin.

The Kildares laid siege outside until Gerald Fitzpatrick, the Earl of Kildare, decided the feud had gone too far and attempted a reconciliation. But the Ormonds were suspicious of his offer of peaceful settlement and refused to leave the cathedral.

As a desperate measure to prove his good intentions Fitzgerald ordered a hole to be cut into the cathedral door and then thrust his outstretched hand through, putting his arm at the mercy of those inside as it could easily have been cut off.

Instead, Butler took his hand and peace was restored. It is not known if that is actually the origin of the phrase, but it should be.

A **Feather In Your Cap** means you have done something well and it has been duly noted, although not rewarded by any tangible means other than by having a 'feather placed in your cap'.

Its origin seems easy to explain. Any Indian brave fighting for his tribe in America, who killed an enemy, was rewarded by having a feather placed in his head-dress. The most prolific braves would have a headband full of feathers.

However, four hundred years prior to this, in medieval Eng-

land, battlefield bravery was rewarded in a similar way. Knights who had shown great courage were also afforded plumes to wear in their helmets.

The Black Prince, 16 year old Prince Edward, the Prince of Wales of his day, showed such courage at the Battle of Crecy in 1346 (the first great battle of the Hundred Years War) he was awarded the crest of one of his defeated enemies, John of Bohemia. That crest, of three ostrich feathers, remains the crest of the Prince of Wales to this day.

While on the subject of a feather in the cap, I recall a joke my late father once told me and I feel I should share with you.

A fairly well-off man had a son that he thought was nothing more than a chancer. The boy's mother, however, doted on him.

On completing his schooling the young man went abroad to study, naturally at this father's expense.

Every week the boy would write a letter home to his mother, boasting at how well he was doing at university.

"I got an A in my English exam," he would write. "That's another feather in my cap."

"I was chosen as captain of the cricket team. That's another feather in my cap." Everything he did was yet another feather in his cap.

At the end of the year the boy wrote to his mother, asking for money so that he could travel home for the holidays.

"Our young Billy needs some money to buy a ticket so that he can come home for the vacation," the woman told her husband.

"Well tell him he can take all his feathers, shove them up his bum, and he can fly home," the husband replied.

Flash In The Pan is used to describe something or somebody making a great impression at the outset but ultimately failing to deliver any real result.

Of military origin the phrase emerged during the use of early flintlock muskets. Sometimes gunpowder would ignite with a flash in the lock-pan but the main charge failed to light, meaning the shot in the barrel did not discharge, so no harm could come to man nor beast that time round. It was a 'flash in the pan' and the expression was in regular use by 1741.

Hanging Fire is often used to describe a pause before beginning a task.

Sixteenth-century muskets were always slow to fire their charge due to the delay between lighting the gunpowder in the touch-hole and detonation.

This was known at the time as 'hang-fire' and the expression was soon used to describe any person delaying or slow to take action.

To take someone **Down A Peg Or Two** means to reduce their status among their peers.

It is possible the origin of this phrase is found at sea, and the peg used to fly a ship's colours. The lower the peg, the less impressive the achievement.

But there is also a reference dating as far back as the 10th century and King Edred's anger at the amount that his army was drinking.

Aware that he needed his soldiers sober for the great battles against the Vikings, Edred ordered pegs to be put into the side of ale barrels and no man was allowed to drink below the level of the peg in a single sitting.

But as soon as this rule was applied soldiers would drink from other people's kegs and take them down a 'peg or two'.

Once **The Balloon Has Gone Up** you know there is trouble ahead.

During the First World War, observation balloons would be sent into the sky at the first suspicion of an enemy attack, in order to monitor distant enemy troop movements. To most this was a sign of impending action.

During the Second World War, strong barrage balloons connected to the ground with thick steel cable were raised around English cities. The idea of these was to impede enemy aircraft, which might crash into them in the darkness or clip their wings on the steel cable.

Often they also protected cities from German V1 rockets, which would hit a balloon and explode before reaching its target. Their success was immeasurable but to city folk it was the sign of trouble brewing.

To **Bite The Bullet** is to carry out a task against the doer's wishes. It means getting on with something that just 'has to be done'.

This phrase has its origins in the British Empire as the Victorians made friends around the world at the point of a gun.

At the time of the Indian Mu-



DO YOU ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE: Knights would challenge each other to a duel by throwing down a gauntlet. If his opponent picked it up, the fight was on.

tiny, gun cartridges came in two parts with the missile part being inserted into the base and held in place by grease made of either cow or pork fat. To charge the bullets the two parts had to be bitten apart and the base filled with gunpowder before they could be fired.

This task was usually left to low-ranking Hindu soldiers to whom cows are holy animals, sacred and not to be desecrated. They also did not eat pork for religious reasons. However they were forced, against their wishes, to 'bite the bullet' in times of battle.

To **Throw Down The Gauntlet** is to lay a challenge, originally of combat but latterly to any form of contest.

A gauntlet is a medieval armoured glove, forming part of a knight's suit of armour. Traditionally a knight would challenge another to a duel by throwing down his gauntlet. If his opponent picked it up it meant he was accepting the

challenge and battle would begin.

Taking Up The Gauntlet has since been a phrase used for accepting a challenge.

And finally, the phrase **Pull Your Finger Out** is associated these days with encouraging someone to get a move on, or hurry up and complete a task more quickly.

Like so many English phrases it has a military or naval origin. Loaded cannons would have gunpowder poured into a small ignition hole and held in place with a wooden plug. But in times of battle, when speed was of the essence, the powder would be pushed in and then held in place by a gun crew member using his finger.

Impatient artillerymen, anxious to fire their cannons at the enemy, would shout at the crew member to 'pull his finger out' so that the gun could be fired. It has not been recorded how many digits were lost on the battlefields.

Quiz

WWII Patches & Badges

These are all badges or patches from World War II. They feature American British, German and Russian badges or patches. You tell us what they are. Answers on page 84.

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

MOTHS for life

It is not often that military veterans are awarded life membership of the Memorable Order of Tin Hats. It is even more rare for two members of the same Shellhole to be awarded this honour. Here is the story of two of them. By Pieter Viljoen.

Charles Alfred Evenden joined the Australian Army at the outbreak of World War I.

As a member of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps he took part in the disastrous Gallipoli campaign - a campaign that would see more than 130,000 men die and over 261,000 being wounded.

In 1923 he moved from Australia to South Africa and settled in Durban where he worked as a cartoonist for The Natal Mercury.

In 1928 he began a remarkable organisation of ex-front line soldiers, of all ranks, known as the Memorable Order of Tin Hats (MOTH). Their motto is "We will remember them."

Membership of the Order was later extended to veterans of World War II, and eventually to veterans of our own Border War.

Members meet regularly at Shellholes with colourful and meaningful names of war-time memories.

It is not often that members are awarded life membership of the Order. So it is even more unique that two members of the same Shellhole were awarded this honour.

Moth Abe de Kock and Moth Ron Filmalter are both members of the Outeniqua Shellhole in George. They were both made lifetime members of the Memorable Order of Tin

Hats.

And, as we shall see, both have very interesting stories.

Abe de Kock

A.P. de Kock, better known as Abe, was born on 19 May 1925. He matriculated in December 1942 in Heilbron OFS and joined the SAAF in Johannesburg on 23 January 1943.

Abe started Senior flying training flying twin engine Oxords at 24 Air School Dunnotar. He received his wings and commission on 28 April 1944.

Abe joined 12 Squadron at Pescara Air base on the Adriatic Coast of Italy on 27 August and reported for operational duty.

On September 5th Abe carried out his first operation raid as 2nd Pilot to Lt Harvey.

They dropped 10 x 250 fragmentation bombs on a German stronghold near Rimini. Fortunately light flack was encountered.

On Abe's 10th sortie he was selected to fly as 2nd pilot to their Commanding Officer of 12 squadron (Kommandant) Lt Colonel Burniaux, a Belgian pilot seconded from the Belgian Air force. Abe tells the story.

"With a full bomb load our Marauders could only reach 16,000 feet Maximum Ceiling, even with Turbo charges at full boost.

"Once we were over the target ready to drop our bombs, we had to fly straight and level for a minimum of 20 seconds for the navigators to aim their bomb-sights. Quite a nerve wrecking experience when the ack-ack shells burst under the aircraft lifting it quite a few feet into the air."

"On a mission over the marshalling yards of Udine, in North Eastern Italy on 28 December 1944 Goerings 26th panzer Anti-aircraft Division which had pulled back from Russian front had our Marauder in trouble with 45 shrapnel holes one of which was a large hole in the fuel tank."

Abe was operating from Jesi Airfield near the coastal port of Ancona on the Adriatic coast when the war ended. Abe was 19 years old and carried out 43 bombing sorties.

Abe returned home on the Strath-Eden Mailship and arrived in Durban on 25 January 1946.

Abe's association with the SAAF was indeed a most interesting and adventurous one. The high standard of the officers and men helped to shape his life for the future and indeed inspired him to be an officer and a gentleman.

Ron Filmalter

Although Ron only became a MOTH in November 1995, his association with the order be-



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Wee Bill Jerry Hattingh, Moth Abe De Kock, Moth Ron Filmalter, and Old Bill of Outeniqua Shellhole Cobus Vos.

gan some years before when, through his interest in military history, he met Doug Clapham, a Moth of many years, who was from Warrior's Gate MOTH museum.

Ron build cabinets and also refurbish the Sparrow Canon and Falcon Canon that were at the Warrior's Gate Museum.

To Ron's knowledge these items are still at the museum. For Ron's efforts he featured in a publication of the Home Front Magazine. Ron was introduced as a committee member.

After settling in Ladysmith Ron joined Siegetown Shellhole in November 1995.

As there was a huge amount of military memorabilia, Ron undertook to build a museum.

The Shellhole converted into a fully fledged museum over a period of two years with the help of a few other members. It must be mentioned

that every piece of material, including labour was donated by the companies concerned.

Ron served four years as Old Bill at Siegetown Shellhole from 2003-2007 and was also District Old Bill for Northern Natal from 2006-2007.

Ron was also Provincial Old Bill for Northern Natal/Zululand from 2007-2008.

Ron was the only Moth to hold three gold hats at one time and during this time received his Badge of Excellence from Northern Natal/Zululand

In 2008 Ron resigned from Siegetown and Northern Natal/Zululand and joined Sentinel Shellhole (Bergville) which falls under Midlands.

On a previous visit to the Shellhole with KZN Provincial Old Bill Jan Van Der Waal he met with Moth Rusty Fournell (Adj/Paybill) who informed Ron that the Shellhole was to hand in its charter within a

week due to lack of membership.

That did not sit well with Ron and resolved to rectify the problem which Ron did by bringing in new members with him, and today the Shellhole is still going strong.

Ron was made Old Bill and Midlands District Wee Bill. Both posts Ron held until June 2009 when they relocated to George.

Sentinel's Shellhole is the one remaining blockhouse of the Anglo Boer war era left in the Natal Midlands. As it is made of corrugated iron, it is freezing in winter and like a sauna in summer!

During Ron's time in Natal he was also chairman of the Durban Preservation of Militaria Society as well as the Pietermaritzburg Militaria Society and in Ladysmith Chairman of the Historical Society.

The meeting place there was the original Toll House (1864) next to the crossing over the Klip River.

Ron received a Heritage award for history preservation in 2006 by AMAFA (Old Monuments Council)



War, what is it good for...

According to Edwin Starr, war is good for absolutely nothing. While we may agree with that statement in principle, many items that we use daily were actually developed for war.

War, huh, good god, what is it good for, absolutely nothing. Many of you may recognise this as the opening line of the song War.

It was written in 1969 by Norman Whitfield and Barrett Strong for the Motown label. Whitfield first produced the song – an obvious anti-Vietnam War statement – with The Temptations as the original vocalists.

Motown decided to withhold the Temptations' version from single release so as not to alienate their more conservative fans.

The song was then recorded by Edwin Starr and released in 1970. It went on to become a Number One hit.

Yet it appears that Whitfield and Strong may have been wrong (that sentence sounds as if it could be used in a song). If war is good for any-

thing then it has to be the development of technology.

Fair enough, the majority of this technology is developed for use by the military. Yet it is surprising just how much of this technology finds its way into the commercial world.

Many items we use on a daily basis stems from technology first developed for the military.

Let's take a look at some of them.

Aviator sunglasses

The characteristic shape and dark lenses of aviator sunglasses have become an iconic fashion item.

Their original purpose was to protect test pilots from the dangerously bright sunlight of the upper atmosphere.

In the 1930s, optics manufacturer Bausch & Lomb developed aviator goggles under the direction of the U.S. Army Air Corps.

Bausch & Lomb re-branded the sunglasses in 1937 as Ray-Ban - as they banish the sun's rays - and sold them to the civilian population. By World War II, aviators were a standard accessory for U.S. soldiers.

Jeep

In World War II, the U.S. Army had a need for a light reconnaissance vehicle and asked automakers to develop prototypes and submit proposals.

The government chose the design of American Bantam car

company - a four-wheel drive vehicle with a top speed of just over 100 kph.

The auto-mobile's namesake, General Purpose, was abbreviated to G.P. and eventually nicknamed jeep.

The jeep proved an invaluable contribution to the U.S. military effort, with then General Dwight D. Eisenhower stating that "America could not have won World War II without it."

The company manufactured more than 600,000 jeeps during the war, and later sold the post-war surplus to the public rather cheaply.

Today, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles sells Jeeps. While the military use of jeeps has dwindled since World War II, U.S. sales of the Jeep Wrangler - which bears many of the design characteristics of the original - was over 240,000 in 2018.

Aerosol bug spray

The next time you spray a fly or 'roach, spare a thought as to where the technology to do this came from.

In World War II, soldiers stationed in the South Pacific needed an easy way to kill mosquitos, which could potentially carry malaria.

In a partnership with the Department of Defence, two scientists with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Lyle Goodhue and William Sullivan, took on the task of developing a way to deliver insecticide as a fine mist

capable of killing mosquitos.

The first aerosol can was patented in 1941 and nicknamed "bug bomb" by soldiers.

The partnership between the USDA and the DoD has yielded other life-saving innovations, including the use of DDT in controlling typhus.

In 1949, engineer and veteran Robert Abplanalp patented a cheaper plastic aerosol valve meant for commercial mass production.

He started the Precision Valve Corporation to market the invention and turned a profit almost immediately.

The aerosol can has since been refined and is now less harmful to the environment.

Tea bags

It has been said that the British Army wasn't fuelled so much by petrol and diesel, but rather that it was fuelled by tea. Show me a British soldier that doesn't enjoy a 'brew up'.

In 1908, a U.S. tea importer named Thomas Sullivan accidentally invented the modern teabag by sending samples of his loose leaf to customers in small silk pouches.

This revolutionary concept meant that you could now place one of these bags in a cup, pour in boiling water, add milk and sugar to your taste, and you had a cup of tea.

It really took off with the soldiers in the trenches of World War I as they could now brew individual cups of tea.

Super Glue

Eastman Kodak was one of many companies that contributed to the war effort during

World War II.

In 1942, while testing a variety of compounds for use in a plastic rifle sight, Dr. Harry Coover a company chemist, inadvertently created cyanoacrylate, a compound later marketed as Super Glue.

The material was incredibly durable but was dismissed for being too sticky. When a colleague was testing cyanoacrylate nine years later, Dr. Coover had another encounter with the material. As the colleague complained the compound ruined his equipment, Coover realized its commercial potential.

Super Glue was first sold as a commercial product in 1958. The product was eventually adopted by military surgeons during the Vietnam War, who would spray it over wounds to stop bleeding instantly.

Synthetic rubber

In the early 20th century, rubber was harvested from trees in South America, but soon southern Asia became the dominant producer of the world's rubber.

The global supply of natural rubber was sufficient until World War II, when the Axis powers cut off nearly all of the rubber supply from Asia.

Rubber is an incredibly valuable substance for the military. In addition to tires, the U.S. military needed rubber for airplanes, tanks, vehicles, and battleships.

In desperate need of the substance, the U.S. government turned to companies like Firestone, Goodyear, and Standard Oil to create a replacement. They quickly whipped up a synthetic rubber recipe, which

is still used to this day.

Silly Putty

As we have already seen, the Japanese invasion of Malaysia had cut off America's supply of rubber.

In the USA many companies were trying to come up with a substitute material and eventually synthetic rubber was invented.

While trying to find a substitute for rubber, a chemist at General Electric came up with a stretchy, bouncy material made of boric acid and silicone oil. While highly unique, the material had no military application.

The material caught on, however, after GE executives began showing it off at cocktail parties and one interested party, adman Peter Hodgson, bought the manufacturing rights and changed the name to Silly Putty.

The product, packaged in small plastic eggs as a toy, began selling in 1950 and immediately caught on.

In 1968, astronauts on the Apollo 8 mission used Silly Putty to help keep their instruments in place. Since 1950, the company has sold more than 350 million Silly Putty eggs.

Frozen juice concentrate

In 1943, the USDA and the Florida Citrus Commission set to work on the development of a frozen juice concentrate that could be sent to U.S. soldiers overseas.

At the time of their collaboration, orange juice that had been frozen and thawed would turn an unappetizing brown colour.

The thawed juice also developed a bitter taste, prompting



soldiers to nickname the beverage “battery acid” (does that sound familiar?).

Eventually, USDA scientists discovered that adding a dash of fresh orange juice to the concentrate before freezing it preserved its flavour.

The process was patented in 1945 but made available to any public or private entity that wished to use it.

Minute Maid began selling frozen juice products commercially in 1946. Orange juice is now one of the most commonly consumed fruit products in the United States.

Duct Tape

During World War II the US Military needed something that could seal ammunition cases so that water couldn't get in.

The military asked Johnson & Johnson Co. to develop the idea. They came up with a durable adhesive tape which they initially called duck tape due to its waterproof nature.

Soldiers during World War II quickly realized that it worked well for fixing army gear too.

Civilians began to utilize the product heavily during the postwar housing boom, when it was used to seal central air and heating systems.

Duck tape was used in ductwork so much that it was renamed and recoloured to match the silver metallic colour of HVAC systems.

Known for its versatile uses, duct tape has recently taken on another life as material used in a variety of personal products, including wallets, bags, and phone cases.



FROM THE TRENCHES: Sanitary pads resulted from the material used for bandages in World War I.

Sanitary Pads

One of the nasty side effects of war is that a lot of people end up getting wounded. This often results in a desperate shortage of medical supplies.

Bullet and shrapnel wounds use up a vast amount of bandages.

After the invention of cellulocotton, which is a pulp by-product of processed sugar cane, the absorbent yet disposable materials were used to bandage soldiers' wounds during World War I.

At the time British and American nurses began using these bandages as sanitary pads.

They worked so well that Kimberly-Clark began marketing Kotex disposable sanitary pads in 1920.

EpiPen

A must for anyone with severe allergies, the EpiPen was initially conceived of as a military device.

Inventor Sheldon Kaplan worked at military contractor Survival Technology in Bethes-

da, Maryland, where he developed an auto-injector called the ComboPen.

This invention was first designed to deliver a treatment to soldiers who had come into contact with a nerve agent.

The ComboPen would quickly deliver the antidote into the bloodstream of the affected person.

Kaplan later tweaked this device to deliver epinephrine, which can help people who go into anaphylactic shock due to an allergic reaction.

Though his name was on the patent, Kaplan received little credit for his breakthrough during his lifetime. He died in 2009 but was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2016.

GPS

Remember back in the days when we were in the military and wanted to plot our position.

We would use a map and a compass, take bearings, and eventually work out that according to our calculations we

were somewhere in Siberia. And here we thought we were somewhere in South West Africa. These days it's a lot easier to plot your position.

In the 1960s, the US Department of Defence developed the original Global Positioning System (GPS). The idea was to use satellites to determine a user's position on Earth by measuring his or her distance from three peripheral satellites in a process known as trilateration.

While the system became fully operational in March 1994, it captured the public's interest long before then.

President Ronald Reagan first ensured civil applications of GPS in 1983, after an incident where a Korean airliner strayed off course and was shot down by the Soviet Union demonstrated the need for better navigational technology.

The public received a comprehensive preview of the technology during the Gulf War, when soldiers used GPS to navigate across deserts and target enemies with an accuracy that was previously impossible.

Today, GPS technology is used in consumer products such as cars and phones, as well as applications like earthquake research and geocaching.

Microwave Oven

Microwave technology was originally used as a radar to help locate enemies aircraft during World War II.

The ability of microwaves to cook food was discovered by accident. While conducting research on microwave radar technology, an engineer at defence contractor Raytheon

Company noticed that a candy bar in his pocket had melted.

This led to the realization that microwave equipment could be re-purposed to heat and cook foods. Later that year, Raytheon Company filed the first patent for a microwave oven.

The first commercial microwave was manufactured in 1954 and was about the size of a refrigerator.

Tinned Food

The idea of tinned food is much older than you might imagine. The idea for this dates back to Napoleon and the need for food for his army.

In 1810, the French government offered a cash reward for a cheap way to preserve large amounts of food.

One inventor found that food which had been cooked in a jar stayed unspoiled until the seal was broken. This was a good, if cumbersome solution for providing food to the troops. After 15 years of attempts, Nicolas Appert perfected the canning process and this concept was transferred to metal cans.

Since World War I and many wars after that, soldiers survived on tinned foods while fighting.

Tinned foods eventually made their way to the commercial market and are now staples in supermarkets.

Tabasco sauce

A necessity in modern food for millions, this instant taste enhancer was actually founded during the United States-Mexican war in the 1850s.

The story begins with a soldier who gave his banker friend

Edmund Mcilhenny in New Orleans some delicious Capsicum hot peppers from Mexico in the 1850s during the US-Mexico war.

Mcilhenny loved the peppers so much he planted them on his plantation at Aery Island just off the Louisiana Gulf Coast.

Eventually, the family created Tabasco Sauce. It has since become so popular that it was even used in American C-Rations during World War I.

The Internet

You wouldn't be reading this magazine right now without the military sinking years of work and billions of dollars into ARPANET - the forerunner for the internet.

The Advanced Research Projects Agency Network began during the Cold War as a way for the U.S. military to develop an information sharing system without the need for a command centre.

The military was concerned any central location would be a Soviet target.

By the late 1960s, colleges were able to access the very limited trial run of ARPANET. At the time, the network users could only log onto a remote computer, print remotely, and transfer files. Decades of innovation honed the ARPANET into the World Wide Web created by British scientist Tim Berners-Lee.

So to answer Whitfield and Strong's question, "War, what is it good for", apparently quite a lot of stuff as indicated by this article.

A matter of survival - Shelters

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 temporary shelters.

Last month we looked at setting up camp and took a brief look at shelters. This month we're going to take a more in-depth look at shelters.

As we stated in the very first article we did on survival, there are two basic survival situations - one where you want to be found, and one where you definitely don't want to be found.

If you're stuck in the wild because of a plane crash or your vehicle broke down in the middle of nowhere, then you want to be found and rescued.

If, however, you're a soldier stuck behind enemy lines then the last thing you want is to be discovered by the enemy. Often the enemy has no sense of humour about you being in their territory.

If you're a soldier trying to make his way back to friendly territory then you will normally move at night and lie up during the day.

In this case your shelter will

have to be well concealed to avoid detection.

If your survival situation is as a result of a plane crash or vehicle break down, then you have two choices. You can either stay where you are and hope to be rescued. Or you can start walking in the direction of civilization.

If you are going to stay where you are you will need to set up a camp with shelters. This we will deal with in the next article.

If, however, you are going to attempt to walk back to civilization you will still need temporary shelter at night.

Bough Shelters

Make use of branches that sweep down to the ground or boughs that have partly broken from the tree to give basic protection from the wind - but make sure that they are not so broken that they could come down on your head.

Weave in other twigs to make the cover more dense. Make a similar shelter by lashing a broken-off bough to the base of another branch where it forks from the trunk (a).

Root Shelter

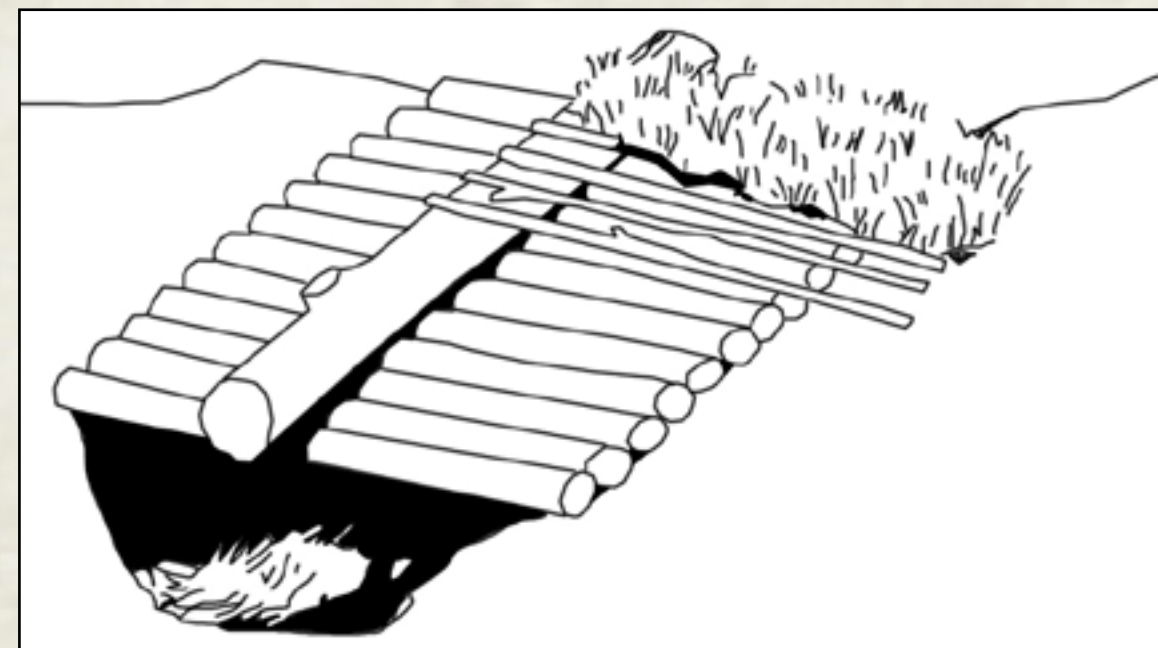
The spreading roots and trapped earth at the base of a fallen tree make a good wind and storm barrier, if they are at the right angle to the wind.

Filling in the sides between the extended roots will usually make the shelter much more effective, and provide a good support for building a more elaborate shelter from other materials.

Use a natural hollow

Even a shallow depression in the ground will provide some protection from wind and can reduce the effort in constructing a shelter.

However, take measures to



deflect the downhill flow of water around it, especially if it is a hollow on a slope. Otherwise you could wake up in a pool.

Make a roof to keep the rain off and the warmth in. A few strong branches placed across the hollow can support a light log laid over them, against which shorter boughs and sticks can be stacked to give pitch to the roof and so allow water to run off. Consolidate with turf or twigs and leaves.

Fallen trunks

A log or fallen trunk makes a useful windbreak on its own, if it is at the right angle to the wind. With a small trunk, scoop out a hollow in the ground on the leeward side.

A log also makes an excellent support for a lean-to roof of boughs.

Drainage and ventilation

A run-off channel gouged from the earth around any shelter in which you are below, or

lying directly on, ground level will help to keep the shelter dry.

Hasty shelters will usually have spaces where air can enter. Do not try to seal them all as ventilation is essential.

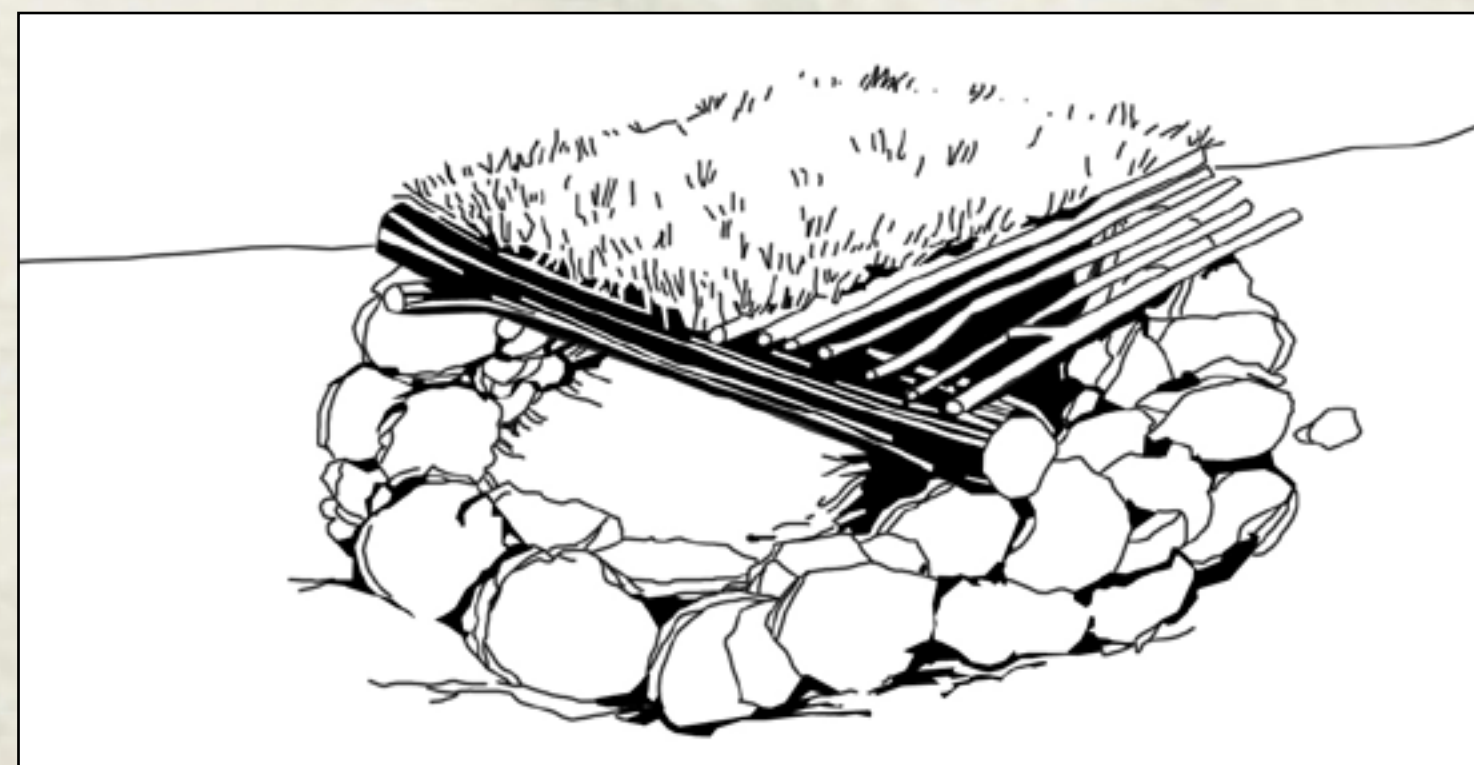
Stone barriers

A shelter is more comfortable if you can sit rather

than just lie in, so increase the height by building a low wall of stones around your chosen hollow or excavation.

Caulk between the stones with turf and foliage mixed with mud, and deflect the flow of rain water around the shelter.

Next month we will look at building more permanent shelters for a base camp.



Rank Structure

Royal Marines

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 Royal Marines

The Corps of Royal Marines (RM) is an amphibious light infantry and also one of the five fighting arms of the Royal Navy.

The marines can trace their origins back to the formation of the English Army's "Duke of York and Albany's maritime regiment of Foot" at the grounds of the Honourable Artillery Company on 28 October 1664.

As a highly specialised and adaptable light infantry force, the Royal Marines are trained

for rapid deployment world-wide and capable of dealing with a wide range of threats.

The Royal Marines are organised into a light infantry brigade (3 Commando Brigade) and a number of separate units, including 47 Commando (Raiding Group) Royal Marines, and a company strength commitment to the Special Forces Support Group.

The majority of the members of the Special Boat Squadron are selected from the Royal Marines.



Non-Commissioned and Warrant Officers



Lance Corporal



Corporal



Sergeant



Colour Sergeant



Warrant Officer 2nd Class



Warrant Officer 1st Class

Officers



Cadet Officer



2nd Lieutenant



Lieutenant



Captain



Major



Lieutenant Colonel



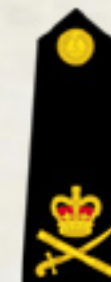
Colonel



Brigadier



Major General



Lieutenant General



General



Captain General Royal Marines



Military Strength

In the ninth of a series of articles, we examine the fighter jets used by the ten strongest current military forces.

A fighter aircraft, often referred to simply as a fighter, is a military fixed-wing aircraft designed primarily for air-to-air combat against other aircraft.

The key performance features of a fighter include not only its firepower but also its high speed and manoeuvrability relative to the target aircraft.

The fighter's main tactical purpose is to establish air superiority over the battlefield. The success or failure of a combatant's efforts to gain air superiority hinges on several factors including the skill of its pilots, the tactical soundness of its doctrine for deploying its fighters, and the numbers and performance of those fighters.

Many fighters have secondary capabilities such as ground attack and some types, such as fighter-bombers, are designed from the outset for dual roles. Other fighter designs are highly specialized while still filling the main air superiority role, these include the interceptor, heavy fighter, and night fighter.



10. Germany

Total military personnel – 210,305

Eurofighter Typhoon

The Eurofighter Typhoon is a twin-engine, canard-delta wing, multi-role fighter.

The Typhoon was designed originally as an air superiority fighter and is manufactured by a consortium of Airbus, BAE Systems and Leonardo that conducts the majority of the project through a joint holding company, Eurofighter Jagdflugzeug GmbH. NATO Eurofighter and Tornado Management Agency manages the project and is the prime customer.

- Manufacturer: Eurofighter Jagdflugzeug GmbH
- Gross weight: 16,000 kg
- Length: 15.96 metres
- Height: 5.28 metres



- Crew: One or two engines
- Armament: 1 × 27 mm Mauser BK-27 revolver cannon with 150 rounds; various air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles; various laser-guided bombs
- Operational range: 2,900 km
- Service ceiling: 19,812 metres
- Rate of climb: 318 m/s
- Max Speed: 2,495 km/h
- Powerplant: 2 × Eurojet EJ200 afterburning turbofan



9. Turkey

Total military personnel – 891,300

F-16 Fighting Falcon

The General Dynamics F-16 Fighting Falcon is a single-engine supersonic multirole fighter aircraft originally developed by General Dynamics for the United States Air Force (USAF) 46 years ago.

The Turkish F-16s were produced in Turkey. Later All were upgraded to Block 50/52+ with CCIP by Turkish Aerospace Industries. Currently, all being fitted with indigenous ASEA radars and EW suite called SPEWS-II.

- Manufacturer: General Dynamics; Lockheed Martin
- Gross weight: 12,020 kg
- Length: 15.06 metres



- Height: 4.9 metres
- Crew: One
- Armament: 1 × 20 mm (0.787 in) M61A1 Vulcan 6-barrel rotary cannon; various air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles; various bombs
- Powerplant: 1 × Pratt & Whitney F100-PW-229 afterburning turbofan
- Operational range: 546 km
- Service ceiling: 18,000 metres
- Rate of climb: 370 m/s
- Max Speed: Mach 2.05



8. United Kingdom

Total military personnel – 157,500

F-35B Lightning II

While the Eurofighter Typhoon FGR4 is the RAF's primary multi role air defence and ground attack fighter aircraft, it was announced in 2015 that a total of 138 Lockheed Martin F-35B Lightning IIs would be ordered.

The Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II is a single-seat, single-engine, all-weather stealth multirole combat aircraft. It is intended to perform both air



superiority and strike missions while also providing electronic warfare and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities.

- Manufacturer: Lockheed Martin Aeronautics
- Gross weight: 22,471 kg

- Length: 15.7 metres
- Height: 4.4 metres
- Crew: One
- Armament: 1 × 25 mm GAU-22/A 4-barrel rotary cannon; various air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles; various laser-guided bombs
- Powerplant: 1 × Pratt &

- Whitney F135-PW-100 afterburning turbofan
- Operational range: 2,800 km
- Service ceiling: 15,000 metres
- Rate of climb: Not known
- Max Speed: Mach 1.6



7. Republic of Korea
Total military personnel – 3,699,000

Northrop F-5E Tiger II

The Northrop F-5 is a supersonic light fighter aircraft. Though primarily designed for a day air superiority role, the aircraft is also a capable ground-attack platform. The F-5A entered service in the early 1960s. During the Cold War, over 800 were produced through 1972 for U.S. allies.



- Manufacturer: Northrop Corporation
- Gross weight: 7,142 kg
- Length: 14.68 metres
- Height: 4.077 metres
- Crew: One
- Armament: 2 × 20 mm

- M39A2 Revolver cannon; various air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles; various laser-guided bombs
- Powerplant: 2 × General Electric J85-GE-21 afterburning turbojet engines

- Operational range: 220 km
- Service ceiling: 15,800 metres
- Rate of climb: 175 m/s
- Max Speed: Mach 1.63

Dogfight

The term dogfight has been used for centuries to describe a melee; a fierce battle between two or more opponents. The term gained popularity during World War II, although its origin in air combat can be traced to the latter years of World War I. The first written reference to the modern day usage of the word comes from Fly Papers, by A. E. Illingworth, in 1919, “The battle develops into a ‘dog-fight’, small groups of machines engaging each other in a fight to the death.”



6. Japan
Total military personnel – 310,457

F-35A

The Japan Air Self-Defence Force was interested in obtaining the twin-engine Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor to replace the F-4 and F-15, but when this was not possible it settled on the F-35. Mitsubishi is currently involved in assembling the F-35A.



- Manufacturer: Lockheed Martin Aeronautics
- Gross weight: 22,471 kg
- Length: 15.7 metres
- Height: 4.4 metres
- Crew: One
- Armament: 1 × 25 mm GAU-22/A 4-barrel rotary

- cannon; various air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles; various laser-guided bombs
- Powerplant: 1 × Pratt & Whitney F135-PW-100 afterburning turbofan
- Operational range: 2,800 km
- Service ceiling: 15,000 metres
- Rate of climb: Not known
- Max Speed: Mach 1.6



5. France
Total military personnel – 426,265

Dassault Rafale

The Dassault Rafale is a French twin-engine, canard delta wing, multirole fighter aircraft designed and built by Dassault Aviation. Equipped with a wide range of weapons, the Rafale is intended to perform air supremacy, interdiction, aerial reconnaissance, ground support, in-depth strike, anti-ship strike and nuclear deterrence missions. The Rafale is referred to as an “omnirole” aircraft by Dassault.



HEAD TO HEAD

- Manufacturer: Dassault Aviation
- Gross weight: 15,000 kg
- Length: 15.27 metres
- Height: 5.34 metres
- Crew: One or two
- Armament: 1 × 30 mm
- GIAT 30/M791 autocannon; various air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles; various laser-guided bombs
- Powerplant: 2 × Snecma M88-2 turbofans
- Operational range: 1,850 km
- Service ceiling: 15,235 metres
- Rate of climb: 304.8 m/s
- Max Speed: Mach 1.8



4. India

Total military personnel – 2,598,921

HAL Tejas

While the Indian Air Force has ordered 36 Dassault Rafale aircraft, in 2015 they introduced the HAL Tejas.

The HAL Tejas is an Indian single-engine, delta wing, multirole light fighter designed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy.



- Manufacturer: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- Gross weight: 9,800 kg
- Length: 13.2 metres
- Height: 4.4 metres
- Crew: One or two
- Armament: 1 × 23mm
- twin-barrelled GSh-23 cannon; various air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles; various laser-guided bombs
- Powerplant: 1 × General Electric F404-GE-IN20 turbofan
- Operational range: 1,850 km
- Service ceiling: 15,240 metres
- Rate of climb: Not known
- Max Speed: Mach 1.8

The most successful jet ace

Giora Epstein was a supersonic jet pilot in the Israeli Air Force. He is known to be the ace of aces for supersonic jet pilots having shot down 17 enemy aircraft's. This is the most victories for any pilot in the modern fighter jet era.

He was named "Hawkeye" due to his acute eyesight which helped him accurately shoot at enemy planes.

HEAD TO HEAD



3. China

Total military personnel – 2,545,000

Chengdu J-20

The Chengdu J-20, (also known as Mighty Dragon, is a single-seat, twinjet, all-weather, stealth, fifth-generation fighter aircraft developed by China's Chengdu Aerospace Corporation for the People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF).

The J-20 is designed as an air superiority fighter with precision strike capability; it descends from the J-XX program of the 1990s.



- Manufacturer: Chengdu Aerospace Corporation
- Gross weight: 32,092 kg
- Length: 20.4 metres
- Height: Not known
- Crew: One

- Armament: Various air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles; various laser-guided bombs
- Powerplant: 2 × Shenyang WS-15 afterburning turbofan
- Operational range: 6,000 km
- Service ceiling: 20,000 metres
- Rate of climb: Not known
- Max Speed: Mach 2+



2. Russia

Total military personnel – 3,586,128

Sukhoi Su-57

The Sukhoi Su-57 (known by NATO as Felon) is a stealth, single-seat, twin-engine multi-role fifth-generation jet fighter being developed since 2002 for air superiority and attack operations.

The Su-57 is planned to be the first aircraft in Russian military service to use stealth technology



- Manufacturer: Komso-

HEAD TO HEAD

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| molsk-on-Amur Aircraft Plant | Gryazev-Shipunov GSh-30-1 autocannon; various air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles; various laser-guided bombs | • Operational range: 3,500 km |
| • Gross weight: 25,000 kg | | • Service ceiling: 20,000 metres |
| • Length: 20.1 metres | | • Rate of climb: Not known |
| • Height: 4.74 metres | | • Max Speed: Mach 2 |
| • Crew: One | • Powerplant: 2 × izdeliye 30 turbofans | |
| • Armament: 1 × 30 mm | | |



1. United States

Total military personnel – 4,397,128

F-35 Lightning II

The Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II is an American family of single-seat, single-engine, all-weather stealth multi-role combat aircraft. It is intended to perform both air superiority and strike missions while also providing electronic warfare and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities.

The aircraft has three main variants: the conventional take-off and landing F-35A (CTOL), the short take-off and vertical-landing F-35B (STOVL), and the carrier-based F-35C (CV/CATOBAR).

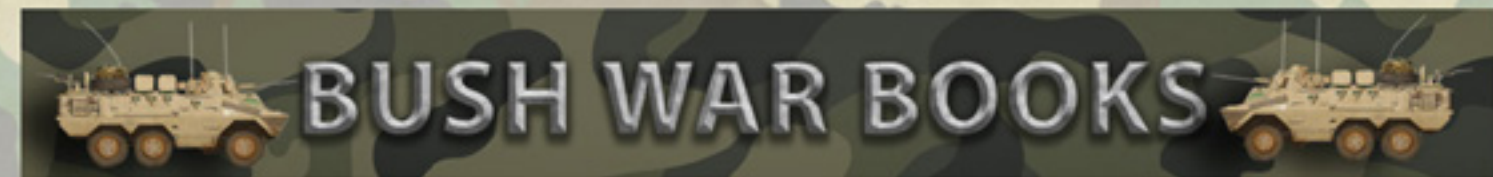
- Manufacturer: Lockheed Martin Aeronautics
- Gross weight: 22,471 kg



- Length: 15.7 metres
- Height: 4.4 metres
- Crew: One
- Armament: 1 × 25 mm GAU-22/A 4-barrel rotary cannon; various air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles; various laser-guided bombs
- Powerplant: 1 × Pratt & Whitney F135-PW-100 afterburning turbofan
- Operational range: 2,800 km
- Service ceiling: 15,000 metres
- Rate of climb: Not known
- Max Speed: Mach 1.6

In the next issue

Next month we will begin to take a look at the naval forces of the ten strongest military forces.



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

Erwin Rommel

Doctor of Political Science, SS-Oberführer, holder of the Knight's Cross, and described as the most evil man in the SS. Few could compete in cruelty with Oskar Dirlewanger.

Over the past three years we've featured numerous famous figures in military history. We've also featured a few infamous figures and Oskar Dirlewanger would definitely fall into the later category.

Under the leadership of Heinrich Himmler (who we featured in the July 2018 edition) the Schutzstaffel, or SS, we known for their brutality.

Yet even among this organisation responsible for some of the worse war crimes and crimes against humanity in history, Dirlewanger was known as the most evil

man in the SS.

World War I

Little is known about the early years of Oskar Paul Dirlewanger.

We do know that he was born on 26 September 1895 in Würzburg. In 1913 he enlisted in the Prussian Army and served as a machine gunner in the the "König Karl" Grenadier Regiment 123.

He served on the Western Front of World War I, where he took part in the German invasion of Belgium and later fought in France.

Dirlewanger was wounded no less than six times

and was awarded both the Iron Cross 2nd Class and 1st Class. He finished the war with the rank of Lieutenant in charge of a company on the Eastern Front in southern Russia and Romania.

At the cessation of hostilities the German units in Dirlewanger's area were ordered to be interned in Romania, but Dirlewanger refused and led 600 men from his and other units back to Germany.

According to German biographer Knut Stang, the war was a contributing factor that determined Dirlewanger's later life and his "terror warfare" methods, as "his amoral personality, with his alcoholism and his sadistic sexual orientation, was additionally shattered by the front experiences of the First World War and its frenzied violence and barbarism."

Between the wars

After the end of World War I Dirlewanger had several run-ins with the law. In fact one police report described him as "a mentally unstable, violent fanatic and alcoholic, who had the habit of erupting into violence under the influence of drugs."

He joined various Freikorps right-wing paramilitary militias and fought against German communists in Ruhr and Saxony, and against Polish national-

ists in Upper Silesia.

He participated in the suppression of the German Revolution of 1918–19 with the Freikorps in multiple German cities in 1920 and 1921.

Later, he commanded an armed formation of students which was set up by him under the Württemberg "Highway Watch".

On Easter Sunday 1921, Dirlewanger commanded an armoured train that moved towards Sangerhausen, which had been occupied by the Communist Party of Germany militia group of Max Hoelz in one of their raids intended to inspire worker uprisings.

An attack by Dirlewanger failed, and the enemy militiamen succeeded in cutting off his force. After the latter was reinforced by pro-government troops during the night, the Communists withdrew from the town.

During this operation, Dirlewanger was grazed on the head by a gunshot. After the Nazi Party gained power, Dirlewanger was celebrated as the town's "liberator from the Red terrorists" and received its honorary citizenship in 1935.

Between his militant forays Dirlewanger still found time to study. In 1922 he obtained a doctorate in political science from Goethe University Frankfurt.

The following year, he joined the Nazi Party and its SA militia, and later also the SS. From 1928–1931 he was an executive director of a textile facto-

ry owned by a Jewish family in Erfurt where he renounced active service in the SA but financially donated to the SA, possibly obtaining the money by embezzling from his company.

Dirlewanger held various jobs, which included working at a bank and a knit-wear factory.

In 1933 after the Nazi seizure of power, Dirlewanger was rewarded the office of director of the Heilbronn employment agency, a strategic post for local-level Nazi leaders.

Dirlewanger kept on having run-ins with the law. He was repeatedly convicted for illegal arms possession and embezzlement. In 1934, he was convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment for the rape of a 14-year-old girl from the League of German Girls (BDM), as well as the illegal use of a government vehicle and damaging said vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

Dirlewanger also lost his job, his doctorate and all military honours, and was expelled from the party.

Soon after his release from the prison in Ludwigsburg, Dirlewanger was arrested again on similar charges for criminal recidivism. He was sent to the Welzheim concentration camp, which was standard practice for deviant sexual offenders in Germany at the time.

Dirlewanger was released and reinstated in the general reserve of the SS following personal intervention of his wartime companion and local NSDAP cadre

comrade Gottlob Berger, who was also a long-time personal friend of the SS chief Heinrich Himmler and had become the head of the SS Head Office (SS-Hauptamt, SS-HA).

Dirlewanger next went to Spain, where he enlisted in the Spanish Foreign Legion during the Spanish Civil War.

Through Berger he transferred to the German Condor Legion where he served from 1936 to 1939 and was wounded three times.

Following further intervention on his behalf by his patron Berger, he successfully petitioned to have his case reconsidered in light of his service in Spain.

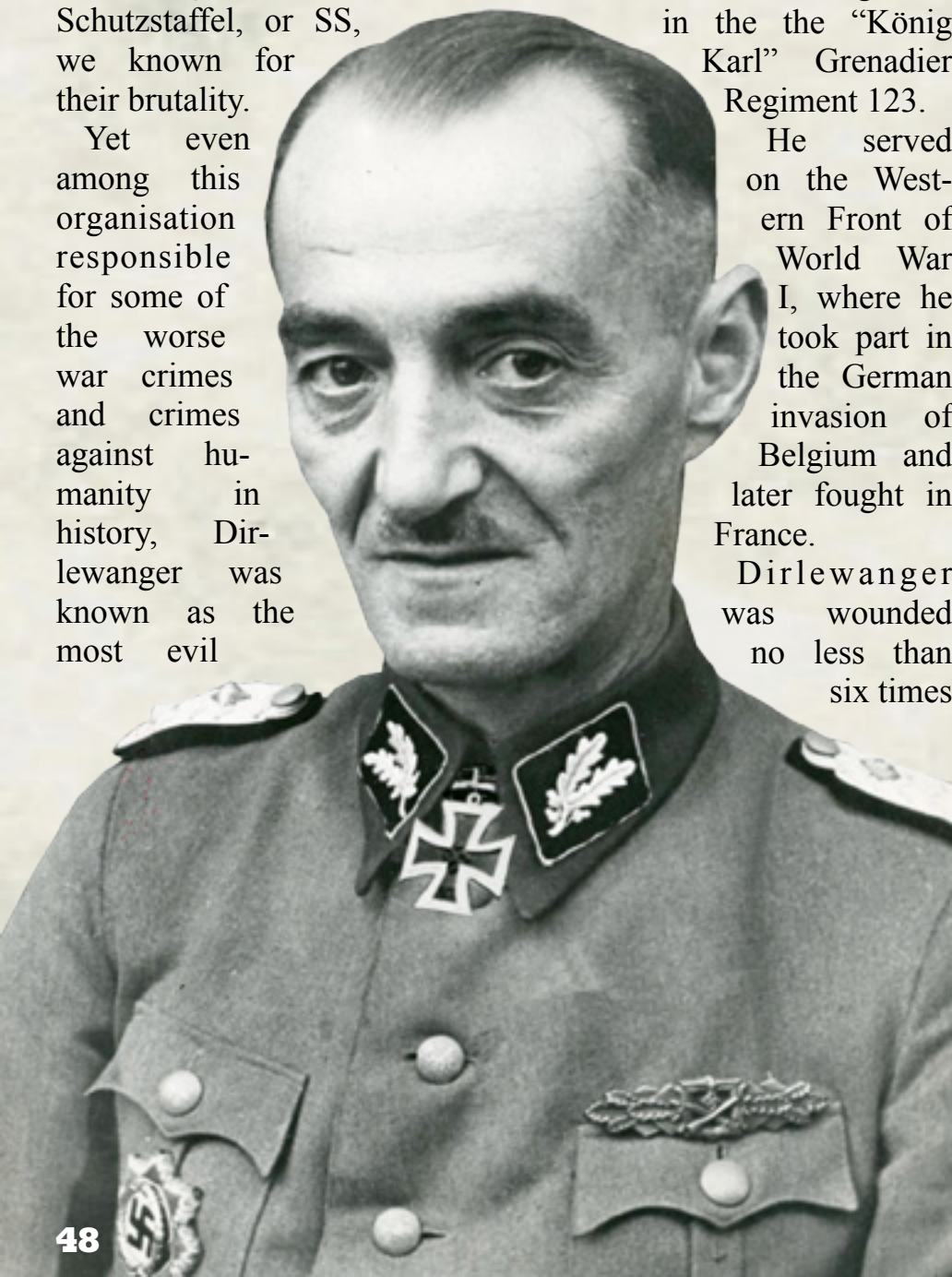
Dirlewanger was reinstated into the NSDAP, albeit with a higher party number (#1,098,716). His doctorate was also restored by the University of Frankfurt.

World War II

At the beginning of World War II, Dirlewanger volunteered for the Waffen-SS and received the rank of Obersturmführer.

He eventually became the commander of the so-called Dirlewanger Brigade (at first designated as a battalion, later expanded to a regiment and a brigade, and eventually a division), composed originally of a small group of former poachers along with soldiers of a more conventional background.

It was believed that the excellent tracking and shooting skills of the poachers could be put to



constructive use in the fight against partisans.

Later, Dirlewanger's soldiers were mostly recruited among the ever-increasing groups of German convicted criminals (civilian and military) and concentration camp inmates, eventually including mental asylum patients, homosexuals, interned Romani people, and (at the end of the war) even political prisoners sentenced for their anti-Nazi beliefs and activities.

Although other *Strafbatalions* (Penal Battalions) were raised as the war proceeded and the need for further manpower grew, these penal military units were for those convicted of military offences, whereas the recruits sent to Dirlewanger Brigade were convicted of major crimes such as premeditated murder, rape, arson and burglary.

Dirlewanger provided them with an opportunity to commit atrocities on such a scale that it even raised complaints within the brutal SS.

The unit was assigned to security duties first in General Government (occupied Poland), where Dirlewanger served as an SS-TV commandant of a labour camp at Stary Dzików.

The camp was the subject of an abuse investigation by the SS judge Georg Konrad Morgen, who accused Dirlewanger of wanton acts of murder, corruption and Rassenschande or race defilement (Morgen consequently himself was reduced in rank and sent to the Eastern Front).

According to Morgen, "Dirlewanger was a nuisance and a terror to the entire popula-

tion. He repeatedly pillaged the ghetto in Lublin, extorting ransoms."

Atrocities committed by Dirlewanger included injecting strychnine into young Jewish female prisoners, previously undressed and whipped, to watch them convulse to death in front of him and his friends for entertainment.

According to historian Raul Hilberg, this camp was where "one of the first instances that reference was made to the 'soap-making rumour'".

According to the rumour, Dirlewanger "cut up Jewish women and boiled them with horse meat to make soap."

Dirlewanger's leadership was characterized by continued alcohol abuse, looting, sadistic atrocities, rape, and murder - and his mentor Berger tolerated this behaviour, as did Himmler, who so urgently needed men such as the *Sonderkommando Dirlewanger* in his fight against what Himmler referred to as 'sub-humanity'.

In February 1942, the unit was assigned to "anti-bandit" operations (*Bandenbekämpfung*) in Belarus. Dirlewanger's preferred method was to herd the local population inside a barn, set the barn on fire, and then shoot with machine guns anyone who tried to escape.

Rounded-up civilians would be also routinely used as human shields and marched over minefields.

In mid-1944, during the Operation Bagration, Dirlewanger's unit suffered heavy losses during fighting against Red Army regulars. It was then hastily rebuilt and reformed



BLACK HUNTERS: 36th Waffen Grenadier Division of the SS, also known as the Dirlewanger Brigade or Black Hunters.

into a "storm brigade" and used in the suppression of the Warsaw Uprising.

Dirlewanger led his "butchers, rapists and looters" into action against the Warsaw Uprising. In Warsaw, Dirlewanger participated in the Wola massacre, together with police units rounding up and shooting some 40,000 civilians, most of them in just two days.

In the same Wola district, Dirlewanger burned three hospitals with patients inside, while the nurses were "whipped, gang-raped and finally hanged naked, together with the doctors" to the accompaniment of the popular song "In München steht ein Hofbräuhaus".

Later, they drank, raped and murdered their way through the Old Town, slaughtering civilians and fighters alike without distinction of age or sex.

In the Old Town - where about 30,000 civilians were killed - several thousand wounded in field hospitals overrun by the



BUTCHERS OF WARSAW: Members of the Dirlewanger Brigade pose for a photograph while carrying out house-to-house searches in Warsaw. They committed atrocities on such a scale that even the brutal SS were shocked.

Germans were shot and set on fire with flamethrowers.

SS-Obergruppenführer Erich von dem Bach-Zelewski, overall commander of the forces pacifying Warsaw - and Dirlewanger's former superior officer in Belarus - described Dirlewanger as having "a typical mercenary nature".

After the war, Heinz Guderian claimed that as the chief-of-staff of the Army High Command, he advised Hitler to have Dirlewanger's unit withdrawn from the city, and that even Himmler's liaison officer Fegelein agreed. However, Hitler continued to praise Dirlewanger's unit.

In recognition of his work to crush the uprising and intimidate the population of the city, Dirlewanger received his final promotion, to the rank of SS-Oberführer, on 15 August 1944.

In October, he was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross, recommended for it by

his superior officer in Warsaw, SS-Gruppenführer Heinz Reinefarth (after the war, Reinefarth lied about his role in Warsaw, even denying Dirlewanger had been under his command).

Dirlewanger then led his men in joining the efforts to put down the Slovak National Uprising in October 1944, eventually being posted on front lines of Hungary and eastern Germany to fight against the advancing Red Army.

In February 1945, the unit was expanded again and re-designated as an SS Grenadier division. That same month, Dirlewanger was shot in the chest while fighting against the Soviet forces near Guben in Brandenburg and sent to the rear. It was his twelfth and final injury in the war. On 22 April, he went into hiding.

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Death

Dirlewanger was arrested on 1 June 1945 near the town of Altshausen in Upper Swabia by the French occupation zone authorities while he was wearing civilian clothes, using a false name and hiding in a remote hunting lodge. He was recognised by a former Jewish concentration camp inmate, and brought to a detention centre.

He reportedly died around 5-7 June 1945 in a prison camp at Altshausen, probably as a result of ill-treatment from fellow prisoners.

Grenades

These small but often deadly weapons have been around since as early as 741 AD and they can still be found on the modern battlefield. They have been forged in battle.

The use of grenades as a weapon has been around for a long time. In fact rudimentary incendiary grenades appeared in the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire as far back as 741 AD.

The previous century, the Byzantines had invented Greek Fire, a very basic type of flame-thrower.

They then discovered that Greek Fire could be put into stone and ceramic jugs and thrown at the enemy. The use of Greek fire spread to Muslim armies in the Near East, from where it reached China by the 10th century.

The first cast iron bombshells and grenades did not appear in Europe until 1467.

The word "grenade" originated during the events surrounding the Glorious Revolution in 1688, where cricket ball-sized iron spheres packed with gunpowder and fitted with slow-burning wicks were first used against the Jacobites in the battles of Killiecrankie and Glen Shiel.

The word "grenade" is likely derived from Old French pomegranate and influenced by

Spanish *granada*, as the fragmenting bomb is reminiscent of the many-seeded fruit,

together with its size and shape.

Improvised grenades were increasingly used from the mid-19th century, being especially useful in trench warfare. In the American Civil War, both sides used hand grenades equipped with a plunger that detonated the device on impact. Improvised hand grenades were also used to great effect by the Russian defenders of Port Arthur during the Russo-Japanese War.

The problem with early grenades was that they were often as dangerous for the user as they were for the intended target.

The lack of an effective hand

grenade, coupled with their perceived danger to the user and their lack of utility meant that they were regarded as increasingly obsolete pieces of military equipment.

In 1902, the British War Office announced that hand grenades were obsolete and had no place in modern warfare.

Within two years, following the success of improvised grenades in the trench warfare conditions of the Russo-Japanese War, and reports from General Sir Aylmer Hal-dane, a British

observer of the conflict, a reassessment was quickly made and the Board of Ordnance was instructed to develop a practical hand grenade.

Fragmentation grenade

William Mills, a hand grenade designer from Sunderland, patented, developed and manufactured the "Mills bomb" at the Mills Munition Factory in Birmingham, England in 1915, designating it the No.5. It was described as the first "safe grenade".

The Mills had a grooved cast iron "pineapple" with a central striker held by a close hand lever and secured with a pin. A competent thrower could manage 15 metres with reasonable accuracy, but

the grenade could throw lethal fragments farther than this; after throwing, the user had to take cover immediately.

Approximately 75,000,000 grenades were manufactured during World War I, used in the war and remaining in use through to the Second World War. At first, the grenade was fitted with a seven-second fuse, but during combat in the Battle of France in 1940, this delay proved too long, giving defenders time to escape the explosion or to throw the grenade back, so the delay was reduced to four seconds.

Stick grenade

Stick grenades have a long handle attached to the grenade proper, providing leverage for longer throwing distance, at the cost of additional weight.

The term "stick grenade" commonly refers to the German *Stielhandgranate* introduced in 1915



and developed throughout World War I. A friction igniter was used; this method was uncommon in other countries but widely used for German grenades.

A pull cord ran down the hollow handle from the detonator within the explosive head, terminating in a porcelain ball held in place by a detachable base closing cap. To use the grenade, the base cap was unscrewed, permitting the ball and cord to fall out. Pulling the cord dragged a roughened steel rod through the igniter, causing it to spark and start the five-second fuse burning. This simple design (popularly known as the “potato masher”) continued to evolve throughout the First and Second World Wars, with the Model 24 grenade becoming one of the most easily recognized of all German small arms.

Other stick grenades were made, including the Russian RGD-33 and Model 1914 grenades, the German Model 43 grenade and the British No 1 Grenade and Sticky bomb.

Concussion grenade

The concussion or blast grenade is an anti-personnel device that is designed to damage its target with explosive power alone.

These grenades are usually classed as offensive weapons because the small effective casualty radius is much less than the distance it can be thrown. The concussion effect, rather than any expelled fragments, is the effective killer.

They have also been used as anti-personnel depth charges around watercraft; some, such

as the US Mk 40 concussion grenade, are specifically designed for use against enemy divers and frogmen. Underwater explosions kill or otherwise incapacitate the target by creating a lethal shockwave underwater.

Anti-tank grenade

A range of hand-thrown grenades has been designed for use against armoured vehicles. An early, fairly weak example was the British Sticky bomb of 1940. Designs such as the German *Panzerwurfmine* (L) and the Soviet RPG-43, RPG-40, RPG-6 and RKG-3 series of grenades used a HEAT warhead on one end and some method to stabilize flight and increase the likelihood of the 90 degree hit necessary for the shaped charge to be effective.

Due to improvements in modern tank armour, anti-tank hand grenades are generally considered obsolete. However, they can still be used with modest success against lightly armoured vehicles.

Stun grenade

A stun grenade, also known as a flash grenade or a flashbang, is a non-lethal weapon. The first devices like this were created in the 1960s at the order of the British Special Air Service as an incapacitate.

It is designed to produce a blinding flash of light and loud noise without causing permanent injury. The flash produced momentarily activates all light sensitive cells in the eye, making vision impossible for approximately five seconds, until the eye restores itself to its

normal, unstimulated state. The loud blast causes temporary loss of hearing, and also disturbs the fluid in the ear, causing loss of balance.

These grenades are designed to temporarily neutralize the combat effectiveness of enemies by disorienting their senses.

Sting grenade

Sting grenades, also known as stingball or sting ball grenades, are stun grenades based on the design of the fragmentation grenade. Instead of using a metal casing to produce shrapnel, they are made from hard rubber and are filled with around 100 rubber balls. On detonation, the rubber balls, and shrapnel from the rubber casing explode outward in all directions as a form of less-lethal shrapnel. These projectiles may ricochet. It is intended that people struck by the projectiles will receive a series of fast, painful stings, without serious injury. Some types have an additional payload of CS gas.

Sting grenades do not reliably incapacitate people, so they can be dangerous to use against armed subjects. They can cause serious physical injury, especially the rubber shrapnel from the casing.

Smoke grenade

Smoke grenades are used as ground-to-ground or ground-to-air signalling devices, target or landing zone marking devices, and to create a smoke-screen for concealment. The body is a sheet-steel cylinder with emission holes in the top and bottom. These allow the smoke to

be released when the grenade is ignited.

There are two main types, one producing coloured smoke for signalling, and the other for screening smoke. In coloured smoke grenades, the filler consists of 250 to 350 grams of coloured smoke mixture (mostly potassium chlorate, lactose and a dye).

Screening smoke grenades usually contain HC (hexachloroethane/zinc) smoke mixture or TA (terephthalic acid) smoke mixture. HC smoke contains hydrochloric acid and is harmful to breathe. These grenades can become hot enough to scald or burn unprotected skin.

Riot grenade

Tear gas grenades are similar to smoke grenades in shape and operation. In tear gas grenades the filler is generally 80 to 120 grams of CS gas (2-chlorobenzalmalononitrile) combined with a pyrotechnic composition which burns to generate an aerosol of CS-laden smoke. This causes extreme irritation to the eyes and, if inhaled, to the nose and throat.

They were used in the Waco Siege. Occasionally CR gas (dibenzoxazepine) is used instead of CS.

Incendiary grenade

Incendiary grenades (or thermite grenades) produce intense heat by means of a chemical reaction. Seventh-century “Greek fire” first used by the Byzantine Empire, which could be lit and thrown in breakable pottery, could be considered the earliest form of incendiary grenade.

The body of modern incendi-

ary grenades is practically the same as that of a smoke grenade. The filler is 600 to 800 grams of thermate, which is an improved version of World War II-era thermite. The chemical reaction that produces the heat is called a thermite reaction. In this reaction, powdered aluminium metal and iron oxide react to produce a stream of molten iron and aluminium oxide. This reaction produces a tremendous amount of heat, burning at 2,200 °C. This makes incendiary grenades useful for destroying weapons caches, artillery, and vehicles. The thermite burns without an external oxygen source, allowing it to burn underwater. Thermite incendiary grenades are not intended to be thrown and generally have a shorter delay fuse than other grenades (e.g. two seconds).

White phosphorus can be used as an incendiary agent. It burns at a temperature of 2,800 °C. White phosphorus was used in the No 76 Special Incendiary Grenade by the British Home Guard during World War II.

Thermite and white phosphorus cause some of the worst and most painful burn injuries because they burn so quickly and at such a high temperature. In addition, white phosphorus is very poisonous: a dose of 50–100 milligrams is lethal to the average human.

Practice grenade

Practice grenades are similar in handling and function to other hand grenades, except that they only produce a loud popping noise and a puff of smoke on detonation. The grenade body can be reused.

Another type is the throwing practice grenade which is completely inert and often cast in one piece. It is used to give soldiers a feel for the weight and shape of real grenades and for practicing precision throwing.

Various fuses can be used, depending on the purpose of the grenade.

Impact fuse

Examples of grenades fitted with impact fuses are the German M1913 and M1915 *Diskushandgranate*, and any British grenade fitted with the Always fuse such as the No 69 grenade, No 77 grenade and No 82 grenade (Gammon bomb).

Timed fuse

In a timed fuse grenade, the fuse is ignited on the release of the safety lever, and detonation occurs following a timed delay.

Timed fuse grenades are generally preferred to hand-thrown percussion grenades because their fusing mechanisms are safer and more robust than those used in percussion grenades.

Fuses are frequently fixed, though the Russian UZRGM fuses are interchangeable and allow the delay to be varied, or replaced by a zero-delay pull fuse. This is potentially dangerous due to the risk of confusion.

Pull fuse

A pull fuse is a zero-delay fuse used in booby traps: the grenade detonates immediately when the striker retaining pin is removed. The pin is typically attached to a tripwire.

With the Germans retreating from Poland ahead of the Soviet advance, the Polish underground resistance, led by the Home Army, launched an operation to liberate Warsaw. What followed was one of the most tragic betrayals of the war.

Every year, at precisely 17h00 on 1 August sirens will begin to wail in Warsaw, Poland. People will stop and stand with their head bowed solemnly. Cars will stop and people will get out and stand next to the vehicle. At various places flares are set off.

After a minute people will resume whatever they were doing and get on with their lives. This is how Warsaw remembers one of the central events in its history - the Uprising of 1944.

Background

By the Summer of 1944 the tides of war were turning against the Germans. The Americans and the British had landed in Normandy, and the Red Army was rapidly advancing from the East. And the Russian were approaching Warsaw, the capital of Poland.

The Poles had been waiting for their opportunity since the Nazi's first occupied Warsaw.

On 1 August 1944 General 'Bor' Komorowski finally ordered the *Armia Krajowa* (AK), the Home Army, to rise up and claim Warsaw back from the Nazis.

The Nazis had held the city for four years. Now it was time to take it back.

At 17h00 on 1 August between 25,000 and 50,000 soldiers and civilian volunteers (including women and children) took up arms and began an assault on key strategical positions throughout the city.

Only about 10% of them were armed at the start, but they quickly helped themselves to captured German weapons.

The timing of the operation seemed perfect. The Germans were retreating and the Red Army was approaching the outskirts of Warsaw.

The Germans were taken by surprise and in the first few days the Home Army won several bloody skirmishes. The red and white of the Polish national flag flew over the Old Town.

The mood was triumphant in those areas liberated by the Home Army. Varsovians, as those

from Warsaw are known, held concerts, had poetry reading, and generally celebrated their newly earned freedom. Unbeknown to them it was to be the city's last taste of freedom for forty-four years.

Betrayal

General Komorowski knew from the outset that the Home Army had no chance of ever holding Warsaw against the Germans, and it had never been part of the plan.

All they needed to do was displace the German troops stationed in the city and hold the town for several days before the Russians arrived.

For some time the Polish service of Radio Moscow had been appealing for Warsaw to rise up.

On 25 July, the Union of Polish Patriots, in a broadcast from Moscow, stated: "The Polish Army of Polish Patriots ... calls on the thousands of brothers thirsting to fight, to smash the foe before he can recover from his defeat ... Every Polish home-stead must become a stronghold in the struggle against the invaders ... Not a moment is to be lost."

On 29 July 1944 Radio Station Kosciuszko located in Moscow emitted a few times its "Appeal to Warsaw" and called to "Fight The Germans!": "No doubt Warsaw already hears the guns of the battle which is



RESISTANCE: Female members of the Polish resistance. Many are dressed in captured German uniforms and most use captured German weapons.

soon to bring her liberation. ... The Polish Army now entering Polish territory, trained in the Soviet Union, is now joined to the People's Army to form the Corps of the Polish Armed Forces, the armed arm of our nation in its struggle for independence. Its ranks will be joined tomorrow by the sons of Warsaw. They will all together, with the Allied Army pursue the enemy westwards, wipe out the Hitlerite vermin from Polish land and strike a mortal blow at the beast of Prussian Imperialism."

While the Germans may have initially been taken by surprise, they soon reacted. When German *Reichsführer* of the SS Heinrich Himmler heard about the uprising he decreed that the whole city and its population should be destroyed as an example to the rest of Europe.

"The city must completely disappear from the surface of the earth and serve only as a transport station for the *Wehrmacht*.

No stone can remain standing. Every building must be razed to its foundation," Himmler told an SS officers conference on 17 October 1944.

The Germans brought in heavy reinforcements and the full force of their firepower: tanks, rocket launchers, and air raids were just some of the hazards the ill-equipped Poles had to contend with. The city became a giant war zone and civilians were not spared.

What was supposed to have been a coup lasting two or three days turned into a bloody and bitter struggle that lasted for 63 days.

But wait! Where was the Red Army? Why had they not come to the rescue of the doomed Poles? They were sitting on the sidelines, watching the events unfold.

Betrayal

The Red Army had reached the Vistula River. All they had

to do was cross the river, and Warsaw was theirs for the taking.

Yet when they reached the Vistula, they halted on the orders of none other than Soviet leader Joseph Stalin. They sat and watched while the Germans regained control of the city.

But what was the reason for this inaction? It was simple. Stalin hated the Poles almost as much as he hated the Germans.

Stalin considered the Poles his arch-enemy. And it all stemmed back to the Soviet-Polish War between 1919 and 1921. It was a war in which the Bolsheviks were humiliated and the Poles were able to claim all disputed territories from the Russians, including Lwow (now Lviv, in the Ukraine) and Wilno (now Vilnius, in Lithuania).

It was during the same war that Stalin was almost court-martialled for his inadequacies a military commander.

Now that the Germans were doing such a good job of destroying his bitter enemies, Stalin certainly didn't want to stop them. Moreover, with the last of Poland's home-based soldiers and leaders destroyed, he would be free to work his will over the ruined country.

Moreover, kindly 'Uncle Joe' deliberately obstructed the rest of the Allies from dispatching aid to the insurgents - refusing even to allow the Americans and the Brits to use precious air bases that were now under Soviet control.

The Wola Massacre

The Uprising reached its peak on 4 August when the Home Army soldiers managed to es-

establish front lines in the westernmost boroughs of Wola and Ochota.

It was at this stage, however, that German reinforcements began to arrive. On the same day SS General Erich von dem Bach was appointed commander of all the forces employed against the Uprising.

As the Germans advanced, special SS, police and Wehrmacht groups went from house to house, shooting the inhabitants regardless of age or gender and burning their bodies. Estimates of civilians killed in Wola and Ochota range from 20,000 to as high as 100,000.

The main perpetrators were Oskar Dirlewanger and Bronislav Kaminski, whose forces committed the cruelest atrocities.

The actions against the civilian population were designed to crush the Poles' will to fight and put the uprising to an end without having to commit to heavy city fighting. All it did was stiffen the Pole's will to fight.

Until mid-September, the Germans shot all captured resistance fighters on the spot, but from the end of September, some of the captured Polish soldiers were treated as POWs.

Airdrops

From 4 August the Western Allies began supporting the Uprising with airdrops of munitions and other supplies.

The flights were carried out by the 1568th Polish Special Duties Flight of the Polish Air Force, No. 148 and No. 178 RAF Squadrons, and No. 31 and No. 34 Squadrons of the South African Air Force.

The Soviet Union did not al-



SEARCH AND DESTROY: A pair of German STuG III self-propelled guns operating in the suburbs of Warsaw.

low the Western Allies to use its airports for the airdrops for several weeks, so the planes had to use bases in the United Kingdom and Italy which reduced their carrying weight and number of sorties. The Allies' specific request for the use of landing strips made on 20 August was denied by Stalin on 22 August.

Stalin referred to the Polish resistance as "a handful of criminals" and stated that the Uprising was inspired by "enemies of the Soviet Union".

Thus, by denying landing rights to Allied aircraft on Soviet-controlled territory the Soviets vastly limited effectiveness of Allied assistance to the Uprising, and even fired at Allied airplanes which carried supplies from Italy and strayed into Soviet-controlled airspace.

American support was also limited. After Stalin's objections to supporting the uprising, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill telegraphed U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt on 25 August and proposed

sending planes in defiance of Stalin, to "see what happens".

American wanted Russia to declare war on Japan. Unwilling to upset Stalin before the Yalta Conference on 26 August, Roosevelt was not willing to upset Stalin in any way. And Stalin knew it.

Finally on 18 September the Soviets allowed a USAAF flight of 107 B-17 Flying Fortresses of the Eighth Air Force's 3rd Division to re-fuel and reload at Soviet airfields used in Operation Frantic, but it was too little too late.

The planes dropped 100 tons of supplies but only 20 were recovered by the resistance due to the wide area over which they were spread. The vast majority of supplies fell into German-held areas.

The inevitable end

There was no way that the Home Army could compete with the reinforced German troops.

The Polish insurgents were forced into hiding, often into

the sewers, from where they continued to orchestrate and co-ordinate attacks.

The Home Army lacked supplies of any kind. They were almost out of ammunition and food was almost non-existent. Every animal in the city had been eaten - even the vermin.

Moreover, the Germans were in control of the water and power supplies.

As the battle for the city raged on, with Varsovians dying at a rate of 2,000 a day, it became only a matter of time before the rebels were forced to capitulate. They finally did so on October 2nd, 63 days after the Uprising began.

In the two month struggle 18,000 Home Army soldiers died and 12,000 were wounded with the survivors either

sent to German POW camps or managing to go into hiding. A staggering 250,000 civilians were killed during the Uprising. Meanwhile the German suffered 10,000 fatalities with nearly as many again wounded.

The aftermath

For 63 days the people of Warsaw had struggled and suffered. Yet that was only the beginning of their suffering.

The Germans were the first to punish Warsaw and its people for daring to defend its freedom. Hitler ordered the city to be all but wiped off the face of the earth and special units were brought in to systematically detonate any building of the remotest importance to Polish culture.

The city was effectively de-

stroyed block by block, and when the Russians finally crossed the Vistula to liberate the city, they inherited only ruins.

Later, in the years directly following the War, as the Poles tried to rebuild their shattered country under Communist leadership, it was forbidden to talk of the brave soldiers of the Uprising.

The movement was denounced as illegal and every effort was made to slander those involved. Keen to behead Polish society of its heroes and intelligentsia Stalin sent many of the surviving members of the AK to Siberia for lengthy spells of hard labour, whilst he executed those whom he perceived as particularly dangerous.



Springbok
Journal of the South African Legion
Tydskrif van die Suid-Afrikaanse Legioen



The SA Legion is a national organisation, part of a worldwide family that addresses the needs of ex-service personnel and their dependents by way of housing, pensions, employment and general welfare. It is apolitical, non-sectarian, non-racial, non-sexist and non-partisan.

The Springbok is the official journal of the South African Legion. Read the February issue of Springbok by clicking on the cover to the left.

Editor's Note

The SA Legion is an organisation that all South African military veterans should consider becoming a member of.

The SA Legion is dedicated to:

- Fostering the spirit of self-sacrifice, comradeship and co-operation that inspired members of the armed forces to work together in the common interest of their country.
 - Perpetuating the memory of those who fell and were left behind to lie in foreign fields.
- Find out more about the SA Legion by visiting their website by clicking [here](#).



Hitting the beaches with his sun tan lotion and water wings, Matt O' Brien realises that Normandy on 6th June 1944 was not the ideal place for a holiday.

In the very first edition of Military Despatches, back in July 2017, the very first game I reviewed was Company of Heroes 2.

This month, however, I'm going back to a classic - the original Company of Heroes.

The game won numerous awards for Game of the Year, Best Strategy Game, Best Use of Sound. It was released in 2006, so it's not a new game by any stretch of the imagination. The good news is that it will run on most old computers.

The game is part of a package and comes with the original game as well as two add-ons - Opposing Fronts and Tales of Valour.

The original game comes with two playable factions - the US Army and the German Wehrmacht. There are three different games modes.

First of all you can play against other players online or you can play skirmish mode.

In skirmish mode you pick a side, pick one of the available maps, and then battle against the AI (computer).

There is also a campaign mode where you will take the US Army through a series of six missions, each with a number of objectives that must be achieved.

The six missions are D-Day, Battle of Carentan, Battle of

Cherbourg, Operation Cobra, Operation Lüttich, and the Falaise Pocket.

The game play is simple. You take control of a point on the map where your headquarters is situated and you will start with a squad of engineers.

You need to collect three different types of resources: manpower, munitions, and fuel.

Manpower is necessary to produce all units. Munitions allows players to upgrade individual squads or vehicles and use special abilities. Fuel allows players to purchase tanks and other vehicles, build base buildings and acquire global upgrades.

Capturing new control points will give you more resources. Resource points must always be connected as any unconnected captured points can not produce resources.

Your engineers can build certain buildings and structures. The Americans can build a barracks and weapons support center to deploy infantry, a motor pool and tank depot for tanks, vehicles and anti-tank guns. The triage center can heal nearby units that have been wounded from enemy fire. A supply yard is also required to be built before building a motor pool or tank depot which enables upgrades to reduce costs of infantry and tanks.

The Germans can build a variety of structures. The Wehrmacht quarters, Krieg barracks and Sturm armory lets players create infantry. The Wehrmacht Quarters and Krieg Barracks can build light vehicles and other infantry, while the Sturm Armory and the Panzer Command deploys German tanks at the player's disposal.

Units and vehicles can be upgraded, making them even more useful.

At the start of a skirmish game you can choose a company type (US Army) or a doctrine type (Wehrmacht).

The choices for the US Army are:

- Infantry Company.
 - Airborne Company.
 - Armor Company
- The German choices are:
- Defensive Doctrine.
 - Blitzkrieg Doctrine.
 - Terror Doctrine.

In skirmish mode you can play either Victory Point Control or Annihilation. In the first mode you need to control a certain number of victory points to win the game.

In annihilation mode you have to take out every opposition unit, vehicle and building.

Opposing Fronts adds two new playable factions to the game. - the British Army and the Panzer Elite. The British give



you the choice of using:

- Royal Canadian Artillery.
- Royal Commandos.
- Royal Engineers

It also comes with two new campaigns. The British campaign is based on the Liberation of Caen and features six missions. These are D-Day+1, Operation Epsom, Operation Windsor, Operation Jupiter, Operation Charnwood, and Operation Goodwood.

The Panzer Elite have three doctrines. They are:

- Scorched Earth.
- Luftwaffe Tactics.
- Tank Destroyer Tactics.

The Panzer Elite campaign is centred around Operation Market Garden and their missions are Wolfheze, Oosterbeek, Hell's Highway, and Cleaning up.

Company of Heroes is a pretty decent game. And it's also a good game for those that have never played an RTS (Real Time Strategy) game.

You will need to make good

use of the troops and vehicles that you have available and careful plan upgrades to them. You also need to use them to the best advantage.

As on any battlefield, terrain is important, and you need to make good use of it. The use of cover is also vital.

It's no use sending a squad of infantry up a road that is covered by an Mg-42 machine gun. You will need to try and outflank the position. Or if your troops have smoke grenades available, use them to create a smoke screen before advancing on the position.

Besides just erecting buildings, your engineers can also build defensive structures such as sandbags, barbed wire and tank traps. They can also lay down mines or even demolish structures such as bridges.

Engineers can also repair vehicles and structures. If there is only a single bridge across a river, your engineers can blow the bridge. This will give you time

to build up your forces. You can use mortars to cover the bridge to stop the enemy from attempting to repair it. When you are ready, you can repair the bridge and go on the offensive.

Company of Heroes is a good game and one that I can recommend.



Publisher - THQ

Genre - RTS

Score - 8/10

Price - R219 (on Steam)



Movie Review

The Longest Day

Released: 1962

Running time: 178 minutes

Director: Ken Annakin, Andrew Marton, Bernhard Wicki

Released in 1962 and shot entirely in black and white, *The Longest Day* is a war epic based on Cornelius Ryan's book of the same name.

It was produced by Darryl F. Zanuck and is about the D-Day landings in Normandy on 6 June 1944.

The film features a large ensemble cast including John Wayne, Kenneth More, Richard Todd, Robert Mitchum, Richard Burton, Steve Forrest, Sean Connery, Henry Fonda, Red Buttons, Peter Lawford, Eddie Albert, Jeffrey Hunter, Stuart Whitman, Tom Tryon, Rod Steiger, Leo Genn, Gert Fröbe, Irina Demick, Bourvil, Curt Jürgens, George Segal, Robert Wagner, Paul Anka and Arletty. Many of these actors played roles that were essentially cameo appearances.

In addition, several cast members – including Fonda, Genn, More, Steiger and Todd – saw action as servicemen during the war; Todd was among the first British officers to land in Normandy in Operation Overlord, and he participated in the assault on Pegasus Bridge.

The movie is filmed in the style of a docudrama. Beginning in the days leading up to D-Day, it concentrates on events on both sides of the channel, such as the Allies waiting for the break in the poor weather and anticipating the reaction of the Axis forces

defending northern France.

The film pays particular attention to the decision by General Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of SHAEF, to go after reviewing the initial bad-weather reports as well as reports about the divisions within the German High Command as to where an invasion might happen or what the response to it should be.

Numerous scenes document the early hours of 6 June when Allied airborne troops were sent in to take key locations inland from the beaches. The French resistance is also shown reacting to the news that an invasion has started.

The Longest Day chronicles most of the important events surrounding D-Day, from the British glider missions to secure Pegasus Bridge, the counterattacks launched by American paratroopers scattered around Sainte-Mère-Église, the infiltration and sabotage work conducted by the French resistance and SOE agents to the response by the Wehrmacht to the invasion and the uncertainty of German commanders as to whether it was a feint in preparation for crossings at the Pas de Calais (see Operation Fortitude), where the senior German staff had always assumed it would be.

Set-piece scenes include the parachute drop into Sainte-Mère-Église, the advance inshore from the Normandy beaches, the U.S.

Ranger Assault Group's assault on the Pointe du Hoc, the attack on Ouistreham by Free French Forces and the strafing of the beaches by two lone Luftwaffe pilots.

The film concludes with a montage showing various Allied units consolidating their beachheads before they advance inland to reach Germany by crossing France.

A colourised version of this film was released on VHS in 1994, the 50th anniversary of the invasion.

The movie won two Academy Awards and was nominated for three others.

Not as visually graphic as something like *Saving Private Ryan*, but still well worth watching.



Click on the box cover to watch a trailer of the film.

Journey Without Boundaries

This is the extraordinary tale of an extraordinary man. An honestly told story of his military career, of a man who was twice decorated for valour, who pioneered and developed the concept of "small team reconnaissance" within the South African Special Forces.

He was a consummate warrior and gentleman and has told his story with humility and a disarming sense that what he did was simply the job he was given, when even the most cursory reading will show that it was anything but simple or easy.

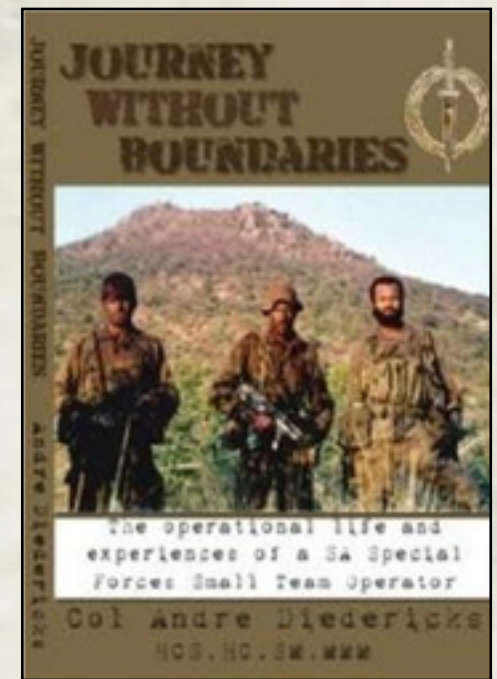
André (Diedies) Diedericks was born in Pretoria on 7 December 1955, the youngest of four children. He reported for compulsory National Military Service on

7 January 1974 and within a few weeks he volunteered for Special Forces selection, a course that he would successfully complete.

Andre would eventually serve in the Special Forces for two decades and would also pioneer the concept of small team operations. He rose to the rank of Colonel within the SADF and was also decorated twice for valour.

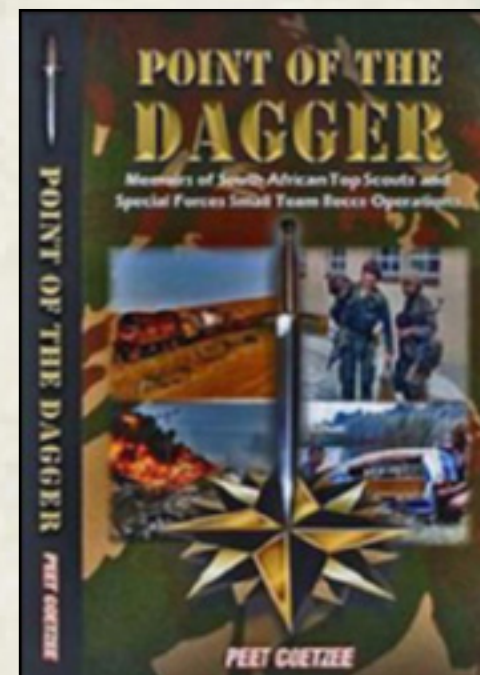
Suffering from terminal cancer, Diedies passed away on 7 May 2005.

During his service he was awarded with the Honoris Crux Silver (HCS); Honoris Crux (HC); Southern Cross Medal (SM); Military Merit Medal (MMM); Pro Patria Medal with Cunene clasp; Southern Africa Medal; General Service Medal;



Unitas Medal; Good Service Silver (20 years) & Good Service Bronze (10 years).

Softcover, 212 pages
Cost: R325



Point of the Dagger
R275



First In, Last Out
R400



Really inside BOSS
R280

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

This month in military history

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

1 June

- **1879** - Eugene Louis Jean Joseph Napoleon, the 22 year old Prince Imperial of France, is killed in the Anglo-Zulu War when he and a British reconnaissance party are attacked by about forty Zulus in the vicinity of Itelezi Mountain and Ityotyotzi River in Zululand. The prince's horse, "Fate", bolts and the prince, in attempting to mount his fleeing horse, is stabbed to death.
- **1915** - First Zeppelin air raid over England.
- **1916** - Battle of Jutland: Fleets return to port.
- **1917** - The French Army "Mutinies" begin: Troops go on strike. Order is restored in about four weeks, with minimal violence, and the Germans never learn of them
- **1939** - The South African Police takes over the tasks of the German South-West African police. 423 members of the disbanded police force are incorporated into the force.
- **1943** - WWII: According to an entry in the squadron's diary, 28 Squadron of the SA Air Force is formed as a transport squadron at the SAAF Base Depot Almaza, Cairo.
- **1944** - Allied forces begin covering much of Britain with smoke screens, as troops crowd assembly areas for D-Day.
- **1948** - Cease-fire ends Israeli War for Independence.
- **1964** - Military coup installs a junta in Greece.
- **1976** - Lance Corporal Nollind Trevor Small from 4 SAI was killed just north of Grootfontein after he apparently suffered a seizure and blacked out while behind the wheel of the military Landrover he was driving. The vehicle left the road and collided with a water tower which collapsed on top of the vehicle. He was 19.
- **1977** - Private Johannes Jurgens Lensley from 16 Maintenance Unit was killed after being struck by a bullet during a shooting incident at Grootfontein. He was 18.
- **1978** - 2nd Lieutenant Philip Michael Dietlof Mare' from 6 Squadron was killed while on a routine training flight out of Air Force Base Port Elizabeth. He was 22.
- **1980** - Rifleman Petrus Johannes Bonnet from 61 Mechanised Battalion died of severe chest and lung injuries sustained when the Buffel Troop Carrier in which he was traveling, overturned outside the 61 Mech Base in

Tsumeb. He was 19.

- **1980** - Umkhonto weSizwe strikes at the Sasol Complex, causing damage estimated at R66 million.
- **1980** - Two members from 102 Battalion SWATF were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in the Operational Area. They were: Rifleman B. Herunga ((22). Rifleman J. Matundu (20).
- **1981** - Festivities to mark the twentieth anniversary of the South African Republic reach a climax with a massive military display in Durban, attended by P.W. Botha, the Prime Minister.
- **1981** - Rifleman Gavin John Harvey from "B" Company, 1 Parachute Battalion was severely wounded during follow-up operations against SWAPO/PLAN insurgents on 22 May 1981. He was evacuated to the Hospital in Grootfontein where he was stabilised before being evacuated by air to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria the following day. He unfortunately succumbed to his wounds in 1 Military Hospital on 1 June 1981. He was 21.
- **1982** - Major Eugene Kotze SD, Station Pilot at Air Force Base Ondangwa was Killed in Action when his

Atlas MB326KM Impala Mk II was shot down by anti-aircraft fire near Cuvelai in Southern Angola while carrying out close-air support operations. He was 35.

- **1982** - Private Robert William Benjamin Ostram from the Air Force Command Post in Windhoek was critically injured on 29 May 1982 when he fell off the back of a moving vehicle in Windhoek. He succumbed to his injuries in the Windhoek State Hospital on 1 June 1982. He was 21.
- **1988** - Two members from 101 Battalion SWATF were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. They were: Rifleman G K Semba (24). Rifleman J Savinga (26).

2 June

- **1879** - A 1000-strong search party finds the body of the Prince Imperial of France, Louis Napoleon, who was killed when Zulu warriors attacked a small British reconnaissance party in the vicinity of Italezi Mountain and Ityotozi River in Zululand the previous day.
- **1902** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British Prime Minister Arthur Balfour reads the terms of surrender to the House of Commons in London after the signing of the Treaty of Vereeniging in Pretoria on 31 May which brought the Second South African (Anglo-Boer) War

to an end.

- **1908** - Sir Redvers Henry Buller, British general during Second Anglo-Boer War, dies.
- **1940** - Heavy German bombing of the Dunkirk beach-head.
- **1944** - WWII: North Africa. North Africa is used as a base of operations for Operation Frantic – 130 Flying Fortresses fly to Russia, bombing targets in Romania and Hungary as they go.
- **1978** - US offers to airlift French paratroopers out of the escalating violence in southern Zaire.
- **1979** - Rifleman Abraham Johannes Willemsse from the Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident at Wellington while on a 7-day pass. He was 20.
- **1981** - 2nd Lieutenant Christoffel Petrus Taylor from 1 Parachute Battalion died in 1 Military Hospital after being critically injured on 29 May 1981. He was 20.
- **1982** - Special Constable Petrus Venasio from the South West Africa Police Counter –Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (KOEV-

OET) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.

- **1986** - Rifleman T. Kefas from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 24.
- **1986** - Staff Sergeant L. Mutorwa from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents near the Angolan Border. He was 28.
- **1989** - Sapper Francois Crowley from the School of Engineers was accidentally killed when a telephone pole fell on top of him. He was 23.
- **1995** - USAF Capt Scott O'Grady's F-16C shot down over Bosnia.
- **2004** - DR Congo rebel leader General. Laurent Nkunda takes the town of Bukavu after a week of fighting with army troops.

3 June

- **1935** - Two Italian outposts are attacked by Haile Selassie's troops in Ethiopia. Thirty Ethiopian soldiers are

PW Botha



- killed.
- **1940** - World War II: The withdrawal of Allied Forces from Dunkirk ends.
 - **1940** - Major German air raid on Paris.
 - **1944** - Last Italian air raid on Gibraltar, by Mussolini's "Republican Air Force".
 - **1959** - First US Air Force Academy graduation.
 - **1978** - Security Police chief, Brigadier C.F. Zietsman, announces that about 4,000 South African exiles are undergoing guerrilla training in Mozambique, Angola, Tanzania and Libya; of these about three quarters have been recruited by the ANC.
 - **1984** - Rifleman Gabriel Kampanza from 203 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action in a Landmine Explosion in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
 - **1985** - Rifleman Thomas Daniel from 101 Battalion SWATF was accidentally shot dead in a shooting incident in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
- amid Allied concerns the Germans might stage a Stalingrad-style defense that would devastate the historic 'Eternal' city.
- **1963** - British Minister of War John Profumo resigns over an affair with Christine Keeler.
 - **1969** - Joseph-Désiré Mobutu's troops kill over 100 students during a demonstration in the Congolese capital Kinshasa.
 - **1969** - The Minister of Defence, P.W. Botha, accompanied by General Hiemstra, Lieutenant-General J.P. Verster, Chief of the Air Force and Lieutenant-General W.P. Louw, Chief of the Army, visits France (4-10 June). He denies that the visit involves the purchase of arms.
 - **1973** - Over four thousand French troops are to be withdrawn from Madagascar at the request of Gabriel Ramanantsoa, the head of the recently imposed military government.
 - **1974** - First Woman US Army Aviator: Sally Murphy.
 - **1978** - Warrant Officer II Joseph Johannes Burger HCS from 2 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident at Messina. He was 38.
 - **1979** - Rifleman David Johannes van Heerden from Eastern Province Command was killed at M'pacha after being struck by a bullet from a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 28.

4 June

- **1918** - US and French halt the Germans at Chateau-Thierry.
- **1942** - Reinhard Heydrich, Himmler's henchman, is assassinated at the age of 38.
- **1944** - During World War II in Europe, Rome was liberated by the U.S. 5th Army, led by General Mark Clark. Rome had been declared an open city by German Field Marshal Albert Kesselring

- **1979** - Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings seizes power in his first military coup in Ghana.
- **1980** - Three members from 32 Battalion were Killed in Action, south of Mutu-anjamba (approximately 80km inside Angola) during the first phase of Operation Sceptic. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant Pieter van der Walt (19). Staff Sergeant Simao Domingos Braz (27). Rifleman Joshua Joao (24).
- **1982** - Revised figures for the Defence Budget indicate the funds available to the South African Defence Force have been increased to R3,068 million.
- **1982** - Israel attacks targets in south Lebanon.
- **1989** - The Chinese government ordered its troops to open fire on unarmed protesters in Tiananmen Square in Beijing.
- **1992** - Colonel David Frederik Strauss from Air Force Headquarters died in 1 Military Hospital from complications resulting from Brain Cancer. He was 49.
- **1997** - South Africa announces the development of a revolutionary canon an externally powered gun code-named EMACK3S, designed by Denel at the request of ARMSCOR.

5 June

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British troops enter Pretoria and Lord Roberts captures the capital of the

- ZAR.
- **1916** - Lord Kitchener drowns when the SS Hampshire sinks after being hit by a German mine near the Orkney Islands.
 - **1942** - Midway Campaign: Yamamoto orders the Combined Fleet to retire.
 - **1942** - USA declares war on Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania.
 - **1944** - First B-29 raid over Tokyo; one plane is lost due to engine failure.
 - **1952** - The monument at Delville Wood, unveiled on 10 October 1926 to honour the thousands of SA soldiers who were killed there during the Battle of the Somme, World War I, is rededicated to include World War II.
 - **1967** - The Six Day War between Israel and its neighbouring countries Egypt, Jordan and Syria breaks out with Israel launching air strikes on Egypt, destroying most of that country's air force on the ground. Syria, Jordan and Iraq enter the conflict.
 - **1978** - Corporal Charles Benjamin de Villiers from 1 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident in Bloemfontein. He was 22.
 - **1984** - Rifleman M. Sipipa from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents. He was 22.
 - **1984** - Rifleman Andries Christiaan Jacobs from Regiment Port Natal was killed in a military vehicle accident

in Durban. He was 27.

- **1986** - Seven members from 250 Air Defence Artillery Group, South African Air Force were killed in a private motor vehicle accident in the early hours of the morning while traveling between Pretoria and Hammanskraal. They were returning to the Unit from a weekend sports pass. The accident occurred 25km from Hammanskraal. The casualties were: Corporal Michael Christopher Marx (19). Airman Deon Phillipus Beukes (19). Airman Grant Sinclair Strange Braithwaite (18). Airman Matthys Gideon Britz (19). Airman Dawid Lindeque (19). Airman Frans Cornelius Moolman (19). Airman Marthinus Louis Nel (19).
- **1987** - Two members from Infantry School were killed in a private motor vehicle accident 8km from Vrededorst while on weekend pass. They were: Rifleman Francois Nel (18). Rifleman Pieter van der Linde (18).
- **1993** - Forces of Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid ambush UN soldiers in Mogadishu, killing twenty-two Pakistani soldiers.
- **2006** - Islamic militants with alleged links to al-Qaida

seize control of Somalia's capital, unifying the city for the first time in 16 years and posing a direct challenge to the UN-backed government.

6 June

- **1918** - The US Marines secure Belleau Wood.
- **1944** - D-Day: The Allied Forces land on the beaches of Normandy in the largest sea and air operation in the military history of the world.
- **1968** - Sir Miles Dempsey, Commander of the Canadian First Army on D-Day, dies at the age of 69.
- **1975** - Britain, France, and the United States use their UN Security Council veto to stop a proposed arms embargo against South Africa.
- **1977** - Corporal Salmon Petrus Claassen from the Technical Service Corps Training Centre died in 1 Military Hospital after being



Albert Kesselring

- critically injured in a military vehicle accident. He was 20.
- **1978** - Sergeant Coenrad Jacobus Theron from 32 Battalion Died of Wounds in 1 Military Hospital after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in a friendly fire incident on 6 May. He was 19.
- **1979** - Lance Corporal Hendrik Swart from SWA SPES was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in the Oshivello area. He was 24.
- **1980** - Corporal Mario van Wyk from 32 Battalion was killed in action. He was 20.
- **1981** - Rifleman Robert Owen Brindle from SWA SPES died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained as a result of a accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle at Etale Base. He was 18.
- **1982** - 30,000 Israeli troops invade Lebanon to drive out the PLO.
- **1983** - Rifleman Vincent Mandla Mthembu from 121 Battalion was Killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Windhoek. He was 20.
- **1985** - Captain Curtis McLeod from 4 Squadron was killed when his Atlas MB-326KM Impala crashed at Sandfontein near Lanseria. He was 29.
- **1985** - 2nd Lieutenant Markus Wynand Pearson from 7 SAI was killed in action while on patrol in Southern Angola. He was 21.
- **1985** - Two members from

- the south West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) were killed in action following a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. The casualties were: Special Warrant Officer J.M. Tsitula (34). Special Sergeant Lindu Valentino (26).
- **1988** - Airman Ian-Roy Francois Erasmus from the Air Force Gymnasium was killed in a private vehicle accident while returning to the Air Force Gymnasium from a weekend pass. He was 19.
- **1988** - With a border dispute escalating into bombing raids, hundreds of foreigners scramble out of Eritrea, fearing war with Ethiopia.
- **1991** - Rifleman Johannes Frederick Lombaard Nel from 8 SAI was accidentally killed when he was run over by a Ratel during field manoeuvres at the Army Battle School. He was 20.

7 June

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The battle of Roodewal Siding takes place near Koppies, OFS. General De Wet and eighty men attack two companies (172 men) guarding a train and supplies. Eight British soldiers are killed; twenty-four wounded and between 500 and 600 crates of ammunition are taken.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Units under General Hunter occupy Lichtenburg.
- **1912** - US Army Air Service

- tests an airplane-mounted machine gun.
- **1916** - Germans capture Fort Vaux, Verdun.
- **1917** - Battle of Messines: Mines totalling nearly 500 tons of explosives demolish the German trenches, and the Canadian Corps storms the ridge
- **1940** - British and French troops evacuate Narvik, Norway.
- **1942** - Battle of Midway: The USS 'Yorktown' (CV-5) goes down, after a desperate fight to save the ship.
- **1942** - The Germans capture Sebastopol.
- **1944** - British 50th division liberates Bayeux.
- **1962** - Phosphorous bombs are detonated at Algiers University by members of the *Organisation de l'Armée Secrète* (OAS), a secret (terrorist) French army organisation opposed to the withdrawal of French troops from Algeria.
- **1967** - Israeli forces reach Suez Canal in Egypt, two days into Six-Day War.
- **1977** - Lieutenant Alwyn Merwe van Zyl from Regiment Oranjerivier died in the Grootfontein Hospital after contracting malaria while serving in the Operational Area. He was 26.
- **1981** - Two members of the South African Medical Corps were killed after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in an accidental hand grenade explosion at Walvis Bay. They were: Private Henry John Pieterse (20). Private

- Kevin Henry Stanley (19).
- **1981** - Israeli air strikes destroy Iraqi nuclear weapons facilities.
- **1982** - Rifleman Carlos Everisto from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 21.
- **1982** - Sergeant Lloyd Mizwandile Mbele from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during a Contact with Enemy Forces in Southern Angola. He was 28.
- **1985** - Trooper Johannes Ludwig Basson from 701 Battalion SWATF was killed at M'pacha after being struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 19.
- **1990** - President F.W. de Klerk lifts the state of emergency in SA.
- **1991** - Several Lesotho army officers are arrested after attempting a counter-coup to reinstate Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, ousted on April 30.
- **1997** - Foreigners flee heavy fighting between rival militias in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo.

8 June

- **1900** - Botha's Pass in Natal comes under attack by General Buller's forces.
- **1948** - John Rudder becomes the first black officer in the US Marine Corps.
- **1953** - Colonel René Paul Fonck, Allied World War I

- "Ace of Aces" (74 confirmed kills, 30+ possibles), dies at the age of 59.
- **1960** - Argentine government demands Israel release Adolf Eichmann.
- **1965** - US troops ordered to fight offensively in Vietnam.
- **1976** - Corporal Hendrik Josias Stephanus Coetzee from 4 Maintenance Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident at Wenela Base in the East Caprivi. He was 19.
- **1979** - Rifleman Johannes Leonardus Truter from 8 SAI was critically wounded in the head when his Temporary Base near Beacon 6 was attacked by SWAPO/PLAN insurgents on 4 February. This serious head wound left him completely paralysed and he remained in intensive care in 1 Military Hospital until he succumbed to his wounds on 8 June 1979. He was 19.
- **1981** - 2nd Lieutenant Duncan Frederick Lahner from 32 Battalion was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Buffalo Base. He was 21.

- **1984** - Two members from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. They were: Corporal D. Shiningivali (24). Lance Corporal K. Awino (22).
- **1985** - Rifleman Izaskar Kariko from 911 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-line. He was 22.
- **1987** - Corporal Jacques Barand Zaayman from 1 SAI was killed on the Malsespoort to Glen Road outside Bloemfontein when his Ratel overturned while he was instructing a pupil in driving skills. He was 19.
- **1988** - Colonel Andre Bekker from the South African Air Force was killed when his civilian Christen Husky aircraft crashed at Wonder-



René Fonck

boom Airport during a routine training flight. He was 46.

- **1995** - Marines rescue downed USAF Capt Scott O'Grady in Bosnia.

9 June

- **1865** - The Second Basotho War, known as Siqiti war, breaks out.
- **1938** - The Chinese breach the Yellow River dykes at Huayangkuou, halting a Japanese offensive at the cost of perhaps 800,000 lives.
- **1940** - French government flees Paris for Tours, as German troops cross the Seine.
- **1940** - Norway surrenders to Germany, as King Haakon VII flees into exile in London.
- **1942** - Nazis raze Lidice, Czechoslovakia. About 1,400 people are slaughtered.
- **1944** - Normandy: U.S. VII & V Corps link up to form a continuous beachhead.
- **1959** - The first ballistic missile sub is launched from USS 'George Washington' (SSBN-598).
- **1967** - Military service becomes compulsory for White South African men.
- **1976** - 2nd Lieutenant Kevin Roy Winterbottom HC (P) from 4 Squadron had just taken off from Air Force base Waterkloof in his Atlas MB-326KM Impala Mk II, when it suffered engine failure due to a bird strike. There was a busy road ahead of him, so he began a left turn, which set him up on a heading di-

rectly for the built-up area of Monument Park. Realising this and although extremely low, he persisted with his left turn in a final effort to avoid damage to property and injury or death to persons on the ground. The aircraft was by this time so low as to exclude the possibility of ejection and it hit the ground just as it cleared the built-up area, disintegrating on impact and killing him instantly. For his actions he was awarded a posthumous Honoris Crux. He was 21.

10 June

- **1915** - British and French troops secure German Cameroon, Africa.
- **1917** - The South African Native Labour Contingent were recruited and employed to assist Britain in the First World War with labour duties.
- **1944** - Ouradour-sur-Glane: SS massacre 642 men, women, and children in a French village.
- **1967** - Cease fire ends the Six Day War (Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt vs. Israel).
- **1974** - Captain Petrus Johannes Coetzer from 6 SAI suffered severe brain injuries in a private motor vehicle accident on 8 June 1974 near Lichtenburg while on leave. He remained on life support in 1 Military Hospital until he succumbed to his injuries on 10 June 1974. He was 29.
- **1975** - Corporal Timothy Chadwick from 6 SAI was

accidentally killed while busy building a bunker at Bagani. He was 20.

- **1979** - Rifleman Johannes Wilhelmus Landerd Jans from the Johannesburg Regiment was Killed in Action in Southern Angola. He was 22.
- **1980** - Rifleman Jose Miguel from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion in Southern Angola during operations against enemy forces. He was 29.
- **1980** - Thirteen members of 61 Mechanised Battalion and 1 SAI (attached) were Killed in Action or Died of Wounds during the attack on the PLAN Smokeshell Base complex during Operation Sceptic in Southern Angola. The casualties were: Lieutenant Johannes Jacobus Du Toit (HC) (22). Rifleman Francois Johan Loubser (19). Rifleman Petrus Johannes Joubert (19). Rifleman Gert Johannes Venter (25). Rifleman Gerhardus Johannes Kemp (19). Rifleman Jacobus Hendrik Fourie (20). Corporal Paul Kruger (20). Rifleman Stephen Maritz Cronje (19). Rifleman Peter William Warrenner (19). Rifleman Roberto Nicola de Vito (19). Rifleman Michael Clarence Luyt (19). Rifleman Francis John Lello (19). Rifleman Andrew John Madden (19).
- **1981** - Rifleman Antonio Johannes from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with

SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 24.

- **1982** - Rifleman K Comoxo from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 25.
- **1982** - Israeli troops reach outskirts of Beirut.
- **1991** - Ticker tape parade up Broadway to honour Gulf War veterans.

11 June

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Colonel B.T. Mahon occupies Potchefstroom.
- **1900** - The battle of Donkerhoek (Diamond Hill) marks the continuation of the South African War.
- **1904** - German Lieutenant-General Lothar von Trotha lands in Swakopmund, South West Africa.
- **1940** - World War II: North Africa. British planes raid Italian targets in Libya following Italy's declaration of war against Britain and France on the 10th.
- **1940** - Italian air raid on Malta.
- **1940** - RAF raids Genoa and Turin.
- **1960** - Libyan president Colonel Muammar Gadhafi admits to providing funds, munitions, and training to the IRA.
- **1968** - Lieutenant Johannes Viljoen from 1 Squadron was killed when his Canadair CL13B Sabre crashed near

Pietersburg during a routine training flight. He was 23.

- **1977** - Dutch Marines rescue hostages on a train held by Moluccan terrorists.
- **1985** - Rifleman Litwayi Herbert from 202 Battalion SWATF was killed in a military vehicle accident at Vungu-Yungu. He was 20.
- **1994** - After 49 years, the Soviet military occupation of East Germany ended. At one time there had been 337,800 Soviet troops stationed in Germany. Over 300,000 Russians died during World War II in the Battle for Berlin.

12 June

- **1898** - The Philippines declared their independence from Spain. The islands were named after King Philip II. Once freed from Spain, the islands were then invaded and occupied by U.S. forces. They became an American colony and remained so until after World War II.

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Redvers Henry Buller occupies Volksrust after a victory at Allemansnek.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: President Steyn issues a proclamation refuting Lord Robert's annexation proclamations. He points out that the Orange Free State government is still in existence and its military forces are still unconquered and thus in terms of the Hague Convention, military rule cannot be imposed.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The two-day Battle of Diamond Hill or Donkerhoek, started on the previous day, ends when darkness sets in and Comdt.-Gen. Botha orders his burghers to return to Bronkhorstspuit. The following day Lord Roberts withdraws to Christinen Hill, Sammy Marks' farm.
- **1918** - First air raid by an American aviation unit, France.
- **1937** - The Purges: Stalin



Muammar Gadhafi

- initiates mass executions of senior military personnel
- **1943** - British King George IV lands in Algiers at the start of a North African tour of Allied troops.
 - **1943** - Himmler orders extermination of all Polish ghettos.
 - **1944** - First V-1 cruise missile attack on London.
 - **1944** - US troops liberate Carentan and Chaumont, Normandy.
 - **1962** - Two members from Central Flying School Dunnottar were killed instantly when their AT-6 Harvard struck the ground and disintegrated near Dunnottar while they were carrying out unauthorised low level aerobatics. The crew of the aircraft were: 2nd Lieutenant Bruce Erroll Gaylard (19). Air Mechanic Hermanus Lambertus Booysen (18).
 - **1967** - Israel declares it will keep some of ground won from Egypt, Jordan and Syria in Six-Day War.
 - **1976** - A military coup in Uruguay overthrows civilian president Juan Bordaberry, beginning a nine-year dictatorship.
 - **1983** - Staff Sergeant Donald Norman Coleby from Regiment Groot Karoo Died of Wounds 10 km south of Cuvelai. He was 27.
 - **1983** - Special Constable K Kambirua 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.
 - **1989** - Private Clive Dean MacKenzie from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed instantly when he was electrocuted after accidentally touching overhead high tension wires at the Bulkop Railway Station while in the process of offloading military supplies. He was 18.
 - **1993** - US helicopters and gunships destroy four of Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid's arms depots, one week after his forces allegedly killed twenty-three Pakistani members of the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping forces in a series of fire fights.
 - **1999** - NATO peacekeeping forces begin operating in Kosovo, Yugoslavia.
- ### 13 June
- **1900** - The "Boxer Rebellion" begins in China.
 - **1917** - Major German bomber raid on London's East End, 162 die, including 18 children at the Upper North Street School.
 - **1942** - World War II Britain loses 230 tanks in desert battles.
 - **1942** - Peenemunde: First V-2 rocket reaches 1.3 km.
 - **1944** - First V-1 raid: one of ten missiles fired strikes London, six die.
 - **1951** - UN forces reach Pyongyang, Korea.
 - **1956** - Last British troops leave Suez Canal base, turn-

- ing the waterway over to Egypt after operating it for seventy-four years.
- **1970** - P.W. Botha announces that South Africa is establishing a new submarine base at Simonstown at a cost of \$7.7 million.
 - **1973** - Captain Anthonie Johannes Brits from 8 Squadron was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed near Bloemfontein during a routine training flight. He was 28.
 - **1993** - Twenty Somalis are killed and fifty more wounded when Pakistani members of the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping forces fire into a crowd of demonstrators protesting UN attacks on warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid..

14 June

- **1775** - The first U.S. Military service, the Continental Army consisting of six companies of riflemen, was established by the Second Continental Congress. The next day, George Washington was appointed by a unanimous vote to command the army.
- **1912** - The headquarters of the defence force of the Union of South Africa is founded in Pretoria.
- **1917** - General John J. Pershing and his staff reach Paris.
- **1940** - The Nazis open concentration camps at Auschwitz and Oranienburg.
- **1944** - First B-29 raid on Japan; 60 bombers hit the steel

- works on Honshu.
- **1952** - Keel laid for the USS 'Nautilus' (SSN-571), the first nuclear powered submarine.
 - **1979** - Rifleman Lloyd Matthew Marthinus Kasoor from the South African Cape Corps was killed in a military vehicle accident at Grootfontein. He was 20.
 - **1982** - Falklands: Argentines surrender to Britain, ending the 74 day war.
 - **1985** - The SA Defence Force attacks alleged ANC homes and offices in Gaborone, Botswana, in Operation Plecksy. Twelve or thirteen people are killed.

15 June

- **1864** - General Robert E Lee's home, Arlington, becomes a US military cemetery.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Sergeant J. Rogers of the SA Constabulary earns a Victoria Cross near Thaba Nchu.
- **1915** - After the 1914 Rebellion, General Christiaan de Wet is found guilty of high treason in the High Court, Bloemfontein, and sentenced to six years' imprisonment and a fine of £2000. Within a few months the fine had been paid from voluntary contributions.
- **1934** - At a meeting in Rome Hitler meets Mussolini for the first time.
- **1940** - The Germans capture Verdun.
- **1962** - 2nd Lieutenant Johan

- Andries De Bruine from 1 Squadron was killed in when his Canadair CL13B Sabre crashed near Pienaarsriver. He was 23.
- **1964** - Last French troops leave Algeria.
 - **1974** - Minister of Defence P.W. Botha announces during a press visit to the Caprivi Strip that the Defence Force has taken over protection of the country's northern borders as a full military operation, replacing the police in the area.
 - **1975** - Rifleman Rumai Tete-ko from Alpha Group (Later 31 Battalion) was killed after being attacked and trampled to death by an enraged Buffalo while on Patrol in Southern Angola. He was 22.
 - **1978** - Bombardier Christo Loots from 4 Artillery Regiment was killed at Oshakati after being struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 19.
 - **1981** - Rifleman Peter An-

- dre Clifford Meyers from 6 SAI was accidentally killed after suffering severe head injuries when he fell 10m from a slide during training at Grootfontein. He was 26.
- **1984** - Ciskei's former Commander of the Armed Forces, Major-General Charles Sebe, brother of President Lennox Sebe, is sentenced to twelve years' imprisonment after being found guilty of incitement to public violence.
 - **1988** - A meeting between the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) and the SADF takes place, with a main objective to discuss alternative national service. In August Minister of Defence Magnus Malan broke off relations with the ECC.
 - **1993** - Rifleman Johan Cloete from 8 SAI died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained in a shooting incident at Boskop. He was 21.

16 June

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer

Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini



War: Start of the 'scorched earth' policy. Lord Roberts issues a proclamation warning the Republican forces that houses in the vicinity of Boer activities will be burnt and the inhabitants made prisoners of war.

- **1911** - The City of Fez, Morocco, is occupied by the French army.
- **1953** - Soviet tanks crush workers' protest in East Berlin.
- **1955** - Abortive coup against President Juan Peron of Argentina.
- **1957** - French offensive in Algeria.
- **1965** - Civil war starts in Chad.
- **1975** - The Simon's Town agreement on naval cooperation between Britain and South Africa is formally ended by mutual agreement after 169 years.
- **1976** - Rifleman Clifford Donald Holland from the Durban Light Infantry was killed at Ruacana when he was struck by bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 19.
- **1977** - Rifleman Stephen Jones from Regiment Schoonspruit died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained at the Oshivello Training Area. He was 27.
- **1984** - Rifleman Johann Jacobus Hurter from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 24.
- **1984** - Special Sergeant N.

Nghifino 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.

- **1992** - Two members from 117 Infantry Battalion were killed when their Military Vehicle was involved in a head on collision with civilian vehicle at Mankweng. They were: Corporal Sedi-ma Johannes Lebepe (25). Rifleman Kgabo Theophilus Kubjana (25).
- **2006** - Up to 5,000 children still serve in the Ugandan armed forces even though they are officially banned from enlisting, a senior UN official said.

17 June

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: "Steinaecker's Horse", an irregular unit of about fifty mercenaries in British service, using Black armed tribesmen and operating from Swaziland, damages a bridge near Kaapmuiden. The rail traffic to Delagoa Bay is interrupted for about fourteen days.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: President M.T. Steyn appoints judge J.B.M. Hertzog as general.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British politician David Lloyd George denounces the concentration camp policy.
- **1940** - France asks Germany for terms of surrender.

- **1940** - Operation Ariel: Last British and Allied troops evacuated from France.
- **1942** - World War II: The first American expeditionary force lands in Africa.
- **1945** - Final Japanese defensive line on Okinawa breached.
- **1963** - Field Marshal Sir Alan Francis Brooke, Viscount Alanbrooke, dies at the age of 79.
- **1965** - Vietnam: First B-52 raid, 50 km north of Saigon.
- **1967** - China becomes world's fourth thermonuclear power.
- **1975** - The British Minister of State for Defence says that the ending of the Simon's Town Agreements means an end to all the military co-operation between Britain and South Africa.
- **1977** - Private Johannes Albertus Erasmus from 11 Squadron was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 19.
- **1978** - Rifleman (Mrs) Heyletta Swanepoel from the Bronkhorstspuit Commando collapsed and died after suffering a fatal heart attack while on official duty at the Zonderwater Shooting Range at Cullinan. She was 40.
- **1979** - 2nd Lieutenant Samuel Walters Coetzee from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces. He was 20.
- **1980** - Rifleman M Tjisota from 37 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact

with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 20.

- **1982** - Two members of 5 Reconnaissance Regiment were Killed in Action during a Contact with Enemy Forces. They were: Sergeant Lloyd Mziwandile Mbele (28). Lance Corporal Oiva Shilongo (22).
- **1982** - Special Constable A. Ndawedapo 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.
- **1984** - Trooper Andre van Neel from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 19.
- **1985** - Rifleman Juston King from 6 SAI was killed in Private Vehicle Accident at Uitenhage while returning to his Unit from a leave pass to clear out on completion of his National Service. He was 21.
- **1987** - Two members from the Central Flying School at Dunnottar were killed when their AT-6 Harvard, Serial No. 7048 crashed on the farm Rietkuil, 10km South East of Delmas during a training sortie. The casualties were: Captain Bruce Matthew Nelson (26). Captain Ricardo Henrico Vergottini (26).
- **1989** - Rifleman Neill Knight from 4 SAI collapsed and died while at Rooikop

Base, Walvis Bay. The Post Mortem revealed that he was suffering from a brain tumour. He was 20.

- **1993** - United Nations (UN) troops storm the headquarters of Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid in Mogadishu, but he is not there.
- **1997** - Sierra Leone's military leader, Johnny Paul Koroma, is sworn in as head of state and pledge to restore peace to the war-weary West African nation.
- **1998** - USS 'Missouri' (BB-63) is dedicated as a war memorial, Pearl Harbour..

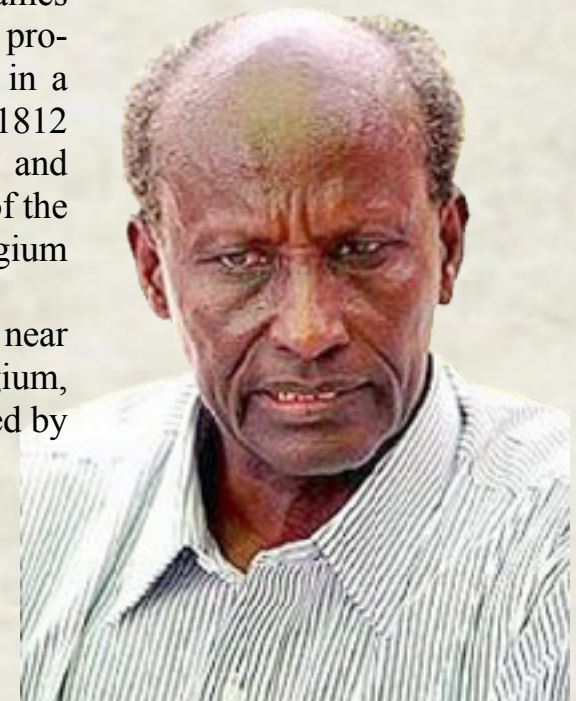
18 June

- **1812** - After much debate, the U.S. Senate voted 19 to 13 in favour of a declaration of war against Great Britain, prompted by Britain's violation of America's rights on the high seas and British incitement of Indian warfare on the Western frontier. The next day, President James Madison officially proclaimed the U.S. to be in a state of war. The War of 1812 lasted over two years and ended with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium on December 24, 1814.
- **1815** - On the fields near Waterloo in central Belgium, 72,000 French troops, led by

Napoleon, suffered a crushing military defeat from a combined Allied army of 113,000 British, Dutch, Belgian, and Prussian troops.

- **1823** - The British Army adopts trousers for infantry, in lieu of breeches & gaiters.
- **1940** - Hitler and Mussolini confer in Munich, discuss the imminent surrender of France and plans for an invasion of Switzerland.
- **1940** - Winston Churchill says "this was their finest hour".
- **1942** - Dr. Bernard Whitfield Robinson becomes the first black officer in the U.S. Navy.
- **1945** - William "Lord Haw-Haw" Joyce is charged with treason.
- **1974** - Marshal of the Soviet Union Georgi Zhukov, dies at the age of 78.
- **1975** - Two members from Infantry School accidentally drowned at Gamkaskloof. They were: Rifleman Gabri-

Mohammed Farah Aidid



- el Johannes Erasmus (19). Rifleman Gerhard Joshua Franzen (19).
 - **1983** - Rifleman Johan Steyn from 3 SAI died from a gunshot wound accidentally self-inflicted while at Potchefstroom. He was 18.
 - **1984** - Rifleman Paulus Hausiku from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 20.
 - **1985** - Private Kurt Preuss from the Technical service Corps was killed when struck by a bullet resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 21.
 - **1987** - Five members from 32 Battalion were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces near Evale in Southern Angola during Operation Radbraak. The casualties were: Corporal Bernard Sokola (34). Lance Corporal Joao Vocolo (32). Rifleman Joao Goncalves (38). Rifleman Paulus Kapinga (22). Rifleman Lituya Ntjamba (19).
 - **1988** - Special Warrant Officer Daniel Katapotle from the SWA Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 37.
- by the U.S.S. Kearsarge.
 - **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Buller enters Volksrust, the first town in the ZAR to fall into his hands.
 - **1948** - USSR blocks access to West-Berlin: Berlin Blockade begins.
 - **1953** - Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed by electrocution at Sing Sing Prison in New York. They had been found guilty of providing vital information on the atomic bomb to the Soviet Union during 1944-45.
 - **1968** - Candidate Officer Alwyn Johannes Botha from Regiment Molopo was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident 11 kilometres from Zeerust. He was 18.
 - **1973** - 2nd Lieutenant Hendrik Willem Alberts from 4 Squadron was killed when his Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I crashed near Masito while engaged in Operation Brolly Tree 3, a training exercise that was being carried out in the Zeerust area. He was 23.
 - **1975** - Sergeant Daniel Johannes Labuschagne from 19 Squadron was killed in a military vehicle accident in Rhodesia. He was 30.
 - **1975** - Rifleman Diederick Johannes Vorster from Services School was accidentally killed when struck by a bullet resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while he was stationed at Oshakati. He was 19.

19 June

- **1864** - The Alabama, American raider, is sunk outside Cherbourg harbour, France,

- **1992** - Warrant Officer 1 Johannes Jacobus Fourie from 10 Engineer Squadron was critically injured in a military vehicle accident on 15 June 1992. He was admitted to the Pietersburg Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries on 19 June 1992. He was 45.
- **1992** - The Goldstone Commission recommends that the 32nd Battalion "should not again be used for peacekeeping duties anywhere in South Africa". The Commission's Tokoza Committee says that the battalion has committed acts of violence against residents of the Phola Park squatter camp.

20 June

- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The British execute P.W. Kloppert, a Cape rebel, by hanging. Cloete claimed that he was not a rebel because he had Orange Free State citizenship.
- **1939** - Heinkel He-176 rocket plane flies for first time, at Peenemunde.
- **1941** - The U.S. Army Air Corps is reorganized as the Army Air Forces.
- **1963** - Cold War: Washington-Moscow "hot line" established.
- **1963** - Air Mechanic Robert Henry Mentis died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while stationed at Voortrekkerhoogte. He was 17.
- **1968** - Candidate Officer Pieter Frans Jurgens was

- killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed near Dunnottar while on a routine training flight. He was 19.
- **1973** - The Minister of Defence denies that South African troops are supporting Portuguese armed forces in Mozambique, as alleged by FRELIMO.
- **1983** - Trooper Jan Hendrik de Lange from 2 Special Service Battalion was killed after being struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 17.
- **1984** - Two members from the 2nd Battalion Transvaal Scottish accidentally drowned while their patrol was crossing the Cunene River near the Ruacana Falls. They were: Rifleman Arthur Hendrik Boshoff (21). Rifleman Leslie George Wasas (21).

- **1984** - Special Constable Blasius Kutenda 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.
- **1987** - Rifleman K. Tjihote from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1988** - Rifleman Ian Michael Webb from 6 SAI died in hospital at Tsumeb after sustaining severe head injuries when the right front tyre of a SAMIL truck burst causing the driver to lose control approximately 5km past the Tsumeb turn-off. He was 20.

Ethel and Julius Rosenberg



21 June

- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: "In a letter to St John Broderick, Secretary of War, Lord Kitchener declares, 'It was a mistake to regard the Boers as a civilized race which could ever be an asset to the British Empire: they are uncivilized Afrikaner savages with a thin White veneer ...' He asks the cabinet to endorse a scheme that will allow the permanent banishment of all Boers who at any time have fought against Britain, as well as their families... He suggests the Fiji Islands in the South Pacific."
- **1919** - Scapa Flow: Germans scuttle over 400,000 tons of warships.
- **1942** - World War II: The Second South African Division under Major-General H.B. Klopper surrenders and the German force under General Rommel captures 25,000 Allied troops, under whom 10 722 South Africans at Tobruk on the coast of Libya.
- **1948** - Berlin Airlift begins.
- **1967** - Air Mechanic Adam Hendrik Schoeman from 1 Squadron was accidentally killed at AFB Pietersburg after he was sucked into the engine air intake of a Canadair C13L Sabre while setting the fuel pumps during a full engine run. He was 19.
- **1977** - Rifleman Raymond Ward from the SWA SPES was killed in a military vehicle accident while travelling to De Aar. He was 24.
- **1979** - Two members from 32 Battalion were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola near Beacon 32. They were: 2nd Lieutenant Willem Adriaan de Vos (19). Rifleman S. Mukonda (27).
- **1980** - Corporal Petrus Johannes Badenhorst from 5 SAI was critically wounded on 20 June 1980 in an explosion while doing evening "Klaarstaan" in the Ops Room at Concor Base, east of Ruacana. He succumbed to his wounds and resultant blood loss in the early hours of 21 June. He was 20.
- **1980** - Corporal Willem Adriaan Finnies from 41 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents. He was 18.
- **1982** - Bombardier Dirk Hero Onne Hassebroek from 84 Motorised Brigade was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident in Sector 70. He was 23.
- **1982** - 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 Constable Paulus Antonius (20). Special Constable Immanuel Kavulu (29). Special Constable Theophillus Ndevelo (26).
- **1983** - Sergeant Terrence Moffat Atkinson from 1

Construction Regiment was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Musese in Western Kavango. He was 56.

22 June

- **1939** - World War II: France surrenders to Germany eight days after the German forces invaded the country.
- **1940** - About 10,000 Afrikaner women, led by Mrs H.C. Steyn, march to the Union Buildings to protest about the South African involvement in World War II on the side of Britain. The women protested against South Africa's participation in World War II on the side of Britain and requested that South Africa should withdraw from the war.
- **1941** - Starting at 3:15 am Operation Barbarossa begins, as some 3.2 million German soldiers plunged headlong into Russia across an 2,987 kilometre front, in a major turning point of World War II. At 7 am that morning, a proclamation from Hitler to the German people announced, "At this moment a march is taking place that, for its extent, compares with the greatest the world has ever seen..."
- **1942** - The heaviest single day's loss of life in Australian military history; 845 soldiers and 208 civilians aboard the Japanese prisoner-of-war ship 'Montevideo Maru' was sunk by the American submarine 'Sturgeon' (SS 187) in the South

China Sea.

- **1944** - Russians begin "Operation Bagration", the Destruction of German Army Group Centre.
- **1945** - Okinawa secured: 110,000 Japanese troops, 100,000 civilians, 17,520 US troops died.
- **1955** - Soviets shoot down US patrol plane over the Bering Sea.
- **1984** - Rifleman Andries Kees from the South African Cape Corps died from gunshot wounds accidentally sustained. He was 18.
- **1985** - Corporal Johannes Gobe from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-line. He was 29.
- **1987** - Airman John Liam Corrigan from the Lowveld Airspace Control Sector was accidentally shot dead by a visitor at Mariepskop while he was on guard duty. He was 20.
- **1990** - Signaller Ronald Leon Wheeler from Group 10 was killed in a military vehicle accident at Umkomaas. He was 20.
- **1993** - The UN resumes food distribution in Mogadishu, Somalia, ten days after fighting between UN troops and those of warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid halt.
- **2003** - A US Marine is killed and eight other service members are injured by errant bombs dropped by a US B-52 Stratofortress in Dji-

bouti, the United States' only base in Africa.

23 June

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British forces advance. General Clements reaches Winburg. General Hamilton enters Heidelberg after a slight skirmish. General Clery joins Buller at Standerton.
- **1902** - Field-cornet Salmon van As is executed by a firing squad after being found guilty by a British Court Martial of murdering Captain Richard Miers.
- **1940** - Hitler orders preparations for an invasion of Switzerland.
- **1942** - Rommel breaks the Gazala Line and drives on Egypt.
- **1970** - Two members from 42 Squadron were killed when their Cessna 185A crashed at Vaal River near

Potchefstroom after flying into High Tension Wires. The aircraft crew were: 2nd Lieutenant Johan van Sittert (21). Candidate Officer Petrus Johannes van Deventer (22).

- **1974** - Lieutenant Freddie Johannes Zeelie from 1 Reconnaissance Commando was Killed in Action while engaged on anti-insurgent operations in Southern Angola. He was the first South African soldier to be Killed in Action during the Border War. He was also the only member of Special Forces to ever receive the Louw Wepener Decoration. He was 22.
- **1980** - Sergeant Jacobus Daniel Cilliers from 17 Squadron was Killed in action when his Alouette III was shot down by an RPG-

Erwin Rommel



7 anti-tank rocket during the later stages of Ops Sceptic. He was 23.

- **1982** - A Defence Amendment Bill provides for a re-organisation of the defence system intended to give the South African Defence Force (SADF) adequate manpower to deal with almost every conceivable threat.
- **1984** - Corporal Johannes Christiaan Theunissen from 7 SAI was Killed in Action. He was 21.
- **1994** - Some 2,500 French troops head into Rwanda to protect civilians, the first outside forces sent there since UN. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali appealed for international involvement to stop the genocide.
- **1997** - In the Central African Republic, soldiers fire on foreign peacekeepers in the third major rebellion since May.

24 June

- **1916** - World War I: The first Battle of the Somme begins. It lasted five months and the death toll of more than 1 million resulted in an allied advance of 125 square miles. Many SA troops were killed in action.
- **1917** - Russian Black Sea fleet mutinies at Sebastopol.
- **1940** - France signs an armistice with Italy.
- **1945** - Victory parade in Red Square in Moscow.
- **1978** - Private Anton Nel

from 1 Satellite Radar Station at Mariepskop died from head injuries received in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 20.

- **1980** - Private Michael Johannes Range from the South African Defence Force Institute (SADFI/SAWI) in Pietersburg was killed when the military vehicle in which he was travelling, overturned. He was 18.
- **1983** - Corporal George Louis Steytler from 1 Parachute Battalion Died of Wounds after being critically wounded in the head when his Patrol TB was attacked by a FAPLA/Cuban force while in an area approximately 38km from Cahama. He succumbed to his wounds while on the Casevac helicopter ferry flight back to AFB Ondangwa. He was 19.
- **1997** - Defence Minister Joe Modise warns that the proposed R1,4 billion cut in the defence budget could seriously disrupt the defence force's ability to function and to contribute to the fight against crime.

25 June

- **1677** - Governor Johan Bax of the Cape, who waged war against the Hottentot (Khoi-Khoi) Chief Gonnema from 1676, concludes 'a good, lasting peace'.
- **1862** - Custer's Last Stand. 250 men of the US 7th Cavalry, under General George Armstrong Custer, are attacked by between 2,000 and

4,000 Indian Braves near the Little Bighorn River. Only one scout and one horse on the US side survive the battle.

- **1940** - Hitler tours Paris, taking in the Eiffel Tower, Napoleon's Tomb, and the Opera.
- **1941** - Finland declares war on the Soviet Union.
- **1942** - World War II: General Sir Claude Auchinleck becomes commander of the British Eighth Army in North Africa.
- **1942** - World War II: British Air Force stages 1,000-bomber raid on Bremen, Germany.
- **1942** - Eisenhower takes command of U.S. forces in Europe.
- **1950** - The Korean War breaks out. Nearly 90,000 North Korean soldiers and hundreds of Russian-built T-34 tanks cross the border into South Korea. South Africa, as one of the founding members of the United Nations, decide to assign a fighter squadron to the UN forces to help defeat North Korea. The Korean War claimed the lives of thirty-six SA Air Force members.
- **1960** - Corporal Petrus Cornelius van der Merwe of the South African Air Force was killed when his Defence Flying Club Piper Cub crashed and burnt out near Pretoria while on a routine general flying training flight. He was 24.
- **1972** - Rifleman Arno Roesstroff from 1 SAI was

killed after being struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 19.

- **1979** - Gunner Jeffrey James Mitchell from 4 Artillery Regiment died in 1 Military Hospital after suffering extensive burns accidentally sustained when a fuel tank exploded at the Regiment in Potchefstroom. He was 20.
- **1980** - Two Members from Central Flying School Dunottar were killed when their AT-6 Harvard crashed 1,6 kilometres North of Dunottar while carrying out simulated instrument flying. They were: Lieutenant Donald Gordon Stanbury (22). Candidate Officer Lloyd Douglas Liebenberg (19).
- **1981** - Lance Corporal Frederick Aspeling from North West Command was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident, at Oudtshoorn. He was 19.
- **1981** - Corporal Johan Cornelius Du Toit from Regiment Langenhoven was Killed in Action in Southern Angola. He was 24.
- **1981** - Staff Sergeant Willem Marthinus Roothman from the South African Corps of Military Police was killed in a military vehicle accident in Oudtshoorn while on a call-out to investigate a case. He was 41.
- **1981** - Signaler Dirk Jacobus Venter from 84 Signals Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 22.
- **1982** - Two members from

32 Battalion were accidentally shot dead by own forces in a friendly fire incident near Evale in Southern Angola during Operation Groenslang. They were: Corporal James Conroy (20). Rifleman Antonio Pedro Manuel (32).

- **1983** - Leading Seaman George Edward Wellington Ford from the 1st Marine Brigade, South African Marines was killed in a military vehicle accident while on deployment in Eastern Caprivi. He was 20.
- **1988** - Angolan, Cuban, South African and United States officials meet in Cairo, in search of independence for Namibia in tandem with a withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.
- **1991** - The last Soviet troops leave Czechoslovakia.

26 June

- **1917** - First American combat troops arrive in France.
- **1934** - Germany and Poland sign a non-aggression pact.
- **1939** - Polish anti-aircraft gunners down a German plane that had "strayed" over the Hela Peninsula.

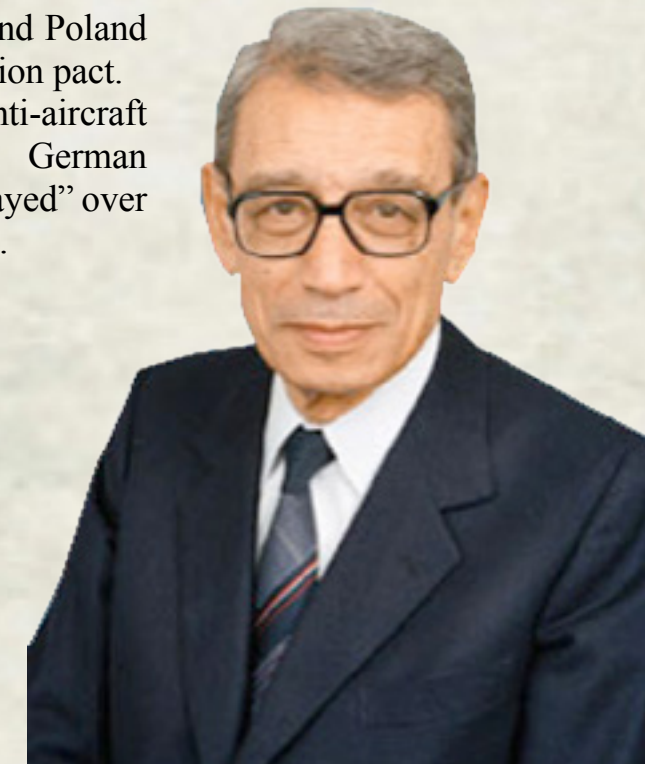
• **1977** - Gunner Willem Christiaan Lentink from 14 Artillery Regiment was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident in Pretoria. He was 20.

• **1977** - Rifleman Christiaan Hendrik van der Westhuizen from the Witwatersrand Rifles was killed when he accidentally fell off the back of a moving Unimog. He was 21.

27 June

- **1905** - Mutiny in the Russian battleship 'Potemkin'.
- **1918** - First use of parachutes to escape an aircraft in combat: two German airmen jump.
- **1941** - The Germans capture Bialystok.
- **1942** - As the Eighth Army abandons Mersa Matruh, North Africa, Rommel's forces claim to have captured another 6,000 British troops.
- **1944** - American troops liberate Cherbourg from the

**Boutros
Boutros-Ghali**



- Germans.
- **1950** - North Korean troops reach Seoul, as the Security Council calls on UN members to aid South Korea and Truman orders USAF & USN into action.
 - **1950** - US sends 35 military advisers to South Vietnam.
 - **1971** - The Chairman of Armscor announces that under an agreement with a French aviation company, Mirage III and F jet fighters will be built in South Africa with the help of French personnel.
 - **1976** - First women cadets enter the Air Force Academy.
 - **1977** - Private Hendrik Johannes Naude from 42 Squadron was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 18.
 - **1980** - Rifleman Nicolaas Johannes Kruger from 25 Field Squadron was Killed in Action when he stepped on and detonated a boosted anti-personnel mine near Okatope in Northern Owamboland. He was 20.
 - **1985** - Rifleman J. Filimon from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 23.
 - **1986** - Rifleman Frikkie Carolus from the South African Cape Corps died from a gunshot wound sustained during the accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle at De Aar. He was 26.
 - **1988** - 2nd Lieutenant Muller Meiring of 61 Mechanised Battalion was Killed in Action North East of Calueque. He was 19.
 - **1988** - Eleven members of the SADF were Killed in Action during a retaliatory air strike by Angolan Air Force MiG-23 aircraft on SADF positions near the Calueque Dam after SADF Artillery had accurately bombarded Cuban and FAPLA positions in the town of Techipa on 26 and 27 June 1988 causing heavy casualties. The casualties were: Lieutenant Noah Tucker of 8 SAI (23). Corporal Ewert Phillipus Koorts of 8 SAI (19). Lance Corporal Johannes Reinhard Gerhardus Holder 8 SAI (19). Rifleman Johannes Mattheus Strauss Venter of 8 SAI (19). Rifleman Thomas Benjamin Rudman of 8 SAI (20). Rifleman Phillipus Rudolph Marx of 8 SAI (19). Rifleman Andries Stephanus Johannes Els of 8 SAI (19). Trooper Michael John van Heerden of 8 SAI (19). Lance Corporal Wynand Albert van Wyk of 1 SSB (19). Trooper Gregory Scott of 2 SSB (19). Trooper Emile Erasmus of 10 Armoured Car Squadron (20).
 - **1990** - Lance Corporal C Chimongaia from 201 Battalion Died from Natural Causes at Omega. He was 27.
 - **1995** - SA signs a protocol of intent on military cooperation between the Ministry of Defence of South Africa and the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic.

28 June

- **1914** - Archduke Frans Ferdinand, Austrian heir to the throne, and his wife are shot and killed by a student in Sarajevo. This leads to World War I.
- **1919** - The signing of the Treaty of Versailles formally ended World War I.
- **1942** - British 8th Army in North Africa retreats from German attack to El Alamein.
- **1942** - North Africa. General Rommel and his *Panzer-armee Afrika* capture Fuqa.
- **1965** - President Johnson orders US ground forces to Vietnam.
- **1975** - Private Gerhard Erasmus Smith De Beer from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident in Grootfontein. He was 18.
- **1976** - Three British mercenaries, Andrew McKenzie, John Barker and Costas Georgiou and an American, Daniel Gearhert, are sentenced to death in Luanda for their part in the Angolan civil war.
- **1986** - Rifleman Geelbooi Zamblenzini Mthimunye from 115 Battalion was murdered at Weltevrede after being attacked by persons unknown and burned to death. He was 20.

29 June

- **1913** - Bulgarian troops initiate hostilities with Serbia in Macedonia, triggering the Second Balkan War.
- **1944** - Bobriusk: Soviets

- encircle portions of German Army Group Centre.
- **1945** - Operation Olympic: President Truman set the invasion of Japan for 1 November.
- **1949** - US troops withdraw from Korea after World War II.
- **1965** - Lieutenant Lourens Benjamin Schlesinger from 1 Squadron was killed near Louis Trichardt when his Canadair CL13B Sabre suffered a suspected bird strike. He failed to eject from the aircraft before it struck the ground, exploding on impact. He was 24.
- **1965** - Captain Peter Maxwell from Central Flying School Dunnottar, a veteran of the Korean War, was killed instantly when his AT-6 Harvard crashed at Potchefstroom Airfield after the left wing of the aircraft struck the ground when he attempted to execute a roll at low level. He was 42.
- **1966** - North Vietnam: US bombs fuel storage facilities.
- **1970** - US/ARVN end two month military offensive into Cambodia.
- **1977** - Rifleman M. Makehe from 34 Battalion (Later 202 Battalion) SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 22.
- **1982** - Lance Corporal Jacobus Johannes Gerhardus van Staden from 61 Base Workshops was accidentally killed when he was crushed between two military vehicles during a vehicle recovery operation at Tsumeb. He was 22.
- **1985** - Rifleman H. Andreas from 101 Battalion SWATF died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while in Northern Owamboland. He was 23.
- **1988** - Rifleman Christiaan Fick from 1 SAI was critically injured in a private vehicle accident and died later that day. He was 19.

30 June

- **1851** - The Battle of Viervoet, in the British-Basotho War, takes place. The British under Warden suffers a reverse.
- **1917** - Greece declares war on the Central Powers.
- **1934** - "The Night of Long Knives": Hitler's "blood purge".
- **1936** - Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia appears before the League of Nations to appeal for help following Italy's invasion of Ethiopia and his exile.
- **1941** - Leading German Protestant clergymen congratulate Hitler on the invasion of the Soviet Union.
- **1960** - The Belgian Congo becomes the independent Republic of the Congo, with Joseph Kasavubu as president and Patrice Lumumba as prime minister. Civil war soon erupts.
- **1962** - The French Foreign Legion leaves Algeria for the last time.
- **1980** - Corporal Theo Bence van Niekerk from 1 Recon-

- naissance Regiment died from a gunshot accidentally sustained while at Fort Doppies, Caprivi Strip. He was 22.
- **1986** - Rifleman L.N.D. Jonas from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a Contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola near the Cut-line. He was 26.
- **1988** - The SA Defence Force claims that 200 Angolan and Cuban troops died in a clash at Calueque earlier in the week.
- **1988** - Zimbabwe foils a South African commando attempt to rescue five alleged South African agents awaiting trial for bomb attacks against the ANC in Zimbabwe.
- **1989** - Sudanese military leader Omar Hassan al-Bashir topples the civilian administration of Sadeq al-Mahdi.
- **1992** - Four members from 9 SAI were killed when their Samil 20 vehicle overturned at Middelrust. The casualties were: Sergeant Clinton Donovan Elliot (25). Lance Corporal Cleston Beukes (19). Rifleman Jacobus Adams (24). Rifleman Aubrey John Ruiter (19).



QUIZ

WWII Patches & Badges

1. Combined Operations (British).
2. SS Totenkopf (Death's Head) (Germany).
3. 7th Armoured Division (Desert Rats) (British).
4. 82nd Airborne Division (All American) (USA).
5. Royal Tank Regiment (British).
6. 1st Guards Army (Russian).
7. Waffen SS (Germany).
8. 101st Airborne Division (Screaming Eagles) (USA).
9. Luftwaffe (Germany).
10. 1st Infantry Division (The Big Red One) (USA).
11. Afrika Korps (Germany).
12. Parachute Regiment (British).
13. SS Division Dirlewanger (Germany).
14. US Army Air Force (USA).
15. British Free Corps Waffen SS (Germany).

8



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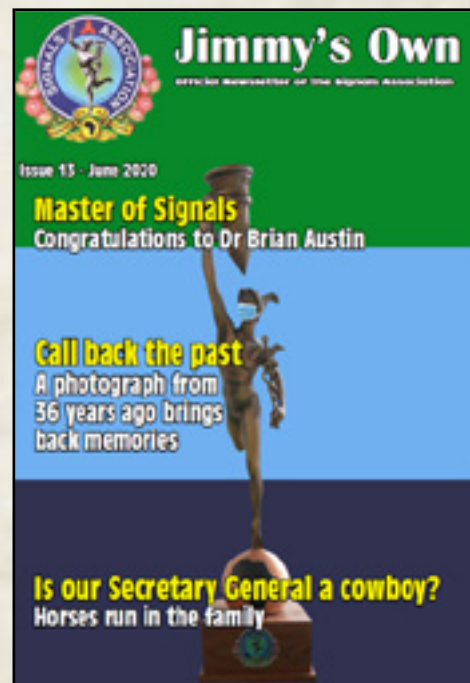
12



Useful links

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

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



Military Despatches Website



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

Steve Jobs



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



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

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

Hipe!

media

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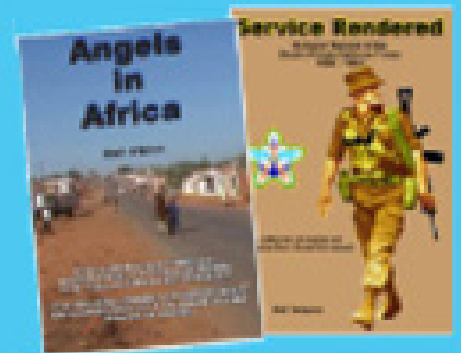
Online Magazines

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.



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