



Military Despatches

Vol 37 July 2020

We'll meet again

A tribute to Vera Lynn

Kamikaze

Japan's "Divine Wind"

George S. Patton

Old Blood and Guts

The Siege of Jadotville

The Irish face overwhelming odds in Africa

For the military enthusiast



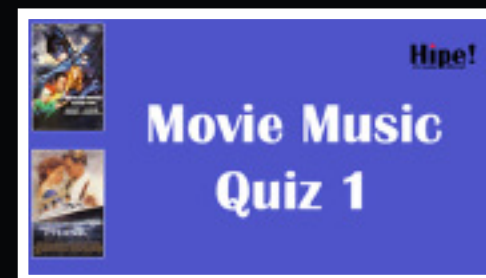
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How much do you know about movie theme songs? Take our quiz and find out.



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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CONTENTS

July 2020



Page 12



Special Forces - Sayeret Matkal

Features

6

Ten WWII tank aces

How much do we know about the top ten tank aces of World War II? For example, the top ten were all German.

18

Above and beyond

It takes a certain mettle to go into battle. Especially if you suffer from what some would call a disability.

22

We'll meet again

During World War II she became known as the "Forces Sweetheart". In 2009 she became the oldest person to have a Number One hit in the UK. Vera Lynn will always be remembered.



26

They said it

Some of the best military quotes ever made.

30

10 Celebs that served

Ten celebrities that spent time in uniform.

34

An unsung hero

Most of us have heard about the Tuskegee Airmen. But what about Eugene Bullard? Well he was the first black fighter pilot

36

A very special story

The late Moth Alan Farrel served with the 6th Armoured Division in Italy and was part of the force that attacked the SS executioners.

38

A matter of survival

This month we look at making temporary shelters.

40

Ranks

This month we look at the ranks of the Israeli Defence Force.

Quiz

31

Who are we?

This month we show you a cap or beret badge, or maybe a shoulder patch. You tell us who they are.



Editor's Sitrep

So, this month Military Despatches is officially three years old. During that time we have produced 37 issues and a total of 2,622 pages. Not bad going, even if I say so myself.

As I sit writing this editorial we are still under lockdown. Currently we are at Stage 3. Now you can go for a haircut, then go to a restaurant and have a meal.

Afterwards you can go and watch a movie and end the night by going to the casino for some gambling and a few drinks.

Then you can book into a hotel for the night and hire yourself a prostitute (just as long as you don't have a cigarette afterwards).

The next day, however, you cannot go and visit your mom, children or grandchildren. It all makes a lot of sense.

On a more serious note, we need to realise that Covid-19 could be with us a lot longer than we think. We need to take every precaution to ensure that we stay safe.

Many people still do not understand why we have to wear masks. It's not to protect you, but rather to protect others.

So please, do the sensible thing - wear a mask, wash your hands as often as possible, and make sure that surfaces are kept disinfected.

On a completely different sub-

ject, I think that the world is busy going mad when it comes to being PC (Politically Correct).

You have to be ultra careful what you say in case you offend someone. And people seem to take offence at the slightest thing.

Say something like "it was like taking candy from a baby" and the next thing you know you will be up on a charge of child abuse.

The world also seems to have lost its sense of humour. Surely we all have the fundamental right to have an opinion. If, for example, I say "I don't like people that wear silly hats" then that is just my opinion, and there is nothing wrong with that. You on the other hand have the right to agree or disagree with my opinion.

If, however, I say "I don't like people that wear silly hats and we need to kill them", then that is hate speech and it is wrong.

And it also seems that people now want to change history if something from the past offends them. The thing is you cannot change history - facts are facts. So get used to it.

Until next time.

Matt

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Back Issues

To view any back issues of Military Despatches, go to www.militarydespatches.co.za or click [here](#).

CONTENTS

Page 72



July in military history

Head-to-Head

46

Strongest military forces

This month we take a look at the naval forces of the ten strongest military forces in the world.

Forged in Battle

58

Kamikaze

Japan's "divine wind" that sought to change the tide of the Pacific War during World War II.

Book Review

63

Mobility Conquers

The story of 61 Mechanised Battalion Group and their role in the Border War.

Infamous Figures

52

George S. Patton

Nicknamed 'Old Blood and Guts' by his troops and referred to as "That crazy cowboy general" by Adolf Hitler, George S. Patton was a bold, if often impetuous, leader.



Battlefield

64

The Siege of Jadotville

A small company of Irish soldiers face overwhelming odds in the heart of Africa.

Gaming

68

SCUM

This game is all about survival. How long will you last?

Movie Review

70

Hurricane

A film about the Polish pilots during the Battle of Britain.

Front Cover

The USS Arleigh Burke during a visit to Simon's Town a few years ago.



Ten tank aces of World War II

Most of us are aware of the fighter plane aces of World War II. But how much do we know about the tank aces of the war? It should come as no surprise that the top ten tanks aces were all German.

Many sources imply that Leonardo da Vinci and H.G. Wells in some way foresaw or “invented” the tank. Leonardo’s late 15th century drawings of what some describe as a “tank” show a man-powered, wheeled vehicle with cannons all around it.

However the human crew would not have enough power to move it over larger distance, and usage of animals was problematic in a space so confined.

The machines described in Wells’ 1903 short story *The Land Ironclads* are a step closer, insofar as they are armour-plated, have an internal power plant, and are able to cross trenches.

Some aspects of the story foresee the tactical use and impact of the tanks that later came into being.

However, Wells’ vehicles were driven by steam and moved on pedrail wheel, technologies that were already outdated at the time of writing.

After seeing British tanks in 1916, Wells denied having “invented” them, writing, “Yet let me state at once that I was not their prime originator. I took up an idea, manipulated it slightly, and handed it on.”

It is, though, possible that one of the British tank pioneers, Ernest Swinton, was subconsciously or otherwise influ-

enced by Wells’ tale.

From late 1914 a small number of middle-ranking British Army officers tried to persuade the War Office and the Government to consider the creation of armoured vehicles.

Amongst their suggestions was the use of caterpillar tractors, but although the Army used many such vehicles for towing heavy guns, it could not be persuaded that they could be adapted as armoured vehicles.

The consequence was that early tank development in Great Britain was carried out by the Royal Navy.

The first tank to engage in battle was designated D1, a British Mark I Male, during the Battle of Flers-Courcelette (part of the wider Somme offensive) on 15 September 1916.

The first tanks were slow and unreliable, but they were revolutionary.

By the time the Germans invaded Poland on 1 September 1939 the tank had undergone significant changes and upgrades.

And it was the Germans that introduced the concept of ‘combined arms’ warfare, often referred to as *Blitzkrieg*, although this is not a word the Germans actually used.

They perfected the use of tanks operating alongside in-

fantry, artillery and even aircraft.

It should therefore come as no surprise that the ten top tanks aces of World War II were all German.

When it came to tank aces, none of the Allied nations even came close.

The list of the Top Ten Aces is based not just on the number of tank kills they achieved, but also on their leadership and tactical skills.

Lafayette G. Pool - America

American Ace of Aces, Lafayette G. Pool killed over 1,000 German soldiers and took 250 as war prisoners. Furthermore, he destroyed 12 tanks, 258 armoured vehicles, and self-propelled guns.

He achieved all these within a period of 81 days, using three different Sherman Tanks from 27th June to 15th September, 1944.

On the night of 15th September 1944, while Combat Command A attempted to force the Siegfried Line at Munsterbusch, Pool’s third Sherman was completely destroyed by a Panther that had laid an ambush.

The panther hit the Sherman twice before Pool could salvage the situation and back-up. The two hits flipped the Sherman over the edge of a ditch.

This double hit blew Pool out of his commanding hatch and badly mangled his leg with a shell splinter. He was lucky to have survived the ordeal although his leg had to be amputated.

Pool’s successful encounters in the war led him to be nicknamed “War Daddy” by his crew. A movie, ‘Fury’, made to his honour, was released in 2014.

Alfie Nicholls - Great Britain

Corporal Alfie Nicholls of the 9th Lancers made at least 13 kills in the Western Desert during the 1st battle of El Alamein (nine in one day in 1942), and once source states he may have had 40 kills in total.

His exploits in the Battle of Alamein earned him an immediate Military Medal on the personal orders of General Montgomery.

He claimed at least three more kills in an engagement with the 26th Panzer Division in Italy. He may have been a tank gunner rather than commander for many of them but nevertheless this would make him the highest scoring British tank crewman of WW2.

Lavrinenko Fyodorovich - USSR

Dmitry Fyodorovich Lavrinenko was the commander of a tank platoon as part of the 4th Tank Brigade, and in September 1941, he found himself as part of the force defending the Russian capital, Moscow, against a furious onslaught by the German troops.

One of his early engagements was on the 6th October 1941 when he took four tanks and faced a far superior number of Axis tanks from the 2nd Panzer Army. Capitalising on the element of surprise, this tiny group of Russian tanks managed to destroy 15 German tanks which gave the Russian infantry the time they needed to retreat.

Not only was Lavrinenko, a highly skilled fighter, he was also an intelligent and careful commander. He was always conscious of where he and his team were and what dangers could possibly lie ahead.

Unfortunately, this promising soldier was killed on 18th December 1941 when he was felled by shrapnel from a mortar round near Volokolamsk close to Moscow.

Lavrinenko was made a Hero of the Soviet Union for the destruction of 37 German tanks during a two-month period when he fought almost continuously. He added the additional 15 later.

10. Heinrich Rondorf

There is very little information known about Oberfähnrich Heinrich Rondorf.

What we do know is that he served with Schwere Panzer-Abteilung 503 that fought in southern Russia, taking part in the Don campaign and the withdrawal from Stalingrad.

We also know that he achieved 106 kills against tanks and that he was awarded the German Cross in Gold on 20 May 1944.

9. Arno Giesen

SS-Fahnenjunker Arno Giesen served with Das Reich regiment. He saw action in Russia 1943, Normandy and the final battles in Hungary and Wien and won the tank assault badge “75”. He claimed 111 tank kills.

After the war he changed his name to Arno Friesen and settled in the US and retired in Arizona. His son, Major Bo Friesen, was a West Point Graduate and fought in the 1st Gulf War with the 3rd Armoured Cavalry Regiment.

8. Fritz Lang

Once again, there is very little information regarding Fritz Lang.

What we do know is that he commanded a Sturmgeschütz III (StuG III) assault gun and that he served with Panzer-Abteilung 232.

He was Germany’s top scoring assault gun ace with 112 kills. He also earned the Gold Wound Badge, awarded to those that had been wounded in action five times or more.

7. Paul Egger

Paul Egger started World War II as a pilot flying the Messerschmitt BF 109 in the Battle of Britain in 1940. He flew 112 missions and was shot down three times. He did record some victories but was not a fighter ace.

The last time he was shot down over the English Channel he received severe head wounds and was removed from flying.

In May 1941 he volunteered

to join the Waffen-SS and trained as an anti-tank gunner. On completion of training he was transferred to the Motorcycle Battalion of the Das Reich Division and later transferred to the 8th Company SS Panzer Regiment 2.

Egger displayed his prowess at destroying enemy tanks at the Battle of Kiev (28) and continued the destruction during the Third Battle of Kharkov (reaching 65).

In October 1943 Egger was transferred to command a Tiger tank platoon in the 1st Company, 102 SS Heavy Panzer Battalion.

The battalion was sent to Normandy after the D Day landings and during the fighting he destroyed a further 14 tanks.

After being almost completely wiped out the battalion was pulled back to Germany to reform. The battalion was then renamed 502 SS Heavy Panzer Battalion and sent East and during the fighting around Stettin, Egger destroyed a further 19 tanks.

His total count for tanks destroyed by the end of the war totalled 113 and he was awarded the Knight's Cross for his bravery in battle.

6. Hans Sandrock

On 1 September 1934, Hans Sandrock enlisted as a volunteer in the German Army.

After attending the Hanover War School in 1936, he was posted to Panzer Regiment 5 and commissioned as a Lieutenant.

On 1 September 1939, Sandrock was promoted to Oberleutnant and served with the 1 Company, Panzer Regiment 5, during the Polish campaign. In this period, Panzer Regiment 5 formed part of the 3rd Panzer Division with Guderian's XIX Corps, attacking through Northern Poland.

During the Battle of France, Panzer Regiment 5 distinguished itself as part of Hoepner's XVI Panzer Corps, attacking through Belgium and participating in the pursuit during the Evacuation of Dunkirk.

On 10 March 1941, Panzer Regiment 5 was sent to North Africa as part of the Afrika Korps. It fought in the push into Egypt and the efforts to capture Tobruk.

In the summer of 1941, it was reformed within the 21st Panzer Division. In 1942, Panzer Regiment 5 took part in the capture of Benghazi, fought in the Battle of Gazala, saw action in the Fall of Tobruk and the push to El Alamein.

During his service in North Africa, Sandrock was awarded the Iron Cross First Class in April 1941, the Italian Bravery Medal in February 1942 and the German Cross in Gold on 1 June 1942.

He was promoted to the rank of Hauptmann (Captain) on 1 April 1942. Later that year, the 21st Panzer Division experienced heavy losses in fighting around El Alamein in November. Sandrock was severely wounded and was returned to Germany for hospital treatment

and recuperation.

On 25 July 1943, Sandrock, fully recovered, was posted to another elite unit, Fallschirm-Panzerregiment Hermann Göring, and served with the III Sturmgeschütz Detachment during the withdrawal through Sicily and the evacuation to the Italian mainland over the Strait of Messina.

The Hermann Göring Panzer Regiment fought in all the major battles in Italy. In May 1944, it was sent to Livorno in the north of Italy and temporarily held in reserve.

On 18 October 1944, Sandrock was promoted to Major. During the retreat from East Prussia, Sandrock's personal score of enemy tanks and armoured vehicles destroyed reached 123.

For this achievement, he was decorated with the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross on 21 October 1944. His decoration and with it the Luftwaffe Honour plate, were presented by General der Artillerie Weidling, commander of XXXXI Panzer Korps.

Wounded in action during April 1945, Sandrock was hospitalised and on his recovery joined the his regiment's reserve detachment in Oranienburg.

Although the bulk of the Hermann Göring units were cut off and captured by Soviet forces, Sandrock made his way west, surrendering to United States forces. On 18 May 1945, he escaped from captivity and succeeded in reaching his family



PANZER ACE: SS-Hauptsturmführer Michael Wittmann was regarded by many as one of the finest tank commanders of World War II.

home near Bonn.

Sandrock died in 1995 at the age of 82

5. Johannes (Hans) Bolter

There is not much information available on Hans Bolter. We do know that he served with the Schwere Panzer-Abteilung 502 and was the commander of a Tiger I tank.

He was awarded the Knight Cross on 16 April 1944 and was later awarded the Knights Cross with Oak Leaves.

He was killed in action on 10 September 1944. He achieved 139 kills (possibly 144).

4. Martin Schroif

We know even less about Untersturmführer Martin Schroif. In fact his name may have been Walter Schroif.

We do know that he commanded a Tiger I and served with the SS Das Reich Regiment and fought in the Battle of

Normandy.

He is commonly credited with the destruction of 161 tanks or armoured fighting vehicles on all fronts.

3. Michael Wittman

Proud son of the Bavarian village of Vogelthal and winner of the coveted Knight's Cross with Oakleaves and Swords, has long been seen as one of the greatest, if not the greatest, exponent of the art of armoured warfare. Not just in the Second World War, but the modern era.

On both on the Eastern front and in the West, Wittmann had made a name for himself with his exceptional skill and bravery.

Highly respected by his colleagues and superiors, he was also acknowledged after the war by many of his former enemies.

Having established his reputation on the Eastern Front,

Wittmann's exploits during the Normandy campaign of 1944 created a legend.

He served with the SS Liebstandarte Regiment and commanded a Tiger I tank.

Wittmann's most famous moment took place on 13th June 1944, at Villers-Bocage. The Allied invasion had turned the tide against Germany, but on that day one man would do his best to delay the inevitable.

Credited with destroying 138 tanks, 132 AT guns, and uncounted other vehicles on the Russian front and at Normandy, SS-Hauptsturmführer Wittmann is best known for his rampage against the British 7th Armored Division outside Villers-Bocage in June 1944, devastating as many as 14 tanks, 2 antitank guns, and 15 other vehicles in 15 minutes. He was finally cornered and killed in his Tiger I tank by five British or Canadian Shermans on August 8, 1944.

2. Otto Carius

Otto Carius served with the Schwere Panzer-Abteilung 502 and was commander of a Tiger I tank. He was credited with 150+ tank kills and was awarded the Knights Cross with Oak Leaves.

After about a year of experience as a loader in a Panzer 38(t) on the Eastern Front, Carius underwent an Officer Training Course, which he successfully completed, being assigned as the commander of the 2nd Company in the 502nd Tank Battalion immediately after, in April 1943.

TOP TEN

Equipped with the new Tiger tanks, the 2nd Company participated in various operations on the Eastern Front. One of the more notable of these was at the village of Malinava, near Dunaburg, on the 22nd of July 1944. Keeping his eight Tigers held back in reserve, Carius and his First Lieutenant, Albert Kerscher, took a Kubelwagen to scout the village for enemies.

Seeing as it was already occupied by only a handful of Russian tanks, Carius and Kersch sent their Tigers in and destroyed four T-34 that were guarding the village. The six remaining tanks then joined them, and all eight of the Tigers successfully defended the village from the Russian reinforcements which totaled 17 tanks, one of them being the new IS-1.

Only two days later, Carius was scouting the terrain with a few of his men, hidden in a Panzer trench, with the rest of his company waiting a little distance behind.

Suddenly, they were ambushed by both Russian infantry and tanks. Carius was shot in the leg by machine gun fire, and was unable to move. He sent one of his men back to inform the rest of the company, while Carius stayed in the trench, presumably waiting to be killed.

Carius took one more bullet in the leg, another in his arm, and two in the back before seeing a Russian officer standing over him. Realising that Carius was a decorated officer, his first instinct was to capture him. However, since there weren't

enough resources to do that, the Russian officer shot him in the neck, expecting it to be a killing blow.

However, after Carius's company managed to beat the ambushers back, Carius was examined by a field medic, when it was discovered that he was miraculously still alive.

During his recovery, Carius was transferred to the 512 Heavy Antitank Battalion, which was under training for the new Jagdtigers, equipped with powerful 128mm guns. On the 8th of March, 1945, Carius's company, which still hadn't completed its training, was sent to the front line, near Siegburg.

Carius noted that everybody knew that the war was lost, and that at this point he was given orders to only keep the Allies as far away from the German border as possible. On the 15th of April, facing untenable pressure from the Allies, Carius's company surrendered to the United States Army.

After the war, Carius studied pharmacy at the University of Heidelberg. After getting his degree, he opened a pharmacy shop called the Tiger Apotheke, in honour of the Tiger tank, which he ran until 2011.

Otto Carius died on the 24th of January, 2015, aged 92.

Otto Carius was likely witness to the single finest shot ever taken in a tank in any war. According to Carius' autobiography, his gunner once took down an enemy fighter plane with the tank's main gun, be-

cause it was annoying him.

1. Kurt Knispel

Kurt Knispel destroyed more enemy tanks - Soviet, British and American - than anyone else in history. How many? Nobody knows exactly, but probably around 200. Allied tanks were blown away by Knispel and his Tiger tank.

Kurt Knispel had 168 confirmed kills of enemy tanks (possibly as high as 195). He was also credited with the destruction of over 70 enemy Pak (anti-tank guns), and countless bunkers, field works, enemy soft skins, MG-nests etc. etc.

He fought in virtually every type of German tank as loader, gunner and commander.

He was awarded the Iron Cross, First Class, after destroying his fiftieth enemy tank and the Tank Assault Badge in Gold after more than 100 tank battles.

When Knispel had destroyed 126 enemy tanks (with another 20 unconfirmed kills), he was awarded the German Cross in Gold.

He became the only non-commissioned officer of the German tank army to be named in a Wehrmacht communique.

At the famous Panzer Battle at Kursk July 1943, he destroyed twenty-seven T-34 tanks in 12 days Later, as commander of a Tiger II, he destroyed another 42 enemy tanks.

Though he was recommended for it four times, Knispel never received the Knight's Cross, a standard award for most other



PANZER LEGEND: Kurt Knispel was often in conflict with higher Nazi officers, but he was highly respected by both friend and foe.

World War II German tank aces.

Unlike many soldiers, Knispel was not consumed by the pursuit of decorations and did not suffer from a “sore throat” (*Heer* slang for those who lust-

ed after the Knight's Cross)

When there were conflicting claims for a destroyed enemy tank, Knispel always stepped back, always willing to credit success to another tank crew.

Knispels slow promotion attributed also to several conflicts with higher Nazi officers. His behaviour was not up to the Nazi-standard and he cared far more for his mates than for the Nazi system: Long hair, goatee-beard, unwillingness to obey orders he disagreed with was one thing, refusing to take part in attacks on civilians was another.

On one occasion he even attacked an officer when he saw him mistreating soviet POW's. Most soldiers would have been in lot of trouble for this, perhaps even executed, but not Knispel. It tells a lot of Knipsels standing, not only within his Panzer Abteilung, but in the whole German Panzer Force.

He was killed in action on 28 April 1945, just nine days before Germany surrendered on 7 May 1945.



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3. Newsletter
4. Bulletin
5. Newsletter
6. Books written by members
7. Auctions
8. Funds and notices
9. Photo gallery
10. Useful links



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Special Forces - Sayeret Matkal

Part seventeen of a series that takes a look at Special Forces units around the world. This month we look at Israel's Sayeret Matkal or Unit 269.

Israel's Special Forces are among the most active and proficient in the world. They have to be because Israel lives under perpetual threat of violence and bloodshed.

Israel is surrounded by coun-

tries that want nothing more than the total destruction and eradication of the State of Israel.

Special forces units in the Israel Defense Forces encompass a broad definition of specialist units. Such units are usual-

ly a company or a battalion in strength.

Sayeret, or reconnaissance units in the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) nomenclature, specialize in intelligence gathering and surveillance. In practice, these units specialize in commando

and other special forces roles, in addition to reconnaissance (the degree of specialization varies by units and current needs).

Mista'arvim, also spelled as mistaravim, are counter-terrorism units in whose members are specifically trained to operate undercover, in enemy territory, in order to assassinate or capture wanted terrorists.

Commando Unit 101, the founding Israeli special forces unit, was established and commanded by Ariel Sharon on orders from Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion in August 1953.

They were armed with

non-standard weapons and tasked with carrying out retribution operations across the state's borders - in particular, establishing small unit manoeuvres, activation and tactical insertion and exit tactics.

Members of the unit were recruited only from agricultural Kibbutzim and Moshavim. Membership in the unit was by invitation only, and any new member had to be voted on by all existing members before they were accepted.

The unit was merged into the 890th Paratroop Battalion during January 1954, on orders of General Dayan, Chief of Staff,

because he wanted their experience and spirit to be spread among all infantry units of IDF starting with the paratroopers.

They are considered to have had a significant influence on the development of subsequent Israeli special forces units.

General Staff Reconnaissance Unit, or Unit 269, more commonly known as Sayeret Matkal, meaning Sayeret (special reconnaissance unit) of the Matkal (General Staff), is the prime sayeret unit of the Israel Defense Forces.

First and foremost a field intelligence-gathering unit, conducting deep reconnaissance



behind enemy lines to obtain strategic intelligence, Sayeret Matkal is also tasked with counter-terrorism and hostage rescue beyond Israel's borders.

The unit is modeled after the British Army's Special Air Service, taking the unit's motto "Who Dares, Wins". The unit is the Israeli equivalent of 1st SFOD-D (Delta Force) of the United States. It is directly subordinate to the IDF's Directorate of Military Intelligence.

History

In 1954, Israel's first special operations unit - Unit 101 - was disbanded following the outcry provoked by the Qibya massacre.

This left the IDF without a dedicated special-forces unit other than the Navy's Shayetet 13, a naval commando unit which could not fully replace Unit 101.

In 1957, Avraham Arnan (né Herling), a former yeshiva student and Palmach fighter, petitioned the IDF General Staff to create a unit that could be dispatched to enemy-held territory to carry out top secret intelligence-gathering missions.

Arnan's idea (backed by David Ben-Gurion and Yitzhak Rabin) was to create a unit that would recruit only the best and the brightest of Israeli youth. Prospective fighters were to be hand-picked, being physically and intellectually the best soldiers available.

Originally part of Aman's Unit 157, Sayeret Matkal began to operate independently a year later as the General Staff's special operations force, modelled after the British Special Air Ser-

vice. Members of the unit were trained by Bedouin trackers in order to obtain a better understanding of their adversaries.

Established a year after the formation of Israel's first helicopter squadron, the close co-operation between the two units allowed Sayeret Matkal to deploy longer and deeper inside Arab territory than its predecessor.

Arnan's vision for Sayeret Matkal (of which he was the first commander) was of a unit that would carry out strategic intelligence-gathering and other operations; as such it would receive its missions only from the General Staff. Sayeret Matkal would also evaluate new weapons and doctrines that could influence the entire IDF.

In the early 1960s, Sayeret Matkal conducted several intelligence-gathering operations in the Sinai Peninsula - the last of which was launched just four months before the outbreak of the Six-Day War.

But, due to the extensive training, planning and preparation that had to be undertaken before its missions, Sayeret Matkal ended up not seeing any action during the war itself.

It was however engaged extensively in the following War of Attrition. After 1967, with the rise of Arab terrorism perpetrated by groups such as the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Sayeret Matkal began developing the first hostage-rescue and counter-terrorism techniques in the world.

Beginning with Operation Isotope, the unit carried out several high-profile operations that thrust it into the limelight



Sayeret Matkal insignia

as an "elite paratroopers" unit (Sayeret Matkal's existence was classified at the time).

In 1972, before the Munich massacre, Sayeret Matkal's operatives were sent to West Germany to co-operate with German authorities and, if necessary, perform the hostage-rescue themselves. Their advice though, was not heeded. In the subsequent Operation Wrath of God, Sayeret Matkal struck the PLO in Beirut.

The Yom Kippur War in 1973 brought a profound change to the unit. With Israel fighting on two fronts and the General Staff busy with managing the war, Sayeret Matkal found itself without missions to perform. Sayeret Matkal officers then split into two camps: those who believed that the unit should be kept in reserve and not be lightly sent to missions where it could endure heavy casualties, and those that wanted to go into action, even if that meant missions with little planning and more akin to a commando force than to the strategic-oriented Sayeret Matkal.

The latter prevailed and Sayeret Matkal was tasked with operations on both fronts. After the war, Sayeret Matkal began developing plans for wartime in advance, so that when war came, the unit could go into ac-



TRAIN HARD - FIGHT EASY: Sayeret Matkal operators on a training exercise.

tion immediately, without waiting for the General Staff's orders and missions.

A reserve company of Sayeret Matkal was also designated specifically for cooperation with the Israeli Air Force, shown by the war to be lacking. This would later evolve into Shaldag Unit.

In 1974, Sayeret Matkal suffered a heavy blow when a failed rescue attempt resulted in the Ma'alot massacre.

The debacle led to the creation of the Yamam to deal with domestic counter-terrorism/hostage-rescue missions, while Sayeret Matkal would focus on foreign counter-terrorism/hostage-rescue.

Two years later, on the 4th of July 1976, came the most famous mission of the unit, when it spearheaded Operation Entebbe to rescue hostages held in Uganda by at least six Palestinians and two German terrorists supported by regular Ugandan soldiers.

The mission was a resound-

ing success, although there were 3 hostages killed, as well as the commander of the Unit, Lieutenant Colonel Yonatan Netanyahu.

Although a top-secret unit, Sayeret Matkal had tremendous influence on the IDF. It was the original developer of helicopter infiltration techniques in Israel.

In addition, their extensive use of the Uzi led them to convince Israel Military Industries to produce an Uzi with a folding stock for increased accuracy while maintaining its small frame.

In 2015, the unit received a honourable mention for its activities during Operation Protective Edge.

Recruitment and training

The unit was kept top-secret during its initial years. Fighters and commanders were selectively hand-picked, based on personal acquaintances. Since the 1970s, while still secretive, the unit opened to voluntary recruits.

Twice a year it holds a notoriously gruelling selection camp (Gibbush) for potential recruits lasting several sleepless days. The recruits are constantly monitored by doctors and psychologists. Those who make it through with a passing grade are admitted. During the 1990s, this selection practice was picked up by other IDF special forces (Sayeret).

Once admitted to the unit, recruits train for 20 months, with heavy emphasis on small arms, martial arts, navigation, camouflage, reconnaissance, and other skills required for survival behind enemy lines.

They must also complete the 120-kilometre Beret March in the final four days to receive their red beret. The training regime consists of the following:

- Four months of basic infantry training, held in the Paratroopers basic training base; it is part of the regular Paratroopers basic training routine.
- Two months advanced infantry training, within the unit.
- Three weeks parachuting course in the IDF Parachuting School.
- Five weeks counter-terror (CT) course in the IDF Counter-Terror Warfare School, followed by more inner-unit CT training.
- The rest of the training is dedicated to long-range reconnaissance patrol training, and especially to navigation/orienteering, which is of vast importance in the unit. While most of the orienteering training is done in pairs for safety reasons,

as in every other unit in the IDF, Sayeret Matkal is one of the handful of IDF units which conducts long-range solo navigation exercises.

Toward the end of their training, Sayeret Matkal recruits, along with recruits for other special forces units and pilot cadets, go through a two-week course in enduring captivity.

After a surprise mock kidnapping, they are held in prison-like conditions and subjected to interrogation, threats, and physical violence, and forced to perform demeaning activities.

Although Sayeret Matkal has its own insignia, it is also one of only two units in the IDF, the other being Duvdevan, whose soldiers are not allowed to wear it in public due to its classified nature.

This lack of insignia often leads to Sayeret Matkal operators being recognized as such, as the fact that Matkal troopers don't wear insignia is well known.

Notable members

Sayeret Matkal veterans have gone on to achieve high positions in Israel's military and political echelons.

Several have become IDF Generals and members of the Knesset. Ehud Barak's career is an example: a draftee in 1959, he later succeeded Unit 101 commando Lt. Meir Har-Zion in becoming Israel's most decorated soldier.

While with Sayeret Matkal, Barak led operations Isotope in 1972 and Spring of Youth in 1973.

He later advanced in his military career to become the IDF

Chief of Staff between 1991 and 1995. In 1999, Ehud Barak became the 10th Prime Minister of Israel.

- Avi Dichter – unit fighter, later head of Israel's General Security Service (Shin Bet), later the minister of internal security.
- Benjamin Netanyahu – unit team leader, current (also former) Prime Minister of Israel.
- Daniel M. Lewin – co-founder of Akamai Technologies. He was the first victim of the September 11 attacks.
- Danny Yatom – unit deputy commander, later a General, head of Mossad and a Knesset member.
- Doron Avital – commander 1992–1994. Member of 18th Knesset for Kadima.
- Iddo Netanyahu – writer and radiologist. Benjamin Netanyahu's younger brother.
- Moshe Yaalon – unit commander, later IDF Chief of Staff, Strategic Affairs Minister of Israel and Defence Minister of Israel.
- Muki Betser – second in command of Operation Entebbe. Founder of the Shaldag Unit.
- Nadav Argaman – team leader, current director of the Shin Bet.
- Naftali Bennett –former Defense Minister of Israel. Current leader of Yamina (political alliance) party.
- Nechemya Cohen – the Unit's and the IDF's most decorated soldier (with Barak). Killed in action. Beit Nechemya was built in his memory by "the Unit".
- Shaul Mofaz – unit deputy

commander, later IDF Chief of Staff and former Defence Minister of Israel.

- Shay Avital – unit commander during the 1982 Lebanon War, later first commander of the Depth Corps.
- Uzi Yairi – unit commander, formerly head of the IDF Paratroopers Brigade, killed in action while off-duty during Savoy Operation.
- Yonatan Netanyahu – unit commander, killed in Operation Entebbe. Benjamin Netanyahu's older brother.

There is a widely held misconception that former Israeli Major General and former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon served in Sayeret Matkal. Although as a major, Sharon founded the IDF's first special-forces unit (Unit 101) in 1953, he never served in Sayeret Matkal.

Alleged operations

These are all operations that were allegedly carried out by Sayeret Matkal.

- 1968 – Operation Gift – sabotage of 14 Arab airliners in Beirut International Airport, Lebanon.
- 1969 – Operation Bulmus 6 – assault on fortified Green Island, Egypt (jointly with Shayetet 13).
- 1969 – Operation Raviv – raid on Egypt's Red Sea coast.
- 1972 – Operation Isotope – foiling the hijacking of Sabena Flight 571 in Tel Aviv, Israel (hostages rescue).
- 1972 – Operation Crate 3 – kidnapping 5 Syrian intelligence officers.
- 1973 – Operation Spring of

Youth – killing Black September terrorist leaders in Beirut, Lebanon (jointly with Shayetet 13).

- 1973 – Yom Kippur War – recapture of Mount Hermon from Syrian commandos (jointly with Golani Brigade); rescue of Lt. Col. Yossi Ben Hanan behind enemy lines; deep interdiction ambushes in Egypt and Syria.
- 1974 – Ma'alot massacre – school hostages rescue.
- 1975 – Savoy Operation – hotel hostages rescue.
- 1976 – Operation Thunderbolt – hostage rescue in Entebbe, Uganda.
- 1978 – Coastal Road Massacre – bus hostages rescue.
- 1980 – Misgav Am hostage crisis – Kibbutz nursery

hostages rescue.

- 1982 – 1982 Lebanon War – deep reconnaissance ahead of Israeli forces (snipers managed to target Yasser Arafat although they were not allowed to fire)
- 1984 – Kav 300 affair – bus hostages rescue.
- 1988 – Assassination of Abu Jihad, in Tunis, Tunisia.
- 1989 – Kidnapping of Sheik Abdul-Karim Obeid, Lebanon.
- 1992 – Operation Bramble Bush – plan to assassinate Iraqi president Saddam Hussein.
- 1994 – Mustafa Dirani kidnapping, Lebanon.
- 1994 – Nachshon Wachshon – failed hostage rescue.
- 2006 – Second Lebanon War: Operation Sharp and

Smooth – disrupt weapons smuggling (jointly with the Shaldag Unit); other operations to disrupt weapons smuggling (in one of them the force was discovered and Lieutenant Colonel Emmanuel Moreno was killed and two others were wounded in the ensuing gun battle).

- 2007 – Collecting soil samples in Syria prior to Operation Orchard, the bombing of an alleged Syrian nuclear reactor.
- 2017 – Infiltration into Syria to place a listening device in a meeting room of Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant external operations personnel. The intelligence recovered led to the 2017 electronics ban.

Sayeret Matkal Weapons



Uzzi



Glock 19



IWI Tavor TAR-21



Barrett MRAD

Above and beyond the call of duty

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

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

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

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

Douglas Bader

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

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

In September 1928 he took his first flight with an instructor and after just 11 hours and 15 minutes, he flew his first solo flight

on 19 February 1929.

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

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

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

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

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

He retook flight training, passed his check flights and then requested reactivation as a pilot. His request was turned down and, against his will, he was retired on medical grounds.

With World War II looming, Bader again requested a posting



Douglas Bader

in the RAF. The Central Flying School told Bader to report for flight tests on 18 October 1939.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

After the war Bader continued to serve in the RAF. On 21 July 1946, he retired with the rank

of group captain to take a job at Royal Dutch Shell. He became Managing Director of Shell Aircraft until he retired in 1969.

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

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

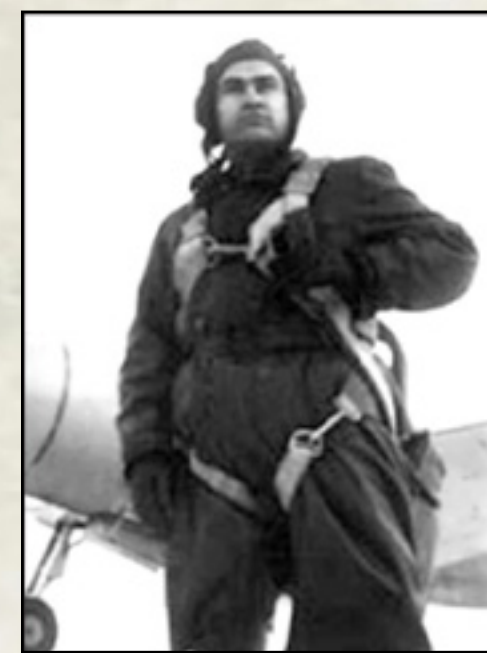
Alexey Maresyev

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

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

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

Despite being badly injured, Alexey managed to return to the Soviet-controlled territory. During his 18-day-long journey his injuries deteriorated so badly that both of his legs had to be amputated below the knee. Desperate to return to his fighter pilot career, he subjected himself to nearly a year of exercise to



Alexey Maresyev

master the control of his prosthetic devices, and succeeded at that, returning to flying in June 1943.

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

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

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

Colin Hodgkinson

Flight Lieutenant Colin Gerald Shaw Hodgkinson was a Royal Air Force (RAF) pilot during World War II. He was

given the nickname “The poor man’s Bader”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hodgkinson was determined to pilot aircraft again. He was sure he could emulate his fellow double-amputee Douglas Bader and fly Spitfires given the chance.



Colin Hodgkinson

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

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

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

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

vice in 1946.

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

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

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

James MacLachlan

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

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

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

He then transferred to fighter school and during the Battle of Britain he served with No. 73 Squadron RAF and No. 145 Squadron RAF. In late 1940 he transferred to Malta in the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations and joined No. 261 Squadron RAF.

MacLachlan was wounded in



James MacLachlan

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

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

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

Carl Brashear

Carl Maxie Brashear was a United States Navy sailor. He was the first African American to become a U.S. Navy Master Diver, rising to the position in 1970 despite having an amputat-

ed left leg.

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

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

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

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

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



Carl Brashear

awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal – the highest Navy award for non-combat heroism.

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

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

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

Carl Brashear passed away at the Naval Medical Centre Portsmouth, Portsmouth, Virginia, on 25 July 2006.

We'll meet again

During World War II she became known as the "Forces Sweetheart". In 2009 she became the oldest person to have a Number One hit in the UK. Vera Lynn will always be remembered.

Dame Vera Margaret Lynn CH DBE OStJ passed away on 18 June 2020 at the age of 103.

Now anyone with an interest in military history will need no introduction to Vera Lynn. She was an English singer, songwriter, and entertainer whose musical recordings and performances were very popular during the Second World War.

She was widely referred to as the "Forces' Sweetheart" and gave outdoor concerts for the troops in Egypt, India and Burma during the war as part of Entertainments National Service Association (ENSA).

The songs most associated with her are "We'll Meet Again", "(There'll Be Bluebirds Over) The White Cliffs of Dover", "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square" and "There'll Always Be an England".

She remained popular after the war, appearing on radio and television in the United Kingdom and the United States, and recording such hits as "Auf Wiederseh'n, Sweetheart" and her UK number-one single "My Son, My Son".

Her last single, "I Love This Land", was released to mark the end of the Falklands War. In 2009, at the age of 92, she became the oldest living artist to top the UK Albums Chart with the compilation album *We'll Meet Again: The Very Best of Vera Lynn*.

In 2014, she released the collection *Vera Lynn: National Treasure* and in 2017, she released *Vera Lynn 100*, a compilation album of hits to commemorate her centenary - it was a No. 3 hit, making her the first centenarian performer to have a Top 10 album in the charts.

Lynn devoted much time and energy to charity work connected with ex-servicemen, disabled children and breast cancer. She was held in great affection by Second World War veterans and in 2000 was

named the British who best exemplified the spirit of the 20th century.

Early life

Vera Margaret Welch was born in East Ham, Essex, now part of the London Borough of Newham, on 20 March 1917.

In 1919, when Lynn was two years old, she fell ill with diphtheritic croup

and nearly died. She was sent to an isolation unit and was discharged after three months there.

As a result of her hospitalisation, her mother was very protective of her and did not allow her to visit friends or play in the street for a long time afterwards.

She began performing publicly at the age of seven and adopted her maternal grandmother Margaret's maiden name "Lynn" as her stage name when she was eleven.

Her first radio broadcast, with the

Joe Loss Orchestra, was in 1935.

At this point she appeared on records released by dance bands including those of Loss and of Charlie Kunz.

In 1936, her first solo record was released on the Crown

label, "Up the Wooden Hill to Bedfordshire". This label was absorbed by Decca Records in 1938.

She supported herself by working as an administrative assistant to the head of a shipping management company in London's East End.

Wartime career

In 1937, Lynn made her first hit recordings, "The Little Boy That Santa Claus Forgot" and "Red Sails in the Sunset".

Lynn's wartime contribution began when she would sing to people who were using London's tube station platforms as air raid shelters, she would drive there in her Austin 7 car.

Between 1937 and 1940, she also toured with the aristocrat of British dance bands, Bert Ambrose as part of the Ambrose Octet; the group appeared in broadcasts for the BBC and for Radio Luxembourg. She left Ambrose in 1941.

Lynn is best known for the popular song "We'll Meet Again", written by Ross Parker and Hughie Charles. She first recorded it in 1939 with Arthur Young on Novachord, and later again in 1953 accompanied by servicemen from the British Armed Forces.

The nostalgic lyrics ("We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when, but I know we'll meet again some sunny day") were very popular during the war and made the song one of its emblematic hits.

During the Phoney War, the *Daily Express* asked British servicemen to name their favourite musical performers: Vera Lynn came out on top and as a result

became known as "the Forces' Sweetheart". In July 1940, Lynn made her first appearance as a "fully fledged solo act" in Coventry.

Her continuing popularity was ensured by the success of her radio programme "Sincerely Yours", which began airing in 1941, with messages to British troops serving abroad.

However, in the aftermath of the fall of Singapore in February 1942 the programme was taken off air for 18 months out of fear that the sentimental nature of her songs would undermine the "virile" nature of British soldiers. Instead, "more traditionally martial classical music" was promoted.

Lynn and her quartet continued to perform songs most requested by the soldiers. Lynn also visited hospitals to interview new mothers and send personal messages to their husbands overseas.

Her other great wartime hit was "The White Cliffs of Dover", words by Nat Burton, music by Walter Kent. In 1943, she appeared in the films *We'll Meet Again* and *Rhythm Serenade*.

During the war years, she joined the Entertainments National Service Association (ENSA) and toured Egypt, India and Burma, giving outdoor concerts for British troops.

Between 1942 and 1944, she appeared in three movies with wartime themes.

In March 1944, she went to Shamshernagar airfield in Bengal to entertain the troops before the Battle of Kohima. Her host and lifelong friend Captain Bernard Holden recalled "her

courage and her contribution to morale". In 1985, she received the Burma Star for entertaining British guerrilla units in Japanese-occupied Burma.

Postwar career

Lynn's "Auf Wiederseh'n, Sweetheart" in 1952 became the first record by a British performer to top the charts in the United States, remaining there for nine weeks. She also appeared regularly for a time on Tallulah Bankhead's US radio programme *The Big Show*.

"Auf Wiederseh'n, Sweetheart", along with "The Homing Waltz" and "Forget-Me-Not", gave Lynn three entries on the first UK Singles Chart.

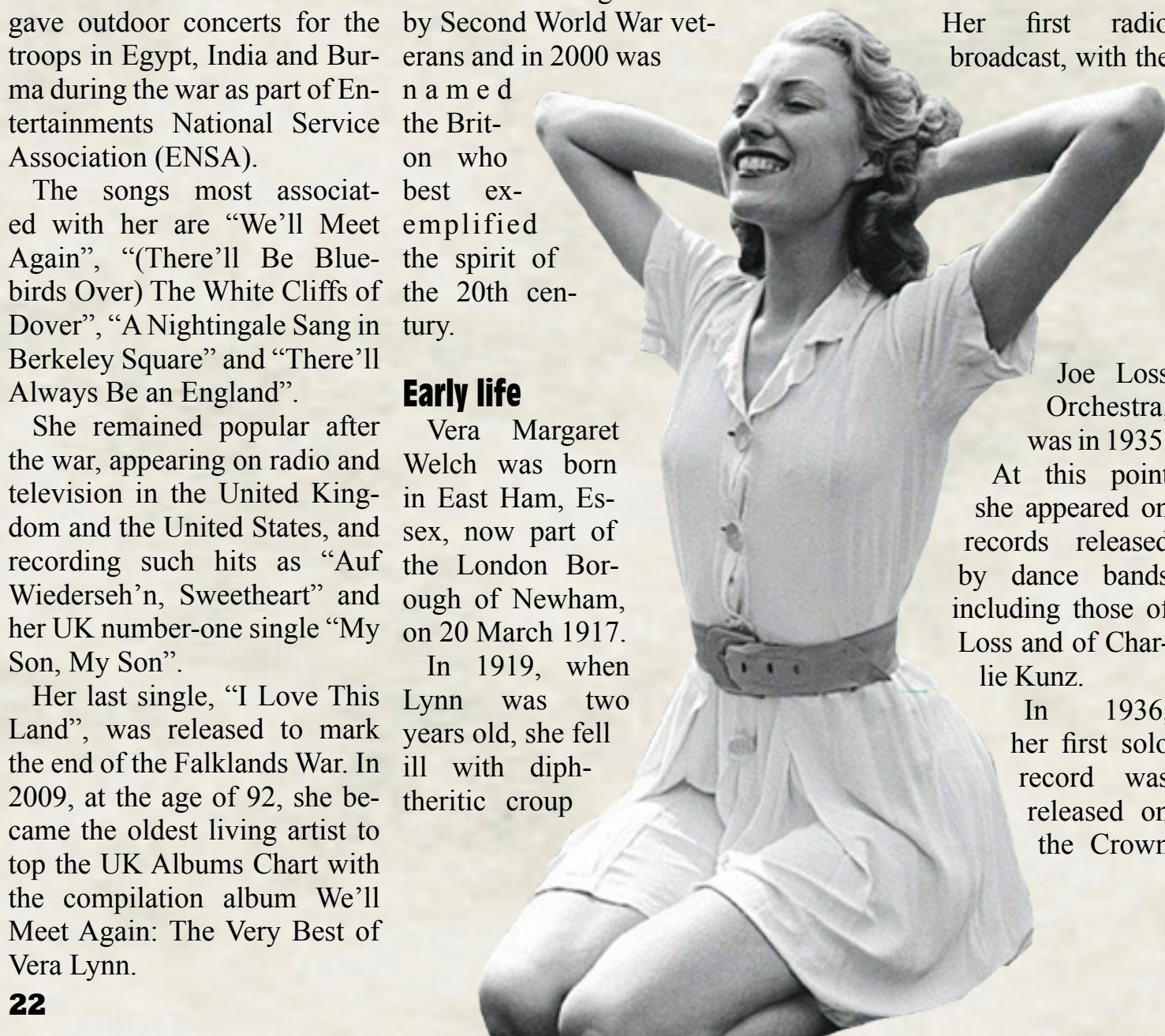
Her popularity continued in the 1950s, peaking with "My Son, My Son", a number-one hit in 1954 which she co-wrote with Gordon Melville Rees.

In 1955, Lynn began her first television series and in 1955, she signed an exclusive contract with the BBC for two years of radio and television work.

In 1960, she left Decca Records (after nearly 25 years) and joined EMI. She recorded for EMI's Columbia, MGM and HMV labels.

She also recorded Lionel Bart's song "The Day After Tomorrow" for the 1962 musical *Blitz!*; she did not appear on-stage in the play, but the characters in the play hear the song on the radio while they shelter from the bombs.

In 1967, she recorded "It Hurts To Say Goodbye", a song which hit the top 10 on the Billboard Easy Listening chart. Vera Lynn was the subject of *This Is Your Life* on two occasions,



in October 1957 when she was surprised by Eamonn Andrews at the BBC Television Theatre, and in December 1978, for an episode which was broadcast on 1 January 1979, when Andrews surprised her at the Cafe Royal, London.

She hosted her own variety series on BBC1 in the late 1960s and early 1970s and was a frequent guest on other variety shows such as the 1972 Morecambe & Wise Christmas Show.

In 1972, she was a key performer in the BBC anniversary programme Fifty Years of Music. In 1976, she hosted the BBC's A Jubilee of Music, celebrating the pop music hits of the period 1952–1976 to commemorate the start of Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee year. For ITV she presented a 1977 TV special to launch her album Vera Lynn in Nashville, which included pop songs of the 1960s and country songs.

The Royal Variety Performance included appearances by Vera Lynn on four occasions: 1960, 1975, 1986 and 1990.

Lynn was also interviewed about her role in entertaining the troops in the India-Burma Theatre, for The World at War series in 1974. Lynn is also notable for being the only artist to have a chart span on the British single and album charts reaching from the chart's inception to the 21st century – in 1952 having three singles in the first ever singles chart, compiled by New Musical Express, and later having a No. 1 album with We'll Meet Again – The Very Best of Vera Lynn.

Later years

Lynn sang outside Buckingham Palace in 1995 in a ceremony that marked the golden jubilee of VE Day.

The United Kingdom's VE Day ceremonies in 2005 included a concert in Trafalgar Square, London, in which Lynn made a surprise appearance. She made a speech praising the veterans and calling upon the younger generation always to remember their sacrifice, and joined in with a few bars of "We'll Meet Again". This would be Lynn's final vocal performance at a VE Day anniversary event.

Following that year's Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance Lynn encouraged the Welsh singer Katherine Jenkins to assume the mantle of "Forces' Sweetheart".

In her speech Lynn said: "These boys gave their lives and some came home badly injured, and for some families life would never be the same. We should always remember, we should never forget, and we should teach the children to remember".

In September 2008, Lynn helped launch a new social history recording website, "The Times of My Life", at the Cabinet War Rooms in London.

Lynn published her autobiography, *Some Sunny Day*, in 2009. She had written two previous memoirs: *Vocal Refrain* (1975) and *We'll Meet Again* (1989).

In February 2009, it was reported that Lynn was suing the British National Party (BNP) for using "The White Cliffs of Dover" on an anti-immigration album without her permission.

Her lawyer claimed the album seemed to link Lynn, who does not align with any political party, to the party's views by association.

In September 2009, at the age of 92, Lynn became the oldest living artist to make it to No. 1 in the British album chart.

Her compilation album *We'll Meet Again: The Very Best of Vera Lynn* entered the chart at number 20 on 30 August, and then climbed to No. 2 the following week before reaching the top position, outselling both the Arctic Monkeys and the Beatles.

With this achievement, she surpassed Bob Dylan as the oldest artist to have a number one album in the UK.

In August 2014, Lynn was one of 200 public figures who were signatories to a letter to The Guardian opposing Scottish independence in the run-up to September's referendum on that issue.

In May 2015, she was unable to attend VE Day 70: A Party to Remember, in London but was interviewed at home by the Daily Mirror.

Three days before her 100th birthday on 17 March 2017, a new LP entitled *Vera Lynn 100* was released through Decca Records.

The album, setting Lynn's original vocals to new re-orchestrated versions of her songs, also involves several duet partners including Alfie Boe, Alexander Armstrong, Aled Jones and the RAF Squadronaires.

Parlophone, which owns Lynn's later recordings from the 1960s and 1970s, released a collection of her songs recorded

at Abbey Road Studios entitled *Her Greatest from Abbey Road* on 10 March 2017, including five previously unreleased original recordings.

By October 2017, she was the best-selling female artist of the year in the UK, having sold more albums than contemporary artists like Dua Lipa and Lana del Rey.

Lynn received two nominations at the 2018 Classic Brit Awards for Female Artist of the Year and Album of the Year and was also the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

In January 2020, a new painted portrait of Lynn was unveiled at the Royal Albert Hall in connection with the 75th anniversary of the peace in 1945.

The portrait is painted by Ross Kolby and was unveiled by Lynn's daughter Virginia Lewis-Jones and Britain's Got Talent winner Colin Thackery. The painting will be on permanent display at the venue where Lynn performed 52 times from 1937 to 2006.

The documentary film *Dame Vera Lynn – The Voice of a Nation* premiered at the unveiling ceremony at the Hall and tells the story of 'The Forces' Sweetheart' and Kolby's portrait.

On 5 April 2020 the song "We'll Meet Again" was echoed by Queen Elizabeth II in a television address she delivered addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the 75th anniversary of VE Day, Lynn and Katherine Jenkins duetted virtually (Jenkins singing next to a hologram) at the Royal Albert Hall, which was empty due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Later years

In 1953, Lynn formed the cerebral palsy charity SOS (The Stars Organisation for Spastics) and became its chairperson. The Vera Lynn Charity Breast Cancer Research Trust was founded in 1976, with Lynn its chairperson and later its president.

In 2002, Lynn became president of the cerebral palsy charity

The Dame Vera Lynn Trust for Children with Cerebral Palsy, and hosted a celebrity concert on its behalf at Queen Elizabeth Hall in London. In 2008, Lynn became patron of the charitable Forces Literary Organisation Worldwide for ALL.

She became the patron of the Dover War Memorial Project in 2010; the same year she became patron of the British charity Projects to Support Refugees from Burma/Help 4 Forgotten Allies. In 2013 she joined a PETA campaign against pigeon racing, stating that the sport is "utterly cruel".

In August 1985, she appeared on stage at Crystal Palace Bowl, with Hawkwind, Doctor and the Medics and several other rock bands, for the finale of a benefit concert for Pete Townshend's Double-O anti-heroin charity.

Vera Lynn died on 18 June 2020 at her home in East Sussex aged 103. We will remember her and her music will live on forever.



Where the music does the talking

Click here to Listen Live

Catch Military Despatches editor Matt Tennyson on the Sunday Breakfast Zone from 09h00 to 12h00 every Sunday morning on Zone Radio 88.5 fm.

Matt brings you hits from the 60s, 70s, 80s and early 90s - the hits we love and remember. And you can WhatsApp your requests through on +27 72 447 8044

The Voice of the Valley on 88.5 fm

They said it

People have a quote for everything these days, bet it politics, sport, religion - and even war. In fact war and the military have provided some memorable quotes throughout history.

People say some weird and wonderful things about war and during wars.

Here is but a small collection of some of the best and worst quotes made by or about the military.

"In the long run luck is given only to the efficient."

Helmuth von Moltke, founder, German Imperial Army

"The concentration of troops can be done fast and easy, on paper."

Field Marshal Radomir Putnik

"On the Tobruk front a large force of Italians attacked one enemy cyclist, causing him to dismount. After heavy and prolonged fighting they were able to puncture his tires. The front wheel was destroyed, while destruction of the rear wheel must also be considered probable. The handle bars are in our hands, but possession of the frame is still contested."

German satire of an Italian war communiqué, reportedly captured by British troops in Libya

The best tank terrain is that without anti-tank weapons.

Russian Military Doctrine

"Superior firepower is an invaluable tool when entering negotiations."

General George S. Patton

"The political object is the goal, war is the means of reaching it, and the means can never be considered in isolation from their purposes."

Karl von Clausewitz, 19th Century Prussian General

"...an imperfect plan implemented immediately and violently will always succeed better than a perfect plan."

Gen. George S. Patton

When in doubt, empty your magazine.

Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations

All warfare is based on deception.

Sun Tzu

"Nothing concentrates the military mind so much as the discovery that you have walked into an ambush."

Thomas Pakenham

"Humanize war? You might as talk about humanizing hell!"

British Admiral Jacky Fisher

"In my experience, the most useful command that can ever be given by a junior officer is 'Carry on Sergeant'"

Andrew Moffatt-Vallance, 2nd Lieutenant.

"Sergeant Majors are terrifying forces of nature. They really run the Army, although they let the officers pretend that they have something to do with it. Very tolerant ones will even

call 2nd Lieutenants "sir" on occasion."

Douglas E. Berry

"Victory in war does not depend entirely on numbers or courage; only skill and discipline will ensure it."

Flavius Vegetius, AD 378

"The quality of the kite (aircraft) matters little. Success depends upon the man who sits in it."

Baron Manfred Von Richthofen, the famed Red Baron

"Most armies are in fact run by their sergeants - the officers are there just to give things a bit of tone and prevent warfare becoming a mere lower-class brawl."

Terry Pratchett

"SNAFU, SOMFU & FUBAR...The three sons of Murphy..."

Anon

"I'm not worried about the bullet with my name on it. I'm worried about the million that say 'to whom it may concern.'"

Anon

His troops would follow him anywhere, but only out of curiosity.

Anon

"I would rather have a German division in front of me than a French one behind me."

General George S. Patton

Intelligence is the world's second-oldest profession. It differs from the oldest profession in that it is more immoral and more commonly practiced by amateurs.

Anon

Faith and purity are inadequate substitutes for Kevlar and good cover.

Anon

"What are officer good for? Locating machine gun posts by leaping up and shouting 'Charge!' of course. They're also useful as diversions for snipers, and as cheap entertainment for sergeants. The odd rare and exceptional specimen is sometimes even useful for leading troops and formulating battle plans."

Rupert Boleyn

The pen is mightier than the sword but the bayonet gets the point across.

Anon

"Asking fighter pilots anything is pretty useless... it's either classified, or they lie like thieves."

Doug Berry

"We figured out that getting shot at really wasn't that bad. It was the getting shot part that sucked."

US Army Staff Sgt. Jamie Viiafane on being wounded

What part of "This side towards enemy" did you not understand?

Anon

"A bad peace is even worse than war."

Tacitus

Cluster bombing from B-52s is very, very accurate. The bombs always hit the ground.

Anon

"People sometimes ask me, how I can bring myself to jump from a perfectly good airplane? I tell them every airplane I've ever jumped from belonged to the United Air Force, so that's not a consideration."

Christopher Thrash

"One of the serious problems in planning against American doctrine is that the Americans do not read their manuals nor do they feel any obligations to follow their doctrine."

From a Russian military document

"To lead uninstructed people to war is to throw them away."

Confucius 480 B.C.

"The reason that the America army does so well in wartime is that war is chaos and the American army practices chaos on a daily basis."

German General Officer

"The Marines I have seen around the world have the cleanest bodies, the filthiest minds, the highest morale, and the lowest morals of any group of animals I have ever seen. Thank God for the United States Marine Corps."

Eleanor Roosevelt, 1945

"For those who have fought for it, freedom has a flavour the protected will never know."

Unknown

"We make war that we may live in peace."

Aristotle 325 B.C.



General George S. Patton

"In war there is no second prize for the runner-up."

General Omar Bradley 1950

"May God have mercy on my enemies, because I won't."

General George S. Patton

"We're paratroopers. We're supposed to be surrounded."

Lt. Richard "Dick" Winters, Easy Company, Battle of the Bulge

"The essence of war is violence. Moderation in war is imbecility."

Admiral Sir John A. Fisher

"Killing the enemy's courage is as vital as killing his troops."

Carl von Clausewitz

"I fear all I have done is awakened a sleeping giant and filled him with a terrible resolve."

Admiral Yamamoto after the bombing of Pearl Harbour

"The difference between a republic and an empire is the loyalty of one's army"

Julius Caesar



Admiral Yamamoto

"Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake."

Napoleon Bonaparte

"Do you know what a soldier is...? He's the chap who makes it possible for civilized folk to despise war."

*Allan Massie,
Scottish journalist/novelist*

"The worst enemy of the British Armed Forces is the British politician."

Leslie Bates

"You win battles by knowing the enemy's timing, and using a timing which the enemy does not expect."

Miyamoto Musashi

"The gates of Auschwitz were not opened with peace talks. Holland was not liberated by peacekeepers and fascism was not defeated with a deft pen."

Rick Mercer

"The patriot volunteer, fighting for country and his rights, makes the most reliable soldier on earth."

Stonewall Jackson

"The art of war teaches us to rely not on the likelihood of the enemy's not coming, but on our own readiness to receive him; not on the chance of his not attacking, but rather on the fact that we have made our position unassailable."

*Sun Tzu,
The Art of War*

A veteran is someone, who at one point in their life, wrote a blank check payable to the United States of America for an amount up to, and including, their life. That is beyond honour, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer remember that fact.

Anon

"In times of peace, prepare for war. In times of war, prepare for peace."

*Sun Tzu,
The Art of War*

"I don't know what effect these men will have upon the enemy, but, by God, they terrify me."

The Duke of Wellington

"We sleep safely at night because rough men stand ready to visit violence on those who would harm us."

Winston Churchill

"Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons."

Douglas MacArthur

"My centre is giving way, my right is in retreat, situation excellent. I attack."

Ferdinand Foch

"Out of every one hundred

men, ten shouldn't even be there, eighty are just targets, nine are the real fighters, and we are lucky to have them, for they make the battle. Ah, but the one, one is a warrior, and he will bring the others back."

Heraclitus

"Theirs not to reason why, Theirs but to do and die"

Alfred Tennyson

"Lead me, follow me, or get the hell out of my way."

General George S. Patton

"The day the soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help them or concluded that you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership."

Colin Powell

"The military don't start wars. Politicians start wars."

William C. Westmoreland

"Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes."

*William Prescott
Battle of Bunker Hill*

"I hear a lot of crap about what a glorious thing it is to die for your country. It isn't glorious - it's stupid! You don't go into battle to die for your country. You go into battle to make the other bastard die for his country."

General George S. Patton

"Because I am hard, you will not like me. But the more you hate me, the more you will learn. I am hard, but I am fair! There is no racial bigotry here! ... Here you are all equally worthless! And my orders are to



Field Marshal Erwin Rommel

weed out all non-hackers who do not pack the gear to serve in my beloved Corps! Do you maggots understand that?"

*Gunnery Sergeant Harman
Full Metal Jacket*

"It doesn't take a hero to order men into battle. It takes a hero to be one of those men who goes into battle."

*General H. Norman
Schwarzkopf*

"In a man-to-man fight, the winner is he who has one more round in his magazine."

Erwin Rommel

"Aim towards enemy."

*Instructions on
U.S. rocket launcher*

"War is too important to be left to the generals"

Georges Clémenceau

"War makes extremely heavy demands on the soldier's strength and nerves. For this reason, make heavy demands on your men in peacetime exercises."

*Field Marshal
Erwin Rommel*

"It is well that war is so terrible, else we should grow too fond of it."

General Robert E. Lee

"In every battle there comes a time when both sides consider themselves beaten; then he who continues the attack wins."

General Ulysses S. Grant

"In the absence of orders, go find something and kill it."

*Field Marshall
Erwin Rommel*

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."

Abraham Lincoln

"I must study politics and war, that my sons may have the liberty to study mathematics and philosophy...in order to give their children the right to study painting, poetry, and music."

John Adams

"The Nation that makes a great distinction between its scholars and its warriors will have its thinking done by cow-

ards and its fighting done by fools."

Thucydides

"Tell them of us and say, For their tomorrow, We gave our today."

The Kohima Epitaph

"War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself."

John Stuart Mills

"It is easier to find men who will volunteer to die, than to find those who are willing to endure pain with patience."

Julius Caesar

"The most important thing I learned is that soldiers watch what their leaders do. You can give them classes and lecture them forever, but it is your personal example they will follow."

General Colin Powell

"When you become a leader you give up the right to think about yourself."

Gerald Brooks

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

John Quincy Adams

10 Celebrities that you may not know were in the military



They may have gone on to become stars of the big screen or small screen, or music legends, but these 10 celebrities all spent time in uniform.

I think I would be correct in saying that the vast majority of Military Despatches' readers served in the military at some stage.

They may have been permanent force members, conscripts, or even citizen force or reserve members.

Now if you did serve in the military then you have something in common with the 10 people on this list - at some stage they also served in the military.

1. Mr. T

Lawrence Tureaud is better known as Mr. T. He is best remembered for his role as B.A. Baracus in the 1980s television series *The A-Team*. He also starred as the boxer Clubber Land in the 1982 film *Rocky III*.

His brother had fought in Vietnam and Tureaud enlisted in the United States Army and served in the Military Police Corps.

In November 1975 he was awarded a letter of recommendation by his drill sergeant. In a group of 6,000 troops Tureaud was elected "Top Trainee of the Cycle" and was promoted to squad leader.

In July 1976 while at a training camp at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin, his platoon sergeant

punished him by ordering him to chop down trees. But he never told him how many to chop down.

Tureaud began chopping trees at 06h30. At 10h00 a shocked major superseded the sergeant's orders. In the space of three and a half hours Tureaud had single-handedly chopped down over 70 trees.

2. Bea Arthur

Bea Arthur will be best remembered for her role as Dorothy Zbornak on the 1980s sitcom *The Golden Girls*.

During World War II she served in the United States Marine Corps Women's Reserve where she worked as a truck driver and a typist. She was given an honourable discharge in 1945 with the rank of staff sergeant.

She passed away from cancer on 25 April, 2005 at the age of 86.

3. Gene Hackman

Best remembered for his role as Detective Popeye Doyle in *The French Connection*, Hackman won two Academy Awards, three Golden Globe Awards, and two BAFTA Awards.

He starred in a number of "war" movies that included *A Bridge Too Far*, *Uncommon Valour*, *Crimson Tide* and *Be-*

hind Enemy Lines.

At the age of 16 he lied about his age to enlist in the United States Marine Corps where he served four and a half years as a field radio operator.

4. Chuck Norris

Martial arts champion and actor Carlos Ray Norris is better known as Chuck Norris.

He has starred in numerous movies and the TV series *Walker, Texas Ranger*.

He joined the United States Air Force as an Air Policeman (AP) in 1958 and was sent to Osan Air Base, South Korea.

It was there that Norris acquired the nickname Chuck and began his training in Tang Soo Do, an interest that led to black belts in that art and the founding of this own style, Chun Kuk Do.

When he returned to the United States, he continued to serve as an AP at March Air Force Base in California. Norris was honourably discharged from the U.S. Air Force in August 1962.

5. Morgan Freeman

Academy Award winning actor Morgan Freeman needs little introduction.

His many movie credits include the role of President Nelson Mandela in the 2009 film *Invictus*.

As a youngster he turned down a partial scholarship from Jackson State University. Instead he chose to enlist in the United States Air Force where he wanted to train as a pilot. He ended up serving as an Automatic Radar Repairman, rising to the rank of Airman 1st Class.

6. Arnold Schwarzenegger

Arnold "I'll be back" Schwarzenegger has done it all - actor, producer, businessman, investor, author, philanthropist, activist, world body-building champion, and former Governor of California.

He won the Mr. Universe title at age 20 and went on to win the Mr. Olympia contest seven times, remaining a prominent presence in bodybuilding and writing many books and articles on the sport.

Born in Austria, Schwarzenegger had to fulfill the one year of military service required at the time. At the age of 18 he was conscripted into the Austrian Army.

During his army service he won the Junior Mr. Europe contest. Unfortunately he would often go AWOL so he could take part in competitions. He ended up spending a week in military detention.

4. Clint Eastwood

Clint Eastwood rose to fame as the "Man with No Name" and as Detective Harry Callahan in the five *Dirty Harry* films.

He starred in war movies such as *Where Eagles Dare* and *Kelly's Heroes*. He also directed the acclaimed *Letters from Iwo Jima*.

He was drafted into the United States Army during the Korean War, but did not serve in Korea.

According to his former long-time companion Sondra Locke, he was a life guard at Ford Ord in northern California for his entire stint in the military.



3. Sean Connery

The original James Bond, Scottish actor Sean Connery has been polled as “The Greatest Living Scot”.

He joined the Royal Navy during which time he acquired two tattoos. One tattoo is a tribute to his parents and reads ‘Mum and Dad,’ and the other is self-explanatory, ‘Scotland Forever.’”

Connery was later discharged from the navy on medical grounds because of a duodenal ulcer, a condition that affected most of the males in previous generations of his family.

2. Jimi Hendrix

Regarded by many as one of the best guitarists ever, Jimi Hendrix was only 27 when he died.

Not only did Hendrix serve in the military, he was a para-trooper. At the age of 19, after twice being caught by police for riding in stolen cars, a judge gave him the choice of spending time in prison or enlisting in the military. He chose the later option and entered the US Army in 1961

After basic training he was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division and stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

By February 1962, his personal conduct had begun to draw criticism from his superiors. His platoon sergeant wrote in a report, “It is my opinion that Private Hendrix will never come up to the standards required of a soldier. I feel that the military service will benefit if he is discharged as soon as possible.”

On 29 June 1962 Hendrix



ART IMITATES LIFE: Sean Connery (left) and Gene Hackman starred in the film *A Bridge Too Far*. Connery as Major General Urquhart and Hackman as Polish Major General Sosabowski. Both served in the military.

was granted an honourable discharge on the basis of unsuitability.

1. Elvis Presley

Elvis Presley was already a star when he was drafted into the US Army in March 1958.

Presley announced that he was looking forward to his military stint, saying he did not want to be treated any differently from anyone else: “The Army can do anything it wants with me.”

After his basic training, Presley joined the 3rd Armored Division in Friedberg, Germany. Fellow soldiers have attested to Presley’s wish to be seen as an able, ordinary soldier, despite his fame, and to his generosity. He donated his Army pay to charity, purchased TV sets for the base, and bought an extra set of fatigues for everyone in his outfit.

Honourable Mentions

Of course these 10 celebrities were not the only ones to ever serve in the military. Many oth-

er also served. The list is far too long to mention, but here are a few.

- Private First Class Hugh Hefner.
- British singer Captain James Blunt.
- Corporal Mel Brookes.
- Dr. Ruth (Israeli Defence Force).
- Christopher Lee – Finnish Army, British Home Guard, Royal Air Force.
- Tom Selleck (Magnum PI).
- Leonard Nimoy (Dr Spock).
- James Earl Jones.
- Actors Jimmy Stewart, Lee Marvin, Charles Bronson, Clark Gable, Ernest Borgnine, Humphrey Bogart, Michael Caine, Henry Fonda, Charlton Heston, Steve McQueen, Kirk Douglas, Harvey Keitel, Mickey Rooney, Gene Wilder, Paul Newman, Sidney Poitier
- Singers Kris Kristofferson, Tony Bennett, Johnny Cash and Willie Nelson.
- Former heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis.

Who are we?

This month we show you a cap or beret badge, or maybe a shoulder patch. You then tell us what unit or corps it is. And give yourself a bonus point if you can tell us which country they’re from. We’ve modified two of the badges because they had the unit/corps name on them. Answers on page 84.

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

An unsung hero

Many will have heard of the Tuskegee Airmen, or General Benjamin O. Davis Junior. Yet not that many will have heard of Eugene Bullard, the man who came before all of them.

During World War II the pilots of the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bombardment Group had one thing in common - they were all African-Americans. They were better known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

Benjamin Oliver Davis Junior was the commander of the Tuskegee Airmen. He would go on to become the first African-American general officer in the United States Airforce.

On December 9, 1998, he was promoted to four-star general by President Bill Clinton.

He was not the first in his family to break racial barriers. His father, Benjamin O. Davis Senior, was the first African-American general in the United States Army.

Yet while the history of the Tuskegee Airmen has been well recorded, this has not been the case with Eugene James "Jacques" Bullard.

Who, you may well ask, was Eugene Bullard? He was the first black fighter pilot.

Bullard was born in Columbus, Georgia on 9 October, 1895. He was one of ten children born to William Bullard, a black man from Martinique, and Josephine Thomas, a Creek Indian.

His father had fled from Haiti during the Haitian Revolution and, after reaching the United

States, had taken refuge with the Creek Indians.

While still in his teens Eugene had left Columbus and moved to Atlanta by himself. He had been told that the way to escape racial prejudice was to head for Europe. His father had also pointed out that Bullard was a French surname and that at least one of his ancestors had come from France.

He stowed away on a ship bound for Scotland and after arriving in Aberdeen he made his way south to Glasgow. From there he went to Paris.

He like what he saw and the way he was treated, so he decided to settle in France. He became a fairly good boxer and also worked in a music hall.

When World War I broke out in August 1914, Bullard had no hesitation in enlisting to fight for his new country.

At that stage he was not a French citizen and had to join the French Foreign Legion. He was assigned to the 3rd Marching Regiment of the 1st Foreign Regiment as a machine gunner, he saw combat near the Somme River.

It was during this time when he learned Americans and other volunteers were now allowed to transfer to Metropolitan French Army units, including the 170th French Infantry Regiment – nicknamed "Les Hirondelles de

la Mort," or "The Swallows of Death."

The idea of being part of a unit with crack troops appealed to Bullard, so he put in his request to join the regiment. In February 1916, his request was granted just as the 170th Infantry was sent to Verdun, one of the largest and longest battles of the First World War on the Western Front between the German and French armies. The battle took place on the hills north of Verdun-sur-Meuse in north-eastern France.

It was during this battle that Bullard was severely wounded on March 5, 1916 and sent to a Parisian hospital where he spent the next six months recuperating. During convalescence, he was cited for acts of valour at the orders of the regiment on July 3, 1917 and was awarded the Croix de Guerre.

While convalescing in Paris, Bullard and his friend Jeff Davis Dixon had a bet. Dixon bet \$2,000 that Bullard would not be able to get into the French Air Force.

On 5 October, 1916, Bullard arrived at the French aerial gunnery school at Cazaux. It was there that he met fellow American Edmond Genet, who told Bullard about the *Lafayette Escadrille* and suggested Bullard become a pilot rather than a gunner.



Eugene Bullard
9 Oct 1898 - 12 Oct 1961

In Mid-October he transferred to the flight school at Tours for pilot training. The training took a few more months, but it was inevitably given Bullard's persistence that it would pay off. Bullard earned his pilot's license and then Dickerson faithfully paid the \$2,000. It was a considerable sum at the time, especially for a gentleman's bet. Dixon admitted that he hated to lose the money, but was delighted that at least Bullard was from Dixie.

The result of the bet was to launch Eugene Bullard into history as a first ever African-American aviator.

After qualifying as a pilot he joined 269 American aviators at the Lafayette Flying Corps on November 15, 1916. American volunteers flew with French pilots in different pursuit and bomber/reconnaissance aero squadrons on the Western Front.

On August 27, he was as-

signed to the Escadrille N.93 based at Beuzee-sur-Aire south of Verdun. The squadron was equipped with Nieuport and Spad VII aircraft that displayed a flying duck as the squadron insignia. He took part in over twenty air combat missions, and he is sometimes credited with shooting down one or two German aircraft. However, the French authorities could not confirm Bullard's victories. His Spad had an insignia lettered "All blood runs red" and his nickname became the "Black Swallow of Death."

When the United States entered the war, the United States Army Air Service convened a medical board to recruit Americans serving in the Lafayette Flying Corps for the Air Service of the American Expeditionary Forces. Bullard went through the medical examination, but he was not accepted, as only white pilots were allowed to serve.

Sometime later, on a short break from duty in Paris, Bullard allegedly got into an argument with a French commissioned officer and was punished by being transferred to the service battalion of to the 170th infantry Regiment of the French army. He was discharged in October 1919 and returned to

Paris.

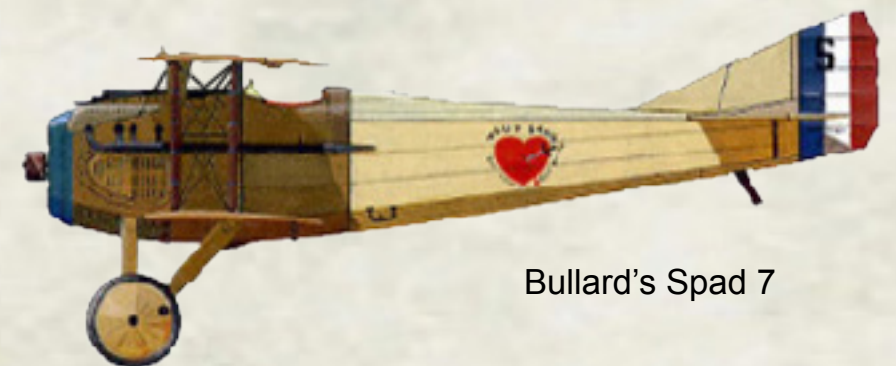
After the war he married and had two children. He bought a bar named "Le Grand Duc" on the north side of Paris.

In the late 1930s, prior to the outbreak of World War II, he was recruited by French intelligence to spy on the Germans who come by his bar. He remained very devoted to France and tried to join the French army but was considered too old. In 1940, he managed to find a way out of German occupied France, biked all the way down to Portugal and returned to the United States on a Red Cross ship. He settled in New York City.

In 1954, along with two other French veterans, he was invited by French Pres. Charles de Gaulle to light the flame of the Unknown Soldier at the *Arc de Triomphe* in Paris.

Eugene Bullard received fifteen decorations from the government of France. He was made a Knight of the Legion of Honor, France's most coveted award. He also was awarded the *Medaille militaire*, another top military distinction.

He died in New York City of stomach cancer on October 12, 1961 at the age of 66 with his achievements all but forgotten.



Bullard's Spad 7

A very special story

The late Moth, Alan Farrel, a World War II Veteran of the Moth Buckshee Shellhole in Vereeniging, served in the 6th Armoured Division in Italy, and was part of the force that attacked the SS executioners. By John van Heerden.

Marzabotto - An Italian town's appreciation to South African troops for rescuing them from total annihilation after the massacre of its townspeople by Nazi SS during World War II. Today, deep in the heart of Italy's Apennine mountains between Bologna and the Po valley, in the communities of Castiglione dei Pepoli, Monte Stanco, Grizzana Morandi and the surrounding area local people gather annually not only to celebrate their towns' emancipation from Nazi forces in the autumn of 1944 by the 6th Armoured Division from South Africa, but even to raise the

South African flag in ceremony. Their gratitude is so great, because this area was the site of the biggest, yet least-known, massacre of innocent civilians in Italy during WWII: the Marzabotto Massacre. It was an exceptionally bleak atrocity for Italy, as it involved the extinction of an entire 'race' - on 3 October 1944, German and Austrian SS troops were ordered to purge the entire area of Monte Sole and Monte Ruminici, because the townspeople of Marzabotto, Grizzana Morandi, and Monzuno were suspected of helping and supplying Italian partisans along the Gothic Line, which Hitler himself had

ordered to be kept at all costs to sever south Italy and Allied forces from the industrialised and developed north. Here Allied and Austrian SS forces saw out the last winter of WWII, tired, cold, depleted, neither able to advance or retreat. Here is where the Allies eventually broke through the following Spring, spelling the end of the war in Italy. Before that, Nazi troops literally marched into every town and exterminated every living thing in sight. Women, children, young babies and the elderly alike were killed by gunfire and with grenades. By sunset 3 October, Marza-

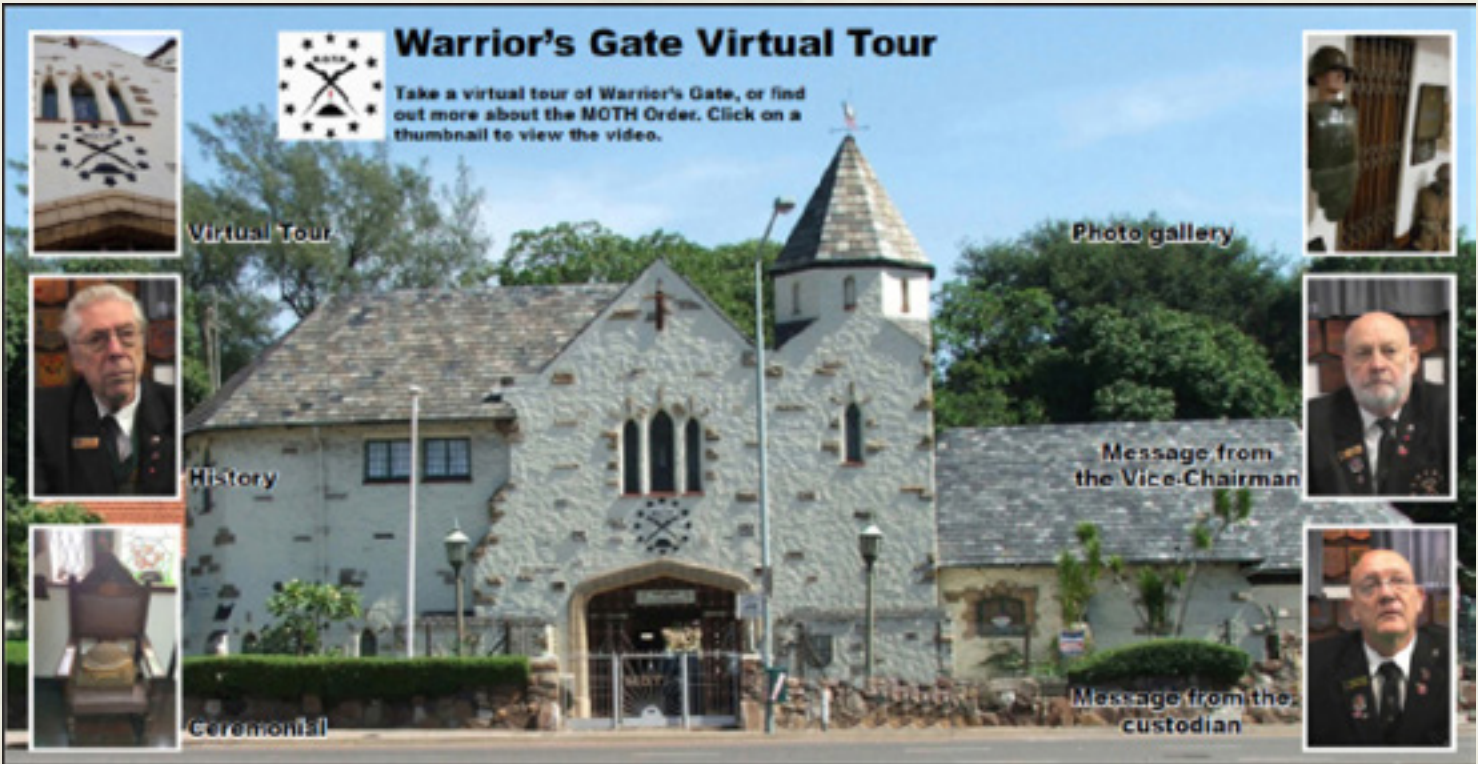
botto's and Monzuno's unique population of mountain people, nearly two thousand people, were entirely exterminated. The SS then started moving into Grizzana Morandi and Monte Stanco herding the townspeople into two groups in no particular order. The first group (half the population) were slaughtered that night, the remaining group was to be executed the next morning. On 4 October 1944, the executions had already started, when out of nowhere a group of Allied soldiers who had been sent to patrol and scout the area, unaware of the purge, appeared and engaged the SS in combat. After a long battle they managed to drive the Nazis off well behind the Gothic Line, saving

the few remaining people of Monte Sole. This group of soldiers was the 6th Armoured Division of South Africa. The South Africans had been the first Allied troops to arrive in the area; British, American, New Zealand, Rhodesian, Australian, and Indian troops arrived some three days later from the nearby American base in Livergnago (dubbed 'Liver & Onions' by soldiers) with food and supplies for the towns' afflicted victims and set up Allied camps along what is today one of Italy's most famous war commemoration sites - the Gothic Line. Hence, the people of Monte Sole celebrate South Africa every year, because the few survivors (some even today), owed

their lives to the 6th Armoured Division. A new street connecting Castiglione dei Pepoli and the entire area with the Bologna-Modena highway was unveiled in November last year was named in honour of the South African 6th Armoured Division.



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.



A matter of survival - Shelters II

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 took a look at temporary shelters. This month we are going to look at some more temporary shelters that you can construct.

Sapling shelter

If suitable sapling growth is available, clear the ground between them of any obstruction and lash their tops together to form a support frame for sheeting.

Weigh down the bottom edges of the shelter with rocks and timber.

You can make a similar shelter from pliable branches driven into the ground.

If you lack sheeting place saplings closer together, wave branches between them and

consolidate with ferns and turf (a).

Shelter sheet

With a waterproof poncho, groundsheet or a piece of plastic sheeting or canvas, you can quickly and easily make a number of different shelters which will suffice until you can build something more efficient.

Make use of natural shelter (b) or make a triangular shelter with the apex pointing into the wind (c).

Stake or weight down edges. If it is long enough, curl the sheeting below you - running downhill so that it keeps out surface water (d).

Use dry grass or bracken as bedding. Do not lie on cold or

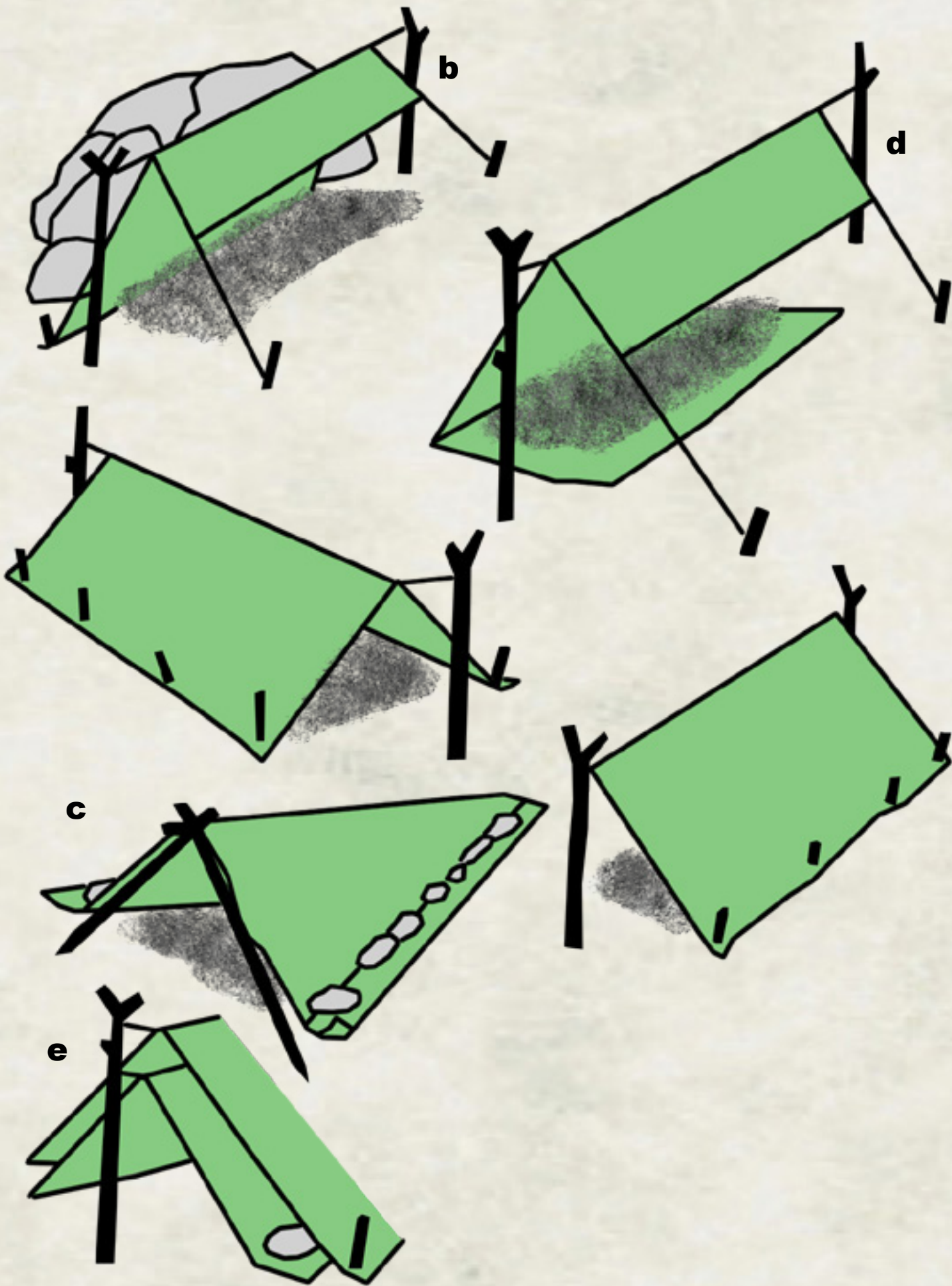
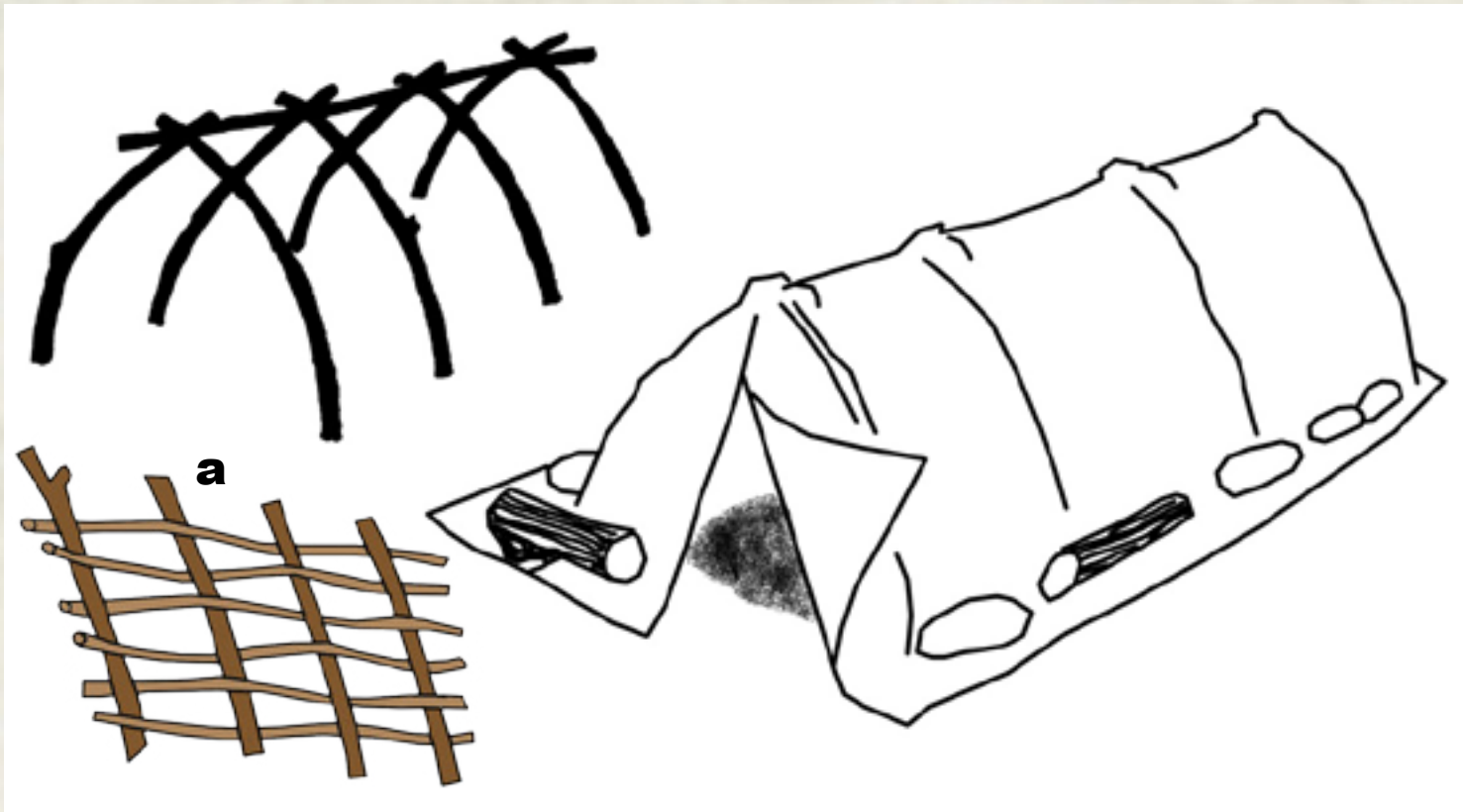
damp ground.

A closely woven fabric, though not impermeable, will keep our most rain if you set it at a steep angle.

Fit one shelter a few centimetres within another (e). The rain that does come through will rarely work its way through both layers.

With any woven fabric avoid touching the inner surface during rain or you will draw water through.

Next month we will look at building teepees and stick walls and screens.



Rank Structure - IDF

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 Israel Defence Force (IDF).

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF), commonly known in Israel by the Hebrew acronym *Tzahal*, are the military forces of the State of Israel. They consist of the ground forces, air force, and navy. It is the sole military wing of the Israeli security forces, and has no civilian jurisdiction within Israel. The IDF has a unique rank structure. Because they are an integrated force, ranks are the same in all services (there is no differentiation between army, navy, air force, etc.) The ranks are derived from those used in the pre-state paramilitary *Haganah*, which operated during the Mandate period in order to protect the *Yishuv*. This is reflected in the slightly compacted rank structure: for instance, the Chief of Staff is seemingly only equivalent to a lieutenant general in other militaries.

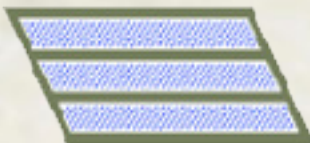


Israel Defence Force (IDF)

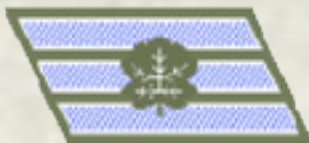
Non-commissioned and Warrant Officers Army, Air Force, and Navy



Rav turai
**Corporal*



Samal
**Sergeant*



Samal rishon
**Staff Sergeant*



Rav samal
**Sergeant First Class*



Rav samal rishon
**Master Sergeant*



Rav samal mitkadem
**Sergeant Major*



Rav samal bakhir
**Command Sergeant Major*



Rav nagad mishne
**Warrant Officer*



Rav nagad
**Chief Warrant Officer*

Army Officers



Segen mishne
**Second Lieutenant*



Segen
**Lieutenant*



Seren
**Captain*



Rav seren
**Major*



Sgan aluf
**Lt Colonel*



Aluf mishne
**Colonel*



Tat aluf
**Brigadier General*



Aluf
**Major General*



Rav aluf
**Lieutenant General*

Air Force Officers



Segen mishne
**Second Lieutenant*



Segen
**Lieutenant*



Seren
**Captain*



Rav seren
**Major*



Sgan aluf
**Lt Colonel*



Aluf mishne
**Colonel*



Tat aluf
**Brigadier General*



Aluf
**Major General*



Rav aluf
**Lieutenant General*

Navy Officers



Segen mishne
**Second Lieutenant*



Segen
**Lieutenant*



Seren
**Captain*



Rav seren
**Major*



Sgan aluf
**Lt Colonel*



Aluf mishne
**Colonel*



Tat aluf
**Brigadier General*



Aluf
**Major General*



Rav aluf
**Lieutenant General*



The Israel Defence Force is rated as the 16th most powerful military in the world. It has a total military manpower of 615,000. It's army has 2,760 tanks, 10,575 infantry fighting vehicles, and 650 self-propelled artillery. The air force has 252 fighter aircraft and 48 attack helicopter. The navy has three corvettes and six submarines.



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

Click [here](#) to visit their website.

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

Be part of a Global Stress Survey

Your participation and input can influence how we all learn to survive and ultimately thrive in this strange 'new normal'. By Richard Hawkey.

Stress was already labelled 'the Black Plague' of the 21st Century before anyone had even heard of 'novel coronavirus', so it is unsurprising that much has been written recently about the rise in stress levels and anxiety during lockdown.

Specifically, fear, loss and changes to routine and basic liberties are some of the negative contributing factors to elevated stress levels for many people.

What is stress?

Hans Selye – the 'Father' of

stress theory defined stress as "...the nonspecific response of the body to any demand, whether it is caused by, or results in, pleasant or unpleasant conditions".

More recent exploration by other experts in this field, such as Richard Lazarus, perhaps offer more insight into the 'why' and not just the 'what' of our stress response: "...a person's perceived ability to deal with a perceived threat...". With the key word being 'perceived'.

In other words: stress is a subjective construct – what makes one person feel stressed does

not necessarily do so for someone else or to the same extent.

It is not necessarily the actual event, task, person, or environment that is stressful, but how we perceive it and how we perceive our abilities to deal with it.

And a stressor, or 'trigger' can be our own thoughts and memories.

For many ex-servicemen and women the memories of combat and the horrors they witnessed are visceral and vivid, causing distress many years later. But there is no grand list of what is stressful – it is all relative to

our own experiences, skills and coping, so even if you haven't been in an active military engagement memories of tough training, the isolation of guard duty, being separated from family and friends, can all invoke a stress response. Couple those with 'normal' life events and the multitude of daily irritants and inconveniences, and stress can insidiously build up over time. It is cumulative and we often adjust to the increments until we can take no more – either 'imploding or exploding'. But we can step in and take control of how we react to stress, even when it is caused by our own thoughts and memories.

'Full body' experience

The trouble is many people don't realise just how stressed they may be. Far too many common symptoms of stress become normalised over time – we get used to them and/or we believe they are normal because so many people around us seem to feel the same way. Feeling tired most of the time? – well, we live busy lives so surely that's not unreasonable, right? Feeling quite cynical and negative about the world around you? – have you seen the news lately?! – how can one not be cynical, right? Feeling tired and negative are appropriate reactions to appropriate events or situations, however they should ease or cease with the passing of those specific events.

Stress-related symptoms can be physical, cognitive (of our thinking mind), emotional, or behavioural. If symptoms are persistent and cannot be ascribed to a pre-existing medical

condition, they may well be due to the negative effects of excessive stress.

Self-awareness

Self-awareness is the first step on the path to stress management

Several years ago I built some stress self-awareness and management software with several doctors. We wanted to help people become more self-aware – more stress-literate – in a non-judgemental, confidential, and convenient manner. Over the past nine years more than 4,500 people from fifteen countries have used the VITALS software. It has also been used in academic research projects in the UK, The Netherlands and here in South Africa. We have a good understanding of how stress was manifesting in a wide variety of people pre-coronavirus, and we now want to see how this pandemic and the lockdown is impacting people. We can then analyse the two sets of data (pre and post coronavirus) and hopefully determine some practical advice to help people cope with this strange 'new normal', which we will publish here in a future edition.

The global stress survey

Please take five minutes to invest in your own well-being and contribute to this global research – your confidential participation and input will contribute to a greater understanding of how stress is manifesting now, and more importantly, what practical steps can be taken to manage it more effectively into the future.



Richard Hawkey was once referred to as a 'recovering banker' by Harvard Sociologist Martha Beck. Having experienced his own stress-related burnout and subsequent clinical depression in 2010, he wrote and published a book (Life Less Lived), built the VITALS stress management software with doctors and returned to study an MSc in Applied Psychology. He is passionate about de-stigmatising stress and mental health and empowering people

Click [here](https://www.vitalstest.com) to participate in this global stress survey.
Or open your internet browser and type: www.vitalstest.com
Use the 'employer code':
COVID19
Your participation is
CONFIDENTIAL.
This will only take **FIVE MINUTES.**
Thank you.



Military Strength

In the tenth and final of a series of articles, we examine the navy's of the ten strongest current military forces.

A navy or sea force is the branch of a nation's armed forces principally designated for naval and amphibious warfare; namely, lake-borne, riverine, littoral, or ocean-borne combat operations and related functions.

It includes anything conducted by surface ships, amphibious ships, submarines, and seaborne aviation, as well as ancillary support, communications, training, and other fields.

The strategic offensive role of a navy is projection of force into areas beyond a country's shores (for example, to protect sea-lanes, deter or confront piracy, ferry troops, or attack other navies, ports, or shore installations).

The strategic defensive purpose of a navy is to frustrate seaborne projection-of-force by enemies. The strategic task of the navy also may incorporate nuclear deterrence by use

of submarine-launched ballistic missiles.

Naval operations can be broadly divided between riverine and littoral applications (brown-water navy), open-ocean applications (blue-water navy), and something in between (green-water navy), although these distinctions are more about strategic scope than tactical or operational division.



10. Germany

Total military personnel – 210,305

Deutsche Marine

The German Navy consists of 16,704 personnel and the Headquarters of the German Navy is situated in Rostock.

- Total assets: 80
- Aircraft carriers: 0
- Destroyers: 0
- Frigates: 9
- Corvettes: 5
- Submarines: 6
- Patrol: 0
- Mine warfare: 12



FGS Braunschweig F-260 Type K130 class Corvette



9. Turkey

Total military personnel – 891,300

Turkish Navy

The Turkish Navy consists of 48,600 personnel and the Headquarters of the Turkish Navy is situated in Ankara.

- Total assets: 149
- Aircraft carriers: 0
- Destroyers: 0
- Frigates: 16
- Corvettes: 10
- Submarines: 12
- Patrol: 35
- Mine warfare: 11



Turkish Navy Türk Deniz Kuvvetleri



8. United Kingdom

Total military personnel – 157,500

Royal Navy

The Royal Navy consists of 32,640 Regular, 3,920 Maritime Reserve, and 7,960 Royal Fleet Reserve personnel. The Naval Staff Offices are in Whitehall, London.

- Total assets: 88
- Aircraft carriers: 2
- Destroyers: 6
- Frigates: 13
- Corvettes: 0
- Submarines: 10
- Patrol: 22
- Mine warfare: 13



HMS Queen Elizabeth



7. Republic of Korea

Total military personnel – 3,699,000

ROKN

The Republic of Korea Navy has 70,000 active duty personnel including 29,000 marines. The Headquarters is situated in Gyeryongdae complex, Gyeryong.

- Total assets: 234
- Aircraft carriers: 2
- Destroyers: 12
- Frigates: 18
- Corvettes: 12
- Submarines: 22
- Patrol: 111
- Mine warfare: 11



Dosan Ahn Changho class submarine



6. Japan

Total military personnel – 310,457

JMSDF

The Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force consists of 50,800 personnel with its Headquarters in Ichigaya, Shinjuku, Tokyo.

- Total assets: 155
- Aircraft carriers: 4
- Destroyers: 40
- Frigates: 0
- Corvettes: 6
- Submarines: 20
- Patrol: 6
- Mine warfare: 25



Soryu-class submarine



5. France

Total military personnel – 426,265

La Royale

The French Navy consists of 36,331 personnel. The main Headquarters is in Brest with a secondary Headquarters in Cherbourg.

- Total assets: 180
- Aircraft carriers: 4
- Destroyers: 11
- Frigates: 11
- Corvettes: 0
- Submarines: 9
- Patrol: 17
- Mine warfare: 17



Charles de Gaulle (R91)



4. India

Total military personnel – 2,598,921

Indian Navy

The Indian Navy consists of 67,252 active personnel and 55,000 reserve personnel. Its Headquarters are situated at the Ministry of Defence.

- Total assets: 285
- Aircraft carriers: 1
- Destroyers: 10
- Frigates: 13
- Corvettes: 19
- Submarines: 16
- Patrol: 139
- Mine warfare: 3



INS Kalvari (S21)



3. China

Total military personnel – 2,545,000

PLA Navy

The People's Liberation Army Navy consists of 240,000 active personnel. The PLA Navy Headquarters falls directly under the Central Military Commission.

- Total assets: 777
- Aircraft carriers: 2
- Destroyers: 36
- Frigates: 52
- Corvettes: 50
- Submarines: 74
- Patrol: 220
- Mine warfare: 29



Type 002 aircraft carrier



2. Russia

Total military personnel – 3,586,128

Russian Navy

The Russian Navy consists of 148,000 active personnel. The Headquarters are situated at Admiralty building, Saint Petersburg.

- Total assets: 603
- Aircraft carriers: 1
- Destroyers: 16
- Frigates: 10
- Corvettes: 79
- Submarines: 62
- Patrol: 41
- Mine warfare: 48



Admiral Kuznetsov



1. United States

Total military personnel – 4,397,128

United States Navy

The United States Navy consists of 336,978 active duty personnel. Its Headquarters are situated at the Pentagon in Washington DC.

- Total assets: 490
- Aircraft carriers: 20
- Destroyers: 91
- Frigates: 0
- Corvettes: 19
- Submarines: 66
- Patrol: 13
- Mine warfare: 11



USS Gerald R. Ford



The Virginia class, also known as the SSN-774 class, is a class of nuclear-powered cruise missile fast-attack submarines in use by the United States Navy.

George S. Patton

Nicknamed 'Old Blood and Guts' by his troops and referred to as "That crazy cowboy general" by Adolf Hitler, George S. Patton was a bold, if often impetuous, leader.

Born in San Gabriel, California on 11 November, 1885, there was little doubt that George Smith Patton Jr. would become a soldier. It was in his blood. He came from a family with an extensive military background. Members of his family fought for both the United States Army and Confederate States Army during the American Civil War.

As a child Patton had difficulty learning to read and write but overcame this. He was described as an intelligent boy who was widely read on classical military history. He attended Virginia Military Institute, which his father and grandfather attended. While at Virginia he was nominated for West Point.

At West Point Patton excelled at military drills though his academic performance was so poor that he was forced to repeat his first year after failing mathematics. When he graduated from West Point on June 11, 1909 his was ranked 46 out of 103. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Cavalry Branch of the United States Army.

In March 1916 Mexican forces loyal to Pancho Villa crossed into New Mexico and raided the border town of Columbus. The violence in Columbus killed several Americans. In response, the U.S. launched the Pancho

Villa Expedition into Mexico. When Patton discovered that his unit would not participate he managed to get himself assigned as an aide to expedition commander John J. Pershing.

In mid-April Patton asked Pershing for the opportunity to command troops. His initial combat experience came on May 14, 1916 in what would become the first mo-

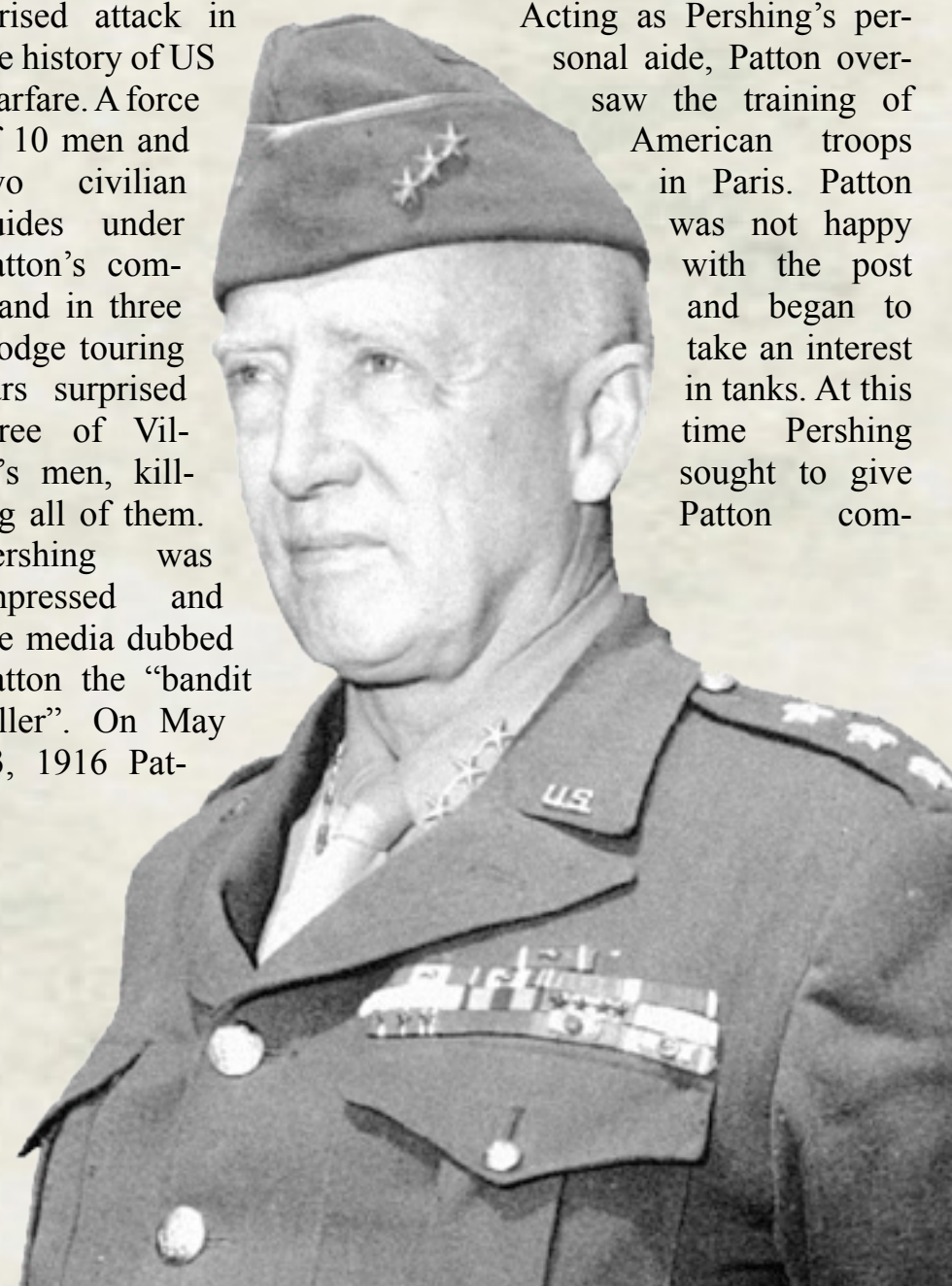
torised attack in the history of US warfare. A force of 10 men and two civilian guides under Patton's command in three Dodge touring cars surprised three of Villa's men, killing all of them. Pershing was impressed and the media dubbed Patton the "bandit killer". On May 23, 1916 Pat-

ton was promoted to first lieutenant.

World War I

After the United States entered World War I, Pershing was named commander of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) on the Western Front. Patton requested to join his staff and was promoted to captain on May 15, 1917.

Acting as Pershing's personal aide, Patton oversaw the training of American troops in Paris. Patton was not happy with the post and began to take an interest in tanks. At this time Pershing sought to give Patton com-



TANK COMMANDER: Lt Colonel George S. Patton in front of a French Renault FT light tank during the summer of 1918.

mand of an infantry battalion. While in hospital for jaundice, Patton met Colonel Fox Conner, who encouraged him to work with tanks instead of infantry.

On November 10, 1917 Patton was assigned to establish the AEF Light Tank School. He left Paris and reported to the French Army's tank training school at Champlieu where he drove a Renault FT light tank. He was promoted to major on January 26, 1917.

He received the first 10 tanks on March 23, 1918 at the Tank School at Bourg. As he was the only US soldier with tank-driving experience, Patton personally backed seven of the tanks off the train. In the post, Patton trained tank crews to operate in support of infantry, and promoted its acceptance among reluctant infantry officers. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel on April 3, 1918, and at-

tended the Command and General Staff College in Langres.

He commanded American-crewed Renault FT tanks at the Battle of Saint-Mihiel, leading the tanks from the front for much of the attack. He walked in front of the tanks into the German-held village of Essey, and rode on top of a tank during the attack into Pannes, seeking to inspire his men.

During the Meuse-Argonne Offensive on September 26, Patton was wounded while leading six men and a tank in an attack on German machine guns near the town of Cheppy. He commanded the battle from a shell hole for another hour before being evacuated. He stopped at a rear command post to submit his report before heading to a hospital.

While recuperating from his wound, Patton was promoted to colonel in the Tank Corps of the U.S. National Army on Oc-

tober 17. He returned to duty on October 28 but saw no further action before hostilities ended with the armistice of November 11, 1918. For his actions in Cheppy, Patton received the Distinguished Service Cross. For his leadership of the brigade and tank school, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. He was also awarded the Purple Heart for his combat wounds after the decoration was created in 1932.

Between the wars

On his return to the United States on March 2, 1919 Patton was assigned to Camp Meade in Maryland and reverted to his permanent rank of captain on June 30, 1920. The very next day he was promoted to major again. Loathing duty as a peacetime staff officer, he spent much time writing technical papers and giving speeches on his combat experiences at the General Staff College.

Some of the highlights of the inter-war years included his meeting Dwight D. Eisenhower, who would play a major role in his future. The two corresponded frequently and Patton sent Eisenhower notes and assistance to help him graduate from the General Staff College. In August 1923, Patton saved several children from drowning when they fell off a yacht during a boating trip off Salem, Massachusetts. He was awarded the Silver Lifesaving Medal for this action.

In July 1932, Patton was executive officer of the 3rd Cav-

alry, which was ordered to Washington by Army Chief of Staff General Douglas MacArthur. Patton took command of the 600 troops of the 3rd Cavalry, and on July 28, MacArthur ordered Patton's troops to advance on protesting veterans known as the "Bonus Army" with tear gas and bayonets. Patton was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the regular Army on March 1, 1934, and to colonel on July 24, 1938 and given command of the 5th Cavalry at Fort Clark, Texas.

World War II

When the Germans invaded Poland on September 1, 1939 the U.S. military entered a period of mobilization, and Patton sought to build up the power of U.S. armoured forces. Patton was promoted to brigadier general on October 2, made acting division commander in November, and on April 4, 1941 was promoted again to major general and made Commanding General of the 2nd Armoured Division.

In December 1940, he staged a high-profile mass exercise in which 1,000 tanks and vehicles were driven from Columbus, Georgia, to Panama City, Florida, and back. He repeated the exercise with his entire division of 1,300 vehicles the next month. Patton earned a pilot's license and, during these manoeuvres, observed the movements of his vehicles from the air to find ways to deploy them effectively in combat.

A reporter, after hearing a speech where Patton said that it took "blood and brains" to win in combat, began calling him



BERLIN IS THAT WAY: Patton was a commander who believed in leading from the front.

"blood and guts". The nickname would follow him for the rest of his life. Soldiers under his command were known at times to have quipped, "our blood, his guts". Nonetheless, he was known to be admired widely by the men under his charge. Patton was also known simply as "The Old Man" among his troops.

North Africa Campaign

Patton was assigned to help plan the Allied invasion of French North Africa as part of Operation Torch in the summer of 1942. Patton commanded the Western Task Force, consisting of 33,000 men in 100 ships, in landings centered on Casablanca, Morocco. The landings, which took place on November 8, 1942, were opposed by Vichy French forces, but Patton's men quickly gained a beachhead and pushed through fierce resistance. Casablanca fell on November 11 and Patton negotiated an armistice

with French General Charles Noguès. The Sultan of Morocco was so impressed that he presented Patton with the Order of Ouissam Alaouite, with the citation "*Les Lions dans leur tanière restent immobiles, le voyant approcher*" (The lions in their dens tremble at his approach).

Sicily Campaign

For Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily, Patton was to command the Seventh United States Army, dubbed the Western Task Force, in landings at Gela, Scoglitti and Licata to support landings by Bernard Montgomery's British Eighth Army. Patton's I Armored Corps was officially redesignated the Seventh Army just before his force of 90,000 landed before dawn on D-Day, July 10, 1943, on beaches near the town of Licata. The armada was hampered by wind and weather, but despite this the three U.S. infantry divisions involved,

the 3rd, 1st, and 45th, secured their respective beaches. They then repulsed counterattacks at Gela, where Patton personally led his troops against German reinforcements from the Hermann Göring Division.

The slapping incidents

Two high-profile incidents of Patton striking subordinates during the Sicily campaign attracted national controversy following the end of the campaign. On August 3, 1943, Patton slapped and verbally abused Private Charles H. Kuhl at an evacuation hospital in Nicosia after he had been found to suffer from "battle fatigue".

On August 10, Patton slapped Private Paul G. Bennett under similar circumstances. Ordering both soldiers back to the front lines, Patton railed against cowardice and issued orders to his commanders to discipline any soldier making similar complaints.

Word of the incident reached Eisenhower, who privately reprimanded Patton and insisted he apologize. Patton apologised to both soldiers individually, as well as to doctors who witnessed the incidents, and later to all of the soldiers under his command in several speeches.

Phantom Army

The German High Command had more respect for Patton than for any other Allied commander and considered him central to any plan to invade Europe from the United Kingdom. Because of this, Patton was made a prominent figure in the deception operation, Fortitude, in early 1944. Through

the British network of double-agents, the Allies fed German intelligence a steady stream of false reports about troop sightings and that Patton had been named commander of the First United States Army Group (FUSAG), all designed to convince the Germans that Patton was preparing this massive command for an invasion at Pas de Calais. FUSAG was in reality an intricately constructed "phantom" army of decoys, props, and fake signals traffic based around Dover to mislead German aircraft and to make Axis leaders believe a large force was massing there so as to mask the real location of the invasion in Normandy. Patton was ordered to keep a low profile to deceive the Germans into thinking he was in Dover throughout early 1944, when he was actually training the Third Army. As a result of Operation Fortitude, the German 15th Army remained at Pas de Calais to defend against Patton's supposed attack. This formation held its position even after the invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944. Patton flew into France a month later and returned to combat duty.

Battle of the Bulge

Patton played a prominent role in both the Normandy breakout offensive and the Lorraine Campaign. During the Battle of the Bulge Patton was ordered to relieve Bastogne before it was overrun. Desiring good weather for his advance, which would permit close ground support by U.S. Army Air Forces tactical aircraft, Patton ordered the Third Army

chaplain, Colonel James Hugh O'Neill, to compose a suitable prayer: "Almighty and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness, to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have had to contend. Grant us fair weather for Battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call upon Thee that, armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies, and establish Thy justice among men and nations. Amen." When the weather cleared soon after, Patton awarded O'Neill a Bronze Star Medal on the spot.

The Final Push

By February 1945, the Germans were in full retreat. On February 23 the U.S. 94th Infantry Division crossed the Saar and established a vital bridgehead at Serrig through which Patton pushed units into the Saarland. Patton had insisted upon an immediate crossing of the Saar River against the advice of his officers.

Once again, Patton found other commands given priority on gasoline and supplies. To obtain these, Third Army ordnance units passed themselves off as First Army personnel and in one incident they secured thousands of gallons of gasoline from a First Army dump. Between January 29 and March 22, the Third Army took Trier, Coblenz, Bingen, Worms, Mainz, Kaiserslautern, and Ludwigshafen, killing or wounding 99,000 and capturing 140,112 German soldiers, which represented virtually all



GOOD LUCK: George S. Patton (right) shakes hands with Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery. While the fierce rivalry between them is well known, Montgomery actually had a lot of respect for the American.

of the remnants of the German First and Seventh Armies. An example of Patton's sarcastic wit was broadcast when he received orders to by-pass Trier, as it had been decided that four divisions would be needed to capture it. When the message arrived, Trier had already fallen. Patton rather caustically replied: "Have taken Trier with two divisions. Do you want me to give it back?"

In its advance from the Rhine to the Elbe, Patton's Third Army, which numbered between 250,000 and 300,000 men at any given time, captured 84,860 km² of German territory. Its losses were 2,102 killed, 7,954 wounded, and 1,591 missing.

German losses in the fighting against the Third Army totalled 20,100 killed, 47,700 wounded,

and 653,140 captured.

The End

After the war Patton was appointed military governor of Bavaria, where he led the Third Army in denazification efforts. Unhappy with his position and depressed by his belief that he would never fight in another war, Patton's behaviour and statements became increasingly erratic.

On December 8, 1945, Patton's chief of staff, Major General Hobart Gay, invited him on a pheasant hunting trip near Speyer to lift his spirits. Observing derelict cars along the side of the road, Patton said, "How awful war is. Think of the waste." Moments later his car collided with an American army truck at low speed.

Gay and others were only slightly injured, but Patton hit

his head on the glass partition in the back seat. Patton was discovered to have a compression fracture and dislocation of the cervical third and fourth vertebrae, resulting in a broken neck and cervical spinal cord injury that rendered him paralyzed from the neck down. He spent most of the next 12 days in spinal traction to decrease spinal pressure. All non-medical visitors, except for Patton's wife, who had flown from the U.S., were forbidden. Patton, who had been told he had no chance to ever again ride a horse or resume normal life, at one point commented, "This is a hell of a way to die."

He died in his sleep of pulmonary edema and congestive heart failure at about 18:00 on December 21, 1945. Patton was buried at the Luxembourg

American Cemetery and Memorial in the Hamm district of Luxembourg City, alongside wartime casualties of the Third Army, per his request to "be buried with his men".

What others said about Patton

"He was one of those men born to be a soldier, an ideal combat leader. It is no exaggeration to say that Patton's name struck terror at the hearts of the enemy."

Dwight D. Eisenhower

"He is our greatest fighting general, and sheer joy".

Franklin D. Roosevelt

"I had heard of him, but I must confess that his swashbuckling personality exceeded my expectation. I did not form any high opinion of him, nor had I any reason to alter this view at any later date. A dashing, courageous, wild and unbalanced leader, good for operations requiring thrust and push but at a loss in any operation requiring skill and judgment."

British Field Marshal Alan Brooke

"That crazy cowboy general"

Adolf Hitler

"Patton was the American Guderian. He was very bold and preferred large movements. He took big risks and won big successes."

Generaloberst Alfred Jodl

"Patton had developed tank warfare into an art, and understood how to handle tanks brilliantly in the field. I feel compelled, therefore, to compare him with Generalfeldmarschall

Rommel, who likewise had mastered the art of tank warfare. Both of them had a kind of second sight in regard to this type of warfare."

Generalfeldmarschall Albert Kesselring

Target Patton

In a book released in 2008, *Target Patton*, the newly unearthed diaries of a colourful assassin for the wartime Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the forerunner of the CIA, reveal that American spy chiefs wanted Patton dead because he was threatening to expose allied collusion with the Russians that cost American lives.

Although he had suffered serious injuries in a car crash in Mannheim, Patton was thought to be recovering and was on the verge of flying home.

But after a decade-long investigation, military historian Robert Wilcox claims that OSS head General "Wild Bill" Donovan ordered a highly decorated marksman called Douglas Bazata to silence Patton.

In interviews with Mr Bazata, who died in 1999, and extracts from his diaries, detailing how he staged the car crash by getting a troop truck to plough into Patton's Cadillac and then shot the general with a low-velocity projectile, which broke his neck while his fellow passengers escaped without a scratch.

Mr Bazata also suggested that when Patton began to recover from his injuries, US officials turned a blind eye as agents of the NKVD, the forerunner of the KGB, poisoned the general.



Quotes by George S. Patton

1. "A pint of sweat will save a gallon of blood."
2. "A good plan, violently executed now, is better than a perfect plan next week."
3. "Lead me, follow me, or get the hell out of my way."
4. "Do everything you ask of those you command."
5. "Say what you mean and mean what you say."
6. "Many soldiers are led to faulty ideas of war by knowing too much about too little."
7. "Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity."
8. "If everybody is thinking alike, then somebody isn't thinking."
9. "Do more than is required of you."
10. "Moral courage is the most valuable and usually the most absent characteristic in men."
11. "I am a soldier, I fight where I am told, and I win where I fight."

Kamikaze

Each month "Forged in Battle" looks at weapons, equipment or units that have been tried and tested on the battlefield. This month we look at the Japanese Kamikaze pilots.



Every soldier that has taken part in combat knows that there is a chance that they may be killed or wounded. It is a risk that goes along with the job.

Yet how would you feel about combat if you knew beyond any shadow of a doubt that you were going to get killed? Would you have second thoughts?

Not only did the men of the *Tokubetsu Kōgekitai* not have

second thoughts, they actually looked forward to their deaths.

After the costly defeats at Leyte Gulf and Iwo Jima in 1945 the Japanese were a beaten nation. But out of the desperate defence of their homeland were born the *Kamikaze* pilots - volunteers for certain death.

Officially titled *Tokubetsu Kōgekitai* (Special Attack Unit), they were more commonly known as *Kamikaze* (Di-

vine Wind).

It was during the Battle of Leyte Gulf that the legend of the Kamikaze was born. Commander of the Japanese air forces in the Philippines, Vice-Admiral Takijiro Onishi, instructed his pilots to crash their planes into the flight decks of American aircraft carriers in an effort to damage them and prevent them from launching their planes.



The pilots, in Zero fighters laden with bombs, responded with great enthusiasm, crashing their fighters on the carriers and causing hundreds of casualties.

The attack failed and the Americans dealt a decisive blow to what remained of the Japanese Navy.

While the Americans had taken Leyte Gulf and Iwo Jima the greatest battle of the Pacific War awaited them - the Battle for Okinawa.

Okinawa is the largest of the Ryukyu Islands and is basically the last stop before the Japanese mainland. It was considered by both the Japanese and Americans to be of the utmost importance strategically.

From Okinawa to Tokyo is a distance of 1,554 kilometres, easily within the range of American B-29 Superfortress bombers. The Japanese had to make a stand at Okinawa or lose the war. It's garrison of 70,000 troops were prepared to fight to the death to defend it.

Duty above all

One of the most important things in Japanese culture is the concept of *giri* (duty). There is a strong sense of duty to the Emperor, the country, and to one's family - in that order.

One of the sayings regarding duty is "*Gimu wa yama yori omoku, shi wa hane yori mo karui*" (Duty is heavier than a mountain, while death is lighter than a feather).

Moreover the tradition of death instead of defeat, capture and perceived shame was deeply entrenched in Japanese military culture. It was one of the primary traditions of the



THE FINAL PHOTO: A group of young Kamikaze pilots, carrying samurai swords, pose for a final photograph before flying their one-way mission.

samurai, who lived by the code of *Bushido* (The Way of the Warrior). There was no greater honour than to die in battle.

The defence of Okinawa

Vice-Admiral Onishi was faced with the task of depriving the Americans the use of Okinawa's airfields which had the potential to handle 5,000 planes.

He did not have enough planes to carry out conventional attacks and he decided to stake everything on suicide tactics.

He gathered his remaining pilots together and told them that the fate of Japan lay in their hands. He invited them to volunteer for the Kamikaze *okubetsu Kōgekitai* (Kamikaze Special Attack Squad) and offered them a glorious death for the Emperor and the homeland.

Pilots would attempt to crash their aircraft into enemy ships in what was called a *taiatari* (body attack) in planes laden with some combination of explosives, bombs, torpedoes and full fuel tanks. Every single pi-

lot volunteered.

The word Kamikaze can be translated as 'Divine Wind'. It comes from the word *kami* which means 'god', 'spirit', or 'divine', and *kaze* which means 'wind'.

Legend has it that in August 1281 Mogul conqueror Kublai Khan sent a huge fleet to invade Japan. While waiting to land their invasion force the Japanese Sun Goddess sent a typhoon that destroyed the Mogul fleet and saved Japan. This typhoon was given the name *Kamikaze*.

Now Onishi's young pilots were about to become the new *Kamikaze*, a Divine Wind that would once again destroy the hateful invaders and save the homeland.

On the morning of 6 April 1945 Onishi was about to launch his secret weapon.

Operation Kikusui

It was called Operation Kikusui (Floating Chrysanthemum), named after the symbol of spiritual purity.



KIKUSUI FLAG: The flag showed a half-chrysanthemum floating on water. It was the symbol of spiritual purity and represented the air-sea nature of Operation Kikusui.

The Kikusui pilots rose early on the morning of 6 April 1945 and after a light breakfast they assembled in the crew-hut.

In a solemn ceremony they were served *sake* (rice wine) or water, known as *mizu no sakazuki*, by veteran pilots. Each man was given a black ceremonial belt which was inscribed with the code of *Bushido*. He put the belt on and then drank a toast to Emperor Hitohito, to the everlasting survival of Nippon, and to a glorious death.

They then sang the Kamikaze

Song of the Warrior:

*In serving on the seas, be a corpse saturated with water;
In serving on land be a corpse covered with weeds,
In serving in the sky, be a corpse that challenges the clouds.*

Let us all die close by the side of our Sovereign.

After the ceremony the pilots returned to their barracks to await their orders and write letters to their families.

One of the pilots, Reserve Ensign Susumu Kaijitsu wrote:

"My activities are quite ordinary. My greatest concern this morning is not about death, but rather of how I can be sure to sink an enemy carrier. Please watch for the results of my meagre efforts. If they prove good, think kindly of me and consider my good fortune. Most of all, do not weep for me."

They also composed and read a death poem, a tradition stemming from the samurai, who did it before committing *seppuku*

(ritual suicide by disembowelment).

Kamikaze would wear their *senninbari*, a "belt of a thousand stitches" given to them by their mothers.

Presently a whistle blew - the signal to prepare for take-off. They left their sealed letters on their beds and hurried out to the parade ground.

After a roll call they saluted their superiors and their comrades and climbed into the trucks that would take them across the field to their aircraft.

It was an odd assortment of aircraft that stood on the field: single-engined Zeke and Zero fighters with 272 kg bombs strapped under them; Baku mass-produced planes of crude and minimal construction without any armour, but with 250 kg of TNT encased in the nose, set to explode on impact; and giant conventional bombers which had been modified to carry the *Ohka* (Cherry Blossom).

The Yokosuka MXY-7 Ohka



was a rocket-powered aircraft made of wood. It had a 1,200 kg bomb built into the fuselage. It would be flown to the target under a bomber and then released close to the target. A pilot would then guide it onto the target.

Before climbing into the cockpit, pilots would normally tie a *hachimaki* around their helmet. The *hachimaki* was a head scarf worn as a symbol of perseverance, effort, and courage.

They now waited for the final order to take off on their one-way mission.

Hissatsu!

A total of 355 planes, divided up into two waves, took off from Kanoya and Skikoku on 6 April 1945.

Their target was the Allied Armada of 1,500 vessels strung out around the beachheads of Okinawa.

There were 195 navy planes in the first wave and it included 80 *Kamikazes* of various types, nine Type One bombers carrying Ohkas, and 107 escort fighters. The army's *Tokubetsu* of 160 assorted *Kamikaze* took off a little later, making up the second wave.

The *Kamikaze* pilot's manual told pilots never to close their eyes. This was because if a pilot closed his eyes he would lower the chances of hitting his target. In the final moments before the crash, the pilot was to yell *His-*

satsu (Clean Kill) at the top of his lungs.

The manual also explained how a pilot may turn back if the pilot could not locate a target and that "[a pilot] should not waste [his] life lightly." One pilot who continually came back to base was shot after his ninth return.

All hell was let loose as plane after plane hit the sea and exploded. It took some time for the Allies to realise that the Japanese pilots were deliberately trying to crash their planes into

ably brave and stupid.

Vice-Admiral Charles R. Brown of the United States Navy said, "There was a hypnotic fascination to the sight so alien to our Western philosophy. We watched each plunging kamikaze with the detached horror of one witnessing a terrible spectacle rather than as the intended victim. We forgot self for the moment as we groped hopelessly for the thought of that other man up there."

One hundred and thirty five *Kamaikaze* sacrificed themselves or were shot down in that first attack. During the first day Operation Kikusui had cost the Japanese 248 planes and pilots.

The incredible battle raged for eighty-two days and nights.

On some days the Japanese could only muster a few planes, but on others mounting great and costly attacks.

The Verdict

By 21 June 1945 the Americans had lost 40 ships sunk and 368 damaged with thousands of lives lost. They had also lost 763 aircraft in battle against the *Kamikaze* and their escorts.

It had cost the Japanese just over 7,800 aircraft and pilots before the last *Kamikaze* had



FLYING BOMB: Japanese Yokosuka MXY-7 Ohka ("cherry blossom"), a specially built rocket-powered kamikaze aircraft used towards the end of the war. The U.S. called them Baka Bombs ("idiot bombs").

vessels.

Destroyers and other small ships veered wildly to dodge the *Kamikazes*, listing to 45 degrees in abrupt turns while their gunners desperately tried to fight off the attackers.

American and British fighters were being launched from the decks of the aircraft carriers, climbing to take on the escorting Mitsubishi Zeros flown by veteran Japanese pilots.

For the Allies it was like watching a mysterious force at work, not human but unbeliev-



DEATH DIVE: A Japanese kamikaze pilot in a damaged single-engine bomber, moments before striking the U.S. Aircraft Carrier USS Essex, off the Philippine Islands, on 25 November 1944.

died in a ball of fire.

It is estimated that only about 19% of *Kamikaze* pilots managed to hit a ship. The other 81% either missed their target

or were shot down.

A later analysis by the US Strategic Bombing Survey concluded that if the *Kamikaze* attacks had been introduced ear-

lier in the war, and if they had been sustained in greater power and concentration, they could well have caused the Allies to withdraw or to revise their strategic plans.

But whatever we may think about the *Kamikaze*, whatever the strategists, politicians and historians of the future may postulate, there is one thing that cannot be denied - and that was the sublime spirit of the *Kamikaze* corps, whose pilots brought to the world a forgotten message of human courage.

Were they brave, patriotic, misguided, or mad? Everyone will have their own thoughts on the matter. Yet no matter what your personal opinion, one thing is for sure. They were a corps forged in battle.



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](#).

While the Irish enjoy a good punch up, they have always been a neutral country and Ireland has chosen never to be the aggressor. Yet in 1961 a small company of Irish soldiers faced overwhelming odds against battle-hardened troops deep in the heart of Africa.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

President Joseph Kasa-Vubu and Mobutu Sese Seko were becoming worried about Patrice Lu-

mumba popularity among the troops. They had him arrested and sent to Katanga where he was executed by a firing squad led by a Belgian mercenary.

A Company 35th Infantry Battalion of the Irish Army was part of the UN Peacekeeping Force sent to the Congo. The 155 Irish UN troops, under the command of Commandant Pat Quinlan, were sent to the mining town of Jadotville, approximately 100 kilometers up country from the main UN base in Elizabethville.

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

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

The Irish troops had a problem. Not only had none of them ever seen combat, they had never even fired a shot in anger. They were also lightly armed



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

with only light personal weapons, a small number of water-cooled Vickers machine guns and 60mm mortars.

Facing them was an enemy that numbered between 3,000 and 4,000. They were made up from Luba (also known as Baluba) warriors, and many Belgian, French and Rhodesian mercenaries.

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

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

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

Messmer, to provide support to the Katanga rebellion.

Yet while Quinlan may not have had any combat experience he was a keen student of military tactics and history. He had read everything he could get his hands on and he was expecting that at some stage his company would be attacked.

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

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

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

Inexplicably the operation had been kept secret from Quin-

lan by the UN Command. Another major problem was that the Katangans had also taken a key river crossing which meant that the Irish were completely cut off from Elizabethville.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Katangese asked Quinlan for a cease-fire to tend to their wounded. During this time they offered Quinlan an opportunity to

surrender. An offer which he declined.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

After being released A Company returned to Elizabethville and were involved in active combat again. This time with



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

the support of Swedish UN troops.

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

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

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

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

tion restored nine years after his death.

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

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

Service Rendered

National Service in the
South African Defence Force
1968 - 1992



A collection of stories and
memories from those that served.

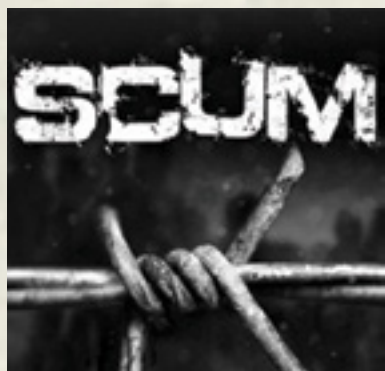
Matt Tennyson



Service Rendered is a digital book containing a collection of stories and memories from those that served in the South African Defence Force.

It is 300 pages with about 200 photographs.

If you would like a free copy of this digital book, then send an e-mail to matt@hipe.co.za with the words Service Rendered as the subject heading.



Poor Matt O' Brien is really deep in the dwang this time. Taken from death row, he is dumped on an island with one objective - survive. The only problem is that he is not alone on the island. And just about everything there is hostile.

I first did a review of SCUM in the October 2018 edition of Military Despatches. But since then a lot has changed.

Basically SCUM is an open-world survival game with unprecedented levels of character customization, control, and progression. Knowledge and skill are your ultimate weapons for long-term survival.

Currently it is in early release, in what they call the 'Alpha' stage. This means that they are still developing the game.

The premise of the game is simple. You're a condemned prisoner taking part in a reality television show. You have a tracking and monitoring device implanted in the back of your skull and you are dumped on an island. There are camera drones that will often follow you. All you need to do is survive. And believe me, this is not easy task.

You start the game by creating your character (male or female). There are four faces you can choose from and you get to set your age, build and weight. Then you have points which you can use to upgrade certain skills such as boxing, survival, awareness, camouflage and others. Then you are dumped in the game.

You spawn on a random area

of the map, which is currently 144 square kilometres in size. When the full game is released the island will be 576 square kilometres.

You have nothing except your bright orange prison shirt and pants. The shirt can hold one item and the pants two. You also have a pair of sneakers.

The first thing you will need to do is make a stone knife. For this you will need to find two small rocks. Cut down a bush a use a long stick to craft an improvised spear. You can carry three spears - one in your hand and two on your back.

Now set off and start exploring the island. You use your mouse wheel to control your speed and you can walk, jog or sprint.

There are four things that you will have to monitor carefully. These are your health, stamina, energy and hydration. If you are hurt in any way your health will deteriorate if the wound is not treated. When it reaches 0% you die.

As stamina decreased your movements become slower and you are sluggish. If your energy level gets to zero you will eventually die. Your hydration is also important unless you want to die of thirst.

You will need to eat to stay alive. Some bushes may have fruit or berries. You may also find vegetables growing. But, as already mentioned, this is a realistic survival game. You will need carbohydrates, proteins, fat, vitamins and so on.

You can use your improvised spears to try and hunt. There is game such as rabbits, deer and boars on the island.

Just be warned, throw a spear at a wild boar and it tends to get a bit aggressive with you.

If you kill something such as a deer or a boar you can skin it and butcher it. The skin can be used to craft a water container or item of clothing. The meat can be cut into steaks and strips of fat. The bone can be used to craft a club or an improvised sewing needle.

You can eat the meat raw, but this can make you ill. You can make a fire and then cook the meat.

You will also need your spears for protection. The island is inhabited by what are called 'puppets'. These are dead prisoners that have been reanimated as zombies. They are slow but very aggressive and will attack on sight. You can kill them with a spear or fight them hand-to-hand.



Once they are dead you can search them and take whatever they have. If you are wounded you will need to bandage it with a clean strip of cloth. Cut up your shirt or pants to do this.

As you explore the island you will come across the odd farm or house. There are also villages and small towns. While they are all deserted and run down, you will often find useful items by searching.

This could include items of clothing or food, empty plastic bottles (you can now fill them with water), rope, bits of metal, can opener, knives and so on.

Something like a tactical jacket will allow you to carry four small items in the pockets.

Some villages will have a pharmacy (good for medical supplies) or a police station (you could find a pistol or a shotgun).

If you do find a firearm you will also have to find a magazine and ammo for it.

There are also military bun-

kers on the island. Get into a bunker and it's a treasure trove. You can find military uniforms, grenades, large backpacks, helmets, side arms, rifles and a lot more.

The problem is that bunkers are guarded by not only puppets, but mechs as well. These robots are armed with chain guns and will cut you down in seconds if spotted.

SCUM is not easy game. If you are killed you lose everything you have and start from scratch.

You can play solo, where you are on your own. Or you can play multi-player with up to 64 other players.

The developers are continually updating the game. Some of the updates since I first reviewed the game include vehicles (cars, trucks and quad bikes). Most need to be repaired and you will have to find fuel.

You can now also build bases and there is an entire city in the game. There is a lot of great

stuff to find in the city, but it's a dangerous place.

New puppets include those with previous military training and also those armed with suicide vests. If they get close enough to you they detonate the vest and its game over.

The updates have taken a good game and made it even better and it will continue to get better as the game is developed.

For the price this is a good buy and will provide you with hours and hours of entertainment as you try to survive.



Publisher - Devolver Digital

Genre - FPS/RPG Survival

Score - 8/10

Price - R105 (on Steam)



Movie Review

Hurricane

Released: 2018

Running time: 123 minutes

Director: David Blair

Hurricane (a.k.a. Hurricane: 303 Squadron and 303: Bitwa o Anglię in Poland and Mission of Honor in the United States) is a 2018 biographical war film drama, produced by Krystian Kozłowski and Matthew Whyte, directed by David Blair, and written by Alastair Galbraith and Robert Ryan.

The film stars Iwan Rheon, with Milo Gibson, Stefanie Martini, Marcin Dorociński, Kryštof Hádek and Christopher Jaciow in supporting roles.

Hurricane depicts the experiences of a group of Polish pilots of No. 303 Squadron RAF (Dywizjon 303) in the Battle of Britain in the Second World War.

The film had its premiere in Warsaw, Poland on 17 August 2018. It was released in the UK on the 7 September 2018.

I watched the movie on DStv and it is currently available on Showmax, or you can buy the DVD.

While the script is fiction and is not a historical depiction of all events, it is based on fact.

No. 303 Squadron RAF was one of only two Polish squadrons to fight during the Battle of Britain along with squadron 302, of 16 total Polish squadrons in the Royal Air Force (RAF) during the Second World War.

Flying Hawker Hurricanes, the squadron claimed the largest

number of aircraft shot down of the 66 Allied fighter squadrons engaged in the Battle of Britain, even though it joined the fray two months after the battle had begun.

The pilots of No. 303 Squadron RAF, are a group of Polish fliers who have escaped from Europe, following the Nazi invasions of Poland and France, to join the Royal Air Force. Canadian RAF pilot John Kent, who became known as 'Kentowski' (Milo Gibson) has his work cut out for him when he's handed the angry and often maligned squadron to command.

Piloting Hawker Hurricane fighter aircraft, 303 Squadron works through language barriers, cultural differences and their grief on the loss of loved ones to become highly effective in the Battle of Britain.

The movie focuses on Jan Zumbach (Iwan Rheon) who escapes from Poland and later France to join the RAF. He is one of the founder pilots of 303 Squadron.

In the movie he has an on-off-on again affair with Phyllis Lambert (Stefanie Martini). She is a WAAF (Women's Auxiliary Air Force) who works as a plotter in the main RAF control room. She is married and her husband is serving somewhere in the Western desert.

Zumbach has a close rivalry with fellow pilot Josef Fran-

tišek (Kryštof Hádek), a Czechoslovak fighter pilot who flew for the Polish Air Force.

At the conclusion of the film, the Polish pilots are told that they must leave Britain. A note advises viewers that "an opinion poll showed that 56 per cent of the English public thought the Poles should be repatriated. Many of those who did return [to Poland] were persecuted, imprisoned or sentenced to death".

The real Jan Zumbach would end the war as an ace with 12 confirmed kills and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC). After the war he flew as a mercenary in Africa and played a key role in forming the air forces of the breakaway states of Katanga and Biafra.



Click on the box cover to watch a trailer of the film.

Mobility Conquers

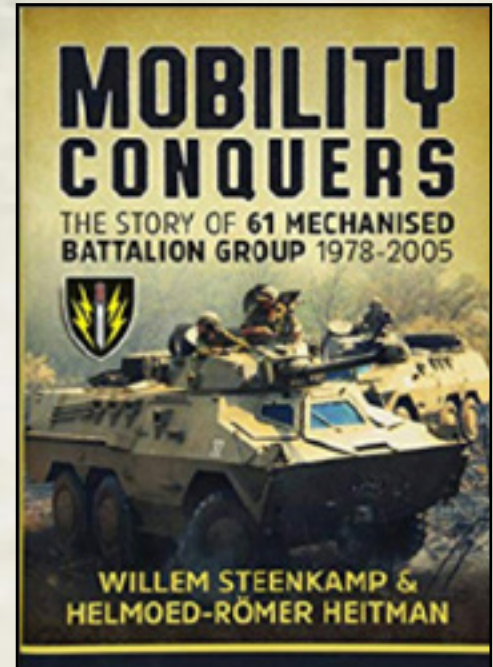
More than two years in the writing, this book is the warts-and-all story of the birth, career and death of the South African Defence Force's 61 Mechanised Battalion Group (1979-2005), generally acknowledged as the best fighting unit in Africa in its time.

61 Mech was structured as a combined-arms unit with integral infantry, armoured and artillery components the first in Africa and arduously trained in a fast-moving mobile warfare doctrine which was not based on adapted European tactics but was specifically designed for fighting modern bush wars in the forbiddingly difficult African battle-space.

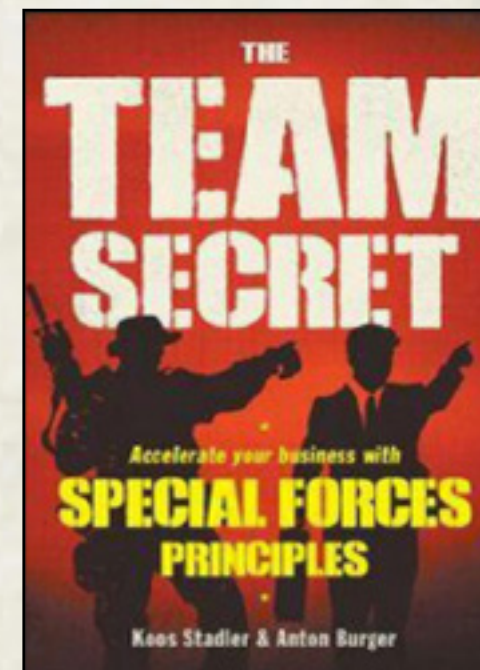
Led by some of the brightest officers in the Army, 61 Mech played a major role in the often hard-fought incursions into Angola between 1978 and 1988 and won all its battles, even though the South Africans were always vastly outnumbered by the armed forces of Angola with their abundant Soviet weaponry and Russian and Cuban advisors, and usually with an unfavourable air situation.

The book includes many personal accounts by 61 Mech's officers and men, some of them in harrowing detail. It is also salted with short snippets of information which help to make it an entertaining read for people from anywhere in the world.

Written by Willem Steenkamp



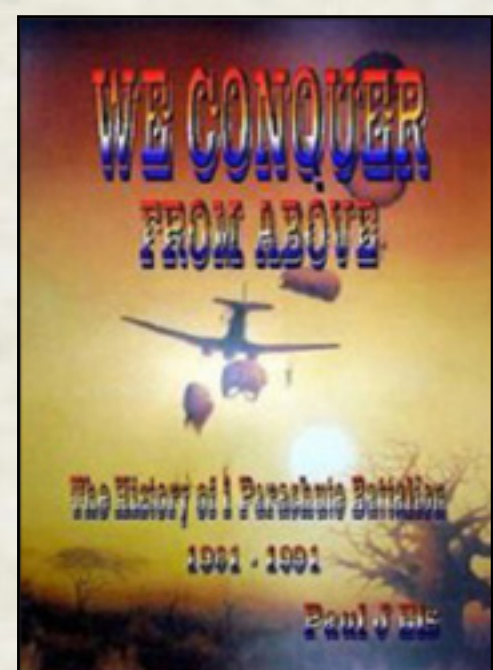
and Helmoed-Römer Heitman, this 1,152 page book with 61 maps and 400+ photos is a must read.



Team Secret
R275



We Fear Naught but God
R395



We conquer from above
R395

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

This month in military history

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

1 July

- **1863** - Beginning of the Battle of Gettysburg during the American Civil War.
- **1911** - A German gunboat, *Panther*, reaches Agadir, Morocco, claiming that the French has ignored the terms of the 1906 Algeciras Conference. Thereby Germany precipitates the second Moroccan crisis, deepening divisions, which would ultimately lead to the outbreak of World War I in 1914.
- **1912** - The South African Department of Defence becomes a separate state department under Law no 13 of 1912.
- **1913** - The 12th Infantry (Pretoria Regiment) later known as the Princess Alice's Own Pretoria Regiment, but since 31 May 1961 again known as Pretoria Regiment, is formed from the Northern Mounted Rifles, part of the Central South African Railways volunteers.
- **1913** - Second Balkan War: Serbia & Greece declare war on Bulgaria.
- **1916** - Battle of the Somme begins.
- **1918** - The US 4th Marine Brigade secures Belleau Wood.
- **1940** - German troops occupy the Channel Islands.
- **1942** - World War II: North Africa. Hampered by sandstorms, General Erwin Rommel's Panzerarmee Afrika overrun an infantry brigade at Dier el Shein as his troops move towards El Alamein.
- **1942** - The Germans capture Sevastopol after a long siege.
- **1943** - The "Women's Army Auxiliary Corps" is renamed the "Women's Army Corps".
- Admiral Chuichi Nagumo, Victor of Pearl Harbour, Loser of Midway, commits suicide on Saipan at the age of 57.
- **1946** - US atomic bomb test at Bikini Atoll, the forth nuclear explosion.
- **1948** - The Berlin airlift, in which South Africa also takes part, starts. It lasted until 12 May 1949.
- **1950** - First US ground troops arrive in Korea.
- **1955** - The basic agreement about the transfer of Simonstown naval base to the Union of South Africa by the United Kingdom is concluded. The formal transfer took place at a historic ceremony on 2 April 1957.
- **1961** - British troops land in Kuwait to prevent an Iraqi invasion.
- **1968** - Britain, Soviet Union, United States and fifty-eight non-nuclear nations, includ-

ing South Africa, sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, to curb the spread of nuclear weapons.

- **1968** - Two members from Central Flying School Dunnottar were killed when their AT-6 Harvard crashed shortly after take-off after striking High Tension Cables near Dunnottar. They were: Captain Ernest Lodewicus Groenewald (27). 2nd Lieutenant Anton Fick Bosch (21).
- **1982** - 2nd Lieutenant Campbell Uys from 32 Battalion died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while he was at Buffalo Base. He was 19.
- **1983** - Sapper Andries Petrus Burger from 1 Construction Regiment was killed when he was accidentally run over by a construction vehicle. He was 19.
- **1983** - Two members from 32 Battalion were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces during Ops Dolfyn in Southern Angola. They were: Sergeant Gerrit Hendrik Du Rand (21). Rifleman Edwin Kasera (23).
- **1983** - Corporal Andries Petrus Malan from 701 Battalion SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop carrier overturned in the Operational Area. He was 19.

- **1983** - Rifleman Johannes Albertus Wessels from Regiment Christiaan Beyers died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while he was stationed at Vhembe Base. He was 18.
- **1986** - Rifleman Gavin Bazil Glinski from 7 SAI was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Ackorhoek. He was 18.
- **1989** - Lieutenant Nikolaos Sataras from Group 13 was Killed in a private motor vehicle accident at Gravelotte near Tzaneen while on official duty. He was 19.

2 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: the British forces occupy Utrecht after the defending burgers had to retire the previous day.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Six unarmed Boer prisoners (later called the Geyser group) are murdered by members of the Bushveld Carabineers who operated as a special British unit in the Spelonken area, not far from Louis Trichardt.
- **1926** - Congress authorizes the Distinguished Flying Cross.
- **1942** - World War II: North Africa. British Commander-in-Chief (Middle East) Claude Auchinleck, acting on information obtained by Ultra, sends troops south to outflank General Erwin Rommel's Panzerarmee Afrika but hits them head-on instead. The ensuing tank

battle last well into the night with Rommel's limited forces holding off the British through the use of 88 mm Flak Guns used as anti-tank artillery.

- **1943** - Lt Charles Hall, 99th Pursuit Sqn, becomes the first black USAAF pilot to shoot down a Nazi plane, a Focke-Wulf 190 over Pantelleria.
- **1944** - Marshal von Kluge replaces von Rundstedt in command in France.
- **1966** - First French nuclear explosion, Mururoa atoll.
- **1976** - Gunner Cornelius Johannes Holtzhausen from 14 Field Regiment was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident, at Potchefstroom. He was 18.
- **1979** - Gunner Rolf Eduard Ortmann from 10 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment was killed when the military ambulance he was driving at high speed, overturned and caught fire in Wynberg, Cape town. He was 20.

- **1979** - Rifleman Daniel Gerhardus van Brakel from 61 Mechanised Battalion died from a gunshot wound sustained at stand-to as a result of an accidental discharge at of a fellow soldiers rifle while at Omathiya. He was 19.
- **1982** - Special Sergeant Hilalius Thomas from the South West Africa Police Counter Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 32.
- **1987** - Rifleman Augustinus Mbambo from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN Insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 19.
- **1988** - Corporal Anton Prinsloo from 203 Battalion SWATF was killed in action East of Cuito Cuanavale in South Eastern Angola. He was 21.
- **1988** - A car bomb explodes

Claude Auchinleck



at the Ellis Park Rugby Stadium. Two spectators are killed and thirty-seven injured.

3 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The British abandon Utrecht, occupied the previous day, on receiving reports of General Grobler's approach.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Lord Roberts orders Col. Baden-Powell to evacuate Rustenburg and to occupy Commando Nek and Silkaatsnek.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: A general council of war with President Steyn presiding, hears the case against Barend Cilliers, accused of the murder of Lieut. Cecil Boyle. The accused is acquitted. The court finds that Cilliers had received a direct order from General Philip Botha to shoot the prisoner. General Botha has subsequently been killed in action.
- **1940** - World War II: The British Royal Navy sinks the French fleet in North Africa.
- **1950** - First US-North Korean clash during the Korean War.
- **1954** - World War II food rationing ends in Britain.
- **1962** - The Algerian Revolution against the French ends. Algeria eventually gains independence after 132 years of French rule. Abderrahman Farès is appointed as President of the Provisional

Executive.

- **1976** - 103 hostages are rescued by an Israeli commando unit at the raid on Entebbe airport in Uganda in operation Thunderball (later re-named Operation Yoni). Seven pro-Palestinian guerrilla hijackers, twenty Ugandan soldiers and three hostages are killed in the raid.
- **1983** - Corporal Frederick Coenraad Greyling from 5 SAI was accidentally killed at Itenga Base near Opuwa in an explosion inside the Ops Room. The Platoon Commander and Signaller were both injured in the explosion and they were evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria. He was 21.
- **1983** - Lance Corporal Karools Jonkers from the South African Cape Corps was Killed in Action when his patrol walked into a PLAN ambush in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1987** - Two members from 1 Special Service Battalion, attached to the 10th Armoured Car Regiment were Killed in Action when they walked into a "kraal", unaware that two PLAN insurgents were hiding in one of the huts. The casualties were: Trooper Joseph Johannes Cloete (18). Trooper Van Zyl Jac van Heerden (19).
- **1988** - Iran Air Flight 655 was destroyed while flying over the Persian Gulf after the U.S. Navy Warship Vincennes fired two surface-to-air missiles, killing all

290 passengers aboard. A subsequent U.S. military inquiry cited stress related human failure for the mistaken identification of the civilian Airbus as an enemy F-14 fighter jet.

- **1992** - Two members from 116 Battalion were killed near Punda Maria, in the Kruger National Park when their Mamba vehicle collided with a tree during a follow-up operation against MK Operatives that had entered the area from Mocambique. The casualties were: Lance Corporal Nicholas Bizeki (34). Rifleman Tonki Frans Kekana (18).

4 July

- **1879** - The Battle of Ulundi, decisive battle during the Zulu War, takes place with the British forces gaining the upper hand and Cetshwayo, king of the Zulus, suffers his final defeat.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Republican General C.F. Beyers captures a troop train near Naboomspruit, Transvaal, killing nine soldiers.
- **1913** - Fighting breaks out as a riotous crowd on the Johannesburg market square is confronted by police and mounted soldiers during the first miners' strike.
- **1936** - League of Nations applies sanctions on Italy for the invasion of Ethiopia.
- **1940** - World War II: East Africa. British posts at Kassala and Gallabat, on the

borders of Abyssinia (now Ethiopia), Eritrea, and Sudan, are attacked and captured by the Italian Northern Army under the command of the Duke of Acosta.

- **1942** - First American bombing mission over Nazi-occupied Europe.
- **1955** - The basic agreement about the transfer of Simonstown naval base to the Union of South Africa by the United Kingdom is concluded. The formal transfer took place at a historic ceremony on 2 April 1957.
- **1960** - The Congolese army mutinies.
- **1974** - Trooper Jan Albertus Kotze from 1 Special Service Battalion was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident in Eastern Caprivi. He was 19.
- **1979** - Rifleman Balthazer Johannes Carolus van der Walt from SWA SPES was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned near Ruacana. He was 19.
- **1979** - Rifleman Carlo Johannes Kotze from 1 SAI was critically injured in a military vehicle accident at Otjiwarongo Base on 3 July 1979. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria where he succumbed to his injuries on 04 July 1979. He was 19.
- **1981** - Rifleman Pieter Adriaan van Niekerk from 6 SAI was accidentally shot dead by own forces in Southern Angola in a friendly fire incident during Ops

Carnation. He was 20.

- **1983** - Staff Sergeant John Christian Anthony Oliver from the South African Engineer Corps was critically injured when his Samil 50 vehicle overturned at Moshesh near Rundu. He succumbed to his injuries a short while later. He was 33.
- **1984** - Sergeant Johnny Ralph Adams from the Army Catering Corps was grievously burned on 2 July 1984 when a phosphorus grenade exploded while he was playing with it in a bunker at Hurricane Base, Ruacana. He died in 1 Military Hospital on 4 Jul 1984. He was 23.
- **1986** - Two members from 1 Parachute Battalion were killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Richmond in the Cape. They were: Corporal Jacobus Nicolaas Claase(21). Rifleman Richard Alexander Knipe (20).
- **2001** - Congolese President Joseph Kabila and Ugandan

President Yoweri Museveni meet for first face-to-face peace talks in Tanzania as part of an effort to end the three-year war in Congo.

5 July

- **1830** - The French occupy the North African city of Algiers. The colonisation of Algeria was seen as a way of providing employment for veterans of the Napoleonic wars.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Commandant-General Louis Botha receives a telegram from President Kruger urging him to continue fighting.
- **1943** - The Battle of Kursk: Despite a massive German assault; the Soviets lose some ground, but halt the attack in about a week.
- **1975** - Otto Skorzeny, World War II Waffen SS *Obersturmbannführer* and the man that led the rescue mission that freed the deposed Italian dictator Benito Mus-

Otto Skorzeny



solini from captivity, dies at the age of 67.

- **1977** - Pakistan: coup by General Mohammad Zia ul-Haq.
- **1977** - Corporal Peter Noel Wiggell HC from the Technical Services Corps was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents while attached to Bravo Company Regiment Algoabaai. He was 25.
- **1977** - Sapper William Thomas Wiggell from 2 Field Engineer Regiment was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Bethlehem. He was 20.
- **1980** - Rifleman J. Dingombo from 31 Battalion (210 Battalion) SWATF was accidentally killed when he fell from a horse and broke his neck. He was 23.
- **1981** - Rifleman Aubrey Leonard Neveling from 6 SAI was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 18.
- **1982** - Corporal Andre van der Walt from 4 Vehicle Reserve Park was killed in a private motor vehicle accident approximately 20km from Bloemfontein on the Winburg - Bloemfontein road. He was 21.
- **1985** - Airman Benjamin Arthur Nell from the South African Air Force was accidentally shot dead at his Guard Post at Eros Airport, Windhoek as a result of an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 18.

6 July

- **1865** - The Pretoria Rifle Corps is founded under Stephanus Schoeman as a volunteer corps to defend Pretoria and surroundings. The local police force was instituted at a later date.
- **1916** - Second-Lieutenant William Nimmo Brown of the 1st SA Infantry is killed in the Battle of the Somme and becomes the first South African officer killed in France during World War I.
- **1917** - Arab horsemen led by British officer T.E. Lawrence also known as Lawrence of Arabia capture the heavily garrisoned Turkish fort at Aqaba.
- **1942** - German troops capture Voronez, USSR.
- **1945** - Movement to the US of captured German scientists and equipment begins.
- **1967** - The Biafran War erupts as Nigerian forces invade the Republic of Biafra. The war claimed some 600,000 lives. About one million died of starvation.
- **1976** - Women are admitted to the U.S. Naval Academy for the first time.
- **1980** - Rifleman Francis Mukweli from 33 Battalion SWATF was killed in a Military Vehicle accident in the Caprivi Strip. He was 37.
- **1982** - Five members from 201 Battalion SWATF were Killed when their Buffel Troop carrier overturned on the White Road between Bagani and Rundu, just east of Mashari. They were: Cor-

poral Frans Adonio (31). Rifleman Kafuru Bango (29). Rifleman Pedro Kademba (30). Rifleman Petrus Kapango (28). Rifleman Oscar Nando (23).

- **1983** - Rifleman B. Ngarukua from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in an accidental Hand Grenade Explosion in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.

7 July

- **1798** - Napoleon Bonaparte's army begins its march towards Cairo from Alexandria, Napoleon's desert nemesis.
- **1944** - RAF drops 2,572 tons on Caen, to support ground attack.
- **1944** - Saipan: Japanese troops make a final "banzai" charge.
- **1944** - U.S. B-29s from China attack Japan.
- **1944** - US troops capture Rosignano, NW of Rome.
- **1948** - First women sworn into the US Naval Reserve.
- **1960** - USSR shoots down a US aircraft over the Barents Sea.
- **1960** - Belgium sends troops to the newly independent Congo.
- **1966** - Vietnam: Marines initiate "Operation Hasting" - to clear NVA from the DMZ.
- **1976** - Rifleman Leon Hendrik Delpont from the Durban Regiment was accidentally shot dead at the Oshivelo shooting range when he took up a position behind one of the targets

during a fire and movement drill. He was 23.

- **1980** - Rifleman Johannes Jacobus Joubert from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed when he accidentally fell off the rear of a moving military vehicle. He was 23.
- **1981** - Private Wayne Ivor Purdon from the Jozini Military Base was killed in a military vehicle accident between Magudu and Cando-ver. He was 18.
- **1983** - Lance Corporal Alexander John Tucker from 1 Parachute Battalion was Killed in Action when his Patrol was ambushed by combined FAPLA/Cuban force while operating in an area North of Xangongo, approximately 32km from Cahama, He was 19.
- **1983** - Rifleman V. Kamundiro from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 19.
- **1990** - An illegal demonstration in Kenya becomes known as the "Saba Saba" (Seven Seven the date in Swahili). The government sends in police and military, killing at least twenty and arresting several hundreds, including politicians, human rights activists and journalists.

8 July

- **1943** - During the Nazi occupation of France, Resistance leader Jean Moulin died following his arrest and

subsequent torture by the Gestapo.

- **1944** - British troops capture Caen, a month behind schedule.
- **1950** - General Douglas MacArthur is named commander-in-chief of United Nations (UN) forces in Korea, including more than 800 South Africans.
- **1960** - The newly independent Republic of Congo's army mutinies against Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba's government. Europeans are reported to be fleeing the country. Belgium sends troops to Congo Republic. Patrice Lumumba appeals to the UN for military assistance.
- **1979** - Lance Corporal Gerhardus Johannes Jordaan (SAAF) from 2 Satellite Radar Station, Ellisras died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained. He was 18.
- **1980** - Corporal Pierre Babin from 1 Construction Regiment was accidentally killed while towing a broken down military vehicle when he lost control of his vehicle, causing it to overturn between Omega and Chetto. He was 24.

• **1981** - Rifleman T. Tjakuva from 102 Battalion SWATF died from Malaria contracted while serving in the Operational Area. He was 27.

• **1982** - Rifleman Vegkurid Kavari from 102 Battalion SWATF was killed when the Buffel Troop carrier in which he was travelling, overturned at Opuwa. He was 24.

• **1982** - Two members from 201 Battalion SWATF were Killed when the Buffel Troop carrier in which they were travelling, overturned. The casualties were: Rifleman T.A.S. Mesongo (27). Rifleman Joas Masonga (29).

• **1987** - Angolan news agency Angop reports that South African troops, backed by planes, tanks and artillery, used chemical weapons in attacks inside Angola. The SA Defence Force says the allegations are an attempt to minimise setbacks incurred

T.E. Lawrence



by Unita victories in the area.

- **1988** - Rifleman Leon Volschenk was critically wounded in the stomach on 30 June 1988 after being accidentally shot by an LMG during a live fire and movement exercise at Oshivello. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria where he succumbed to his wounds on 08 July 1988. He was 20.

9 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Lieutenant General Hunter and Brigadier-General Sir Hector A. MacDonald arrive at Bethlehem, OFS. Hunter takes over command of all the British forces in the north-eastern Free State.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: 'Long Cecil', the gun designed and manufactured by G.F. Labram and used by the British during the siege, is taken from Kimberley by train to be exhibited during the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, later King George V and Queen Mary.
- **1915** - World War I: Dr Theodore Seitz, governor of German South West Africa, surrenders at the farm Khorab, between Otavi and Tsumeb, to General Louis Botha.
- **1934** - Reichsfuhrer-SS Himmler takes command of German Concentration Camps.

- **1940** - RAF bombs Germany.
- **1941** - The British break Germany's air-ground ops code used on the Russian Front.
- **1944** - US secures Saipan: 3,200 US, 27,000 Japanese KIA, & many civilian suicides.
- **1979** - Rifleman Stephanus Petrus Janse van Vuuren from SWA SPES (SWATF) was Killed in Action when his horse detonated a landmine while on patrol along the pipeline North of Etale. He was 18.
- **1980** - Rifleman H. Muhenje from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 26.
- **1985** - Corporal Pieter Apollis from the South African Cape Corps attached to 53 Battalion was killed after suffering a fatal gunshot wound as a result of an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 24.
- **1985** - Chad and Zaire sign an agreement on military co-operation.
- **1988** - Corporal M. Kavetu from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action when he triggered a Soviet POMZ-2 Anti-Personnel Picket Mine while on patrol. He was 27. Corporal Kavetu was the last 102 Battalion Bush War Operational Casualty.

10 July

- **1899** - Second Anglo-Boer

War: Queensland, Australia, offers military aid to Britain.

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: In a letter to Lord Roberts, Chief Commandant de Wet protests against the indiscriminate destruction of private property by British troops.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Colonel Lawson reports that the De Beer and Van Rooyen's commando, raiding the upper Tugela from the Free State, includes thirty armed Basotho and twenty other armed Blacks.
- **1913** - Second Balkan War: Romania declares war on Bulgaria.
- **1943** - The Allied invasion of Italy began with an attack on the island of Sicily. The British entry into Syracuse was the first Allied success in Europe. General Dwight D. Eisenhower labelled the invasion "the first page in the liberation of the European Continent."
- **1953** - American troops abandon Pork Chop Hill, Korea.
- **1960** - Belgium sends troops to Congo.
- **1978** - A military coup takes place in Mauritania.
- **1980** - Corporal Clive Roland Hardenberg from 4 Reconnaissance Regiment accidentally drowned during a training exercise at Salamander Bay, Langebaan. He was 20.
- **1981** - Rifleman Lionel van Rooyen from 1 South African Infantry attached

61 Mechanised Battalion Group died from multiple shrapnel wounds accidentally sustained when a 120mm mortar round exploded prematurely during a live fire training exercise between Tsintsabis and Omuthiya, prior to the launch of Ops Protea. He was 19.

- **1982** - Two members from 42 Squadron were flying over an Army column near Ondangwa in their Atlas AM3C Bosbok when the pilot decided to execute an unauthorised stall turn at low level for the benefit of the troops on the ground. The aircraft failed to recover and crashed nearby, killing both crew members on board. The casualties were: Lieutenant Otto Carel Janse van Rensburg (24). Candidate Officer Anton Geno Roux (20).
- **1985** - Corporal A.L. Tefo from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was killed instantly after being struck by lightning during a thunderstorm while on operations in Southern Angola. He was 24.
- **1985** - Four British men are jailed for conspiring to smuggle military components into South Africa.
- **1986** - Rifleman R Tjiposa from 102 Battalion SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
- **1986** - Special Constable Tjiposa Virero from the

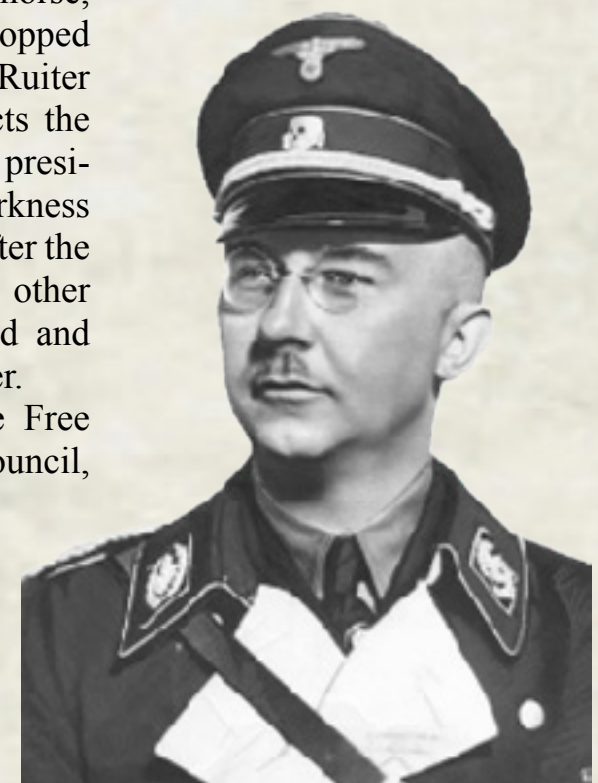
South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 29.

11 July

- **1882** - The British fleet bombards Alexandria, Egypt.
- **1899** - The Battle of Silkaatsnek, west of Pretoria, starts with General De la Rey launching a three-pronged attack on the British forces. The British, under Colonel Roberts, surrenders the next morning.
- **1901** - With dawn approaching, General Broadwood surprises the Free State force, accompanied by President Steyn, in Reitz. Pres. Steyn's Griqua groom, Jan Ruiter, wakes the President, borrows a saddle and helps the president to mount and, mounting another horse, gallops away. When stopped by a British soldier, Ruiter dismounts and distracts the soldier, allowing the president to escape into darkness without hat or coat. After the battle Ruiter and the other Blacks are left behind and he rejoins his employer.
- **1901** - The complete Free State Executive Council,

except the president who escaped with the help of Ruiter, 29 persons, is captured in Reitz by General Broadwood and sent to Heilbron as prisoners.

- **1915** - The German cruiser 'Konigsberg' is scuttled near Dar-es-Salam, Tanganyika.
- **1942** - Japanese GHQ acknowledges the results of the Battle of Midway.
- **1979** - Rifleman Peter Wayne Bowry Atherton from 11 Commando Regiment died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained at Jan Kemp Dorp as a result of an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 17.
- **1982** - Rifleman Munehemba Muharukua from 102 Battalion SWATF was killed when the Buffel Troop Carrier in which he was a passenger, overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 26.



Heinrich Himmler

- **1985** - Sapper Kenneth Claude Cole from 2 Field Engineer Regiment died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained as a result of the accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was standing guard duty at 2 Field Engineer Regiment in Bethlehem at the time of the incident. He was 19.
- **1985** - Special Constable U. Ngombe from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 27.
- **1986** - Rifleman L. Sivanda from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents. He was 22.
- **1989** - WO I Johannes Petrus Coetzee from 16 Maintenance Unit was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident 10km from the Mangetti Dunes. He was 50.
- **1990** - Private Iain Bruce Robertson from the Technical Service Corps was critically injured when the Ratel in which he was travelling, overturned on the road in front of Special Forces Head Quarters in Pretoria. He succumbed to his injuries a short while later. He was 27.

12 July

- **1899** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Lord Brassey of Victoria, Australia, offers Britain volunteers for service in

South Africa.

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: A court martial at Fouriesburg confirms Boer ex-Commandant S.G. Viljoen's sentence of five years hard labour for treason.
- **1902** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Lord Kitchener receives a hero's welcome in London on his return.
- **1941** - First Luftwaffe air raid on Moscow.
- **1943** - During World War II, in the Battle of Kursk, the largest tank battle in history took place outside the small village of Prohorovka, Russia. About nine hundred Russian tanks attacked an equal number of German tanks fighting at close range. When Hitler ordered a cease-fire, 300 German tanks remained strewn over the battlefield.
- **1944** - Theresienstadt Concentration Camp disbanded, with 4,000 people gassed.
- **1984** - A car bomb explodes in Durban, killing five and injuring twenty-seven people.
- **1973** - Rifleman Abraham Frederik Greeff from 3 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident at Rundu. He was 18.
- **1979** - Lance Corporal J.L. Samutiki from 33 Battalion SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop carrier overturned in the Operational Area. He was 27.
- **1980** - Rifleman T. Josef from 35 Battalion SWATF died from a gunshot wound

accidentally sustained in the Operational Area. He was 24.

- **1982** - Rifleman Katopora Tjiharukua from 102 Battalion SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned near Opuwa. He was 25.
- **1983** - Lieutenant Bruce Charles Chinery from 40 Squadron was killed when his Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I suffered engine failure shortly after take-off from Air Force Base Waterkloof. He was 22.
- **1994** - Germany's Constitutional Court ended the ban on sending German troops to fight outside the country. The ban had been in effect since the end of World War II. The ruling allowed German troops to join in United Nations and NATO peace-keeping missions.

13 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: At a council of war, Chief Commandant De Wet explains the shortcomings of the Republican concentration in the Brandwater Basin and the importance of moving out before they are bottled up.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: J.P. Coetzee, Cape rebel, is executed by the British and all male adults are ordered to attend.
- **1936** - 15,000 World War I veterans from all nations swear an "Oath of Peace" and observe a minute of si-

lence at the Ossuary at Ft. Douaumont, Verdun.

- **1966** - Candidate Officer Christo Cornelius Johannes Joubert from Air Operations School Langebaanweg was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed near Velddrif during a routine training exercise. He was 19.
- **1971** - Firing squads in Morocco execute ten army officers accused of trying to overthrow King Hassan.
- **1982** - Rifleman Jean Louis Moerdyk from SWA SPES (SWATF) was killed in a military vehicle accident at Bagani. He was 20.
- **1982** - Rifleman Karetu Muhenje from 102 Battalion SWATF was critically wounded on 12 July 1982 during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He succumbed to his injuries at 05h00 the following morning. He was 26.
- **1998** - Unita again occupies two towns in Angola and hundreds of inhabitants flee.

14 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The Free State government is to dispense with the idea of a capital, and they become a government 'in the field'.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British General French drives Scheepers out of the Camdeboo Mountains and Major Moore, with a detachment of Connaught Rangers, defeats the Boers under

Myburgh at Zuurvlaakte and captures his laager.

- **1942** - Japanese Admiral Yamamoto creates the Eighth Fleet for operations in the South Pacific.
- **1972** - Vietnam: Jane Fonda makes first of 10 broadcasts on Radio Hanoi.
- **1976** - Two members from 11 Squadron and two ground crew personnel from 19 Squadron were killed when an 11 Squadron Cessna 185A crashed at the Umtali River Mouth. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant Mario Almeroe Janse van Rensburg (21). Corporal Charles Lloyd van der Merwe (23). Private Izak Jacob Joubert Geyser (18). Private Gerhard Nicholaas van Rooyen (19).
- **1982** - Three crew and five passengers of a SAAF 21 Squadron Swearingen Merlin 4A and four members of a civilian Piper Navajo were killed when the aircraft were involved in a mid-air collision at night over the residential area of Swartkops. The SADF casualties were: Captain Jan

Izak Tobias de Villiers (25). Lieutenant Leon Goldstein (21). Flight Sergeant (Miss) (Air Hostess) Annerie Niemand (23). Major General Dirk Johannes van Niekerk (53). Major General Jacobus Marthinus Crafford (48). Colonel Johan Adam Coetzer (48).

- **1992** - President de Klerk announces the future disbandment of two security force units, the 31 and 32 battalions, and the dissolution of the controversial police unit, Koevoet.
- **1993** - Somali militiamen fire on UN headquarters in a new wave of assaults hours after Somali militants distribute leaflets calling for revenge attacks on American soldiers.
- **1995** - South Africa and Russia sign a military cooperation agreement.



Isoroku Yamamoto

15 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Chief Commandant De Wet, Pres. Steyn and members of the Free State government break out of the Brandwater Basin through Slabbert's Nek, with about 2,000 men, 400 vehicles and five field-guns. Their column passes within three km of Paget's (British) camp at Sebastopol, OFS.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Dr K. Franks, camp doctor at the Mafeking concentration camp reports that the camp is "overwhelmed" by 1,270 women and children brought in after sweeps on the western ZAR. Lack of facilities adds to the hardships encountered by the new arrivals.
- **1916** - World War I: The Battle of Delville Wood, the bloodiest battle ever fought by South Africans, starts. It lasted till 20 July. Of the 121 SA officers and 2,032 soldiers, only 750 soldiers survived.
- **1918** - World War I: During the Battle of the Marne in World War I, German General Erich Ludendorff launched Germany's fifth, and last, offensive to break through the Chateau-Thierry salient.
- **1937** - Buchenwald Concentration Camp opens.
- **1944** - Britain's Greenwich Observatory is damaged by a German V-1 flying bomb.
- **1948** - US World War I General of the Armies John J

Pershing, dies at the age of 87.

- **1960** - UN troops arrive to help deal with the political crisis following Moïse Kapeenda Tshombe's declaration of independence for Katanga province on 11 July. Meanwhile the province of South Kasai also declares independence, calling itself the Federal State of South Kasai, with Joseph Ngalula as head of parliament.
- **1981** - Rifleman Ettienne Zwanepoel from 1 SAI was accidentally shot dead during a training exercise at the Wepener Training Area. He was 18.
- **1982** - Special Constable Vusi Tsiposa from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 27.
- **1984** - Three members from the Special Forces Headquarters Unit were killed when their Unimog Troop Carrier overturned near M'pacha. The casualties were: Rifleman Christoffel Booysen (21). Rifleman Marthinus Hendrik Grobler (20). Sapper Nicolaas Jacobus Gerhardus Helberg (17).
- **2000** - In a rare display of force, UN troops launch a rescue mission that frees all 222 peacekeepers and eleven military observers trapped by rebels inside a UN base in eastern Sierra

Leone.

16 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Lord Methuen reoccupies Rustenburg. This is the third British occupation of the town.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Three commandos under the newly appointed Combat General Viljoen, attack about 4,650 British soldiers with twenty field guns and four to five machine guns under General Hutton at Tierpoort, Rietvlei and Olifantsfontein, ZAR. The burghers are supported by three field guns and two pom-poms, but they have to charge over open ground. Commandant-General Botha, who observes the Republican charge from a vantage point, later says he has never seen a braver and more determined attack. The heaviest resistance comes from the New Zealanders and Irish Fusiliers.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The British Colonial Office appoints a Ladies Commission to investigate the concentration camps in SA. The commission, whose members are reputed to be impartial, includes Mrs Millicent G. Fawcett who recently criticised Emily Hobhouse and Dr. Jane Waterson, daughter of a British general, who recently wrote against "the hysterical whining going on in England" while "we feed and pamper

people who had not even the grace to say thank you for the care bestowed on them".

- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: In the Free State, Lieutenant-General E.L. Elliot's drive ends. At the cost of only three British casualties, the drive has resulted in three burghers killed and wounded, sixty-one prisoners, 7,000 horses, 7,000 cattle, 6,000 rounds of ammunition and 300 vehicles captured.
- **1916** - World War I: The South African brigade is called to capture Delville Wood in France in a fierce two-day battle.
- **1940** - Hitler orders preparations for "Operation Sea Lion".
- **1944** - With the aid of the Polish Resistance, the Soviets capture Vilna, Lithuania, from the Germans.
- **1945** - The experimental Atomic bomb "Fat Boy" was set off at 05h30. in the desert of New Mexico desert, creating a mushroom cloud rising 12,497 metres. The bomb emitted heat three times the temperature of the interior of the sun and wiped out all plant and animal life within 1,6 kilometres.
- **1946** - A US court sentences 46 SS-men to death for the Malmedy massacre.
- **1960** - Albert Kesselring, German airman and field marshal, dies at the age of 74.
- **1977** - Soviet advisers are expelled from the Republic

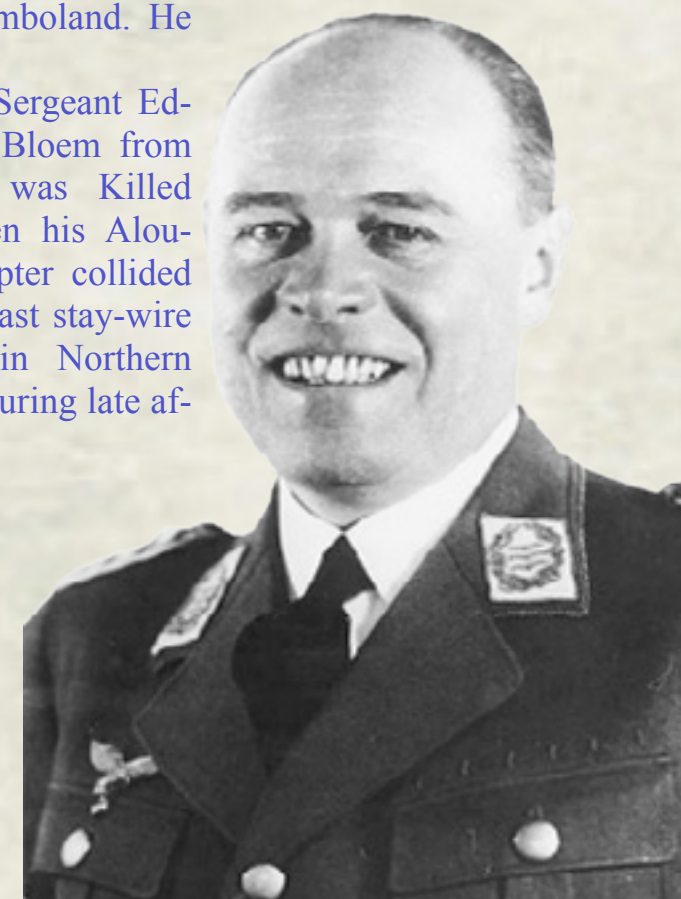
of Somali by orders of the president, Muhammad Siyad Barre.

- **1977** - Rifleman Christiaan Michael Albert Tesnar from the Lydenburg Commando was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents near Ruacana. He was 24.
- **1981** - Rifleman G. Ruhuzo from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents. He was 26.
- **1984** - Private Gabriel Johannes Jacobus Frederik Crouse from 72 Motorised Brigade was killed in a military vehicle accident in Alberton. He was 19.
- **1984** - Rifleman Daniel Adonis Douwrie from the South African Cape Corps was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
- **1986** - Flight Sergeant Edward Michael Bloem from 31 Squadron was Killed in Action when his Alouette III Helicopter collided with a radio mast stay-wire at Okankolo in Northern Owamboland during late af-

ternoon counter-insurgency operations in the area. He was 39.

- **1993** - Staff Sergeant Richard Ebanhaezer Gericke from 31 Battalion SWATF was killed in a motor vehicle accident between Schmidtsdrift and Kimberley. He was 27.
- **2006** - The first of South Africa's fleet of Gripen aircraft ordered to re-equip the SA National Defence Force is transported by road to Ysterplaat Air Force Base from Cape Town Harbour.
- **2006** - Maluleke George, the deputy defence minister, attends the 90th commemoration of the Battle of Delville Wood in France. During the ceremony, a new South African coat of arms is unveiled at the South African memo-

Albert Kesselring



rial on the site. The names of Black members of the South African Labour Corps who died at Arques-la-Bataille and those who perished on board the SAS Mendi are also unveiled at the museum.

17 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Lieutenant-Colonel M.O. Little, commanding the 3rd Cavalry Brigade of 738 mounted men, is ordered in the direction of Lindley to join the hunt for De Wet.
- **1917** - World War I: King George V orders the British royal family to dispense with German titles and surnames. Saxe-Coburg becomes Windsor and Battenburg becomes Mountbatten.
- **1943** - RAF bombs German rocket research base at Peenemünde, on the Baltic.
- **1944** - Having helped the Russians to liberate Vilna from the Germans, the leaders of the Polish resistance "Army Krajowa" are arrested by Stalin.
- **1945** - US Third Fleet undertakes surface and air attacks on targets near Tokyo.
- **1975** - Captain Geoffrey Dennis Law from 40 Squadron was killed instantly during a weapons demonstration exercise at Bloemfontein when the complete main plane of his AT-6 Harvard separated in flight while the aircraft was diving onto the target. He was 29.
- **1976** - Rifleman Andries Jo-

hannes Blaauw from 2 Parachute Battalion was Killed in Action after he and his twin brother Pieter, had a brief contact with a group of SWAPO/PLAN insurgents while on patrol.

- **1981** - Private David Gordon Munro from Sector 70 Headquarters died in 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria from Malaria contracted while serving in the Operational Area. He was 18.
- **1986** - Trooper Willem Jan Pienaar from the School of Armour died in the Universitas Hospital in Bloemfontein after being critically injured in a military vehicle accident in Bloemfontein. He was 18.

18 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: In the first drive in the Cape Colony, the British under overall command of General French are deployed along the Beaufort West Graaff-Reinet line and march north.
- **1914** - The British Royal Navy extends an invitation to the German Imperial Navy to take part in a fleet week in August
- **1935** - Ethiopian King Haile Selassie urges his countrymen to fight to the last man against the invading Italian army.
- **1936** - The Spanish Civil War begins in the early morning hours with a revolt at Melilla in Spanish Morocco.

- **1942** - Maiden flight of the Messerschmitt Me 262, the first operational jet fighter.
- **1944** - US troops capture St. Lo, Normandy.
- **1963** - Candidate Officer Matthys Marthinus Hattingh from Air Operations School at Langebaanweg was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed into a mountain-side near Porterville in bad weather. He was 19.
- **1972** - Egypt demands the Soviet Union remove its 20,000 advisers from the country, accusing it of failing to supply promised arms.
- **1973** - Rifleman Keith Hahn from 1 SAI was killed when the Bedford vehicle in which he was travelling as a passenger, overturned at Kandelaars River Station. He was 18.
- **1980** - Lance Corporal Nicolaas Jacobus van der Merwe from 1 Special Service Battalion was Killed in Action while on patrol 10km from Ondangwa.
- **1981** - Rifleman James Findlay-Marshall from the Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident on the National road between De Rust and Uniondale while on weekend pass. He was 18.
- **1982** - Rifleman Frisiano Dala from 201 Battalion SWATF died in 1 Military Hospital from injuries received in a Military Vehicle Accident at Rundu on 06 July 1982. He was 24.
- **1983** - Rifleman Jan Harm

Kruger from 1 Parachute Battalion died after suffering severe brain injuries in a non-military related accident. He was 23.

- **1985** - Rifleman George Mike Thompson from the Army Catering Corps was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Oshakati. He was 22.
- **1988** - Angola, Cuba, and South Africa, after talks in New York from 11-13 July under US mediation, announce that they have reached tentative agreement on a document containing principles for a settlement in south-western Africa.
- **2005** - General William Westmoreland, Commander of the US forces in Vietnam, between 1964-1968, dies at the age of 91.

19 July

- **1863** - During the American Civil War, Union troops made a second attempt to capture Fort Wagner near Charleston, South Carolina. The attack was led by the 54th Massachusetts Coloured Infantry, commanded by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, who was killed along with half of the 600 men in the regiment. This battle marked the first use of black Union troops in the war.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Lord Kitchener writes in a letter concerning the Ladies' Commission sent out to investigate into conditions in the concentration

camps: "... I doubt there being much for them to do here as the camps are very well looked after. Kendal Franks was quite astonished at the excellence of some of the camps ...".

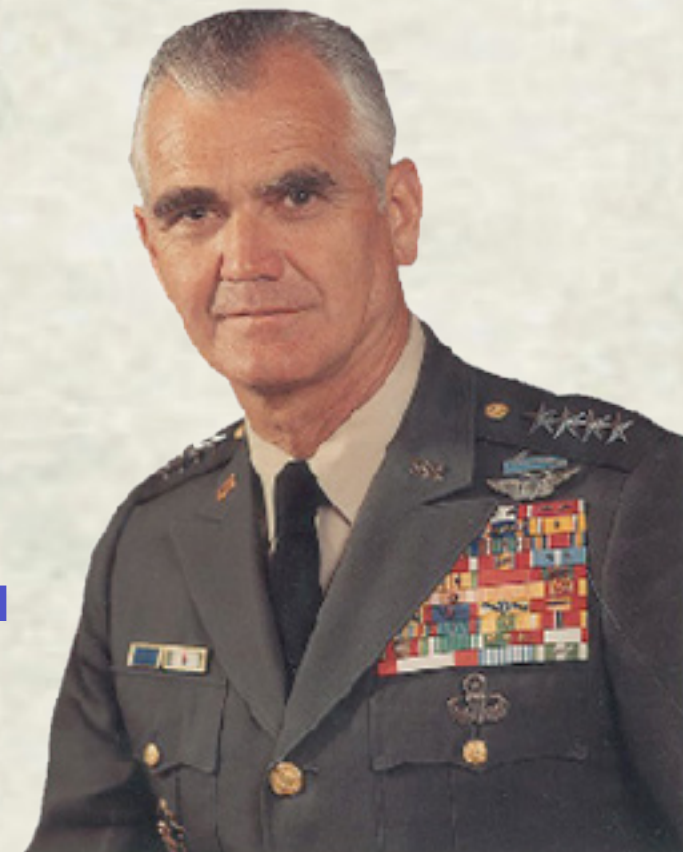
- **1918** - German armies retreat across the Marne.
- **1941** - Winston Churchill flashes "V for Victory" for the first time.
- **1942** - German occupiers confiscate bicycles in the Netherlands.
- **1991** - In a report published in the New Nation, a former South African army sergeant, Mr. Felix Ndimene, alleges that members of the Five Reconnaissance Regiment, which is part of South Africa's special forces, carried out an attack on a Soweto-bound train in September 1990. Twenty-six persons died in that attack.

- **1997** - Charles Taylor, a rebel leader with a reputation for brutality, wins Liberia's first peaceful presidential election following a seven-year civil war.

20 July

- **1871** - Queen Victoria abolishes the practice of purchasing commissions in the British Army.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Boer General C.J. Spruyt is killed in action while attempting to cross the railway line between Val Station and Vlaklaagte on his way to invade Natal.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: At Paardekop, in the Gatsrand, near Vereeniging, General J.C. Smuts and a small party are surprised in their sleep. His Black orderly, Kleinbooie, is shot and killed but General Smuts

William Westmoreland



manages to get away by shouting orders in English and stealing away on bare feet. He later retrieves all the documents he has had to leave behind in the dark.

- **1916** - World War I: Only three SA officers and 140 men march out of Delville Wood. Six days earlier, on moving in, the strength of the brigade was 3,433. In 1920 the SA government bought the wood and erected a monument.
- **1922** - The League of Nations agrees to award former German colonies as mandates.
- **1944** - US Marines land on Guam.
- **1944** - A plot by senior army officers to assassinate Adolf Hitler fails.
- **1949** - Israel's 19 month war of independence ends.
- **1954** - An agreement was signed in Geneva, Switzerland, ending hostilities between French forces in Vietnam and the People's Army of Vietnam.
- **1976** - Last US troops leave Thailand.
- **1982** - Corporal Michael Daniel Otto from 912 Battalion SWATF was killed when his SAMIL 20 vehicle overturned at Okahandja.
- **1983** - Rifleman James Tjuima a SWATF basic trainee, died in hospital from complications after contracting Pneumonia while undergoing basic training. He was 19.
- **1983** - Two members from

the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. They were: Special Constable Frans Hamutewa (27). Special Constable Klemens Mpase (22).

- **1987** - Captain Barend Jacobus Vorster from 8 Squadron was killed when his Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I crashed into the sea off Durban during a joint training exercise with the South African Navy. He was 24.
- **1988** - Corporal Johannes David Gerhardus van der Merwe from 3 Parachute Battalion was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Batavia. He was 25.
- **1988** - South Africa, Angola and Cuba formally accept the principles of an Angola/Namibia peace plan. The three countries, in separate statements, announce their agreement on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Angola and independence for South West Africa/Namibia.

21 July

- **1798** - Napoleon defeats the Arab Mameluke warriors at the Battle of the Pyramids in Egypt.
- **1899** - Second Anglo-Boer War: New South Wales, Australia, offers 1,860 officers, non-commissioned

officers and men to Britain for service in SA.

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British General Lord Robert's advance along the eastern line begins, starting from his outposts east of Pretoria along the Delagoa Bay railway line for more than 56 km. Commandant-General Louis Botha split his force of about 2,200 men into small groups to render isolated local resistance to the huge army moving eastwards.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Captain Danie Theron and his men capture a train from the Welsh fusiliers. After looting what they could carry, they placed the wounded under medical care in a railway carriage, which they push out of danger and set the train on fire. The next day he was congratulated by De Wet and promoted to the rank of commandant.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The burning of Bremersdorp.
- **1941** - Himmler orders building of Majanek Concentration Camp.
- **1944** - Colonel Claus Schenk von Stauffenberg (37), executed by firing squad, & General Ludwig Beck (64), assisted suicide, for their part in the plot to assassinate Hitler.
- **1945** - U.S. radio broadcasts demand that Japan surrender or be destroyed.
- **1962** - Indian and Chinese troops skirmish in the Him-

alayas.

- **1975** - Lance Corporal Douglas Brian Snell from 11 Commando Regiment died from a gunshot wound resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle while stationed in Northern Owamboland. He was 18.
- **1984** - Private Johannes Ricardo Matthee from 16 Maintenance Unit died from a gunshot wound resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle while stationed at Grootfontein. He was 21.
- **1985** - Rifleman Christiaan Jack from the Army Catering Corps was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Oshikuku. He was 26.
- **1986** - Corporal Mark Twain Whiteley from 701 Battalion SWATF was accidentally shot dead by own forces. He left the TB at night to relieve himself and was mistaken for a SWAPO/PLAN insurgent on his return. He was 24.
- **1987** - Rifleman George Immelman was stationed at the Army Battle School. He was accidentally killed when he was crushed between a loader and a tipper during construction work. He was 22.
- **2004** - An Egyptian and three Kenyans, along with four other truck drivers, are taken hostage by a militant Iraqi group.
- **1942** - Defeated on all fronts in 16 day war with

Peru, Ecuador agrees to a cease fire.

- **1942** - 1st Battle of Alamein: British halt German-Italian drive under Rommel.
- **1942** - 300,000 Warsaw Ghetto Jews are sent to Treblinka extermination camp.
- **1943** - Patton captures Palermo.
- **1946** - Jerusalem: The Irgun bombs British HQ in the King David Hotel, 90 die.
- **1983** - Sergeant Walter Alexander Robinson from 61 Base Workshop, Technical Service Corps died in his sleep in the Single Quarters at TEK Base after apparently suffering a fatal heart attack. He was 42.
- **1984** - Rifleman Gerhard Ernst De Lange from 1 Parachute Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents while on patrol north of Ondangwa. He was 20.
- **1987** - Corporal Adriaan Jonker from 2 SWA SPES (SWATF) was accidentally killed in Windhoek when his parachute failed during a practice jump at the J. G. Strydom Airport. He was 20.
- **1987** - Rifleman Lyall Gregory Sole from 2 SAI died

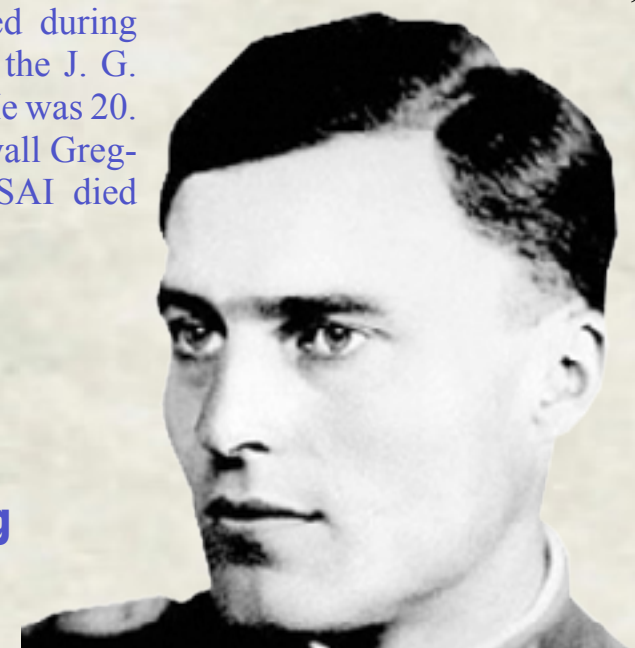
of injuries sustained during a training exercise when he was accidentally run over by an armoured vehicle in conditions of poor visibility. He was 20.

- **1987** - Soviet PM Gorbachev agrees to negotiate a ban on intermediate-range nuclear missiles.
- **2001** - Bertie Felstead of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, the last known survivor of the Christmas Truce of 1914, dies at the age of 106.

23 July

- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Lord Milner is presented with the freedom of the City of London at the Guildhall.
- **1940** - The "Blitz" begins: the first all-night Luftwaffe raid on London.
- **1942** - German troops capture Rostov.
- **1942** - World War II: Hurricanes of No.1 Squadron shoot down thirteen Ju-87s over the South African positions in the Alamein line,

Claus von Stauffenberg



- North Africa.
- **1943** - Battle of Kursk ends: Soviets win the greatest tank battle in history.
- **1944** - Soviet Army captures Lublin, Poland.
- **1951** - Lieutenant FM Bekker and Lieutenant RM du Plooy, serving with the SAAF Cheetah Squadron in the Korean War, are killed in action.
- **1951** - Henri Philippe Pétain, Marshal of France, Vichyite, dies in prison at the age of 95.
- **1952** - Egyptian military officers led by Gamal Abdel Nasser overthrow King Farouk I.
- **1970** - UN Security Council adopts resolution 282 (1970) calling on States to take a series of measures to strengthen the arms embargo against South Africa. The vote was 12 in favour and 3 abstentions (France, UK, USA).
- **1973** - Eddie Rickenbacker, the top American ace of World War I with 26 kills, dies at the age of 82.
- **1973** - Rifleman Stuart Craig McGregor from 4 SAI died from a gunshot wound to the stomach while stationed at Greefswald. He was 18.
- **1974** - Greek military dictatorship collapses.
- **1984** - Rifleman K. Muringo from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 22.
- **1988** - A surprise top-level

military meeting between Angola, South Africa and Cuba ends in Cape Verde. The talks follow reports that a fresh contingent of 2,000 Cuban troops, combined with Angolan forces, is moving along the front.

- **1989** - Airman (Miss) Marianna Christina Murphy from the Highveld Airspace Control Sector died in the H.F. Verwoerd Hospital from injuries received in a private motor vehicle accident on the N1 highway near Witbank. She was 18.
- **1994** - Gambian soldiers proclaim military government in Dakar, Senegal.

24 July

- **1897** - A combined force of the Seventh Hussars, local troops and the newly recruited British South Africa Police attacks Mashona chief Mashayamombe's kraal. The Chief was killed and the rebellion, started in June 1896, came to an end in November 1897, with the surrender of Nyanda and Kagubi.
- **1936** - Spanish Nationalists form a junta to conduct the civil war with the Spanish Republic.
- **1943** - RAF bombs Hamburg, initiating a firestorm.
- **1943** - During World War II in Europe, the Royal Air Force conducted Operation Gomorrah, raiding Hamburg, while tossing bales of aluminum foil strips overboard to cause German ra-

dar screens to see a blizzard of false echoes. As a result, only twelve of 791 Allied bombers involved were shot down.

- **1945** - At the conclusion of the Potsdam Conference in Germany, Winston Churchill, Harry Truman and China's representatives issued a demand for unconditional Japanese surrender. The Japanese, unaware the demand was backed up by an Atomic bomb, rejected the Potsdam Declaration on 26 July.
- **1969** - Muhammad Ali is convicted of refusing induction in the US Army.
- **1973** - Four men from the Japanese Red Army, a militant group dedicated to a worldwide communist revolution, hijack a Japan Airlines plane. They release the 137 occupants, then blow it up and are arrested in Libya.
- **1977** - Egypt's President Anwar Sadat orders his troops to observe immediate ceasefire in fighting with Libya.
- **1977** - Sergeant Izak Cornelius Du Plessis from 1 Air Depot died in 1 Military Hospital. He was suffering from cancer. He was 25.
- **1984** - Rifleman Arthur James Henn from the South African Cape Corps died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained. He was 20.
- **2000** - In Sierra Leone, dozens of rebels, including children, surrender to UN forces in the eastern city of Kenema and turn over their weapons.

25 July

- **1866** - Ulysses S. Grant is named the first full general in the history of the US Army.
- **1898** - During the Spanish-American War, the U.S. invaded Puerto Rico, which was then a Spanish colony. In 1917, Puerto Ricans became American citizens and Puerto Rico became an unincorporated territory of the U.S. Partial self-government was granted in 1947 allowing citizens to elect their own governor.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: In the month since 25 June, Emily Hobhouse has addressed 26 public meetings in Britain on the concentration camps, raising money to improve conditions.
- **1934** - Nazi coup fails in Austria.
- **1938** - Spanish Republican Army begins an offensive on the Ebro.
- **1943** - RAF bombs Fokker airplane factory in Amsterdam.
- **1943** - Mussolini was deposed just two weeks after the Allied attack on Sicily.
- **1944** - Allied breakthrough at St-Lo, Patton begins his drive across France.
- **1944** - First jet fighter used in combat, the Messerschmitt 262.
- **1945** - Japan says it will surrender, but not unconditionally.
- **1946** - US detonates an underwater A-bomb at Bikini,

the fifth atomic explosion.

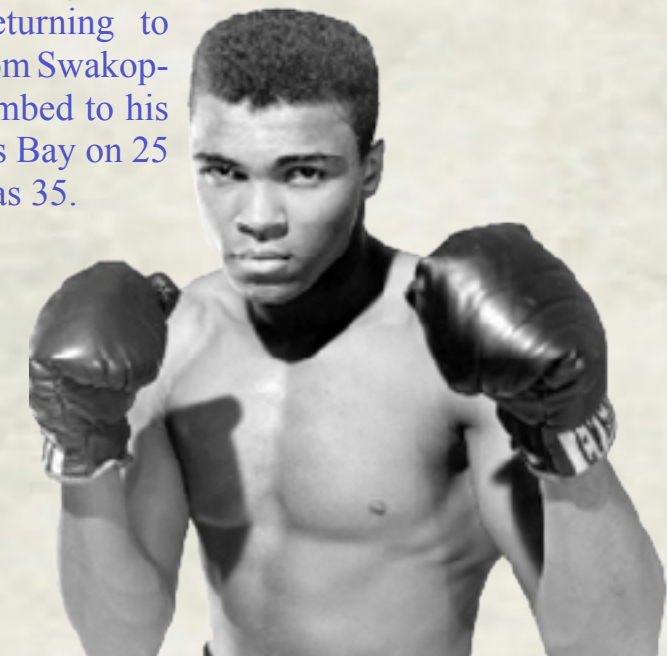
- **1947** - The US Army, Navy, & Air Force are subordinated to the new Department of Defence.
- **1982** - Rifleman M.J.J. Mahlio from 113 Battalion died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while stationed at Phalaborwa. He was 26.
- **1983** - Special Sergeant Leonard Mattheus from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was the Driver of Koevoet Casspir Zulu Foxtrot 2. He was Killed in Action when his vehicle was hit by a Soviet RPG-7 Anti-Tank Rocket after the vehicle ran into a SWAPO/PLAN ambush just North of Okatopi. He was 26.
- **1987** - Flight Sergeant Hendrik Andries Prinsloo Engelbrecht from Air Force Base Rooikop was critically injured on 22 July 1987 when he accidentally fell off the backing of a moving Landrover while returning to AFB Rooikop from Swakopmund. He succumbed to his injuries in Walvis Bay on 25 July 1987. He was 35.

- **1987** - Private Cornelius Johannes Kriel from 93 Ammunition Depot was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Jan Kempdorp. He was 21.
- **1988** - Rifleman Roelof van Aswegen from the Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident near Curries Post while on leave pass. He was 18.
- **1990** - Liberian rebels attack an airfield in Monrovia, closing off that city's last link to outside world.
- **1994** - Israel & Jordan formally end a state of war that existed since 1948.
- **2006** - Carl M. Brashear, the first black diver in the US Navy, dies at the age of 75.
- **2009** - Harry Patch, the last British Army veteran of the World War I trenches, dies at the age of 111.

26 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Piet de Wet, brother of Chief Comman-

Muhammad Ali



dant C.R. de Wet, and his staff lay down their arms at Kroonstad. The two brothers were never reconciled again.

- **1942** - RAF bombs Hamburg.
- **1944** - The U.S. Army began desegregating its training camp facilities. Black platoons were then assigned to white companies in a first step toward battlefield integration. However, the official order integrating the armed forces didn't come until July 26, 1948, signed by President Harry Truman.
- **1944** - Russian troops arrive on the Vistula.
- **1945** - The U.S. Cruiser Indianapolis arrived at Tinian Island in the Marianas with an unassembled Atomic bomb, met by scientists ready to complete the assembly.
- **1953** - The beginning of Fidel Castro's revolutionary "26th of July Movement." In 1959, Castro led the rebellion that drove out dictator Fulgencio Batista. Although he once declared that Cuba would never again be ruled by a dictator, Castro's government became a Communist dictatorship.
- **1957** - USSR launches its first intercontinental multi-stage ballistic missile.
- **1968** - Candidate Officer Bruce Spafford Human from Central Flying School Dunnottar was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed near Balfour while on a routine general flying training flight. He was flying solo at

the time of the accident. He was 19.

- **1973** - Rifleman Joseph Petrus Hermanus Viviers from 3 SAI accidentally drowned while his patrol was crossing the Kavango River. His foot got stuck between rocks in deep water and by the time assistance arrived and he was freed, he had already drowned. He was 18.
- **1979** - Corporal David Michael Muller from 2 Special Service Battalion died from injuries sustained in a military vehicle accident on the 23 July 1979 when his Landrover overturned approximately 8km from Jozini. He was 22.
- **1981** - Lance Corporal Michael Steven Hadlow from 44 Parachute Regiment Pathfinder Company was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 25.
- **1981** - Two members from Jozini Military Base were killed when their military vehicle overturned near Jozini. They were: Corporal Rory Clyde Joliffe (19). Rifleman Samuel Matenjwa (34).
- **1988** - Swapo claims SA is moving military equipment and troops to the Angola-South West Africa border.
- **1989** - Private Johannes Gysbertus de Klerk from 16 Maintenance Unit was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident 15 km south of To-

sca. He was 18.

- **1991** - Rifleman Mohapi Petrus Mdakane from 21 Battalion was accidentally killed when he was run over by a Samil 20 in Lenz Base. He was 23.
- **1994** - The Department of Defence is allocated some R10.5 billion, more than 8.7 per cent of the budget.

27 July

- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Chief Commandant C.R. De Wet, operating in the Bethlehem district, issues instructions to Commandant Willem D. Fouche in the Eastern Cape Colony to summarily execute any armed Blacks they capture.
- **1909** - Orville Wright demonstrates a plane for the US Army, flying 72 minutes.
- **1943** - Stalin issues Order No. 227: "Panic makers and cowards must be liquidated on the spot. Not one step backward . . . !"
- **1944** - First British jet fighter enters combat, the Gloster Meteor.
- **1944** - Soviets liberate Majanek Concentration Camp.
- **1953** - The undeclared Korean War ends, after three years of fighting between North Korean and Chinese Communists against the United Nations forces (mainly South Korean and American).
- **1954** - Armistice divides Vietnam in two.
- **1954** - Britain and Egypt

initial an agreement to end British occupation of the Suez Canal Zone.

- **1978** - UN Security Council endorses Western plan for ending guerrilla warfare in Southwest Africa and making it independent new state of Namibia.
- **1985** - Rifleman James Richard Willard Rudd from 3 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident at Omauni. He was 18.
- **1987** - Rifleman Andre Hartzenberg from Infantry School was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at the Infantry School Training Centre in Oudtshoorn. He was 19.
- **1990** - Rifleman Alan Fuller from 3 SAI was accidentally killed at the Vooruitsig Shooting Range after being struck by a bullet that ricocheted off a stone wall at the range. He was 21.
- **1995** - Korean War Veterans Memorial dedicated in Washington.
- **2004** - Sixty-seven of the sixty-nine suspected mercenaries plead guilty to lesser charges of violating Zimbabwe's immigration and civil aviation laws.

28 July

- **1914** - World War I: Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia a month after the murder on Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo. World War I begins.
- **1943** - During World War II, a firestorm killed 42,000 ci-

vilians in Hamburg, Germany. The firestorm occurred after 2,326 tons of bombs and incendiaries were dropped by the Allies.

- **1945** - Kamikaze sink their last ship, the USS 'Callaghan' (DD-792), off Okinawa.
- **1960** - Dag Hammarskjold, secretary-general of the UN, arrives in the Congo to try to end the civil war.
- **1972** - Two members from the Army Services School were killed in a military vehicle accident at Voortrekkerhoogte. They were: Private Carel David Aucamp Labuschagne (18). Private Jonathan Peter Knight (18).
- **1979** - Rifleman Ignatius Matheus Fick Du Plessis from 5 SAI was accidentally killed at Elundu after being struck by a bullet from a fellow soldiers unattended rifle when the weapon discharged after it fell over and hit the ground. He was 21.
- **1980** - Corporal Johan Heinrich Wasserman from Air Force Headquarters was killed when his military vehicle that was parked next to the Ben Schoeman Highway near Pretoria, was crushed

after being struck by an extra heavy articulate vehicle. He was 23.

- **1983** - Rifleman Eduard Cornelius Mostert from 5 SAI, attached to SWA SPES (SWATF) was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 18.
- **1988** - Rifleman Sipho Brian Msomi from 121 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with FRELIMO Forces at Muzi, near Jozini on the Mozambique border. He was 27.

29 July

- **1900** - The Alabama, American raider of the Southern States during the American Civil War, arrives in Saldana Bay for provisions.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Marthinus Prinsloo, leader of the Republican forces in the Brandwater Basin, sends



Joseph Stalin

an emissary to Gen. Hunter, asking a 4-day armistice. Hunter refuses and insists on unconditional surrender.

- **1949** - Berlin Airlift ends, as Soviets end blockade.
- **1953** - Soviets shoot down US patrol bomber northeast of Vladivostok.
- **1965** - Private Petrus Frederick Johannes Kruger from the Army Service Corps died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained at Brits. He was 18.
- **1969** - Lieutenant Andrew le Roux from 8 Squadron was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed into the Rustfontein Dam. He was 23.
- **1980** - Sapper Hans Wolfgang Pfeffer from the South African Engineer Corps died in 1 Military Hospital after contracting cerebral meningitis while serving in the Operational Area. He was 24.
- **1982** - Rifleman Johan Wilhelm Christiaan Scheepers from 5 SAI was killed while on official duty when his private motor vehicle overturned while he was on his way to attend a military parade. He was 18.
- **1983** - Rifleman Andre Jordaan from 3 SAI was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1986** - Rifleman Martin Johannes Botes from 2 SAI was killed while standing guard duty at the Selelekele High School in Soweto when a fellow guard acci-

dentally dropped his loaded rifle and a shot went off, hitting him in the head. He was 19.

- **1988** - Sergeant Zacharias Eduardo from 32 Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 35.
- **1991** - Major Wilfred de Koker from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was accidentally killed while participating in a night parachute training exercise at the Hellsgate Training Area. He was 32
- **2003** - Sierra Leonean rebel leader Foday Sankoh, who had been in United Nations custody since 2000 and was awaiting trial on charges of mass murder and other crimes, dies at a hospital in Freetown, after a stroke.

30 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Marthinus Prinsloo surrenders in the Brandwater Basin, near Clarens. Some generals refuse to surrender and escape through Golden Gate with about 1,500 men.
- **1909** - US Army accepts delivery of its first military airplane.
- **1966** - US airplanes bomb demilitarized zone in Vietnam.
- **1979** - Sapper Colin Stephen Rees from the School of Engineers died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while he was stationed at Kroonstad. He was 24.

• **1982** - Rifleman Daryl Peter Croeser of 61 Mechanised Battalion was Killed in Action in Southern Angola during Ops Meebos when Ratel 72 detonated a double boosted Yugoslavian TMA-3 Cheese mine. He was 19.

- **1986** - Lance Corporal R.H. Makaranga from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 25.
- **1987** - Rifleman Johannes Petrus Wessels Groenewald from 8 SAI was critically Injured and paralysed in a landmine explosion near Katima Mulilo on 14 July 1983. He was placed into a care facility after discharge from 1 Military Hospital but three years later, complications arose as a result of these injuries and gangrene set in. He was re-admitted to 1 Military Hospital where he died on 30 July 1987. He was 24.
- **1987** - An ANC car bomb attack directed at the headquarters of the Wits Command, takes place in Quartz Street, Johannesburg. One person is killed and sixty-eight are injured.
- **2002** - President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwandan President Paul Kagame sign a peace agreement intended to bring an end to the civil war that started in 1998. More than 2,5-million people died.

31 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General De la Rey arrests ex-General Schoeman on his farm near Pretoria for refusing to obey an order to escort a convoy of supply wagons.
- **1917** - World War I: Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) begins (ends Nov. 10th), perhaps 500,000 die or are injured on both sides.
- **1925** - Last Allied occupation forces leave the Rhineland.
- **1970** - Black Tot Day: Parliament abolishes the Royal Navy's 330 year tradition of a daily issue of grog, replacing it with a daily can of beer.
- **1978** - Sapper Louis Francois Porter from 46 Survey Squadron, South African Corps of Engineers, was

killed in a military vehicle accident at Kimbezi in Eastern Caprivi. He was 21.

- **1982** - Rifleman Domingo Dala Denge from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 30.
- **1987** - Airman Jacques de Villiers Snyders from TEK Base was killed in a private motorcycle accident in Central Pretoria when his motorcycle collided with a truck at the intersection of Church and Rebecca Street. He was 18.
- **1987** - Rifleman Louis Samuel Du Piesanie from Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident 8km from Beaufort West. He was 23.
- **1989** - Private Edward Stephen Cooper from the Prov-

ost School was killed when his SAMIL 50 overturned at the Army Battle School. He was 18.

- **1990** - The chief of the SA defence force, Gen. Jannie Geldenhuys, announces that the Citizens Cooperation Bureau (CCB) will be disbanded.
- **1991** - Two members from 111 Battalion were killed when their military vehicle that was transporting patients to 1 Military Hospital, overturned on the N4 Highway near Cullinan. They were: Rifleman Bonisani Abednego Sibuyi (27). Rifleman Morris Mavabaza Simbine (33).
- **1991** - George H.W. Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev sign the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.



Third Battle of Ypres



WWII Patches & Badges

- Royal Marines (Great Britain)
- French Foreign Legion (France)
- Navy Seals (United States)
- Special Forces Brigade - Green Berets (United States)
- Special Air Service (Great Britain)
- Royal Ghurka Regiment (Great Britain)
- United States Marine Corps (United States)
- Selous Scouts (Rhodesia)
- Royal Air Force (Great Britain)
- Waffen SS (Nazi Germany)
- South African Infantry (South Africa)
- GSG-9 (Germany)
- Royal Corps of Signals (Great Britain)
- 101st Airborne Division (United States)
- Parachute Regiment (Great Britain)

8



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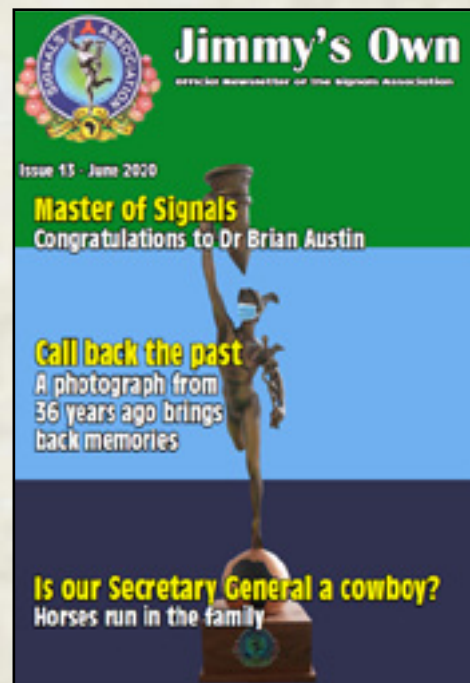
11



Useful links

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

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



Military Despatches Website

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

Steve Jobs



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

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

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



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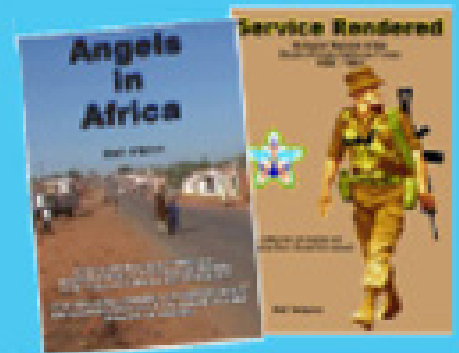
Online Magazines

Flip book magazines with pages that can be turned.



E-books

Produced in any electronic format required.



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Produced in any video format.



Video Production

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



Still Photography

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