



Military Despatches

Vol 38 August 2020

Deadlier than the male

Females on the front lines

The Night Witches

WWII female pilots hated and feared by the Germans

The Dark Intruder

Who was Captain Franz von Rintelen

Mary Walker

The only woman to win the US Medal of Honour

For the military enthusiast



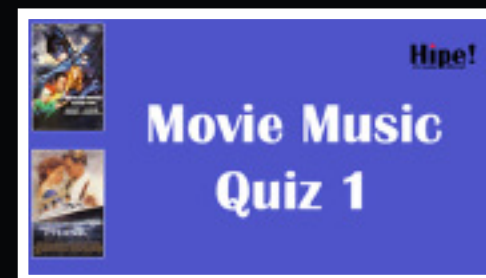
Click on any video below to view



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



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



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



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



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



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

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

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Editor's Sitrep

A line from a poem by Lewis Carroll (he of Alice In Wonderland fame) reads: "The time has come", the Walrus said, "To talk of many things." The poem in question is "The Walrus and the Carpenter".

The poem goes on to say "Of shoes - and ships - and sealing wax - Of cabbages - and kings- And why the sea is boiling hot - And whether pigs have wings."

To be honest I have no current interest in shoes, sealing way, cabbages or kings.

What I do want to talk about is Military Despatches and its future or lack thereof.

I started Military Despatches back in July 2017. Since then there have been 38 issues of the magazine. That spans a period of three years and two months. It has consisted of 2,988 pages and 622 articles. As you can image, a project such as this takes time to put together each month.

When I started the magazine I vowed that it would always be free to anyone that wanted to read it, and that they were welcome to send the magazine on to anyone they wished. I also

vowed that the magazine would never feature paid advertising. These are both vows that I have kept.

I did, however, want to raise funds from the magazine. My intention was to use funds raised to either start or support projects aimed at assisting military veterans.

In the third issue of the magazine I wrote an article saying that I had joined an organisation called Patreon. People could make a monthly donation into this account. They could donate as little as \$1.00 a month. That works out at R16.53 - less that a cup of coffee. To date that total amount we have raised is zero. Not a cent. Yet I continued to produce the magazine each month.

Like most other people, the current Covid-19 Pandemic has had an adverse effect on my ability to earn an income.

I earn my living as a freelance journalist. I write articles for various publications (mostly overseas), do editing work, and also film and produce documentaries (again mostly for overseas companies).

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Hipe! media

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Ten modern day women warriors

History abounds with legends of male warriors, but this is not the case for the fairer sex. Yet that is not to say that they didn't exist.

Throughout history legends of male warriors are aplenty, but the same cannot be said of women warriors. Yet that is not to say that they didn't exist.

Some of these women warriors are well known. Most people will know about Joan of Arc, probably the most popular woman warrior in history. This 16 year old girl would go on to lead the French army in battle against the English.

Another well known woman warrior was Boudicca, queen of the Iceni. After her husband died she led an army of 100,000 men and toppled the Roman capital in Britain, Camulodunum.

Yet there are other women warriors in history that are less well known. These include Triệu Thị Trinh (known as the Vietnamese Joan of Arc), Nakano Takeko (one of the only known *onna-bugeisha* - female samurai - in Japan's history, Grace O'Malley (the Irish pirate queen), Lozen (Apache warrior), and Rani Lakshmibai (India) are some of them.

In this article, however, we will be looking at modern day women warriors. Those whose achievements have been in the 20th century and beyond. They are in alphabetical order.



Maria Bochkareva

Not only did this Russian soldier fight in World War I, she also formed the Women's Battalion of Death and was the first Russian woman to command a military unit.

When World War I broke out in 1914 she tried to join the 25th Tomsk Reserve Battalion of the Imperial Russian Army, but was rejected. She was told that she should try joining the Red Cross instead.

Undeterred, she secured the personal permission of Tsar Nicholas II. After three months training she began front-line duty with 5th Corps, 28th Regiment of the Second Army. She was decorated for rescuing fifty wounded soldiers from the field.

She was wounded in the arm and leg and worked as a medical sister until she was fit enough to return to the front with the rank of corporal. She suffered another injury that left her paralyzed

for four months.

In 1917 she proposed the creation of an all-female combat unit which she believed would solve the Army's morale problem. She felt that it would shame the men into again supporting the war.

Permission was granted and she was placed in command of the unit. The 1st Russian Women's Battalion of Death initially attracted more than 2,000 women volunteers, but Bochkareva's strict discipline weeded out all but 300 of them.

Her unit was at the front at the time of the October Revolution and did not participate in the defence of the Winter Palace. Bochkareva's unit disbanded after facing increasing hostility from the remaining male troops at the front.

She was briefly detained by the Bolsheviks but released. In early 1918 she was detained a second time and scheduled to be executed.

She was rescued, however, by a soldier who had served with her in the Imperial Army in 1915 and who convinced the Bolsheviks to stay her execution. She was granted an external passport and allowed to leave the country. In April 1918 she went to America.

Sponsored by socialite Florence Harriman, Bochkareva arrived in San Francisco and

made her way to New York City and Washington, D.C. She was granted a meeting with President Woodrow Wilson on 10 July 1918, during which she begged the president to intervene in Russia.

Wilson was apparently so moved by her emotional appeal that he responded with tears in his eyes and promised to do what he could.

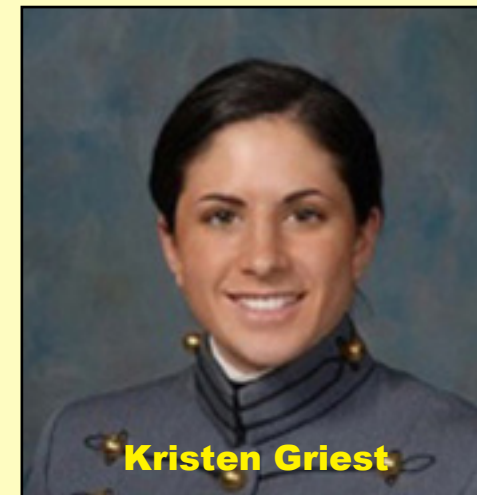
After leaving the United States, she travelled to Great Britain where she was granted an audience with King George V. The British War Office gave her 500 rubles of funding to return to Russia.

Bochkareva arrived in Arkhangelsk in August 1918 and attempted to organise another unit, but failed. In April 1919, she returned to Tomsk and attempted to form a women's medical detachment under White Army Admiral Aleksandr Kolchak, but before she could complete this task she was recaptured by the Bolsheviks.

She was sent to Krasnoyarsk where she was interrogated for four months. Ultimately, against Lenin's orders, she was sentenced to death and executed as an "enemy of the working class".

She was shot by the Cheka on 16 May 1920. She was posthumously pardoned and exonerated by Lenin.

The Cheka (Secret Police who later became the NKVD and then the KGB) agents who ordered her execution were executed themselves for not following orders.



Kristen Griest, Lisa Jaster and Shaye Haver

The United States Army Ranger School is a 61 day combat leadership course oriented toward small-unit tactics. The course is considered the premiere military leadership course in the world.

It is open to Soldiers (commissioned officer, warrant officer, or non-commissioned officers), Sailors, Airmen, and Marines in the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as select allied military students - as long as you were male.

In April 2015, 19 women were allowed to participate in the course as part of a one-time pilot program to see how women would do in Ranger School. To date, only three women have successfully passed the course.

Kristen Griest graduated from the United States Military Academy in 2011. She also served in Afghanistan as a military police officer.

On 21 August 2015, Griest, along with Shaye Haver, became the first woman to graduate from Ranger School.

When Griest graduated from Ranger school women were

not allowed to serve in Ranger/Infantry roles due to the Pentagon's exclusion policies on women in combat. That policy changed on 3 December 2015 when Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announced the US military would open combat positions to women with no exception.

In 2016, Griest became the first female infantry officer in the US Army when the Army approved her request to transfer there from a military police unit.

Shaye Haver graduated from the United States Military Academy in 2012.

She followed in her father's footsteps and became a helicopter pilot. She flew an Apache attack helicopter in an aviation brigade.

On 21 August she graduated from Ranger School, receiving a certificate of completion and was awarded and authorized to wear the Ranger tab.

On 26 April 2018 Haver took command of Co C, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry of the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division.

Lisa Jaster graduated from the United States Military Academy in 2000 and was commissioned as an engineer officer with the 92nd Engineer Battalion.

She was deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom I and Operation Iraqi Freedom I. She was awarded a Bronze Star medal.

After getting married, she left active-duty in 2007 and start-

ed a family and civilian career with Shell, but returned to the Army as a reservist in 2014.

She was part of the pilot group to attend Ranger School. There were 400 participants on the course, including 19 women.

She graduated later than Kristen Griest and Shaye Haver because she had to repeat one of the phases of the course.

Of the 400 participants that started the course, only 90 earned the Ranger tab. While the average age of the trainees is 23, Jaster graduated at the age of 37.

She was the first female United States Army Reserve officer to become a Ranger.



Mary Hallaren

Mary Hallaren joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in 1942. It later became the Women's Army Corps (WAC).

This was less than a year after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour and America's entry into World War II.

She was barely five feet tall and when a recruiter asked her

how someone of her size could help the military, she replied "You don't have to be six feet tall to have a brain that works."

By 1943 she was a captain and she commanded the first women's battalion to go overseas.

She served as director of WAC personnel attached to the 8th and 9th Air Forces, and by 1945, as a lieutenant colonel, she commanded all WAC personnel in the European theater.

By 1947, Hallaren was a full colonel, and was appointed director of the entire WAC.

On June 12, 1948, when the WAC was officially integrated into the Army, she became the first woman to serve as a regular Army officer.

She remained in this post until she retired from the army in 1960. She served in the United States Department of Labour as director of the Women in Community Service division until She retired in 1978, but continued to serve in an advisory capacity.

In the 1990s, she was a leading proponent of the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, which was dedicated in 1997.

She died on 13 February 2005 at the Arleigh Burke Pavilion, an assisted living facility for retired military personnel in McLean, Virginia. She was 97.



Elinor Joseph

Elinor Joseph is the first Arab woman ever to serve in a combat role in the Israeli military.

Her father, Charbel Joseph, served in the Israeli Paratroopers Brigade and when she finished high school he encouraged her to enlist in the Israeli Defence Force (IDF).

Although reluctant at first, she decided that she wanted to serve as a combat medic.

When she arrived at the recruitment base she was informed that she had already been selected to serve as an office clerk.

She was steadfast that she was going to be a combat medic and refused to be transported out to a new base.

Finally, after several days, a meeting was arranged between her and a colonel from the Northern Command. The colonel made Elinor a singular proposal: undergo regular basic training and, on the condition of being selected as an outstanding trainee, go on to attempt the medic's training course.

Elinor agreed. She complet-

ed basic training, was the outstanding trainee of her platoon, and subsequently proceeded to the medic's training course.

After successfully completing the medic's training course, Elinor Joseph was stationed in a military police base near the Palestinian city of Qalqilyah.

In response to a transfer request Elinor made, in 2010 she was reassigned to the Caracal battalion, which operates in the western Negev along Israel's border with Egypt. She thus became the first Arab woman ever to serve in the Israeli army in a combat role.



Lydia Litvyak

A fighter pilot in the Soviet Air Force during World War II, Lydia Litvyak was the first female fighter pilot to shoot down an enemy aircraft, the first of two female fighter pilots who have earned the title of fighter ace and the holder of the record for the greatest number of kills by a female fighter pilot.

Born in Moscow to a Jewish family, she became interested

in aviation at an early age. She enrolled at a flying club at the age of 14 and performed her first solo flight at the age of 15.

She became a flight instructor at Kalinin Airclub and by the time the Germans invaded Russia she had already trained 45 pilots.

She tried to join a military aviation unit, but was rejected due to a lack of experience. Not deterred in the least, she applied again. This time, however, she exaggerated her pre-war flight time by 100 hours.

She was accepted and posted to the all-female 586th Fighter Regiment of the Air Defense Force, a unit formed by Marina Raskova. Lydia trained on a Yakovlev Yak-1 aircraft.

In 1942 Lydia flew her first combat flights over Saratov. On 10 September she moved along with Katya Budanova, Maria M. Kuznetsova and Raisa Beliaeva, the commander of the group, and accompanying female ground crew, to the regiment airfield, at Verkhnaia Akhtuba, on the east bank of the Volga river. But when they arrived the base was empty and under attack, so they soon moved to Srednaia Akhtuba.

On 13 June 1943, she was appointed flight commander of the 3rd Aviation Squadron within 73rd GvIAP.

On 1 August 1943, at the age of 21, she was shot down and killed by two German fighter aircraft.

Nicknamed the "White Lily of Stalingrad", she was awarded the Hero of the Soviet Union,

Order of Lenin, Order of the Red Banner, Order of the Patriotic War 1st class and Order of the Red Star decorations.



Lyudmila Pavlichenko

Nicknamed Lady Death, Lyudmila Pavlichenko was a sniper in the Red Army.

Her total confirmed kills during World War II was 309, and this included 36 enemy snipers, making her the deadliest female sniper in history.

When the Germans invaded Russia in June 1941, Lyudmila was 24 years old and doing her forth year of studies at Kiev University.

She immediately volunteered to join the army and was one of the first to report to the Odessa recruiting office.

She requested that she join the infantry and was assigned to the Red Army's 25th Rifle Division.

She then became one of 2,000 female snipers in the Red Army. Only about 500 of them would survive the war.

In June 1942, she was wounded by mortar fire. Because of her growing status, she was withdrawn from combat less than a month after recovering from her wound.

The government then decided to send Lyudmila on a publicity tour of Canada and the United States.

She became the first Soviet citizen to be received by a US President when Franklin Delano Roosevelt welcomed her to the White House.

In Chicago, she stood before large crowds, chiding the men to support the second front.

“Gentlemen,” she said, “I am 25 years old and I have killed 309 fascist invaders by now. Don’t you think, gentlemen, that you have been hiding behind my back for too long?”

Her words settled on the crowd, then caused a surging roar of support.

In 1943, she was awarded the Gold Star of the Hero of the Soviet Union, and was commemorated on a Soviet postage stamp.

After the war, she finished her education at Kiev University and began a career as a historian.

Lyudmila Pavlichenko died on 10 October 1974 at age 58, and was buried in the Novodevichye Cemetery in Moscow.



Milunka Savić

This Serbian war heroine, who fought in the Balkan Wars and in World War I, may be the most decorated female combatant in the entire history of warfare.

When her brother received his call-up papers for mobilization for the Second Balkan War, Milunka chose to go in his place.

She cut her hair, put on men’s clothes, and joined the Serbian Army.

It wasn’t long before she was in combat. She was promoted to corporal and was awarded a medal during the Battle of Bregalnica.

She was wounded and taken to hospital in order for her wounds to be treated. Imagine the surprise of the attending physicians when they discovered her true gender.

She was called in front of her commanding officer, but he didn’t really want to punish her. After all, she had proved

herself in battle on ten separate occasions. But neither was it suitable for a young woman to be in combat.

She was offered a transfer to the Nursing division. Savić stood at attention and insisted she only wanted to fight for her country as a combatant. The officer said he’d think it over and give her his answer the next day. Still standing at attention, Savić responded, “I will wait.” It is said he only made her stand an hour before agreeing to send her back to the infantry.”

In 1914, in the early days of World War I, Savić was awarded her first Karadorđe Star with Swords after the Battle of Kolubara. She received her second Karadorđe Star (with Swords) after the Battle of the Crna Bend in 1916 when she captured 23 Bulgarian soldiers single-handedly.

She was also awarded the French Légion d’Honneur (Legion of Honour) twice, Russian Cross of St. George, British medal of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael, Serbian Miloš Obilić medal. She was the sole female recipient of the French Croix de Guerre 1914–1918 with the gold palm attribute for service in World War I.

She was demobilised in 1919, and turned down an offer to move to France, where she was eligible to collect a comfortable French army pension. Instead, she chose to live in Belgrade and found work as a postal worker.

During the German occupa-

tion of Serbia in World War II, Milunka refused to attend a banquet organised by Milan Nedić, which was to be attended by German generals and officers. She was arrested and taken to Banjica concentration camp, where she was imprisoned for ten months.

She died in Belgrade on 5 October 1973, aged 81.



Hannie Schaft

Jannetje Schaft was a Dutch communist resistance fighter during World War II. She became known as *Het meisje met het rode haar* (Dutch for the girl with the red hair). Her secret name in the resistance movement was Hannie..

From a young age she was interested in politics and social justice. This led her to study law because she wanted to become a human rights lawyer.

During her time at the *Universiteit van Amsterdam* she became friends with the Jewish students Philine Polak and

Sonja Frenk.

When the Germans occupied the Netherlands in World War II, university students were required to sign a declaration of allegiance to the occupation authorities. When Schaft refused to sign the petition in support of the occupation forces, she could not continue her studies and moved in with her parents again.

She became a member of the *Raad van Verzet* (Council of Resistance), a resistance movement that had close ties to the Communist Party of the Netherlands.

She was not interested in becoming a courier, but wanted to work with weapons. She was responsible for sabotaging and assassinating various targets.

She carried out various attacks on Germans, Dutch Nazis, collaborators and traitors. She learned to speak German fluently and got involved with German soldiers.

The “girl with the red hair” was soon on the Nazi’s most wanted list.

When one of her fellow resistance members was injured, he mistakenly gave her name away. The Dutch nurses that treated him were actually Germans disguised as resistance workers.

Hannie was arrested and in an attempt to get her to confess, her parents were sent to the Vught concentration camp.

Unable to get a confession out of her, Hannie’s parents were eventually released. She had to

lay low for some time.

She dyed her hair black and returned to resistance work. Once again she contributed to assassinations and sabotage, as well as courier work, and the transportation of illegal weapons and the dissemination of illegal newspapers.

She was eventually arrested at a military checkpoint in Haarlem on 21 March 1945, while distributing the illegal communist newspaper *de Waarheid*. After much interrogation, torture, and solitary confinement, Schaft was identified by the roots of her red hair.

On 17 April 1945, three weeks before the end of the war, Hannie was executed by Dutch Nazi officials. She was 24 at the time of her death.



Nancy Wake

Born in New Zealand, Nancy Wake ran away from home at the age of 16 and worked as a nurse.

TOP TEN

Using £200 that she had inherited from an aunt, she journeyed to New York City, then London where she trained herself as a journalist.

She was working in France in 1937 when she met wealthy French industrialist Henri Edmond Fiocca. They were married on 30 November 1939.

She was living in Marseille, France when Germany invaded.

After the fall of France in 1940, she became a courier for the French Resistance and later joined the escape network of Captain Ian Garrow.

In reference to Wake's ability to elude capture, the Gestapo called her the "White Mouse".

The Resistance exercised caution with her missions; her life was in constant danger, with the Gestapo tapping her telephone and intercepting her mail.

By November 1942 Wake was the Gestapo's most wanted person in the Marseilles area, with a price of 5 million francs on her head.

When the network was betrayed that same year she decided to flee France. Her husband, Henri Fiocca, stayed behind.

He later was captured, tortured, and executed by the Gestapo because he would not betray her.

After reaching Britain, Wake joined the Special Operations Executive and was trained by them in several different training programs.

On 1 March 1944, Wake was parachuted into the Auvergne, becoming a liaison between London and the local maquis

group headed by Captain Henri Tardivat in the Forest of Tronçais.

Her duties included allocating arms and equipment that were parachuted in and mind-ing the group's finances.

From March 1944 until the liberation of France, her 7,000 plus maquisards fought the Germans by any means they could.

Her French companions, especially Henri Tardivat, praised her fighting spirit, amply demonstrated when she killed an SS sentry with her bare hands to prevent him from raising the alarm during a raid.

Immediately after the war, Wake was awarded the George Medal, the United States Medal of Freedom, the Médaille de la Résistance, and the Croix de Guerre. She was awarded the last medal three times.

She learned that the Gestapo had tortured her husband to death in 1943 for refusing to disclose her whereabouts.

After the war, she worked for the intelligence department at the British Air Ministry, attached to embassies in Paris and Prague.

Wake was appointed a Chevalier (knight) of the Legion of Honour in 1970 and was promoted to Officer of the Legion of Honour in 1988.

She died on 7 August 2011 in London at the age of 98.



Mary Edwards Walker

Mary Walker wasn't a soldier, not did she ever serve in the military. Yet she was a true warrior.

She was a doctor, American abolitionist, prohibitionist, prisoner of war and surgeon during the American Civil War.

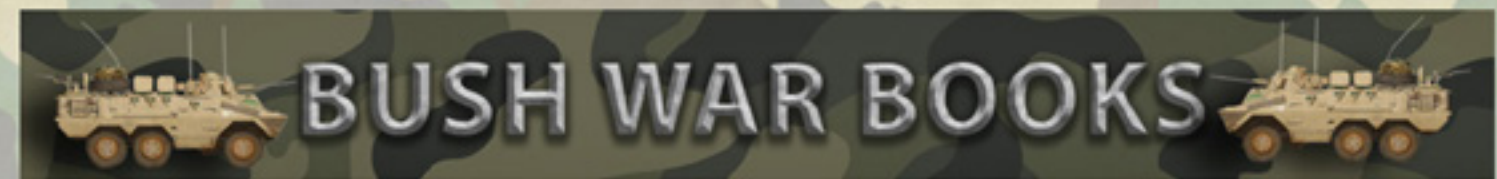
During the war she worked as a surgeon for the Union Army. She would often cross enemy lines to treat wounded.

She was captured by Confederate forces and arrested as a spy. She was sent to a POW camp until released in a prisoner exchange.

After the war she was approved for the Medal of Honor, becoming the first, and only woman, to earn the award. She was also one of only eight civilians to ever receive the award.

She died on 21 February 1919 at the age of 86.

You can read more about Mary Walker in this month's "Famous Figures in Military History".



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

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

Special Forces - 75th Ranger Regiment

Part eighteen of a series that takes a look at Special Forces units around the world. This month we look at America's 75th Ranger Regiment.

The 75th Ranger Regiment, also known as Army Rangers, is an elite special operations force that is a combat deployable unit in the United States Army Special Operations Command. The Regiment is headquartered at Fort Benning, Georgia and is composed of one special troops battalion and three Ranger battalions.

The 75th Ranger Regiment is the U.S. Army's premier light infantry unit, with specialized skills that enable them to perform a variety of operations. Their primary operations are

to execute direct action raids in hostile or sensitive environments worldwide, often killing or capturing high value targets. Besides direct action raids, their other missions include: Airfield seizure, special reconnaissance, personnel recovery, clandestine insertion, and site exploitation. The Regiment can deploy one Ranger battalion within 18 hours of alert notifi-

cation.

Origin

The Regiment's history dates back to Colonial America, when rifle companies organized by Major Robert Rogers made long-range attacks against French forces and their Indian allies and were instrumental in capturing Fort Detroit. During the American Revolutionary

War, many colonial commanders were former Rangers. American Ranger history predates the Revolutionary War to Ethan Allen and his guerrilla fighting group the Green Mountain Boys in Vermont. Captain Benjamin Church formed Church's Rangers, which fought hostile Native American tribes during King Philip's War.



In 1756 Major Rogers, a New Hampshire native, recruited nine Ranger companies to fight in the French and Indian War. They were known as “Rogers’ Rangers”. Robert’s was famous for his “19 Standing Orders”, which he wrote for the Rangers.

In 1775, the Continental Congress later formed eight companies of expert riflemen to fight in the Revolutionary War.

In 1777, this force of hardy frontiersmen, commanded by Dan Morgan, was known as The Corps of Rangers. Francis Marion, “The Swamp Fox”, organized another famous Revolutionary War Ranger element known as “Marion’s Partisans”.

During the War of 1812, companies of United States Rangers were raised from among the frontier settlers as part of the regular army. Throughout the war, they patrolled the frontier from Ohio to Western Illinois on horseback and by boat. Rangers participated in many skirmishes and battles with the British and their American Indian allies.

After the Civil War, more than half a century passed without Ranger units in the United States.

World War II

General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the United States Army, envisioned an elite unit of fifty men selected voluntarily from the 34th Infantry Division.

He believed Major William Orlando Darby was the man to do the job. On 8 June 1942, Darby was officially put in charge of the First Ranger Battalion under General Hartle.

Their first action was when fifty Rangers fought alongside

Canadian and British Commandos in the ill-fated Dieppe Raid on the coast of occupied France. Three Rangers were killed and several captured.

In November 1942, the entire 1st Ranger Battalion entered combat for the first time when they landed at Arzew, Algeria. The First were split into two groups in hopes of assaulting Vichy-French batteries and fortifications before the 1st Infantry Division would land on the beach. The operation was successful, and the unit sustained minimal casualties.

With the success of the First Ranger Battalion during the Tunisian campaign, Darby requested that the Rangers be expanded to a full Regiment. The request was granted. The Third and Fourth Ranger Battalions were authorized shortly after and were trained and led by veteran officers and NCOs from the First Battalion.

The 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions were trained at Camp Forrest, Tennessee, on 1 April 1943. They first saw action 6 June 1944, during Operation Overlord. During D-day 2nd Rangers companies D, E, and F, were ordered to take a strategic German outpost at Pointe du Hoc.

The 6th Ranger Battalion was stationed in the Pacific, and served mostly in the Philippines and New Guinea. All operations completed by the 6th Battalion were done in company- or platoon-size behind enemy lines.

They were the first soldiers to hit the Philippines, three days before the army would launch the first invasion. The 6th Ranger Battalion conducted



75th Ranger Regiment

long-range reconnaissance, operating miles past the front line.

Korean War

The outbreak of hostilities in Korea in June 1950 again signalled the need for Rangers. Fifteen Ranger companies were formed during the Korean War. The Rangers went to battle throughout the winter of 1950 and the spring of 1951.

They were nomadic warriors, attached first to one Regiment and then to another. They performed “out front” work - scouting, patrolling, raids, ambushes, spearheading assaults, and as counter-attack forces to regain lost positions.

In all six airborne Ranger companies, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 8th, averaging 125 soldiers in each company served during the conflict.

Two other companies, the 10th and 11th, were scheduled for Korea but were deactivated in Japan.

During the course of the Korean War, 100 Rangers were killed in action and 296 were wounded in action.

Vietnam War

The history of Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP—pronounced “Lurp”), LRP, and Ranger units deployed during the Cold War in Europe and Vietnam is based on three time periods:

1. LRRP from late 1965 to 20 December 1967;
2. LRP from late December 1967 through January 1969; and
3. Ranger from 1 February 1969, to 1972 when the Vietnam War drew down and the U.S. Vietnam Ranger units were deactivated.

However, in 1974 their colours and lineage were passed to newly formed Ranger Battalions based in the United States.

Post-Vietnam Era

In January 1974, General Creighton Abrams, Army Chief of Staff, directed the formation of a Ranger battalion. General Kenneth C. Leuer was charged with activating, organizing, training and leading the first battalion sized Ranger unit since World War II.

The 1st Ranger Battalion was activated and parachuted into Fort Stewart, Georgia, on 1 July 1974.

The 2nd Ranger Battalion followed with activation on 1 October 1974. The 3rd Ranger Battalion and Headquarters Company received their colors on 3 October 1984, at Fort Benning, Ga. The 75th Ranger Regiment was designated in February 1986.

The modern Ranger battalions were first called upon in 1980 when elements of 1st Ranger Battalion participated

Major Roberts 19 Standing Orders

1. Don’t forget nothing.
2. Have your musket clean as a whistle, hatchet scoured, sixty rounds powder and ball, and be ready to march at a minute’s warning.
3. When you’re on the march, act the way you would if you was sneaking up on a deer. See the enemy first.
4. Tell the truth about what you see and do. There is an army depending on us for correct information. You can lie all you please when you tell other folks about the Rangers, but don’t never lie to a Ranger or officer.
5. Don’t never take a chance you don’t have to.
6. When we’re on the march we march single file, far enough apart so one shot can’t go through two men.
7. If we strike swamps, or soft ground, we spread out abreast, so it’s hard to track us.
8. When we march, we keep moving till dark, so as to give the enemy the least possible chance at us.
9. When we camp, half the party stays awake while the other half sleeps.
10. If we take prisoners, we keep ‘em separate til we have had time to examine them, so they can’t cook up a story between ‘em.
11. Don’t ever march home the same way. Take a different route so you won’t be ambushed.
12. No matter whether we travel in big parties or little ones, each party has to keep a scout 20 yards ahead, twenty yards on each flank and twenty yards in the rear, so the main body can’t be surprised and wiped out.
13. Every night you’ll be told where to meet if surrounded by a superior force.
14. Don’t sit down to eat without posting sentries.
15. Don’t sleep beyond dawn. Dawn’s when the French and Indians attack.
16. Don’t cross a river by a regular ford.
17. If somebody’s trailing you, make a circle, come back onto your own tracks, and ambush the folks that aim to ambush you.
18. Don’t stand up when the enemy’s coming against you. Kneel down. Hide behind a tree.
19. Let the enemy come till he’s almost close enough to touch. Then let him have it and jump out and finish him up with your hatchet.

in Operation Eagle Claw, the Iranian hostage rescue mission. In October 1983, 1st and 2nd Ranger Battalions spearheaded Operation Urgent Fury, conducting a dangerous low-level parachute assault to seize Point Salines Airfield and rescue American citizens at True Blue Medical Campus in Grenada.

The entire 75th Ranger Regiment participated in Operation Just Cause. Rangers spearheaded the action by conducting two important operations. Simultaneous parachute assaults were conducted onto Torrijos/Tocumen International Airport, Rio Hato Airfield and General Manuel Noriega's beach house, to neutralize Panamanian Defence Forces. The Rangers captured 1,014 Enemy Prisoners of War (EPW), and over 18,000 various weapons.

Other Ranger operations have included Operation Desert Storm and the Battle of Mogadishu. On 24 November 2000 the 75th Ranger Regiment deployed Regimental Reconnaissance Company (RRC) Team 2 and a command and control element to Kosovo in support of Task Force Falcon.

During the Global War on Terrorism the Rangers played an important role in both Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In March 2006, DEVGRU operators and a Ranger element carried out an operation allegedly under the code name Operation Vigilant Harvest. Their target was an al-Qaeda training camp in North Waziristan in Pakistan, they were flown across the Afghan-Pakistan border.



WATCHFUL EYE: A Ranger from the 2nd Ranger Battalion providing overwatch during combat operations in Iraq

The force killed as many as 30 terrorists, including the Chechen camp commandant Imam Asad. The operation has been falsely credited to the Pakistani Special Service Group.

On 1 May 2011, a Ranger element was assigned to support Operation Neptune Spear, the Ranger element and additional SEALs in MH-47E Chinooks would be brought forward as QRF (Quick Reaction Force) if needed; the Ranger element would also protect the FARP north of Abbottabad. Following the successful completion of the operation, a Ranger team transported the body of Osama Bin Laden to the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson for burial at sea.

In November 2015, the U.S. military sent a company of Rangers to south-eastern Afghanistan, as part of the Post ISAF phase of the war in Afghanistan, to help Afghan counter-terrorism forces destroy an al-Qaeda training camp in a "fierce fight" that lasted for several days. It was known as

Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

It was reported that on the evening of 26 April 2017, 50 Rangers from 3/75th joined 40 Afghan commandos to conduct a joint US-Afghan operation/raid that was targeting the headquarters of Abdul Hasib, the Emir of ISIS-K, in a village in Achin District, Nangarhar Province.

The force was flown into Mohmand Valley and within minutes were engaged in a heavy, close-quarter firefight, AC-130 gunships, Apache helicopters, F-16 fighters and drones were called in to support the force firefight with ISIL-KP militants.

The firefight lasted for three hours, resulting in two Rangers from C and D Companies dying of injuries (possibly caused by friendly fire) after being ca-sevaced and a third was also wounded, 35 (including Abdul Hasib and an unspecified number of ISIL-KP leaders) ISIL-KP militants were also killed.

In March 2017, as part of Operation Inherent Resolve, CNN reported that approxi-



mately 100 US Army Rangers in Strykers and armored Humvees, deployed in and around Manbij, Syria, to deter hostilities towards the deployment of the 11th MEU, whose purpose was to support (particularly providing artillery support) US-backed forces in the battle to liberate Raqqa from ISIL, rather than the typical mission of training, advising and assisting local forces.

US officials took the unusual step of publicly talking about the Ranger deployment and where they are located to protect against them inadvertently coming under fire from forces fighting in the region or Turkish, Russian or Syrian forces.

Selection and training

Every volunteer for the Regiment, from every new recruit to every officer and any senior leader selected to command in the Regiment, will go through the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program (RASP) to assess their ability and provide the basic skills required to be an effective member of the 75th Ranger Regiment.

For new soldiers, RASP is conducted after applicants successfully complete their basic Military Occupational Specialty course and graduate from the Army's Parachutists Course

(Airborne School).

For soldiers, both enlisted and officer, who have successfully completed their first tour of duty, and meet the recruiting qualifications, a RASP date will be scheduled upon application and conditional acceptance to the 75th Ranger Regiment.

RASP is broken down into two levels of training: RASP 1 for junior non-commissioned officers and enlisted soldiers (pay grades E-1 through E-5) and RASP 2 for senior non-commissioned officers, officers and warrant officers.

Candidates train on physical fitness, marksmanship, small unit tactics, medical proficiency and mobility. Training is fast-paced and intense, ensuring Ranger candidates are prepared to employ their skills in both continued training and worldwide operations upon reaching their assigned Ranger unit.

Throughout the course all candidates will be screened to ensure that only the best soldiers are chosen for service in the Ranger Regiment.

Regardless of the course, all candidates must meet the course requirements in order to serve in the Ranger Regiment. Upon successful completion of RASP, candidates will don the tan beret and 75th Ranger Regiment Scroll.

Honours, motto and creed

The 75th Ranger Regiment has been credited with numerous campaigns from World War II onwards. In World War II, they participated in 16 major campaigns, spearheading the campaigns in Morocco, Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Anzio and Leyte. During the Vietnam War, they received campaign participation streamers for every campaign in the war. The Regiment received streamers with arrowheads (denoting conflicts they spearheaded) for Grenada and Panama.

To date, the Rangers have earned six Presidential Unit Citations, nine Valorous Unit Awards, and four Meritorious Unit Commendation, the most recent of which were earned in Vietnam and Haditha, Iraq, respectively.

Sua Sponte, Latin for "Of their own accord" is the 75th Ranger Regiment's Regimental motto. Contemporary rangers are triple-volunteers: for the U.S. Army, for Airborne School, and for service in the 75th Ranger Regiment.

The motto "Rangers lead the way!" dates from 6 June 1944, during the Normandy Landings on Dog White sector of Omaha Beach. Then Brigadier General Norman Cota (assistant CO of the 29th ID) calmly walked towards Maj. Max Schneider (CO of the 5th Ranger Battalion) while under heavy machine gun fire and asked "What outfit is this?" Someone yelled "5th Rangers!" To this, Cota replied "Well then Goddammit, Rangers! Lead the way!"

The Night Witches

The 588th Night Bomber Regiment became a crucial Soviet asset during World War II. They flew nearly 24,000 combat missions and dropped more than 23,000 tons of bombs on German targets. They were both hated and feared by the Germans. And they were an all female regiment.

The Germans nicknamed them the *Nachthexen*, or 'night witches', and they were so feared and hated by the Nazis that any German airman who downed one was automatically awarded the Iron Cross medal.

They flew under the cover of darkness in bare-bones plywood biplanes. They braved bullets and frostbite in the air, while battling skepticism and sexual harassment on the ground.

During World War II they flew 23,672 combat sorties and dropped more than 23,000 tons of bombs, and 26,000 incendiary shells on Nazi targets. They were the 588th Night Bomber Regiment - and they were all female.

The Soviet Amelia Earhart

Marina Raskova was not only the first female navigator in the Soviet Air Force, she also held numerous records for long distance flights. In fact she was known as the 'Soviet Amelia Earhart'.

Women across the Soviet Union had been sending her letters. They all wanted to join the war effort. Many had lost brothers, sweethearts or even husbands while others had seen their homes and villages ravaged by the Germans.

While women had been allowed to participate in support roles, many of them wanted to be pilots or gunners. They

wanted to take an active part in combat and were not content with merely playing a supporting role.

Raskova decided to petition Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin and ask for permission to form an all-female fighting squadron.

Using female pilots in combat wasn't a first choice. While women had been previously barred from combat, the pressure of an encroaching enemy gave Soviet leaders a reason to rethink the policy.

Adolf Hitler had launched Operation Barbarossa, his massive invasion of the Soviet Union, in June 1941. By the fall the Germans were pressing on Moscow, Leningrad was under siege and the Red Army was struggling. The Soviets were desperate.

On 8 October 1941 Stalin gave orders for three all-female air force units to be deployed.

Training begins

The Soviet Union was the first nation to officially allow women to engage in combat. Marina Raskova wanted to take full advantage of this fact and began to recruit her teams.

She selected 400 women from the more than 2,000 applications she received. Their ages ranged from 17 to 26.

Those selected then moved to Engels, a small town north of Stalingrad. They underwent a highly compressed training

schedule at Engels School of Aviation. They were expected to learn in months what it took others years to grasp. Each recruit had to train and perform as pilots, navigators, maintenance and ground crew.

Into action

They were originally known as the 588th Night Bomber Regiment. Later they would become the 46th "Taman" Guards Night Bomber Aviation Regiment, of the Soviet Air Forces. Yevdokia Bershanskaya became the regiment's commanding officer.

The steep learning curve in their training wasn't the only problem facing the regiment. There was open scepticism from many of the male military personnel who believed that the women added no value to the combat effort. The men didn't like 'little girls' at the front line. After all, war was a man's job, wasn't it.

Raskova did her best to prepare her women for these attitudes, but they still faced sexual harassment, long nights and gruelling conditions.

Another glaring problem was that the Soviet Air Force was not prepared for women pilots. They had no uniforms available and the women had to make do with hand-me-down uniforms from the men. It was difficult to find boots that were the right size and the women had to



NIGHT WITCHES: Pilots of the 588th Night Bomber Regiment are given a briefing before setting out on a mission.

tear up their bedding and stuff them into the boots, just to get them to fit.

The equipment they were given to use was not much better. The Soviet Air Force provided them with outdated Polikarpov Po-2 biplanes. These light two-seater, open-cockpit planes were never meant for combat, they were crop dusters from the 1920s and had been used as training vehicles.

The Polikarpov Po-2 was made out of plywood with canvas pulled over, the aircraft offered virtually no protection from the elements. Flying at night, pilots endured freezing temperatures, wind and frostbite. In the harsh Soviet winters, the planes became so cold, just touching them would rip off bare skin.

Due to both the planes' limited weight capacity and the military's limited funds, the pilots also lacked other "luxury" items their male counterparts enjoyed. Instead of parachutes (which were too heavy to carry), radar, guns and radios, they were forced to use more rudimentary tools such as rulers,

stopwatches, flashlights, pencils, maps and compasses.

There was, however, a plus side to those old aircraft. Their maximum speed was slower than the stall speed of the Nazi planes, which meant these wooden planes, ironically, could manoeuvre faster than the enemy, making them hard to target.

Tactics

The Polikarpov Po-2 could only carry a single bomb under each wing. The regiment would

sent out up to 40 two-person crews at night. Each crew would carry out between eight and 18 missions per night. They would drop their bombs before heading back to re-arm before setting out once more.

The weight of the bombs forced them to fly at lower altitudes, making them a much easier target. This was why they could only fly missions at night.

Each plane would carry a pilot in front, with a navigator behind her. They would fly in packs, and only at night.

The first planes would go in and act as bait. They would attract German searchlights which provided much needed illumination. The navigator would then release a flare to light up the intended target.

The following planes would cut their engines to an idle and glide in darkness to the target before releasing their bombs.

German soldiers likened the sound of these gliding aircraft to broomsticks and named the pilots *Nachthexen* - Night Witches.



FLYING COFFIN: The Night Witches flew the Polikarpov Po-2, which was nicknamed the 'Flying Coffin'. Constructed from plywood and canvas it would often catch fire if hit by tracers.



LEGENDS: From left to right: **Marina Raskova** was known as the Soviet Amelia Earhart, she started the 588th Night Bomber Regiment. **Yevdokia Bershanskaya** was the regimental commander of the 46th Taman Guards Night Bomber Aviation Regiment during World War II and became the only woman ever awarded the Order of Suvorov. **Irina Sebrova** flew 1,008 sorties in the war and was awarded the title 'Hero of the Soviet Union'.

The Night Witches had 12 commandments that they followed, and the first one was "be proud you are a woman."

While killing Germans was their job, a job they did very well, when they were off duty they behaved as most women their age did. They enjoyed needlework, patchwork, decorating their planes, listening to music, and dancing. They even put the pencils they used for navigation into double duty as eyeliner.

Their record

They became the most highly decorated unit in the Soviet Air Force during the war.

In total the regiment collectively accumulated 28,676 flight hours, flew 23,672 combat sorties, dropped over 3,000 tons of bombs and over 26,000 incendiary shells, damaging or completely destroying 17 river crossings, nine railways, two railway stations, 26 warehouses, 12 fuel depots, 176 armored cars, 86 firing points, and 11

searchlights. In addition to bombings the unit performed 155 supply drops of food and ammunition to Soviet forces.

A total of 261 people served in the regiment, of which 32 died of various causes including plane crashes, combat deaths and tuberculosis in addition to 28 aircraft written off.

Twenty-three personnel from the regiment were awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union, two were awarded Hero of the Russian Federation, and one was awarded Hero of Kazakhstan.

Nadia Popova was one of the first female military pilots in the Soviet Union, and also one of the most highly decorated. She was awarded the title 'Hero of the Soviet Union', the Gold Star Medal, the Order of Lenin, three Orders of the Red Star in Second World War, and three Orders of the Patriotic War.

Marina Raskova, the mother of the movement, died on 4 January 1943, when she was fi-

nally sent to the front line - her plane never made it. She was given the very first state funeral of World War II and her ashes were buried in the Kremlin.

An inglorious end

They flew their last mission on 4 May 1945, operating within 60 kilometres of Berlin, during the Vistula–Oder Offensive. Three days later, Germany officially surrendered.

Five months later, despite being the most decorated unit in the Soviet Air Force, the Night Witches Regiment was disbanded without ceremony and service members were demobilized.

And when it came to the big victory-day parade in Moscow after the war, the Night Witches were not included. It was decided that their planes were too slow to take part in the parade.

Their determination and dedication proved that not only could women cope with war, they could excel at it.

This is our song

Ever since Joshua brought the house down at Jericho, music and the military have shared a close relationship. We look at some music that has become synonymous with certain units, regiments and corps.

Music and the military have shared a close relationship for thousands of years.

Much of the military music has been composed to announce military events as with bugle calls and fanfares, or accompany marching formations with drum cadences, or mark special occasions as by military bands.

However, music has been employed in battle for centuries, sometimes to intimidate the enemy and other times to encourage combatants, or to assist in organization and timing of actions in warfare.

Depending on the culture, a variety of percussion and musical instruments have been used, such as drums, fifes, bugles, trumpets or other horns, bagpipes, triangles, cymbals, as well as larger military bands or full orchestras.

Instruments such as the bugle and trumpet have been used as an effective way of giving orders and communicating. Think of bugle calls such as *Taps*, *The Last Post* and *Reveille*.

Certain songs and marches, whether sang a cappella or played by a full military band or orchestra, have become synonymous with certain units, regiments, corps and even armies.

[Dixie](#), also known as Dixie's Land, was written by Daniel Emmett. During the American

Civil War it was adopted as a de facto anthem of the Confederacy (The South).

[Garryowen](#) is a suburb of Limerick in Ireland. It was also the name of an Irish drinking song.

It later became the marching tune for the American 7th Cavalry Regiment during the late 19th century. The tune was brought to the 7th Cavalry by Brevet Colonel Myles W. Keogh and other officers with relations to the Fifth Royal Irish Lancers and the Papal Guard. The name of the tune has become a part of the regiment, the words Garry Owen are part of the regimental crest. Listen to the [original song](#) and lyrics.

The American military is divided into five separate branches - the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard and all have their own official songs.

The United States Army song is [The Army Goes Rolling Along](#). It was adopted in 1956 and used the melody from the [U.S. Field Artillery March](#) but with new lyrics.

[The Marines Hymn](#) is the official song of the United States Marine Corps and was introduced by the first Director of USMC Band, Francesco Maria Scala. It is the oldest official song in the United States Armed Forces.

The third verse of the song is also used as a toast during for-

mal events, such as the birthday ball and other ceremonies.

[Anchors Aweigh](#) is the fight song of the United States Naval Academy and march song of the United States Navy. It was composed in 1906 by Charles A. Zimmermann with lyrics by Alfred Hart Miles. Another Academy Midshipman, Royal Lovell (class of 1926), later wrote what would be adopted into the song as its third verse.

The [Air Force Song](#), also known as Off We Go, was originally titled "Army Air Corps".

Robert MacArthur Crawford wrote the lyrics and music during 1938. During World War II, the service was renamed "Army Air Force", and the song title changed. In 1947, when the Air Force became a separate service, the song became the "Air Force Song".

[Semper Paratus](#) (Latin for "Always Ready") is a 1928 song and the official march of the United States Coast Guard (USCG), having been composed in 1927 by USCG officer Francis Saltus Van Boskerck.

[Le Boudin](#) is officially titled *Marche de la Légion Étrangère* and is the official march of the French Foreign Legion.

Le Boudin" is a reference to *boudin*, a type of blood sausage or black pudding. Le boudin colloquially meant the gear (rolled up in a blanket) that used to be

carried on top of the Legionnaires backpack.

[Kepi Blanc](#) is another song of the French Foreign Legion. It is sung to the tune of the Panzerlied, a popular German Wehrmacht song during World War II. The Foreign Legion adopted it in the late 1940s.

Talking about World War II and the Germans, they had a number of songs that became synonymous with certain regiments and formations.

The [Panzerlied](#) is one of the best known Wehrmacht songs. It was composed in June 1935 by Oberleutnant Kurt Wiehle. Since then the song has done the rounds.

It is the official hymn of the armored forces in the Chilean army and is sung during parades. It has been translated to Castilian Spanish, but the title was left unchanged.

The song is also sung by some motorized and parachute units of the Italian army, most especially by the 185th Paratroopers Division Folgore under the title of *Sui Monti e Sui Mar*.

The Korean adaptation of the song is also used by the South Korean Army as a march for the country's tank and motorized units.

The first, second and fifth stanzas of the song are used by the Brazilian Army under the title of *Canção Da Tropa Blindada* (Song Of the Armored Troops) with the lyrics translated to Portuguese.

The second half of the Panzerlied tune is used as chorus for the unofficial anthem for the German community of Namibia, and the unofficial anthem



SWIRL OF THE PIPES: Many Scottish and Highland regiments would be led into battle by a piper.

of the then South African-ruled South-West Africa (present day Namibia). This song is known as *Das Südwesterlied* or *Hart wie Kameldornholz*.

In 2017, the German army was banned from publishing song books containing Panzerlied and other World War II marching songs by the Minister of Defence Ursula von der Leyen as part of new efforts at denazification.

[Erika](#) is a common German female name and is also the German word for heather. Herms Niel wrote the song, Erika, in the 1930s. It would not only go on to become a popular marching song of the German military, it would also become the marching song of the Waffen SS.

The [Funkerlied](#) was the official march of the German Signal Troops. The word *funker* means 'radio operator'.

Not to be outdone, the South African Corps of Signals had their own march titled [Certo Cito](#), which is their motto. It means 'Swift and Sure'.

[Battotai](#) was the official march of the Imperial Japanese Army during World War II.

[Katyusha](#) is a 1938 Russian song that gained fame with the Red Army during World War II as an inspiration to defend one's land from the enemy. In Russia, the song is still popular.

The song is the probable source of the nickname of the BM-8, BM-13, and BM-31 "Katyusha" rocket launchers that were used by the Red Army in World War II.

The Rhodesian African Rifles had a long and proud history.

During 1942, when they were still known as the King's African Rifles, troops were sent to the South African city of Durban to escort Italian prisoners of war.

It was there that the Regimental song [Sweet Banana](#) first began and, although it would evolve significantly, it would retain its chorus of 'I will buy you a sweet banana', influenced by the abundance of the fruit in Natal.

Popular singer John Edmond



A HELL OF A WAY TO DIE: Blood Upon The Risers is a paratrooper song that originated in World War II.

included a version of [Sweet Banana](#) on his album Troopiesong.

[Sarie Marais](#) is a traditional Afrikaans folk song created either during the First or Second Anglo-Boer Wars. The Royal Marines (RM) are the marine corps and amphibious infantry of the United Kingdom. Sarie Marais was adopted in 1953 as the official march of the Royal Marines Commandos and is played after the Regimental March on ceremonial occasions.

Interesting enough, it is also the official song of the Girl Guides of Sri Lanka who heard Boer prisoners of war singing the song while in British POW camps. Back then Sri Lanka was still known as Ceylon.

[Heart Of Oak](#) is the official march of the Royal Navy of the United Kingdom. It is also the official march of several Commonwealth navies including the Royal Canadian Navy, and the Royal New Zealand Navy.

The [Royal Air Force March Past](#) is the official march of the Royal Air Force (RAF) and is used in some other Common-

wealth air forces.

The original score was completed by Walford Davies in 1918 for the new RAF; it combined the rhythm of the bugle call of the Royal Flying Corps with that of the Royal Naval Air Service. The call appears in both the introduction and the coda. It was originally known as the *Adastral I* (in reference to the RAF's motto). The second part of the march past, the trio, was composed by Sir George Dyson.

The march can be played both as a slow march and a quick march, and has been used as both when the Queen's Colour Squadron and RAF Central Band perform public duties such as mounting the guard at Buckingham Palace.

The British Special Air Service (SAS) use the [Marche des Parachutistes Belges](#) (March Of The Belgian Paratroopers) as their official quick march and [Lili Marlene](#) as their slow march.

The British Parachute Regiment have [Ride Of The Valkyries](#) as their quick march and [Pomp And Circumstance No 4](#) as their

slow march.

The Royal Regiment of Scotland has [Scotland The Brave](#) as its official quick march.

[Fare Thee Well Inniskilling](#) is the regimental quick march of The Royal Dragoon Guards. [The Enniskillen Dragoon](#) is an Irish folk song associated with the Inniskilling Dragoons, a British Army regiment based at Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, in what is now Northern Ireland.

And finally, [Blood Upon The Risers](#) is an American paratrooper song from World War II. It is also known as *Mancha Roja* (Spanish for "Red Stain") in many airborne units from multiple Latin American countries. In Spain it is called *Sangre en las cuerdas*. The song uses the melody of the [Battle Hymn Of The Republic](#).

And those are just some of the songs and music that have become standards with military units and corps throughout the world.

Salty sea stories

A radio conversation that was supposed to have really happened, a rewriting of history, and a joke show the lighter side of the Senior Service.

Keeping with our naval theme this month, here are four nautical stories for you.

One is about a radio conversation at sea, one is a rewriting of history, and the final two are jokes.

This first story supposedly took place during Operation Enduring Freedom. So that would place it some time between 2001 and 2004.

The conversation was conducted in Spanish. Here is the exact translation from voice recordings.

A-853: "This is A-853, please adjust your course by 15 degrees to avoid collision.

You are heading straight for us. Distance 25 nautical miles.

We advise you to adjust your course 15 degrees to avoid collision."

US Navy: "This is the Captain of a ship from the United States Navy.

We insist that you adjust your course 15 degrees north to avoid collision."

A-853: "We do not consider this possible or convenient. We suggest you adjust your course 15 degrees north to avoid collision."

US Navy: "This is Captain ***** at the command of the Aircraft Carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, of the United States

Navy. The second biggest in the American Navy.

Currently being escorted by two battleships, six destroyers, five cruisers, four submarines and support vessels.

We are currently heading to the Persian Gulf to take part in military manoeuvres for an offensive against Iraq.

I do not suggest, I order you to adjust your course by 15 degrees north or we will be obliged to take the necessary measures to guarantee the safety and security of this fleet.

You belong to an allied nation who is a member of NATO and is part of the coalition. Please obey my orders immediately and get out of our way."

A-853: "This is Juan Manuel Salaas Alcantra. We are two people currently being escorted by our dog, our food, two beers and a canary that's currently asleep.

We have the support of Coruna Daily Radio and the Maritime Emergency Frequency no. 16. We are not going anywhere since we're talking to you from dry land.

We are currently in lighthouse A-853 Finisterre on the Galician Coast. To guarantee the safety of your ship which is going to smash itself against the rocks, we again insist and suggest that the healthiest and most recommended course of action

to take is that you adjust your course 15 degrees south so we avoid colliding with each other."

US Navy: "Okay, received, thank you."

An amusing and entertaining tale. Except that it never happened.

This story is nothing more than an urban legend. Some versions state that the conversation was between a US Navy battleship and a Canadian lighthouse, while others give the above version.

Even if you didn't know that this story was nothing more than an urban legend, you should still be able to pick quite a few holes in the 'voice recording'.

First of all, with all the advanced and sophisticated navigation equipment on board a modern-day aircraft carrier they would surely have known exactly where they were. Not only that, but they would have known that A-853 was a lighthouse as well as knowing its exact location.

Secondly, they would not be broadcasting the fact that they were heading for the Persian Gulf to take part in an offensive against Iraq or anyone else. This information would surely have been secret and not something that would be transmitted over an unencrypted radio network.



YOUR MOVE: A US Navy aircraft carrier versus a Spanish lighthouse. Who do you think won?

Lastly, the captain mentions that his escort consists of, among other vessels, two battleships. As this incident was supposed to have taken place sometime between 2001 and 2004, this would have been impossible. The last four Iowa-class battleships were decommissioned in the early 1990s, making them the last battleships to see active service.

I'm not sure who wrote the following story. It has been doing the rounds on the Internet and I know it was published in the 2016/2 edition of *Springbok*, the journal of the South African Legion of Military Veterans. Well whoever wrote the original, take a bow.

The story is about a conversation between Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson and Captain Thomas Hardy at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

The story is about how the conversation may have gone if the battle had taken place in

today's politically correct military.

Nelson: "Order the signal Hardy."

Hardy: "Aye, aye sir."

Nelson: "Hold on, this isn't what I dictated to Flags. What's the meaning of this?"

Hardy: "Sorry sir?"

Nelson (reading aloud): "England expects every person to do his or her duty, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religious persuasion or disability. What gobbledygook is this for God's sake?"

Hardy: "Admiralty policy, I'm afraid sir. We're an equal opportunities employer now. We had the devil's own job getting 'England' past the censors, lest it be considered racist."

Nelson: "Gadzooks, Hardy. Hand me my pipe and tobacco."

Hardy: "Sorry sir. All naval vessels have now been designated smoke-free working environments."

Nelson: "In that case, break

open the rum ration. Let us spice the main brace to steel the men before the battle."

Hardy: "The rum ration has been abolished, admiral. It's part of the government's policy on binge drinking."

Nelson: "Good heavens, Hardy. I suppose we'd better get on with it, full speed ahead."

Hardy: "I think you'll find that there's a four knot speed limit in this stretch of water. It's an environment protection initiative."

Nelson: "Damn it man! We are on the eve of the greatest sea battle in history. We must advance with all dispatch. Report from the crow's nest, please."

Hardy: "That won't be possible, sir."

Nelson: "What?"

Hardy: "Health and Safety have closed the crow's nest, sir. No harness; and they said that rope ladders don't meet regulations. They won't let anyone up there until proper scaffolding can be erected."

Nelson: "Then get me the ship's carpenter without delay, Hardy."

Hardy: "He's busy knocking up a wheelchair access to the foredeck, admiral."

Nelson: "Wheelchair access? I've never heard anything as absurd."

Hardy: "Anti-discrimination requirements, sir. We have to provide a barrier-free environment for the differently abled..."

Nelson: "Differently abled? I've only one arm and one eye and I refuse to even hear mention of the word. I didn't rise to the rank of admiral by playing the disability card."

Hardy: "Actually, sir, you did."

The Royal Navy is under-represented in the areas of visual impairment and limb deficiency.”

Nelson: “Whatever next? Give me full sail. The salt spray beckons.”

Hardy: “A couple of problems there too, sir. Health and safety won’t let the crew up the rigging without hard hats. And they don’t want anyone breathing in too much salt; haven’t you seen the adverts.”

Nelson: “I’ve never heard such infamy. Break out the cannon and tell the men to stand by to engage the enemy.”

Hardy: “The men are a bit worried about shooting at anyone, admiral.”

Nelson: “What? This is mutiny!”

Hardy: “It’s not that, sir. It’s just that they’re afraid of being charged with murder if they actually kill anyone. There are a couple of legal-aid lawyers on board, watching everyone like hawks.”

Nelson: “Then how are we supposed to sink the Frenchies and the Spanish?”

Hardy: “Actually, sir, we’re not.”

Nelson: “We’re not?”

Hardy: “No, sir. The French and Spanish are our European partners now. According to the Common Fisheries Policy, we shouldn’t even be in this stretch of water. We could get hit with a claim for compensation.”

Nelson: “But you must hate a Frenchman as you hate the devil.”

Hardy: “I wouldn’t let the ship’s diversity coordinator hear you saying that sir. You’ll be up on a disciplinary report.”

Nelson: “You must consid-

er every man an enemy who speaks ill of your king.”

Hardy: “Not any more, sir. We must be inclusive in this multicultural age. Now put on your Kevlar vest; it’s the rules. It could save your life.”

Nelson: “Don’t tell me - health and safety again. What-ever happened to rum, sodomy and the lash?”

Hardy: “As I explained, sir. Rum is off the menu. And there’s a ban on corporal punishment.”

Nelson: “What about sodomy?”

Hardy: “I believe that is now legal, sir.”

Nelson: “In that case, kiss me Hardy.”

And finally, a joke rather than a story. Still, you may, or may not, appreciate it.

Four admirals, from the United Kingdom, the USA, Russia and South Africa, are standing chatting during a tea break at an international naval conference.

The talk turns to the courage of their respective sailors.

“Let me show you what courage is all about,” says the British admiral.

He calls out to a British sailor who runs up, comes to a halt, and snaps off a smart salute.

“Sailor, I want you to stand at attention and then fall flat onto the concrete while remaining at attention.”

“Yes sir!”

He falls flat on his face, breaking his nose in the process. The sailor gets to his feet and stands at attention.

“Thank you sailor. Dis-missed.”

The British admiral looks at the other three and nods.

The American admiral calls over a US sailor and tells him to go to the first floor of the building and dive off onto the concrete.

The sailor does as he is instructed, hitting the ground in a heap. He lies there groaning until the medics arrive a take him off.

Not to be outdone, the Russian admiral calls over a Russian sailor. He tells him to also dive off the building. But from the second floor.

“Yes Comrade Admiral,” he shouts with a salute.

The Russian sailor does as he is told, with the same results.

Finally, the South African admiral calls over one of his sailors. The man saunters over, without bothering to salute.

“Sailor, I want you to go to the top of that five storey building and dive off of it.”

The sailor looks at the building, looks at the admiral and shakes his head.

“You want me to dive from where? Are you mad. Go get stuffed,” he says, turning and walking away while extending a middle finger over his shoulder.

The South African admiral turns to the other three and with a look of pride says, “Now gentlemen, that takes real courage.”

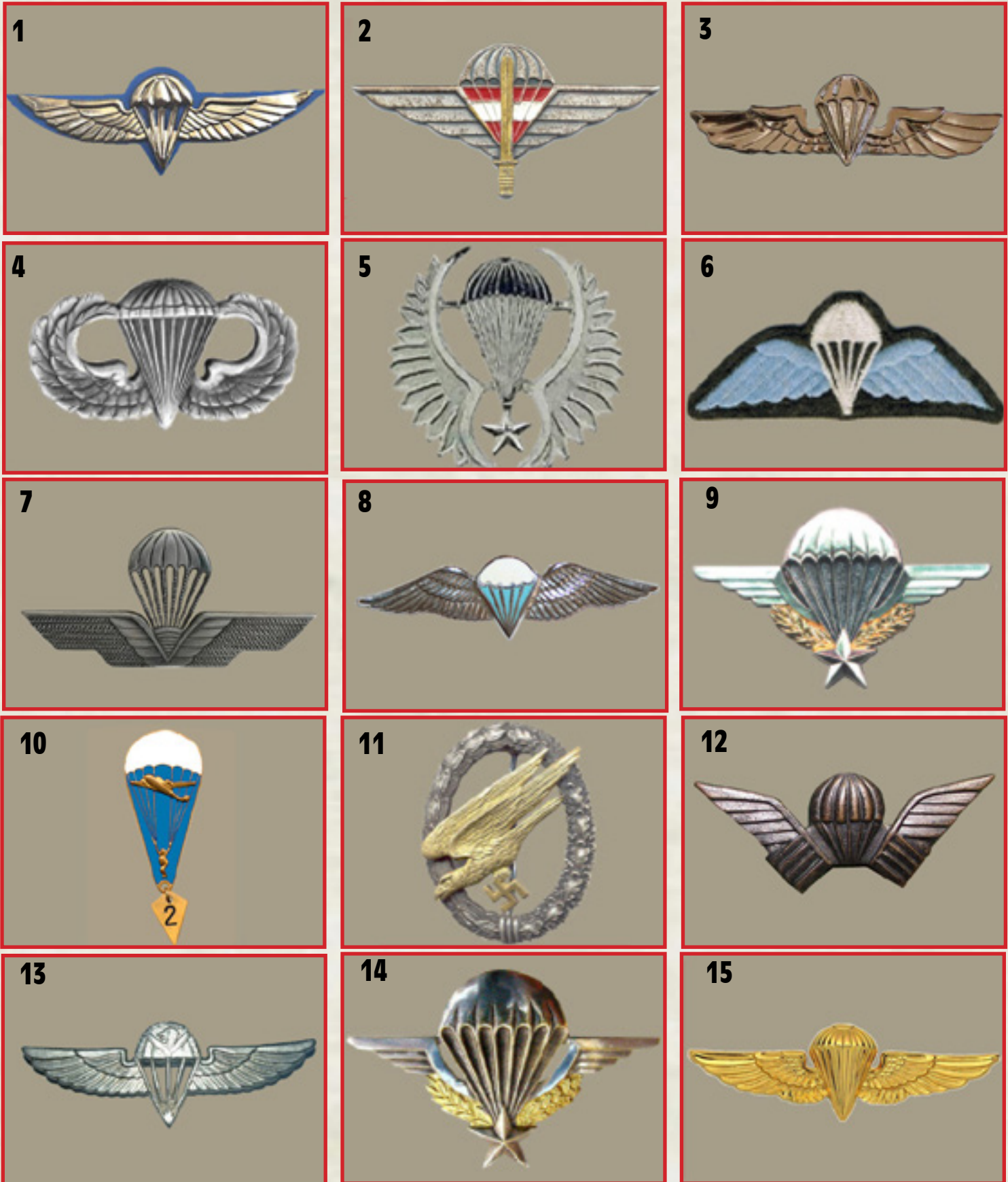


Quiz

Parachute Wings

This month we’re looking at wings awarded to soldiers that have successfully completed a basic parachute course. We show you a set of wings, you tell us the country and, if applicable, the unit or arm of service.

Answers on page 00.



Females on the front line

Nearly every country in the world allows women to serve in its armed forces. In some countries women are eligible for conscription. Yet not that many countries allow women to take part in combat.

Throughout history there has been a long and colourful narrative of women in combat, from the Amazons of Greek mythology to the very real Joan of Arc.

Some of it has been nothing more than mythology, but much of it has been very real.

Amazons

According to Greek mythology, this race of female warriors lived in the Black Sea region before Greek colonization. Legend has it that the Greek hero Heracles led an expedition to capture the girdle of the Amazonian queen, Hippolyte, then conquered and expelled the Amazonians from the region.

But are the Amazons purely myth? Yet there may be a bit of truth in the legend.

Burial grounds used by ancient nomads known as the Sauromatians have yielded skeletons of women buried with weapons including iron swords or daggers and bronze arrowheads. The Sauromatians were said to be descendants of the Amazons and the Scythians, who lived in the 4th and 5th centuries B.C.

Boudicca

Queen Boudicca was very real, and very scary. After the death of her husband left their kingdom of Iceni (now Norfolk, England) at the mercy of the corrupt Emperor Nero, Boud-

icca led a rebellion against the Roman Empire in 60 A.D.

By all accounts she was not a lady you wanted to get on the wrong side of.

Her army wreaked havoc in Roman Britain, defeating the Roman Ninth Legion and destroying the capital at Colchester, as well as Verulamium (St. Albans) and Londinium (London).

Defeated by Paulinus' army, Boudicca allegedly took poison to avoid capture.

Valkyries

Norse mythology celebrates its own female warriors in the form of the Valkyries, a group of maidens who served the god Odin.

Riding horses and wearing helmets and shields, these women were sent to battlefields to choose those slain soldiers worthy of a place in Valhalla.

In reality, Viking women accompanied their men on their infamous raids in Britain starting in 900 A.D.

Almost half of the bodies found in an examination of 14 Viking burial grounds in Britain belonged to women, and some were buried with the swords and shields they presumably used in life.

Joan of Arc

The Maid of Orleans, as she was known, began her short life as a simple peasant but rose

to become the patron saint of France through her leadership on the battlefield.

Believing God had chosen her to save her country during the Hundred Years' War, she commanded the French army in its victory over English forces at Orleans in 1429 and led King Charles VII to his coronation.

Captured by her enemies and tried for witchcraft and heresy, she was burned at the stake.

The 20th Century and beyond

During the two world wars various partisan and resistance groups made use of women in a variety of roles, including combat.

The constant need for troops caused some countries to temporarily ease their restrictions on women in combat.

In World War I, Russia created the Women's Battalion, which attracted thousands of volunteers who saw action at the front against German troops.

During World War II, the Soviets again turned to female soldiers, who served as snipers and fighter pilots.

Even England temporarily eased their restrictions as well, recruiting thousands of women to operate anti-aircraft guns during the Battle of Britain. While they may not have been on the front line, they were still very much in harm's way.

These days most countries allow women to serve in the



WONDER WOMAN: Model and actress Gal Gadot (who played the lead role in Wonder Woman) served as a fitness instructor during her national service with the Israeli Defence Force. I swear we never had PTI's that looked like this.

armed Forces. Yet not that many countries allow women to participate in active combat roles.

Each of these nations has taken a different approach to integration of their armed forces.

Armed Forces

These are the countries, in alphabetical order, that currently allow women to deploy in combat roles.

Australia

The Australian military began a five-year plan to open combat roles to women in 2011.

Front line combat roles opened in January 2013.

The positions women can now fill are: Navy Ordnance disposal divers, airfield and ground defence guards, infantry, artillery and armoured units.

Canada

In 1989, a tribunal appoint-

ed under the Canadian Human Rights Act ordered full integration of women in the Canadian Armed Forces "with all due speed," at least within the next ten years. Submarines remained closed to women until 2000.

Denmark

In 1988, Denmark created a policy of "total inclusion". They proposed "combat trials" which they used to explore how women fight on the front lines.

A 2010 British Ministry of Defence study concluded that women performed the same as men. All positions in military are open to women - excluding Special Operations Forces because of physical requirements.

Finland

Men are required to enlist whereas for women it is voluntary. If women do choose to enlist they are allowed to train for combat roles.

France

Women comprise nearly one-fifth of the military in France. Women can serve in most areas of the military except submarines and riot control.

Women are allowed to serve in combat infantry but many women choose not to. 1.7% of women serve in combat infantry.

Germany

In 2001, Germany opened all combat units to women. This greatly increased recruitment for female soldiers.

Since 2001, the number of women in the German Armed Forces has tripled. By 2009, 800 female soldiers were serving in combat units.

India

Prior to 1992, Indian women could only serve in medical roles in the military. Since then India began recruiting women to non-medical positions in the armed forces.

In 2007 on 19 January, the United Nations first all female peacekeeping force made up of 105 Indian policewomen was deployed to Liberia.

In 2014, India's army had 3 per cent women, the Navy 2.8 per cent and the Air Force performed best with 8.5 per cent women.

In 2015 India opened new combat air force roles for women as fighter pilots, adding to their role as helicopter pilots in the Indian Air Force.

Israel

In its early years, Israel allowed women to serve along-

side men in gender-neutral units, but switched to same-sex units in the 1950s.

Today, however, both men and women are required to do national service. So women make up a large portion of the army and nearly all positions are open to female candidates.

New Zealand

New Zealand has no restrictions on roles for women in its defence force. They are able to serve in the Special Air Service, infantry, armour and artillery. This came into effect in 2001 by subordinate legislation.

Norway

In 1985, Norway became the first country to allow women to serve on its submarines. The first female commander of a Norwegian submarine was Solveig Krey in 1995.

Norway was, along with Israel, the first to allow women to serve in all combat roles in the military in 1988.

In 2015, Norway made women eligible for compulsory military service.

Pakistan

Women have been part of the Pakistani military since 1947 after the establishment of Pakistan. There are currently around 4,000 women who are serving in the Pakistan Armed Forces.

In 2006, the first women fighter pilots batch joined the combat aerial mission command of PAF (Pakistani Air Force).

Sri Lanka

Female personnel of all three services play an active part in



BATS: These three young women are all qualified members of an Israeli Parachute Battalion.

ongoing operations. However, there are certain limitations in ‘direct combat’ duties such as special forces, pilot branch, and naval fast attack squadrons.

Sweden

Women have been able to serve in all positions in the Swedish military since 1989. Currently, about 5.5% of all officers are women.

Turkey

Turkish women have voluntarily taken tasks in the defence of their country. Nene Hatun, whose monument has been erected in Erzurum, fought during the Ottoman-Russian War. Turkish women also took main roles in combat in World War One and the Independence War.

Sabiha Gökçen was the first Turkish female combat pilot, having flown 22 different types

of aircraft for more than 8,000 hours, 32 hours of which were active combat and bombardment missions.

Women personnel are being employed as officers in the Turkish Armed Forces today. As of 2005, there are 1,245 female officers and NCOs in the Turkish Armed Forces.

Women officers serve in all branches except armour, infantry, and submarines. Assignments, promotions and training are considered on an equal basis with no gender bias.

United Kingdom

In July 2016 all exclusions on women serving in Ground Close Combat (GCC) roles were lifted.

All roles in the King’s Royal Hussars, the Royal Tank Regiment, and all Army Reserve Royal Armoured Corps units have been opened to women, and women



A Turkish signaller on deployment.



US Navy rescue diver.



French infantry unit on patrol.

will be permitted to join the rest of the previously closed GCC roles in the Royal Armoured Corps, British Army Infantry, Royal Marines and the RAF Regiment by the end of 2018.

It’s important to note, however, that even though GCC roles were closed to women until 2016, women have been previously on the “front line” and exposed to combat in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan through other roles, such as all roles in the Royal Artillery, which despite being one of the combat arms is not classed as a GCC role.

Women were permitted to serve in Fire Support Teams and on 105mm L118 Light Gun crews. Women were also permitted to apply to join the Special Reconnaissance Regiment, which is one of the major components of the UK Special Forces alongside the Special Air Service, Special Boat Service and Special Forces Support Group.

Women also served as combat medics attached to Army Infantry, Royal Marines and other GCC units. Some were awarded the prestigious Military Cross for bravery under fire.

Six British women in the Iraq War, and three in the Afghanistan War were killed in action.

United States

In WWI and WWII women served in numerous roles such as the Army Nurse Corps, and the Women’s Army Corps (WAC). They carried out various roles such as clerical work, mechanical work, photo analysis, and sheet metal working; in some cases they were utilized as test pilots for fighter planes

as WASPS.

In 1979 enlistment qualifications became the same for men and women. While women were able to enlist, they were prohibited from direct combat roles or assignments. In 1994 the Department of Defence officially banned women from serving in combat. The United States has more women in its military than any other nation.

On 24 January 2013, Secretary of Defence Leon Panetta removed the military’s ban on women serving in combat.

Implementation of these rules is ongoing. There is some speculation that this could lead to women having to register with the Selective Service System.

On 21 November 2013, the first three women to ever complete the United States Marine Corps’ Infantry Training Battalion course graduated from the United States Marine Corps School of Infantry in Camp Geiger, North Carolina.

In August 2015, Capt. Kristen Griest and 1st Lt. Shaye Haver became the first two women to graduate from the U.S. Army Ranger School. In 2016, Griest became the first female infantry officer in the US Army when the Army approved her request to transfer there from a military police unit.

One significant female contribution was recognized on 16 June 2005, when Sgt. Ann Hester was awarded the Silver Star for her actions during a fire fight that took place outside Baghdad. This was the first Silver Star in U.S. military history awarded to a woman soldier.

Bet you never knew that

History records, recalls and retells events from the past. But some people have a pretty fuzzy recollection when it comes to history.

It was George Santayana that said, "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it."

I recently came across a book that contained answers to exam questions as given by American college and university students. Some of them make our local students look like geniuses. And let's face it, that takes some doing to say the very least.

Some of these answers defy belief, but at least they must have given those poor souls that had to grade the papers a bit of amusement. And I somehow suspect that many of these students would have been doomed to repeat history the next year. Take a look at some of the answers given.

World War II

"The Germans took the by-pass around France's Marginal Line. This was known as the 'Blintz Krieg'. The French huddled up and threw sneers at the Germans."

Japan boomed Pearl Harbour; the main U.S. base in Southern California. American sailors watched in shock as the sky filled with Japanese zebras."

There you have it; World War II summed up in a few sentences. But, if I may, I would like to point out a few minor errors.

The French defensive line was known as the Maginot Line. The Germans did by-pass it by attacking through Belgium

and going around the Maginot Line. The Germans used a tactic known as Blitzkrieg (Lightning War).

I also believe that the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbour, not boomed it. And while the US Navy does have a base in San Diego, Southern California Pearl Harbour, however, is 6,521 km away on the island of Oahu, Hawaii.

And lastly, the sky was probably filled with zeros and not zebras. The Mitsubishi A6M Zero was a long-range fighter aircraft used by Japan.

"Germany invaded Poland, France invaded Belgium, and Russia invaded everybody."

Those sneaky Russians, invading everybody like that.

"Hilter's attack on Russia was secretly called 'Operation Barbarella'."

The German invaders were popular for a while in Russia, but their habit of slaughtering innocent civilians tended to give them an image problem.

The Russians defended Stalingrad feercely as the city was named after Lenin."

The German invasion of Russia was code-named Operation Barbarossa.

Naturally when you go around slaughtering innocent civilians it is going to give you an image problem.

Stalingrad was, of course, named after Joseph Stalin him-

self. You'll probably find that Leningrad was named after Lenin.

"Hitler, who had become depressed for some reason, crawled under Berlin."

Here he had his wife Evita put to sleep, and then shot himself in the bonker."

Hitler had become depressed. Who would have imagined it. By April 1945 the war was almost over and Hitler had lost. By January 1945 Hitler had retreated to the Führerbunker under the Reich Chancellery.

On the evening of April 30, 1945 Hitler committed suicide. His wife committed suicide a few minutes before him. Her name was Eva Braun and Hitler had only married her the day before.

So Hitler actually shot himself in the bunker, and not the bonker.

"Unfortunately, the Second World War was not concluded until 1957."

It actually ended with the surrender of Japan on September 2, 1945.

"War screeched to an end when a nukuleer explosion was dropped on Heroshima."

First of all, you can't drop an explosion. You can, however, drop a bomb that will cause an explosion.

This is what happened on August 6, 1945 when the Ameri-



TORA, TORA, TORA: Japanese Zebras boom Pearl Harbour.

cans dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The bomb caused an atomic explosion, not a nuclear one.

The Modern Era

"Wars fought in the 1950's include the Crimean War, Vietnam, and the Six-Minute War."

John F. Kennedy worked closely with the Russians to solve the Canadian Missile Crisis."

Wrong on all accounts. The Crimean War did take place during the 50s, but it was the 1850s (October 1853 – February 1856).

The Vietnam War lasted between 1955 and 1975, but it was only in the 1960s that America become heavily involved.

The 1967 Six-Day War between Israel and the Arab nations was named that because the war only lasted six days - not six minutes.

John F. Kennedy did not work closely with the Russians. In fact he threatened them. The Russians had set up nuclear mis-

sile bases on the island of Cuba. Kennedy felt that these were a direct threat to America and he told the Russians to take them down and remove the missiles back to Russia. Otherwise he would consider military action.

The US Navy and Coast Guard set up a blockade around Cuba. It was perhaps the closest that the world ever came to a nuclear war.

Eventually the Russians backed down. This incident became known as the 'Cuban Missile Crisis'.

The Cold War

Martin Luther Junior's famous "If I had a hammer" speech."

I know that Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream. I had no idea he had a hammer as well.

If I recall *If I Had A Hammer* was a hit song for Pete Seeger back in 1956. Peter, Paul and Mary also had a hit with the song in 1962, as did Trini Lopez in 1963.

"World War II became the

Cold War, because Benjamin Franklin Roosevelt did not trust Lenin and Stalin. An ironed curtain fell across the haunches of Europe."

I think that when the ironed curtain fell it must have fallen onto this guy's head.

Benjamin Franklin, one of America's founding fathers, died on April 17, 1790. A bit before World War II.

At least Franklin Delano Roosevelt was around for most of World War II. But he died on April 12, 1945, before World War II ended.

And Vladimir Lenin was another not around for the Cold War. He died on January 21, 1942.

"The Berlin Wall was built somewhere in Europe. President Kennedy soothed the masses, however, with his story about 'Ich Ben the Berliner.'"

The Berlin Wall was built somewhere in Europe - Berlin may have been a clue.

And what Kennedy actually said back in 1963 was "Ich bin ein Berliner." Which roughly translates as "I am a citizen of Berlin."

"Actually, the fall of empires has been a good thing, because it gives more people a chance to exploit their own people without outside interference."

Actually, I would have probably given this student 100% for this answer.

So there you have it. History rewritten by some of the greatest college and university minds the United States has to offer.

God bless America.

The Dark Intruder

Who was Captain Franz Dagobert Johannes von Rintelen? And why was he known as 'The Dark Intruder'? Paul Rosslee tells us more.

Before World War 1, Franz Dagobert Johannes von Rintelen worked as the German representative for both the Deutsche Bank and Disconto-Gesellschaft, Germany's second largest bank in New York.

4 August 1914 found Rintelen a Lieutenant on the Admiralty staff, appointed as a financial advisor. He was 38 at the time, spoke excellent and accent-less English and possessed (as Barbara Tuchman) says: "intelligence, daring and...a streak of megalomania"

(Rintelen wrote his autobiography "The Dark Intruder" in 1933. The historian, Barbara W Tuchman [Zimmerman Telegram], described it as a work of "Munchhausen proportions"!)

Due to England cutting the undersea cables and therefore Germany's links to the outside world, her navy was stuck on the high seas with no money to pay for coal in neutral ports.

Rintelen was able, through his banking contacts, to wire Admiral Spee 2 million Yen in Tokyo going from a Danish bank, via devious routes, to the Duetsche-Asiatische Bank in Tokyo. He also arranged for sums of money to be deposited in New York, New Orleans, Venezuela, Seattle and various other countries in south and central America.

In August of 1914, German Admiral Souchon managed to

evade the British Mediterranean Squadron, got through the Dardanelles and handed the German cruisers Goeben and Breslau over to Turkish navy in Constantinople. According to Rintelen (on his own initiative), he arranged for a shipment of gold for the crew's salaries (the Turks wouldn't take Marks), via Austria, through to Constantinople.

A Naval Corps was organised in November 1914 to fight in Flanders, but it was discovered that there were not enough machine-guns in Germany to equip it. German Intelligence knew of a consignment of 300 in Copenhagen, in neutral Denmark, but these had been sold to Russia and was waiting on collection. The German Foreign Ministry had already protested against the sale and the Germans had posted a guard on the warehouse to stop delivery.

Rintelen then had an idea!

Posing as an English British agent, made contact with French agents in Copenhagen and between them arranged for the guns to be "secretly" transported from the warehouse to a waiting freighter for shipment to Russia (the freighter previously chartered by the German navy in Sweden for the purpose and renamed with a fictitious Russian name). These were, needless to say, delivered in a German port.

On 27 January 1915 Rintelen

was promoted to Lieutenant Commander.

The fact that Britain had cut the cables was also bothering foreign journalists and Attaches who were unable to send reports of German victories in Russia to their respective countries.

Here Rintelen says: "An idea occurred to me and I must confess that I was unscrupulous enough to exploit it". The American Military Attaché was having difficulties in sending his despatches home as well, without the English intercepting them en route. Rintelen proposed that he hand him the coded despatches and Rintelen would arrange for them to be forwarded via Nauen to the Sayville wireless station in Long Island and there, via the German embassy to Washington. It was accepted and he handed Rintelen the messages.

Rintelen first had these messages copied, then sent them along with German diplomatic messages to America. Copies were sent to their cipher experts and before long the Germans were able to read the American messages (and so was the secret Room 40, Naval Intelligence in London, under Adm Hall).

This was not enough for Rintelen and before long "I re-wrote Langhorne's telegrams so that they gave a clear account of our military position...the American Government...believe[d] that these telegrams came from

their own Military attaché".

This went on for a while, until Langhorne, unfortunately, got to read one of "his" own telegrams "which allowed a certain pro-German attitude to be apparent" and the end, as he said, "came soon". Langhorne was replaced as attaché and his successor "did not hand me any telegrams for transmission".

(One wonders, if this did not give German foreign Secretary Zimmerman the same idea, three years later, when he sent his famous telegram via American diplomatic channels to the German embassy in Berlin).

Germany was already feeling the effect of American arms shipment to the Allies. When the German government complained that America was violating its neutrality status, the American government said that Germany was free to place any orders for arms it pleased. Unfortunately, with Allied naval supremacy and blockades, few of these ships made it to German ports.

German Intelligence then discovered that the Dupont Powder Company in America was possibly for sale and if Germany got control of this company, it could affect the quantities of munitions to the Allies.

Rintelen was tasked to investigate (probably because of his banking background) and at the Foreign Offices, where, meeting Zimmerman, Rintelen said that he would: "buy what I

can and blow up what I can't"!.

Rintelen was given 4 tasks:

1. Investigate the purchase of Dupont Powder Company
2. Sabotage American ships carrying munitions and supplies to the Allies
3. Support Victoriano Huerta and his attempt to regain power in Mexico
4. Deliver a variation of the Diplomatic Code to the embassy.

A return to power of Victoriano Huerta could start another Mexican civil war and although Mexico's anarchy was America's major foreign problem, many American "big businesses" supported Huerta as they felt a strong man in power might be good for business.

Rintelen arrived in New York on 3 April 1915, using a false

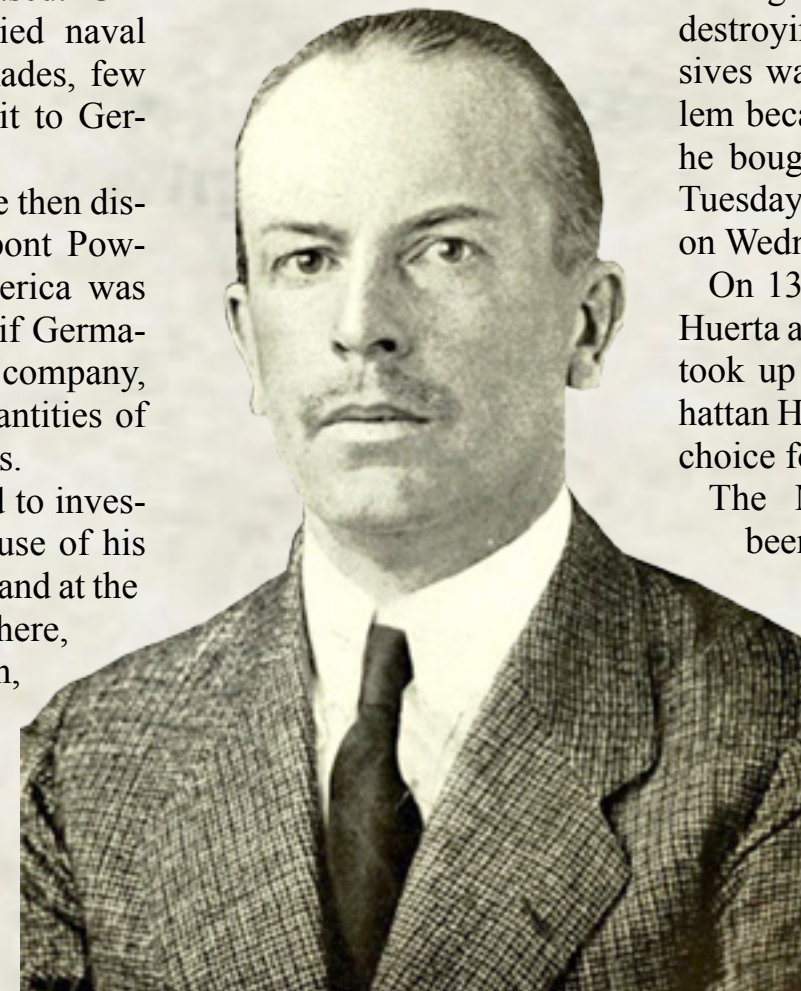
Swiss passport in the name of Emil V. Gasche (the surname appropriated from his brother-in-law).

Rintelen arrived with a "take over air" and neither the Military attaché, Captain von Papen, nor the Naval attaché, Captain Boy-Ed were pleased to see him when he met them at the German Club. No one else at the German embassy seemed pleased to see Rintelen either, from Count von Bernstorff (the Ambassador) to Dr Heinrich Albert, the Commercial attaché (and paymaster to all German undercover operations in America). It is possible that Albert resented Rintelen having independent funding from Berlin and therefore out of embassy control.

It did not take Rintelen long to discover that Dupont was not for sale (surprise!!) and that the logistics of buying up and destroying that much explosives was too much of a problem because, as he put it, what he bought and destroyed on a Tuesday, would just be made on Wednesday.

On 13 April 1915 Victoriano Huerta arrived in New York and took up residence in the Manhattan Hotel, a very unfortunate choice for Rintelen.

The Manhattan Hotel had been a favourite meeting place for the German who's-who in New York for some time and was under the surveillance of Captain Guy Guant (RN), British Military attaché, reporting directly to Admiral Hall in London.



**Franz
von Rintelen**

By the time Rintelen had arrived in America Guant had numerous “assets” in place: Countess von Bernstorff’s personal maid, another, a chief clerk at the German embassy, four in the German consulate, a chauffeur at the embassy and an operator at the Sayville radio station. Guant also relayed most of what he heard to the Americans as well.

Eventually there would be five separate sets of agents with interests in the Manhattan Hotel, Secret Service, US Department of Justice, Treasury, New York Police Department as well as Guant. Rintelen actually didn’t stand a chance.

With the help of Max Weiser, a German-American businessman, Rintelen started, under the name of Hansen (one of his many aliases), EV Gibbons, as a front company for his future activities and it was here that he was introduced to Dr Walter T. Scheele. Scheele designed a “pencil bomb” - a simple tube sealed at both ends with a copper disc in the middle. Chemicals on either side, when mixed, caused an intense flame, the time of the mixing was determined by the thickness of the disc, this could be varied from a few hours to a few weeks. It has been estimated that about 140 -150 of these were eventually manufactured.

Rintelen also acquired the services of Bonford Boniface, a (crooked), lawyer, who for a fee, was able to “kill” deals, as he put it. Boniface introduced Rintelen to Capt von Kleist, a “beached” merchant navy officer, who in turn introduced Rintelen to other German sail-

ors stuck in New York. There were about 14 German merchant ships in New York harbour at the time “blockaded” by Royal Naval vessels just out of American territorial waters. These ships, still free at this time, were not able to put to sea, as alerted by British agents the Royal Navy they would be captured and/or sunk.

After a successful demonstration of his device and with a cheque for \$10,000 from “Hansen”, Dr Scheele set up his bomb factory in the engine room of the merchant ship, Freidrich der Grosse, his first bombs being delivered 20 April 1915.

About this time that another German saboteur arrived in New York: Lieutenant Robert Fay, also with instructions to blow up shipping in American waters. He had designed a device (he called it a “rudder bomb”), which he showed to von Papen. Von Papen, obviously wanting to distance himself from these further intrigues, directed him towards Rintelen. His idea was very technical, with a mechanical device, activated by the swinging of the rudder, triggering a bomb previously attached, under water, to the ship.

Fay was reasonably organised, with a Dr Herbert O. Kienzle, a German engineer, living in New York, prepared to make the mechanical trigger – all Fay needed was explosives, lots of it – his design called for about 45kg of explosives at a time.

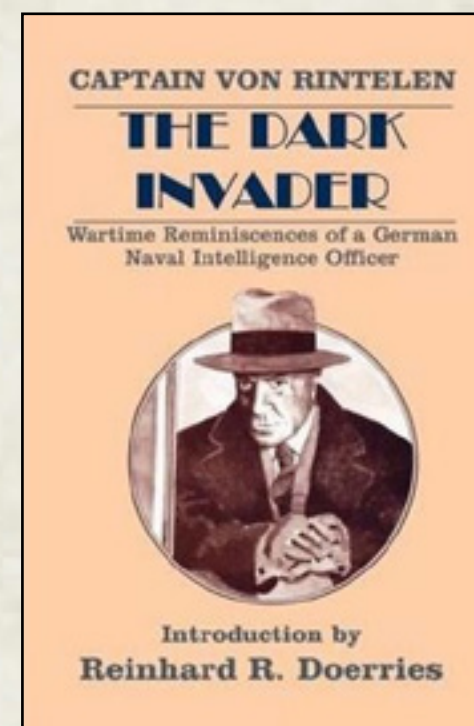
Rintelen, with his contacts amongst the German sailors, and using stevedores, many of them Irish-Americans, Rintelen was able to have his “pencils”

deposited in the cargo of merchant ships and by May 1915, numerous unexplained fires and explosions were occurring at ships out at sea.

Rintelen, as he said, had another iron in the fire. He (his own words) “had studied the political situation in America and realised the only country she had to fear was Mexico. If Mexico attacked her she would need all the munitions she could manufacture and would be unable to export. I knew Huerta...ascribed his fall to the United States...I decided to take a hand in the game”. After discussions with Huerta (at the Manhattan Hotel) it was decided that, if Mexico would “take up arms against American... Huerta would have his revenge. U-boats would land weapons; abundant funds would be provided for the purchase of armaments and Germany...would furnish Mexico with moral support”. These meetings took place as ‘Rintelen’ and he fell under the watch of the US Secret service.

Rintelen, under the guise as EV Gibbons, even managed to secure orders for military equipment and uniforms from the Russian Government, here he mentions the name of Count Ignatieff (Russian Military attaché in Paris) as a reference. He actually managed to, successfully, supply all the required goods but had the (three) ships sabotaged with time pencils and they sank mid-Atlantic.

Deciding that there were still too many ships Rintelen decided that he should sabotage the shipping piers as well, to disrupt shipping and decided on



THE FULL STORY: Captain von Rintelen published his memoirs in a book titled “The Dark Intruder”.

the major “Black Tom” pier and railway sidings as a prime target. “I could not help urging myself...of giving Black Tom a sound knock on the head”.

Fay was having difficulties as to the quantity of explosives he needed and while making enquiries was noticed by the New York Police Department Bomb Squad who put him under surveillance. Rintelen was very keen on the bomb and was prepared to help finance the operation, Fay arranged for a demonstration.

Rintelen gave Fay money “to acquire a piece of ground in a deserted area which was well hidden by trees”. Here Fay arranged the demonstration: “there was a tremendous bang...Fay himself went into the air...with a few ribs injured. The trees themselves were damaged and small fires broke out”.

The following is an extract from the official report made

by Police Inspector Thomas Tunney of the New York Bomb Squad: (Friday 22 October 1915) “In the early evening an automobile emerged from the garage [Fay’s], driven by Fay and containing another passenger [Rintelen, although the police did not know that yet] , and wound out of town.. Behind it was a police car. Fay stopped his car at the roadside and disappeared with the other man into the underbrush and then into the deeper woods”. They were unable to follow the two men so remained in the outskirts of the forest and eventually followed them back to New York (no mention of an explosion that they would have heard).

Rintelen then waxes lyrical on these devices and says that he gave Fay money to manufacture more, “some which were successfully used and at least 2 ships lost their rubbers mid-Atlantic”. Fay captured a few weeks later, first tried to bribe the police with an offer of \$50,000. When his premises were searched, he was found in possession of twenty-five sticks of dynamite, 225kg of chlorate of potash and 4 complete bombs. He also said that his earlier demonstration with “Hansen” was unsuccessful, but he was now waiting for Capt Boy-Ed’s authority to place the 4 completed ones on ships. When tested by the US military and stated in Fay’s trial that: “Fay’s ninety pounds [of explosives] would have torn the rudder out like a toothpick and ripped away the entire after part of the vessel”.

“Bombs had been found or fires had broken out on no less

than twenty-two vessels bound out of New York up to the time we closed on Fay--and not one was his prey” reported Inspector Tunney. There were 3 cases of mysterious fires and/or explosions at sea in May, 1 in June and 5 in July, before the New York police got a break. A pencil bomb aboard the SS Kirkoswald failed to detonate and the French authorities returned it to America (probably late October or early November 1915) – now the police had something to work with.

Rintelen was “rung up in the middle of the night [by Mr Boniface]...he gave me a rendezvous...for the following morning...as there had been feverish activity...with the New York police” with whom Boniface apparently had many contacts. The next morning, he heard the discovery and that now the police and the Secret Service were at work, looking for the bombers. “We were in for it” says Rintelen and sure that he was being followed (he was, but as Hansen) “hastened back to my office via a devious route and “liquidated” EV Gibbons Inc and shut up shop”.

He took himself off to Stamford, New Jersey to hide and booked himself into a hotel as an Englishman by the name of Brannon. There he was contacted by Boniface, who told Rintelen that “the man who drew the New York police to the gang...was Capt Guant, British Naval Attaché...but the police had not been able to find proof...of his allegations”.

At the hotel in Stamford Rintelen was approached by 2 ladies who he had met at a social in

New York. They said that they remembered him but could not remember his name, but when he said it was “Brannon” they apparently remembered. They immediately invited him to a dance party for the following evening. They also convinced Rintelen to move out of his hotel into their, very fashionable hotel, where you could only get a room if “recommended by a member of New York society”!

The following evening, he was introduced as Commander Brannon RN to Capt Guant. The talk eventually drifted towards the strange happenings in New York harbour but, by the end of the party Rintelen “was back in my room very happy... for I knew that the English had no inkling of the shady paths that my agents and I had been pursuing in New York...next morning I left for New York as soon as I could”! He also decided that, with nothing to hide, he moved into new accommodation at the New York Yacht Club as “Franz Rintelen”. I think one could say that Rintelen had been set up!

Dr Scheele was instructed to start making his bombs again, but they found it increasing difficult to place them on board ships, so Rintelen needed another idea to disrupt shipping. A number of strikes were taking place in New York harbour area with stevedores wanting higher wages. None of these strikes lasted more than a few days as, Rintelen believed, the Unions were pro-Allies and as illegal strikes would withhold wages. He then decided to form his own trade union, calling it “Labour’s National Peace

Council”.

Most stevedores belonged to recognised Unions, but many were “Chenangoes” (day-to-day labourers) and, according to Police Inspector Thomas Tunney, of “all nationalities, with a considerable German representation”. These would be made up of the German sailors “marooned” by the naval blockade.

Rintelen was eventually paying these stevedores to join the Union, then paying their wages when they went on strike, eventually spending about \$500,000 without much success.

Around this time, eight million rounds of ammunition had been purchased in St Louis and New York and \$95,000 paid in Huerta’s personal account and his family, with German assistance, brought out of exile in Spain. He had a meeting with Boy-Ed, where it was arranged that von Papen would go to Texas (on reconnaissance) and Huerta promised a delivery of 10,000 rifles and a further letter of credit for \$10,000. Unfortunately, this meeting, to avoid the Manhattan Hotel, took place in an embassy car, with Capt Guant’s man as the driver. On 25 June 1916 Huerta’ took a train to San Francisco and breaking his journey, arrived in El Paso, Texas. On 6 July 1916 was arrested by the US State Department.

“Meanwhile I was preparing a scheme of a very different kind”. Rintelen had met Sir Roger Casement (or so he says) in Germany. He then decided to “take a hand in the Irish question”, his idea being, if he could cause enough trouble in

Ireland, the British would have to move troops from France to Ireland. Together with the Irish supporters in New York and with Germany’s support “the Admiralty prepared to send U-boats to the Irish coast...with men and weapons” followed by an armed cruiser with further troops to assist the uprising. Casement was to be landed to few days before to co-ordinate the uprising, so Rintelen “had much to do in the meantime”.

[Sir Roger Casement was arrested and convicted. He was stripped of his knighthood and other honours and executed for high treason after the 1916 Easter Rising].

On 6 July 1916 Rintelen received a message at the New York Yacht Club that he was immediately to meet Boy-Ed who handed him this message:

“Captain Rintelen is to be informed that he is under instructions to return to Germany!”

“I could not understand why the telegram had been sent to me...at any rate I decided that “obedience” was the...appropriate interpretation...of the order...and therefore, unobtrusively, wound up my business” and dusting off his Swiss Passport, sailed for Holland on 3 August 1916 on the Dutch steamer the Noordam.

On 13 August, off the coast of England, the Noordam was stopped by the Royal Navy and Rintelen, under the name of Emil V. Gasche, was taken into custody. He protested his innocence to Scotland Yard (who were prepared to release him) but before his release was taken before Admiral Hall, head of British Naval Intelligence.

When he was shown a copy of his re-call signal Rintelen decided to surrender in England rather than returned, with all probability, to America.

It is highly probable, but never substantiated (there are some secrets Britain has never revealed) that Hall, having enough of Rintelen’s troubles, sent the signal himself, using German secret codes and knew, in advance, that Rintelen would be on the Noordam and what name to look for.

On 18 August Rintelen was sent to Donington Park, a German officer’s POW camp in Dorset.

Although ship sabotage had all but stopped by February, there were still other forms of sabotage being carried out. On the morning of 30 July 1916, the “Black Tom” pier in New York was sabotaged and destroyed about \$20,000,000 worth of military goods. It was one of the largest artificial non-nuclear explosions to have ever occurred. Rintelen claims he only heard of the matter in June/July 1917 but that is impossible, he would have certainly “heard” the explosion in New York City and seen the newspapers before he left America.

Police Inspector Tunney and the New York Bomb Squad were still busy and from February had three, first generation German-American, detectives in amongst the German sailors in the harbour area.

It was not long before they met up with von Kleist. The detective, by the name of Barth let out that he was also a German agent, which von Kleist believed. Von Kleist eventually

complained to Barth, if he was an agent, could he not persuade another German, Dr Sheele who “has a laboratory, where he has been doing work, making some things, he owes me several hundred dollars, but he does not pay me”, to pay him what he owes him. Barth said he would definitely help, but asked “what things?” von Kleist took him to his house in Hoboken, dug up a pencil bomb from the garden and handed it to Barth.

Unfortunately, the investigation took a long time and it was not until beginning of April 1917 that they eventually arrested all, except Scheele, who escaped to Cuba.

On 13 April 1917 Rintelen, much to his disgust, was returned to America to stand trial along with the other members of his “staff”. Max Weiser had been convicted previously with Fay (who received 8 years, hard labour).

Rintelen, tried unsuccessfully, to have his arrest declared illegal as he was not extradited (but “kidnapped”) and was a German Officer. He complained to the British Ambassador (who ignored him) that his status as a prisoner of war was violated as well as to the German government, who made a feeble protest.

He was charged with: (1) Transporting and storing explosives without a licence, (2) Endangering of shipping, (3) Violation of Anti-trust Laws (by forming an illegal trade union) (4) Endangering security and goodwill of the United States (by attempting to contrive plots with Mexico and Ireland); found guilty and was sentenced

to four years imprisonment and \$2,000 fine. (He received the lightest of all sentences handed down in the trial – although after the war he was “credited” with the sinking and/or damaging 35 ships).

He complained on the harshness of his sentence, Judge Howe said that it was the harshest under the law (at the time) and if he had had his way, he would have sentenced Rintelen to death. Inspector Tunney also complained that under the Espionage Act later adopted, each of them would have been sentenced to a minimum of twenty years and fined \$10,000.

As the last actor in this drama Tunney, now has the last word: “There is something in the spectacle of Rintelen serving his sentence at Atlanta... which he tried numerous tricks to evade. He came to America arrogant, rich, defiant, cruel, and sly to wage war upon us. He suffered great indignity, as he thought, at being tried with the manual labourers whom he had employed and left in trouble. He was convicted and sent to prison”.

Rintelen was released in 1921 and returned to Germany a forgotten man. It is ironic that he finally settled in England, was interned as an alien 1939 – 1945, finally dying in England in 1949, bewailing until the end, that he had been deserted by Germany.

Rank Structure - US Military

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 United States Military.

The United States military is divided up into five branches.

The US Army was founded on 14 June,1775. It consists of the following branches.

- Acquisition Corps
- Adjutant General’s Corps
- Air Defense Artillery
- Armour (includes Cavalry)
- Aviation
- Chaplain Corps
- Chemical Corps
- Civil Affairs Corps
- Dental Corps
- Corps of Engineers
- Electronic Warfare
- Field Artillery
- Finance Corps
- Infantry
- Judge Advocate General’s Corps
- Logistics
- Medical Corps
- Military Intelligence Corps
- Military Police Corps
- Medical Service Corps
- Medical Specialist Corps

- Army Nurse Corps
- Ordnance Corps
- Psychological Operations
- Public Affairs
- Quartermaster Corps
- Signal Corps
- Special Forces
- Transportation Corps
- Veterinary Corps

The United States Navy was formed on 13 October 1775. There are nine components in the operating forces of the U.S. Navy: the United States Fleet Forces Command (formerly United States Atlantic Fleet), United States Pacific Fleet, United States Naval Forces Central Command, United States Naval Forces Europe, Naval Network Warfare Command, Navy Reserve, United States Naval Special Warfare Command, Operational Test and Evaluation Force, and Military Sealift Command. Fleet Forces Command controls a number of unique capabilities, including Military Sealift Com-

mand, Naval Expeditionary Combat Command, and Navy Cyber Forces.

Initially established as a part of the United States Army on 1 August 1907, the US Air Force was formed as a separate branch of the US Armed Forces on 18 September 1947.

The history of the United States Marine Corps began when two battalions of Continental Marines were formed on 10 November 1775 in Philadelphia as a service branch of infantry troops capable of fighting on both at sea and on shore.

The United States Coast Guard was created by Congress on 4 August 1790. It operates under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security during peacetime, and can be transferred to the U.S. Department of the Navy by the U.S. President at any time, or by the U.S. Congress during times of war.



US Army

Non-commissioned Officers (NCO)



Officers



US Navy

Non-commissioned Officers (NCO)





Petty Officer
Third Class



Petty Officer
Second Class



Petty Officer
First Class



Chief
Petty Officer



Senior Chief
Petty Officer



Master Chief
Petty Officer



Command Senior
Chief Petty Officer



Command Master
Chief Petty Officer



Fleet/force Master
Chief Petty Officer



Master Chief Petty
Officer of the Navy

* The Chief of the Boat (COB) is an enlisted sailor on board a US Navy submarine who serves as the senior enlisted advisor to the commanding officer and executive officer.

Warrant Officers



Chief Warrant
Officer 2nd Class



Chief Warrant
Officer 3rd Class



Chief Warrant
Officer 4th Class



Chief Warrant
Officer 5th Class

Officers



Ensign



Lieutenant
Junior Grade



Lieutenant



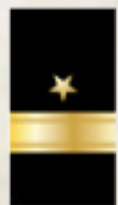
Lieutenant
Commander



Commander



Captain



Rear Admiral
Lower Half



Rear Admiral



Vice Admiral



Admiral



Fleet
Admiral



Admiral of
the Navy



US Air Force

Non-commissioned Officers (NCO)



Airman



Airman
First Class



Senior
Airman



Staff
Sergeant



Technical
Sergeant



Master
Sergeant



Senior Master
Sergeant



Chief Master
Sergeant



Command Chief
Master Sergeant



Chief Master
Sergeant of the
Air Force

Officers



First
Lieutenant



Lieutenant



Captain



Major



Lieutenant
Colonel



Colonel



Brigadier
General



Major
General



Lieutenant
General



General



General
of the
Air Force



US Marine Corps

Non-commissioned Officers (NCO)



Private First Class Lance Corporal Corporal Sergeant Staff Sergeant Gunnery Sergeant



Master Sergeant First Sergeant Master Gunnery Sergeant Sergeant Major Sergeant Major of the Marines Corps

Warrant Officers



Warrant Officer 1 Warrant Officer 2 Warrant Officer 3 Warrant Officer 4 Warrant Officer 5

Officers



First Lieutenant Lieutenant Captain Major Lieutenant Colonel Colonel



Brigadier General Major General Lieutenant General General General of the Marine Corps



US Coast Guard

Non-commissioned Officers (NCO)



Seaman Recruit Seaman Apprentice Fireman Apprentice Airman Apprentice



Seaman Fireman Airman



Petty Officer Third Class Petty Officer Second Class Petty Officer First Class Chief Petty Officer Senior Chief Petty Officer Master Chief Petty Officer



Command Master Chief Petty Officer Gold Badge Master Chief Petty Officer Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard

Warrant Officers



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Chief Warrant Officer 3 Chief Warrant Officer 4

Officers



Ensign



Lieutenant
Junior Grade



Lieutenant



Lieutenant
Commander



Commander



Captain



Rear Admiral
Lower Half



Read Admiral



Vice
Admiral



Admiral



Chief of the US Army
General James C. McConville



Chief of the US Navy
Admiral Michael M. Gilday



Chief of the US Air Force
General David Lee Goldfein



Commandant of the US Marine
Corp General David H. Berger



Commandant of the US Coast Guard
Admiral Karl L. Schultz

Unfortunately most of my freelance work has dried up due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Yet bills still need to be paid each month.

My dilemma is should I still be spending so much time doing Military Despatches each month, or should I be using that time to focus on other projects that can actually bring in an income?

This is something that I am go-

ing to leave up to the readers. I really enjoy doing the magazine each month and I trust that people enjoy reading it.

If enough readers want me to continue doing the magazine, then I will. If not then the September issue of the magazine will probably be the last.

Well, enough bitching for one month. I trust that you will all

have a good month and that you will all keep safe.

Until next time.

Matt



Springbok

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



The SA Legion is a national organisation, part of a world-wide 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.

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.



The Six Day War

This month the Israeli Defence Force face off against the Egyptian Army during the 1967 Six Day War.

The Six-Day War (*Mil-hemet Sheshet Ha Yamim* in Hebrew), was also known as the *an-Naksah* (The Setback in Arabic), the June War, 1967 Arab–Israeli War, or Third Arab–Israeli War, was fought between 5 and 10 June

1967 by Israel and the neighbouring states of Egypt (known at the time as the United Arab Republic), Jordan, and Syria.

In a series of articles we will be examining the weapons and equipment used by Israel and primarily Egypt.

In this first article we will be looking at the small arms used by both the Israeli Defence Force and the Egyptian Army.

With the exception of Jordan, the Arabs relied principally on Soviet weaponry. Jordan's army was equipped with Amer-



a) Uzi submachine gun



b) FN FAL



c) FN MAG light machine gun



d) AK 47

ican weaponry, and its air force was composed of British aircraft.

Egypt had by far the largest and the most modern of all the Arab air forces, consisting of about 420 combat aircraft, all of them Soviet-built and with a heavy quota of top-of-the-line MiG-21s. Of particular concern to the Israelis were the 30 Tu-16 "Badger" medium bombers, capable of inflicting heavy damage on Israeli military and

civilian centres.

Israeli weapons were mainly of Western origin. Its air force was composed principally of French aircraft, while its armoured units were mostly of British and American design and manufacture. Some infantry weapons, including the ubiquitous Uzi, were of Israeli origin.

The Israeli army had a total strength, including reservists, of 264,000, though this number

could not be sustained, as the reservists were vital to civilian life.

On the eve of the war, Egypt massed approximately 100,000 of its 160,000 troops in the Sinai, including all seven of its divisions (four infantry, two armoured and one mechanized), four independent infantry brigades and four independent armoured brigades.



e) Port Said submachine gun



f) AK 47



h) RPD light machine gun

a) Uzi submachine gun

The Uzi is a family of Israeli submachine guns. The Uzi was one of the first weapons to use a telescoping bolt design which allows the magazine to be housed in the pistol grip for a shorter weapon.

The first Uzi submachine gun was designed by Major Uziel “Uzi” Gal in the late 1940s. The Uzi has found use as a personal defence weapon by rear-echelon troops, officers, artillery troops and tankers, as well as a front-line weapon by elite light infantry assault forces.

General Specifications

- Weight: 3.5 kg
- Length: 470 mm (stock folded), 640 mm (stock extended)



- Cartridge: 9 mm parabellum
- Action: Blowback, breach open
- Rate of fire: 600 rounds/min
- Feed system: 25 round box magazine
- Effective range: 200 metres

b) FN FAL

The FAL (French: Fusil Automatique Léger, English: Light Automatic Rifle) is a battle rifle designed by Belgian small arms designer Dieudonné Saive and manufactured by FN Herstal.

After the 1948 Arab–Israeli War, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) had to overcome several logistics problems which were a result of the wide variety of old firearms that were in service.

In 1955 the IDF adopted the IMI-produced Uzi submachine gun. To replace the German



Mausers Kar 98k and some British Lee–Enfield rifles, the IDF decided in the same year to adopt the FN FAL as its standard-issue infantry rifle, under the name *Rov’ve Mitta’enn* or *Romat*, an abbreviation of “Self-Loading Rifle”.

General Specifications

- Weight: 4.25 kg
- Length: 1,090 mm
- Cartridge: 7.62×51mm NATO
- Action: Short-stroke gas piston, tilting breechblock
- Rate of fire: 700 rounds/min
- Feed system: 20 round box magazine
- Effective range: 600 metres

c) FN MAG

The FN MAG is a Belgian 7.62 mm general-purpose machine gun, designed in the early 1950s at Fabrique Nationale (FN) by Ernest Vervier.

General Specifications

- Weight: 11.8 kg
- Length: 1,263 mm
- Cartridge: 7.62×51mm NATO
- Action: Gas-operated long-stroke piston, open bolt



- Rate of fire: 650–1,000 rounds/min
- Feed system: Non-disintegrating DM1 or disintegrat-

- ing M13 linked belt
- Effective range: 3,500 metres

d & f) FN MAG

The AK-47, officially known as the *Avtomat Kalashnikova*, is a gas-operated, 7.62×39mm assault rifle, developed in the Soviet Union by Mikhail Kalashnikov.

While it was the standard issue assault rifle for the Egyptian Army, captured AK-47 rifles were also used by the Israeli Army.



General Specifications

- Weight: 3.47 kg
- Length: 880 mm
- Cartridge: 7.62×39mm
- Action: Gas-operated, rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: 600 rounds/min
- Feed system: 30 round box magazine
- Effective range: 350 metres

e) Port Said submachine gun

The Kulsprutepistol m/45 (Kpist m/45), also known as the Carl Gustaf M/45 and the Swedish K SMG, is a 9×19mm Swedish submachine gun (SMG) designed by Gunnar Johnsson.

The m/45 has been manufactured under license in Egypt as the Port Said and the Akaba.



General Specifications

- Weight: 3.35 kg
- Length: 550 mm (stock folded)
- Cartridge: 9 mm parabellum
- Action: Blowback, Simple (straight)
- Rate of fire: 600 rounds/min
- Feed system: 36 round box magazine
- Effective range: 250 metres

g) RPD

The RPD (Russian: *Ruchnoy Pulemyot Degtyaryova*) is a 7.62mm light machine gun developed in the Soviet Union by Vasily Degtyaryov for the 7.62×39mm M43 intermediate cartridge.

It was the standard squad weapon for the Egyptian Army although some special units also had access to the newer RPK light machine gun

General Specifications

- Weight: 7.4 kg
- Length: 1,037 mm
- Cartridge: 7.62×39mm



- Action: Gas operated long-stroke piston, flapper locking and fires from the open bolt
- Rate of fire: 650–750 rounds/min
- Feed system: Non-disintegrating 100-round segment-
- ed belt stored in a drum container
- Effective range: 100–1,000 metre sight adjustments

Mary Walker

An obstinate nonconformist, the second woman to become a medical doctor in America, and a surgeon during the US Civil War. She is also the only woman to have been awarded the US Medal of Honour.

In January 2013 the US military lifted the ban on women serving in combat. Technically this means that women can now be decorated for acts of valour in combat.

In fact one woman, Sergeant Leigh Ann Hester, was awarded the Silver Star, the US Armed Forces third-highest decoration for valour in combat. And this was back in 2005, eight years before women could officially serve in combat units.

Sergeant Hester was a United States Army National Guard soldier assigned to the 617th Military Police Company.

On 20 March 2005 she was part of a supply convoy that was ambushed near the town of Salman Pak in Iraq. For her heroic actions during the ambush she was awarded the Silver Star in June 2005.

Hester was the first female US Army soldier to receive the Silver Star since World War II, and the first ever to be cited for valour in close quarters combat.

America's

highest award for bravery is the Medal of Honour. Since it was instituted in 1861 the medal has been awarded 3,519 times. The first Medal of Honour was awarded on 25 March 1863. The last was awarded on 26 June 2018. Only 19 people have been awarded the medal twice, and 622 awards were made posthumously.

Only one woman has ever been awarded the Medal of Honour. Her name was Mary

Edwards Walker. Doctor Mary Walker to be precise. And she wasn't a soldier. In fact she never even served in the military.

Early life

Mary Edwards Walker was born on 26 November 1832 in Oswego, New York. She was the youngest of seven children with five sisters and a brother.

Her parents, Alvah and Vesta, were devout Christians, but regarded as 'free thinkers' and it was in this environment that Mary was raised.

Her parents raised the children to question the regulations and restrictions of various denominations, as well as traditional gender roles. The Walkers lived on a farm and the work load was shared among the children.

Mary did not wear women's clothing during farm labour because she considered it too restricting. Her mother agreed with her and thought that corsets and tights were unhealthy.

Education

At the time it was common practice for boys to receive some form of education. For

girls, however, it was not that important.

The Walkers had different ideas. They were determined that their daughters would be as well educated as their son.

To achieve this, the Walkers established the first free schoolhouse in Oswego in the late 1830s and it was here that Mary received her primary school education.

Mary and two of her older sisters then attended Falley Seminary in Fulton, New York. It had been carefully chosen by the Walkers. Not only was it an institution of higher learning, but a place that emphasized modern social reform in gender roles, education, and hygiene.

This all further cemented Mary's determination to defy traditional feminine standards on a principle of injustice.

From an early age Mary displayed an interest in medicine. She would pore over medical texts on anatomy and physiology.

After graduating from Falley Seminary, Mary worked as a teacher at a school in Minetto, New York. She saved until she had enough money to pay her way through Syracuse Medical College.

She was the only woman in her class and, in 1855, she graduated with honours as a medical doctor. She became only the second woman in the country to become a medical doctor.

On 16 November 1855 she married fellow medical school student Albert Miller. She was 23 years old at the time.

At her wedding she wore a short skirt with trousers underneath, refused to include the word 'obey' in her vows, and retained her last name. These were all characteristic of her obstinate nonconformity.

They set up a joint practice in Rome, New York. It did not do well as most men refused to be treated by a female doctor. They were generally not trusted nor respected at the time.

As a result of her husband's infidelity, Mary sought a divorce. She had to fight for ten years before it was finally granted.

Mary briefly attended Bowen Collegiate Institute (later named Lenox College) in Hopkinton, Iowa, in 1860, until she was suspended for refusing to resign from the school's debating society, which until she joined had been all male.

Doing things her way

Inspired by her parents 'free thinking' and her education, Mary was infamous for contesting traditional female dress.

In 1871, she wrote, "The greatest sorrows from which women suffer to-day are those physical, moral, and mental ones, that are caused by their unhygienic manner of dressing!"

She strongly opposed women's long skirts with numerous petticoats, not only for their discomfort and their inhibition to the wearer's mobility but for their collection and spread of dust and dirt.

As a young woman, she be-

gan experimenting with various skirt-lengths and layers, all with men's trousers underneath. By 1861, her typical ensemble included trousers with suspenders under a knee-length dress with a tight waist and full skirt.

While her parents may have supported her views, she was often faced with criticism. As a school teacher she was often teased about her wardrobe choice and was once even attacked by a neighbouring farmer and a group of boys.

Colleagues in medical school were critical about the way she dressed and patients often teased her. Some even refused to be treated by her. She nevertheless persisted in her mission to reform women's dress.

In 1870 she was arrested in New Orleans and mocked by men because she was dressed as a man. The arresting officer twisted her arm and asked her if she had ever had sex with a man. Mary was released from custody when she was recognized at Police Court.

The Civil War

At the outbreak of the American Civil War, Mary saw it as her duty to volunteer.

She tried to join the army as a surgeon but, even though the army, but even though they had fewer than 100 licensed surgeons at the beginning of the war, the Army refused to hire her.

The army her offered her a position as a nurse, but she declined and chose to volunteer as a surgeon for the Union Army



as a civilian.

During this period, she served at the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas), 21 July 21 1861, and at the Patent Office Hospital in Washington, D.C. She worked as an unpaid field surgeon near the Union front lines, including at the Battle of Fredericksburg and in Chattanooga after the Battle of Chickamauga. She wore men's clothing during her work, claiming it to be easier for high demands of her work.

She she was finally given an appointment as a contract surgeon for the 52nd Ohio Infantry Regiment in 1863, albeit as a civilian. The move was regarded as "a medical monstrosity" by colleagues who objected to practicing medicine next to a woman.

In September 1862 Mary wrote to the War Department and requested that she be employed as a spy. They declined.

Eventually she was employed as a 'Contract Acting Assistant Surgeon (civilian)' by the Army of the Cumberland, becoming the first female surgeon employed by the U.S. Army Surgeon.

She was later appointed assistant surgeon of the 52nd Ohio Infantry. Technically though, she remained a civilian.

The common method of treating a serious wound to a limb was to amputate. Mary's philosophy that amputations should be avoided whenever possible was incompatible with prevailing Army practices, and multiple colleagues requested that she be removed from her post.

During her service she would frequently cross battle lines to treat civilians.

On 10 April 1864 she was



AMPUTATION BOX: The most common operation performed on soldiers during the Civil War was amputation. The best surgeon could have a limb severed and discarded within five minutes. Civil War doctors were nicknamed "sawbones." There were 60,000 partial or complete amputations during the war. Surgeons never washed their hands after an operation, because all blood was assumed to be the same, nor did they wash their instruments.

captured by Confederate troops, and arrested as a spy, just after she finished helping a Confederate doctor perform an amputation.

She was sent to Castle Thunder, a Richmond prison known for its brutality. While she was imprisoned, she refused to wear the clothes provided her, said to be more "becoming of her sex" On 12 August 1864 she was released as part of a prisoner exchange.

Medal of Honour

After the war Mary Walker was recommended for the Medal of Honour by Generals William Tecumseh Sherman and George Henry Thomas.

The citation read:

Where as it appears from official reports that Dr. Mary E. Walker, a graduate of medicine, "has rendered valuable service to the Government, and her efforts have been earnest and untiring in a variety of ways," and that she was assigned to

duty and served as an assistant surgeon in charge of female prisoners at Louisville, Ky., upon the recommendation of Major-Generals Sherman and Thomas, and faithfully served as contract surgeon in the service of the United States, and has devoted herself with much patriotic zeal to the sick and wounded soldiers, both in the field and hospitals, to the detriment of her own health, and has also endured hardships as a prisoner of war four months in a Southern prison while acting as contract surgeon; and Whereas by reason of her not being a commissioned officer in the military service, a brevet or honorary rank cannot, under existing laws, be conferred upon her; and Whereas in the opinion of the President an honorable recognition of her services and sufferings should be made.

It is ordered, That a testimonial thereof shall be hereby made and given to the said Dr.



MEDAL OF HONOUR RECIPIENT: Mary Walker proudly wore her Medal of Honour until the day she died.

Mary E. Walker, and that the usual medal of honor for meritorious services be given her.

On 11 November 1865, President Andrew Johnson signed a bill to award her the medal.

In 1917 the US Congress created a pension act for Medal of Honor recipients, and in doing so created separate Army and Navy Medal of Honor Rolls. Only the Army decided to review eligibility for inclusion on the Army Medal of Honor Roll.

The 1917 Medal of Honor Board deleted 911 names from the Army Medal of Honor Roll, including those of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker and William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody (who also fought in the Civil War as a civilian).

Those stripped of the medal were ordered to return their medals. Mary refused to send her medal back and wore it daily for the rest of her life, reportedly telling the government that "you will receive it over my dead body."

In 1977 President Jimmy Carter restored her medal posthumously. She is one of only six people to regain the award, as well as only one of six civilians ever to be awarded the medal.

Later life

She went on to serve as supervisor of a female prison in Louisville, Kentucky, and as the head of an orphanage in Tennessee.

After the war, she was awarded a disability pension for partial muscular atrophy suffered while she was imprisoned by the enemy. She was given \$8.50 a month, beginning 13 June 1865, but in 1899 that amount was raised to \$20 per month.

She became a writer and lecturer, supporting such issues as health care, temperance, women's rights, and dress reform for women. She was frequently arrested for wearing men's clothing, and insisted on her right to wear clothing that she thought appropriate.

After a long illness, Walker died at home on 21 February 1919, at the age of eighty-six. She was buried at Rural Cemetery in Oswego, New York, in a plain funeral, with an American flag draped over her casket, and wearing a black suit instead of a dress.

Her death in 1919 came one year before the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which guaranteed women the right to vote.

Legacy

- During World War II, a Liberty ship, the SS Mary Walker, was named for her.
- In 1982, the U.S. Postal Service issued a twenty-cent stamp in her honour, marking the anniversary of her birth.
- The medical facilities at SUNY Oswego are named in her honour.
- There is a United States Army Reserve centre named for her in Walker, Michigan.
- The Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington, D.C., is named in honour of Walker and the poet Walt Whitman.
- The Mary Walker Clinic at Fort Irwin National Training Centre in California is named in honour of Walker.
- The Mary E. Walker House is a thirty-bed transitional residence run by the Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service & Education Centre for homeless women veterans.
- In May 2012, a 400 kilogram bronze statue honouring Walker was unveiled in front of the Oswego, New York Town Hall.

B-17 Flying Fortress

From its introduction in 1938, the B-17 Flying Fortress would go on to become the third most produced bomber of all time.

In 1934 the United States Army put out a tender for a new multi-engined bomber to replace the Martin B-10. The Air Corps had a number of requirements.

The aircraft would have to carry a “useful bombload” at an altitude of 3,048 metres with a top speed of at least 320 km/h. It should also have a range of

around 3,200 km. This meant that it would have stay in the air for around 10 hours without refuelling.

Three companies would compete and the contract would be decided by a ‘fly-off’ at Wilbur Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio.

The aircraft selected were the Douglas DB-1, the Martin Model 146, and the Boeing

B-17.

The prototype B-17, with the Boeing factory designation of Model 299, was designed by a team of engineers led by E. Gifford Emery and Edward Curtis Wells, and was built at Boeing’s own expense.

It combined features of the company’s experimental XB-15 bomber and 247 transport. The B-17’s armament consisted of five 7.62 mm machine guns, with a payload of up to 2,200 kg of bombs on two racks in the bomb bay behind the cockpit.

The aircraft was powered by four Pratt & Whitney R-1690

Hornet radial engines, each producing 750 hp (600 kW) at 2,100 metres.

The B-17 went far beyond the requirements of the competition and was streets ahead of every other current airplane in the world.

It was the first all-metal bomber with an enclosed cockpit. It was capable of flying much higher and faster, and it could carry more bombs.

The procurement officers were sold and immediately decided after the first flight on 28 July 1935 that the Air Corps should buy sixty-five B-17s.

On seeing the bristling multiple machine guns during that first flight Richard Williams, a journalist from the *Seattle Times*, remarked, “Why, it’s a flying fortress!” Boeing liked the name and quickly copyrighted it. The B-17 now became known as the B-17 Flying Fortress.

Disaster strikes

On its second flight, the test pilots forgot to disengage the ‘gust lock’ before take off.

The gust lock locked control surfaces in place while the aircraft was parked on the ground. The plane went into a stall just after takeoff and crashed, killing everyone on board. Boeing and the B-17 Flying Fortress were immediately disqualified from the competition.

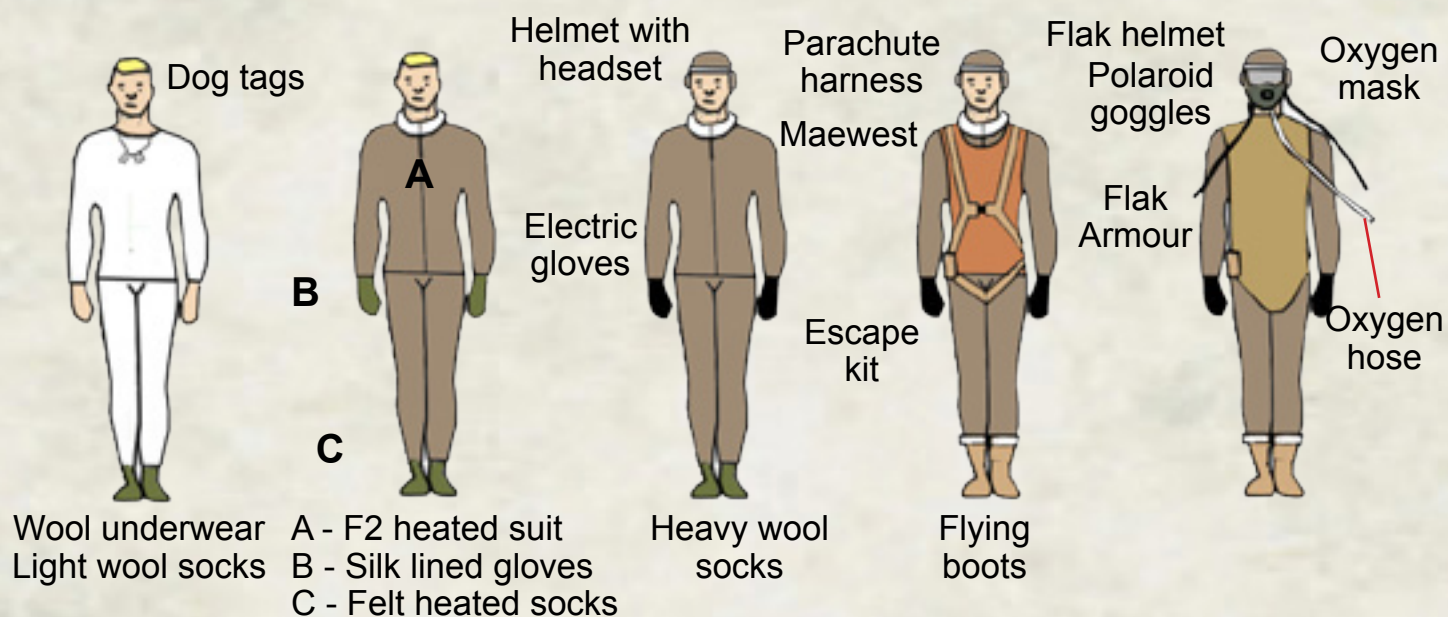
The Air Corps gave the contract to the Douglas Air Craft company for 133 of its twin engine B-18 Bolos. That should have been the end of the B-17.

Yet the Air Corps officers that had seen the B-17 Flying Fortress could not let it go. They were convinced that the B-17 was still the better plane.

The persuaded their friends in congress not to abandon the Boeing project and Generals Andrews and Westover man-



Equipment worn by 8th Air Force bomber crews on high-altitude missions 1944-45



aged to keep Boeing in the game with a limited contract to produce thirteen more B-17s.

It was hardly what Boeing had hoped for, but it kept the company afloat and in the game. Boeing's engineers redesigned the B-17 Flying Fortress with even more powerful engines and added other improvements.

One of the positives taken from the crash of the B-17 was the introduction of a pre-flight check list. This is still used to this day by all pilots to prevent potential problems before take-off.

The 13 planes were delivered to Langley Field on 1 March 1937 and they quickly became the planes that every pilot wanted to fly.

When Douglas ran into manufacturing problems and its plane was stalled on the assembly line, the way was clear for Boeing.

From its initial humble order of 13 planes, more than 12,000 B-17s would be built by the end of World War II. It became the third-most produced bomber of all time, behind the B-24 and the multi-role Ju 88.

The B-17 goes to war

Strangely enough, it wasn't the Americans that were the first to use the B-17 during World War II. It was rather the British Royal Air Force (RAF).

The RAF had entered the war with no heavy bombers in service. The largest they had were medium bombers such as the Vickers Wellington, which could carry up to 2,000 kg of bombs.

It was only in 1941 that the Short Stirling and Handley Page Halifax became its primary bombers. So in early 1940 the RAF entered into an agreement with the US Army Air Corps to acquire 20 B-17Cs, which were given the service name Fortress I.

They carried out their first operation against Wilhelmshaven on 8 July 1941, but it was unsuccessful. On 24 July they attacked the German battleship *Scharnhorst*, anchored in Brest, and inflicted considerable damage on the vessel.

On 20 June 1941, less than six months before America entered World War II, the Air Corps

was renamed the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF).

The 19th Bomber Group had been deployed to Clark Field in the Philippines a few weeks before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. This was the first of a planned heavy bomber buildup in the Pacific.

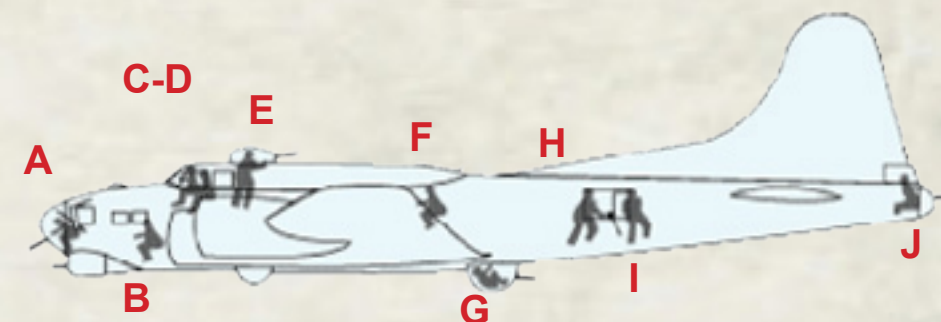
On 8 December 1941, the day after Pearl Harbour, half of the groups B-17s were wiped out when they were caught on the ground. They were busy refueling and rearming for a planned attack on Japanese airfields in Formosa.

The remaining B-17s operated against the Japanese invasion force until they were withdrawn to Darwin, Australia.

In early 1942, the 7th Bombardment Group began arriving in Java with a mixed force of B-17s and LB-30/B-24s.

A squadron of B-17s from this force detached to the Middle East to join the First Provisional Bombardment Group, thus becoming the first American B-17 squadron to go to war against the Germans.

After the defeat in Java, the 19th withdrew to Australia



B-17 CREW: A - Bombardier, B - Navigator, C - Pilot, D - Co-pilot, E - Flight Engineer, F - Radio Operator, G - Ball Turret Gunner, H - Starboard Waist Gunner, I - Port Waist Gunner, J - Tail Turret Gunner.

where it continued in combat until it was sent back home.

In July 1942, the first USAAF B-17s were sent to England to join the Eighth Air Force. Later that year two groups moved to Algeria to join Twelfth Air Force for operations in North Africa.

The B-17s were primarily involved in the daylight precision strategic bombing campaign against German targets ranging from U-boat pens, docks, warehouses and airfields to industrial targets such as aircraft factories.

In the campaign against German aircraft forces in preparation for the invasion of France, B-17 and B-24 raids were directed against German aircraft production while their presence drew the *Luftwaffe* fighters into battle with Allied fighters.

Secret Weapon

At this time the Army Air Corps came into the possession of a device that, along with the B-17 Flying Fortress, would revolutionize bombing - the Norden bombsight. It would prove to be one of the great inventions and greatest secrets of World War II.

The U.S. did not even share the bombsight with the British for fear that it might fall into enemy hands. It was developed by an eccentric Dutch engineer, Carl Norden, who had emigrated to the U.S. in 1904. Norden developed the bombsight for the Air Corps while he worked for the Sperry Corporation.

A bomb does not fall in a straight line from a moving plane. It follows a parabolic trajectory as the various forces of physics— speed, gravity, and inertia—carry it on its long journey to the ground.

The bombsight computed all these factors to guide the bomb to its target. It used a series of gears, gyroscopes, and ball bearings that the bombardier would look through over a target. By inputting the speed and altitude, the bombsight could calculate the trajectory of a bomb.

The bombardier even controlled the flight of the plane through the site during the time over the target. The U.S. would eventually buy 90,000 bombsights from Norden at a cost of \$1.5 billion between 1933 and 1945.

Bomber defence

The B-17 dropped more bombs than any other US aircraft during World War II. Of the 1.5 million tonnes of bombs dropped on Nazi Germany and its occupied territories by U.S. aircraft, 640,000 tonnes were dropped from B-17s.

Before the advent of long-range fighter escorts, B-17s had only their 12.7 mm calibre M2 Browning machine guns to rely on for defence during the bombing runs over Europe. As the war intensified, Boeing used feedback from aircrews to improve each new variant with increased armament and armour.

Defensive armament increased from four 12.7 mm machine guns and one 7.62 mm nose machine gun in the B-17C, to thirteen 12.7 mm machine guns in the B-17G. But because the bombers could not manoeuvre when attacked by fighters, and needed to be flown straight and level during their final bomb run, individual aircraft struggled to fend off a direct attack.

To address this problem, the United States developed the bomb-group formation, which evolved into the staggered combat box formation in which all the B-17s could safely cover any others in their formation with their machine guns. This made a formation of bombers a dangerous target to engage by enemy fighters. German pilots nicknamed the B-17 *fliegendes Stachelschwein* (flying porcupine).

After examining wrecked B-17s and B-24s, *Luftwaffe* officers discovered that on average it took about 20 hits with

20 mm shells fired from the rear to bring them down. Pilots of average ability hit the bombers with only about two percent of the rounds they fired, so to obtain 20 hits, the average pilot had to fire one thousand 20 mm rounds at a bomber.

B-17 crew

Prior to 7 June 1944, a B-17 crew consisted of 10 men. There were four officers and six enlisted men.

Officers

- Pilot
- Co-pilot
- Navigator / Flexible Gunner
- Bombardier / Flexible Gunner, Chin Turret Gunner (B-17G)

Enlisted Men

- Flight Engineer / Top Turret Gunner
- Radio Operator / Flexible Gunner
- Ball Turret Gunner
- Port Waist Flexible Gunner
- Starboard Waist Flexible Gunner
- Tail Turret Gunner

From 7 June 1944 there were nine crewmen. One of the two Waist Gunners removed from crews. It was a gradual adjustment over about two weeks.

From 23 February 1945 there were eight crewmen. Remaining Waist Gunner removed from crews.

Pilot

Besides flying the aircraft, the pilot was also the aircraft commander. He would be responsible for discipline and training of his crew and was responsible

for his crew and their actions, 24 hours a day.

Co-Pilot

The co-pilot was the second in command. On long flights he would often have to relieve the pilot and take over the controls. In the event of the pilot being wounded or killed, the co-pilot would take over as commander.

Navigator

The responsibility of the navigator was to direct the flight from departure to destination and return. He had to know the exact position of the aircraft at all times. If the aircraft came under attack he would man one of the flexible machine guns.

Bombardier

The main function of the bombardier was to ensure that the bombs hit the target. On the run in on the target he took control of the plane. He would tell the pilot what to do, and until he said "Bombs away" his word was law.

Flight Engineer

He worked closely with the co-pilot, checking engine operation, fuel consumption, and the operation of all equipment. He would also have to be able to work with the bombardier, and know how to cock, lock, and load the bomb racks. If the aircraft came under attack he would man the top gun turret.

Radio Operator

He was responsible for all radio communication. He would ensure that the liaison and command sets were properly tuned and in good operating order.

He would also render position reports every 30 minutes. He would also keep a flight log.

Ball Turret Gunner

The Sperry ball turret was very small in order to reduce drag, and was typically operated by the smallest man of the crew. There was no room inside for a parachute, which was left in the cabin above the turret.

Waist Gunners

The waist gunners were responsible for defending either the left or right side of the aircraft. The B-17 was not pressurised, so at high altitude there was not enough oxygen to breathe and the temperature would be below zero. The crew would have to wear specially heated flight suits and make use of oxygen masks.

Tail Turret Gunner

The tail turret gunner was responsible for defending the aircraft from any attack from the rear.

Many B-17 crew members received military honours and 17 received the Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration awarded by the United States.

The last B-17 in active service, with the Brazilian Air Force, was retired in 1968.

BATTLEFIELD

Operation

Nimrod

On 30 April 1989 six armed men stormed the Iranian embassy in London, taking 26 people hostage. A small group of elite soldiers were put on standby. Six days later this group launched an assault as the entire world watched.

The Iranian Embassy was situated on Princes Gate, South Kensington, London. On Wednesday 30 April 1980 at 11h30 the building was stormed by six heavily armed men.

The men were members of the Democratic Revolutionary Front for the Liberation of Arabistan (DRF-LA), Iranian Arabs protesting for the establishment of an autonomous Arab state in the southern region of the Iranian province of Khūzestān.

Police Constable (PC) Trevor Lock of the Metropolitan Police's Diplomatic Protection Group (DPG) was on duty at the time. He was quickly overpowered, but he managed to press the panic button on his radio.

Lock was armed with a concealed Smith & Wesson .38 calibre revolver. Although he was searched, the weapon was not discovered.

A total of 26 people, mostly embassy staff, but also a number of visitors, were taken hostage. This included PC Lock. Also among the hostages were two BBC journalists. Simeon "Sim" Harris and Chris Cramer were at the embassy attempting to obtain visas to visit Iran.

Day 1 - 30 April 1980

Almost immediately after the first reports of gunfire were reported, seven DPG officers were on the scene. They surrounded the building but had to retreat when a gunman appeared at a window and threatened to open fire.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Dellow arrived half an hour later and took command of the situation.

Dellow coordinated the police response, which included the deployment of D11, the Metropolitan Police's marksmen and officers with specialist surveillance equipment.

Police negotiators made contact with Oan Ali Mohammed, the leader of the group. Contact was made via a field telephone passed through one of the embassy windows.

Oan demanded the release of 91 Arabs held in prisons in Khūzestān, and threatened to blow up the

embassy and the hostages if this were not done by noon on 1 May.

A large number of journalists and television crews were on the scene quickly and they were moved into a holding area to the west of the front of the embassy.

The British government's emergency committee COBRA (Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms) was assembled. COBRA is made up of ministers, civil servants and expert advisers, including representatives from the police and the armed forces. The meeting was chaired by William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, as Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, was unavailable.

The gunmen released their first hostage, embassy press officer Frieda Mozaffarian, at 16h30. She had been unwell since the start of the siege and the other hostages convinced Oan that she was pregnant and needed medical treatment.

Margaret Thatcher, kept apprised of the situation by Whitelaw, determined that British law would be applied to the embassy, despite the Vienna Convention, under which the embassy is considered Iranian soil.

Day 2 - 1 May 1980

While the COBRA meetings continued through the night, two teams were dispatched from the Special Air Service (SAS) near Hereford.

The teams were from B Squad-

ron, with specialists from other squadrons. They were under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Michael Rose, the officer commanding 22 SAS Regiment.

They set up at a holding area in Regent's Park Barracks. At 03h30 one of the SAS teams moved into the building next door to the embassy. They were briefed on Colonel Rose's "immediate action" plan, to be implemented should the SAS be required to storm the building before a more sophisticated plan could be formed.

Early on the morning of 1 May, the gunmen ordered one of the hostages to telephone the BBC's new's desk.

Oan took the receiver and spoke directly to a BBC journalist, identifying who they were and stating the non-Iranian hostages would not be harmed.

Not long after that the police cut the phone lines to the embassy, leaving the field telephone as the only means of communication.

BBC journalist Chris Cramer became ill and his colleague, Sim Harris, was taken to the field telephone and told to negotiate for a doctor. The police refused.

Most of the morning was taken up with negotiations before Cramer was released at 11H15. He was rushed to hospital in an ambulance, accompanied by police officers sent to question him.

As the noon deadline approached the police negotiated for a new deadline of 14h00. They were convinced the gunmen did not have the capability to carry out their threat of blowing the building up.

The police allowed the 14h00 deadline to pass. Later that after-



GO: Having abseiled down from the roof, an SAS team enters the embassy.

noon Oan altered his demands, now requesting that the British media broadcast a statement of their grievances and for ambassadors of three Arab countries to negotiate the group's safe passage out of the UK once the statement had been broadcast.

At about 20h00, Oan became agitated by noises coming from the Ethiopian Embassy next door. PC Lock was asked to identify the sounds. He claimed that it was probably mice in the walls.

The sounds were actually technicians drilling holes in the wall to implant listening devices. COBRA decided to crate a distraction and instructed British Gas to commence drilling in an adjacent road, under the guise of repairing a gas leak.

The drilling further agitated the gunmen, and instead British Airports Authority, owner of London Heathrow Airport, was told to instruct approaching aircraft to fly over the embassy at

low altitude.

Day 3 - 2 May 1980

At 09h30 Oan appeared at a first-floor window and demanded access to the telex system, which had been cut along with the phone lines.

The police refused an Oan threatened to kill Abdul Fazi Ezzati, the cultural attaché. Oan then demanded to speak to somebody from the BBC who knew Sim Harris.

The police agreed and produced Tony Crabb, managing director of BBC Television News and Harris's boss.

Oan repeated his earlier demands for safe passage out of the UK, to be negotiated by three ambassadors from Arab countries to Crabb from the first-floor window, and instructed that they should be broadcast along with a statement of the hostage-takers' aims by the BBC.

The British Foreign and Commonwealth Office informally



SAS CRW Kit

1. Nomex III Assault Suit.
2. AC200 Kevlar Assault Helmet.
3. AC900 Kevlar Assault Helmet.
4. Avon SF10 Respirator.
5. Nomex Hood.
6. Nomex Gloves.
7. Assault Vest.
8. PE Assault Belt.
9. GQ Abseil Harness.
10. Adidas GSG9 Assault Boots.
11. MBITR Radio.
12. Earpiece/Throat Mike.
13. Calumite Light Sticks.
14. Aircrew Knife.
15. Leatherman Tool.
16. Cable Ties.
17. Claymore Clacker.
18. Rope Bag (Leg).
19. 11 mm Abseil Rope.
20. Petzl Descender.
21. Stun Grenade.
22. CS Gas Grenade.
23. H&K MP5K.
24. H&K MP5A5.
25. H&K MP5SD6.
26. Remington 870.
27. Browning L9A1.

Nomex is a registered trademark for flame-resistant meta-aramid material developed in the early 1960s by DuPont.

They also wear Nomex underwear, which the SAS nickname 'Vindaloo', a hot Indian curry dish.

The Remington 870 shotgun is loaded with breaching rounds, used to blow a door off its hinges.

The H&K submachine guns will normally have a torch and laser sight attached.

approached the embassies of Algeria, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Syria and Qatar to ask if their ambassadors would be willing to talk to the hostage-takers. The Jordanian ambassador immediately refused and the other five said they would consult their governments.

While the BBC did broadcast the statement that evening, Oan was not happy with it. He claimed that it was truncated and incorrect.

Meanwhile SAS plans to enter the embassy by battering the front door and ground-floor windows were quickly scrapped when it was discovered that the embassy's front door was reinforced by a steel security door, and that the windows on the ground floor and first floor were fitted with armoured glass.

Day 4 - 3 May 1980

Oan, angered by the BBC's incorrect reporting of his demands the previous evening, contacted the police negotiators shortly after 06h00 and accused the authorities of deceiving him. He demanded to speak with an Arab ambassador, but the negotiator on duty claimed that talks were still being arranged by the Foreign Office.

Oan saw through the delaying tactic and threatened that a hostage would be killed unless Tony Crabb was brought back to the embassy.

Crabb did not arrive at the embassy until 15h30, nearly ten hours after Oan demanded his presence. Oan then relayed another statement to Crabb via Mustapha Karkouti, a journalist also being held hostage in the embassy.

The police guaranteed that the statement would be broadcast on the BBC's next news bulletin, in exchange for the release of two hostages.

The hostages decided amongst themselves that the two to be released would be Hiyeck Kanji and Ali-Guil Ghanzafar; the former as she was pregnant and the latter for no other reason than his loud snoring, which kept the other hostages awake at night and irritated the terrorists.

Later in the evening, at approximately 23h00, an SAS team reconnoitred the roof of the embassy. They discovered a skylight, and succeeded in unlocking it for potential use as an access point, should they later be required to storm the building. They also attached ropes to the chimneys to allow soldiers to abseil down the building and gain access through the windows if necessary.

Day 5 - 4 May 1980

Throughout the day the Foreign Office were in talks with diplomats from Arabian countries in an effort to get them to talk to the hostage-takers. The talks ended in a stalemate.

Karkouti, the journalist, became increasingly ill throughout the day and by the evening was feverish. This led to speculation that the police had spiked the food that had been sent into the embassy.

While the police had considered this option, it was not done on the advice of a doctor who dismissed it as "impracticable".

The SAS officers involved in the operation, including Brigadier Peter de la Billière, Director Special Forces; Lieutenant

Colonel Mike Rose, Commander of 22 SAS; and Major Hector Gullan, commander of the team that would undertake any raid, spent the day refining their plans for an assault.

Day 6 - 5 May 1980

PC Lock was woken by Oan at dawn. Oan was convinced that there was an intruder in the building and sent Lock to investigate. No-one was found.

Later that morning Oan told Lock to examine a bulge in the wall separating the Iranian embassy from the Ethiopian embassy next door.

The bulge was actually caused by the removal of bricks to allow and assault team to break through the wall, and to implant listening devices.

Lock told Oan that he didn't think that the police were about to storm the building, but Oan was not convinced.

At 13h00 Oan told the police that he would kill a hostage if he was unable to speak to an Arab ambassador within 45 minutes.

At 13h40, PC Lock informed the negotiators that the gunmen had taken the embassy chief press officer, Abbas Lavasani, downstairs and were preparing to execute him.

Exactly 45 minutes after Oan's demand to speak to an ambassador, three shots were heard from inside the embassy.

Home Secretary Willie Whitelaw rushed through and was briefed on the SAS plan by de la Billière, who told him to expect that up to 40 percent of the hostages would be killed in an assault.

De la Billière was instructed to prepare to assault the building



GOING IN: Two members of the SAS team prepare to enter the building via a balcony.

at short notice. He passed this on to Mike Rose at 15h50 and by 17h00 the SAS were in a position to carry out the assault at ten minute's notice.

The police had recruited an imam from a local mosque at 18h20 and asked him to talk to the gunmen.

While the imam was talking to Oan via the field telephone, another three shots rang out. Oan announce that another hostage has been killed and that the rest would die in 30 minutes unless his demands were met.

Police believed that two hostages had been killed, although only Lavasani had been shot.

Lavasani's body was dumped out of the front door and was recovered by the police.

Sir David McNee, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, contacted the Home Secretary to request approval to hand control of the operation over to the British Army, under the provisions of Military Aid to the Civil Power.

This request was relayed by Whitelaw to Margaret Thatcher would immediately agreed.

At 19h07, John Dellow signed

over control of the operation to Lieutenant Colonel Mike Ros, authorising Rose to order an assault at his discretion.

The police negotiators began stalling Oan, offering concessions in order to distract him and prevent him from killing further hostages. At the same time the SAS made their final preparations.

The Assault

Two SAS teams, Red Team and Blue Tea, were ordered to begin their simultaneous assaults at 19h23.

While snipers provided cover, 32 men stormed the embassy. Each assault team had a set area to cover. They were not to stray beyond these, to avoid friendly fire incidents.

At the 'Go' signal men burst in through the French windows at the rear of the building while others came in through a skylight on the roof while abseil teams reached the floors in between.

Not everything went off smoothly. The staff sergeant leading the abseiling team became entangled in his rope. Some of the hostages were not

where the SAS expected. One of the entry rooms turned out to have been barricaded shut, and a soldier had to leave through the window and re-enter across the balcony to get around the blockage. Stun grenades ignited fires, which quickly spread.

The staff sergeant, still hung up in his rope, was severely burnt. A second wave of abseilers cut him free and he fell to the balcony floor below. He stood up and followed the rest of his team into the building.

The aggressive plan paid off. Taken by surprise the gunmen were only able to kill one of their hostages before being gunned down, most in a hail of bullets from several SAS troops at once.

Two of the gunmen were taken alive, but as they were passed hastily from man to man down the stairs, the SAS realised that one of them was clutching a grenade. He was flung to the ground and shot dead before he could pull the pin.

The success was aided by PC Lock. Realising that the assault had begun, Lock knocked the terrorist leader to the ground and grappled with him. Despite suffering from the effects of CS gas, Lock kept the terrorist from firing his gun, then rolled clear at a shout from the SAS, who shot the terrorist before he could fire.

PC Lock was later awarded the George Medal, the United Kingdom's second-highest civil honour, as well as the Freedom of the City of London.

Most of the raid, which lasted for 17 minutes, was watched live on television. It made the SAS a household name.

ARMA

Matt O' Brien is on the warpath again with one of his favourite military simulators. And he's also going from soldier to film director.

I did a review of ARMA 3 in the very second edition of Military Despatches way back in August 2017.

I followed that up with a second review of the game in June 2019 and this time we looked at DLC (downloadable content) for the game.

So here we are in August 2020 and we're taking a third look at the game.

ARMA 3 is not new. The game was originally released in 2013, making it seven years old. And it's not exactly a game as such, but rather a military sandbox or military simulator (mil sim).

What has given ARMA 3 its longevity is the creator content that has been produced by modders.

These are people that create content for the game and then upload it to the Steam Workshop. From here you can download it for free.

Currently there are more than 100,000 items of creator content available and each brings something new and different to the base game.

These include weapons, vehicles, boats, planes, helicopters, uniforms, maps and terrain. There are also single missions

and complete campaigns.

One of the big game changers are mods or modifications. Currently there are 14,465 available.

While the original ARMA 3 is set in the mid-2030s, there are mods that recreate Vietnam, World War II and most other wars and conflicts you can think of. And this includes our own Bush War and the Rhodesian War.

Many people use mods for what is known as Mil Sim, or military simulation. These are groups that get together online and create missions or scenarios. These groups can be as large as 200 players.

Sometimes a large group will play a mission against AI (artificial intelligence) or sometimes players will go up against each other.

Often these players will concentrate on a specific objective. For example I know one player that does nothing but fly helicopters. And not attack helicopters either. All he does is fly troops into combat, fly supplies in, and carry out casevacs.

Another group of eight players that I came across fly F-16 fighter jets. They fly together as a squadron and they're pretty

good at it. This should come as no surprise because five of them are current serving F-16 pilots in real life. The other three are all retired F-16 pilots.

And bear in mind that the modded version of the F-16 in ARMA 3 uses 600 key controls to fly it.

Some of the groups that play together regularly get together once a week for training. They will use a map such as the Hebonates Military Training Ground.

Here they practice unit tactics, ambushes, patrolling, handling vehicles, flying planes and helicopters, piloting boats and they also make use of the many shooting ranges.

There are shooting ranges for pistols, submachine guns, light and heavy machine guns, sniper rifles, tanks and even artillery.

The vast majority of those that play online are over the age of 21 and most are military veterans.

Machinima

Something else that has become popular in ARMA 3 is what is called Machinima.

This is using ARMA 3 to create cinematics, training videos and even short films.



Part of the content that comes with ARMA 3 is called 'Eden Editor'. This is used to set up your own missions, scenarios or even campaigns.

You choose a map and then set it up as you wish. You can add buildings, props, vehicles, troops - whatever you wish.

You then decide what each item you laid down should be doing. You can then film and capture the footage and later edit it.

One of the most useful mods for this is called G Cam, a camera that you can move around, zoom in and out, raise or lower, or even get to follow anyone or anything.

Gary is 33 and he bought ARMA 3 two years ago, but not to play the game.

"I'm not really that interested in gaming and, truth be told, I'm not very good at it," he admits.

"But what I am interested in and something that I believe I'm good at is film-making. I

am also very interested in military history and this is where I find ARMA 3 invaluable.

"For example, I wanted to do a short documentary on the Battle of Stalingrad. Now obviously there is film footage around that was taken during the actual battle. The problem is that it is difficult to find exactly the right footage that I am looking for.

"And even if you do find footage that you can use it is normally copyrighted. So you can't use it anyway."

This is where Gary found help via ARMA 3.

"I was able to download buildings and terrain that could represent Stalingrad. I also found World War II German and Russian uniforms, weapons, equipment, tanks, aircraft and everything else I needed.

"I used the Eden Editor to set up and then script the scenes that I wanted and used the G Cam to film them."

Gary then used a screen capture programme to capture his

footage and then edited it, adding music and effects.

This is a great boon for those that want to try their hand at filming military related footage and there are many tutorials available online.



Publisher - Bohemia Interactive

Genre - Mil Sim

Score - 9/10

Price - R479 (on Steam)



Movie Review

My Father's War

Released: 2016
Running time: 97 minutes
Director: Peter Lamberti

This locally produced film is one of the best I've seen in a long while. It is a movie that every military veteran needs to watch. Especially those that were involved in the Border War.

In fact whether you're a former soldier, a wife, or child (in South Africa or anywhere in the world), this is a must-see film.

Written and directed by Craig Gardner and produced by Peter Lamberti, the bilingual film (Afrikaans/English) focuses on the broken relationship between a father and a rebellious teenage son.

Set in 2003, 19 year old Dap Smit is at constant loggerheads with his father Dawid, a veteran of the Border War. They two of them cannot see eye to eye on anything. Caught between them is Karina, Dawid's wife and Dap's mother.

Dawid has no idea of how to communicate with his son. Dap on the other hand seems to hate his father. He feels that he was not there while he was growing up, and that his father abandoned both him and his mother because he preferred being on the border.

He also believes that he is an only child because his father didn't want any more children after him.

Eventually Dap tells his father that he hates him and says that he wished that he had died in the war.

Dawid is heartbroken and

prays to God to somehow show his son what it had really been like. It is a prayer that does not go unanswered.

Dap has a troubling dream in which he is a combat soldier in the Border War. In the dream everyone calls him Dap. The dream seems so realistic and the following morning he cannot get it out of his mind.

Then he has another dream. This time he meets his father who, in the dream, is the same age as him. They are both together in the same unit. He experiences events in great detail during the dream.

Dap realises that in his dream he is a member of the elite Special Forces unit, 5 Reconnaissance Regiment and that they are somewhere in Angola.

He begins doing research on the Internet and finds that all the facts he has dreamt about seem to check out.

As he has more dreams he begins to understand his father more. The dreams give him insight and compassion, and he is finally able to let go of his life-long feelings of abandonment and anger.

Finally father and son are reconciled. He accompanies his father to a reunion of some of the men that were in his unit.

There Dap learns why he was named Dap. He also learns the reason why he was an only child.

I watched this film with a mate of mine, himself a veteran of the

Border War.

"I wish my ex-wife and children could see this movie," he said.

If you haven't seen My Father's War, then go out and rent it. Or even better, buy a copy of the movie.

Cast

Stian Bam - David Smit
Edwin van der Walt - Dap Smit
Erica Wessels - Karina Smit
Richard Lukunku - Joao
Duane Behrens - Kobus
David Dukas - Bill
Vian Singleton - Young Dap
Francois Jacobs - Warrick
Damon Berry - Carrots
Neels Clasen - Wynand
David Rees - Colonel Swartz
Alan Glauber - Army chaplain
Nathaniel Ramabulana - Chunky



Click on the box cover to watch a trailer of the film.

Pathfinder Company The Philistines

Colonel Jan Breytenbach writes in the foreword:

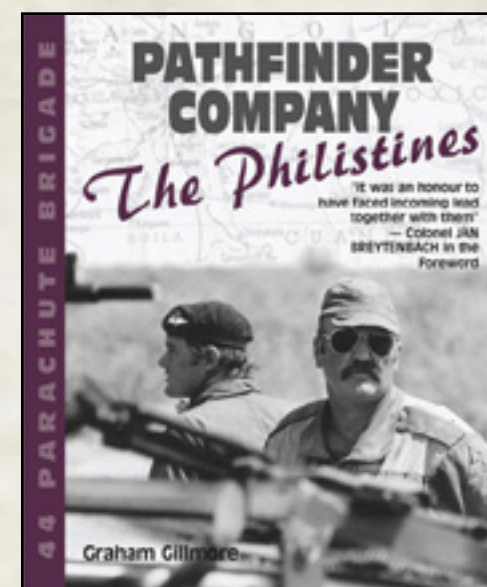
"On Ascension Day, 1978, a composite South African parachute battalion jumped onto the tactical HQ of SWAPO's PLAN army, based at Cassinga, 250 kilometres north of the Angolan border to destroy the facility, their logistics, and to wipe out a strong concentration of SWAPO guerrillas.

The airborne assault, part of Operation Reindeer, was an unqualified success; the whole base was destroyed. 608 PLAN fighters were killed, with many more wounded which pushed the final SWAPO death toll to well over a thousand. We lost only four paratroopers killed in action plus a dozen or so wounded. According to airborne experts in Britain and Australia, this was the most audacious parachute assault since the Second World War; the mounting airfield was well over 1,000 nautical miles away. I was the commander of that airborne assault, which although successful above all expectations, also highlighted many shortcomings, some of which nearly led to a disastrous outcome."

44 Parachute Brigade was formed later that year, with the need for a specialist Pathfinder Company patently clear. Into the ranks came professional veterans from the UK, USA,

Australasia, Rhodesia and elsewhere, from such Special Forces units as the SAS, Selous Scouts and the RLI. "This is their book, a collection of stories about the founding and deployment of a unit of 'Foreign Legionnaires', from different parts of the world who became welded together into a remarkable combat unit, unsurpassed by any other South African Defence Force unit in their positive and aggressive approach to battle. For me it was an honour to have faced incoming lead together with them."

Graham Gillmore enjoys country life in the natural beauty of East Anglia and the Fens but was born a Londoner in 1952. An innate fascination with history and all things military inevitably led him to joining the Grenadier Guards, and for six months the Guards Depot drilled into him soldiering skills of the highest standard. Graham left the British Army in 1977 to join the Rhodesian Light Infantry in their war to prevent communist guerrillas overthrowing the country. After two years as the signals rep to Support Commando, 1RLI, Graham was promoted to Signals Troop Sergeant, but with the fall of Rhodesia to the Marxists in 1980, he moved to South Africa to continue the anti-terrorist fight with the Path-



finder Company, 44 Parachute Brigade. He returned to England still on crutches after being wounded in Angola and joined the Territorial Army. After a career in VIP security Graham is now a leading member of the Victorian Military Society for whom he runs The Diehard Company, an internationally renowned re-enactment group. He advises and writes articles on the British Army on Home Service and on campaign during Queen Victoria's reign.

Softcover: 160 pages with 200 colour and B/W photos & maps.

Available from Bush War Books.

R255.00

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 August.

1 August

- **1798** - The British fleet under Lord Nelson defeats the French fleet at the Battle of the Nile, at Aboukir Bay, Egypt, thus thwarting Napoleon's conquest of the Middle East. Napoleon Bonaparte and his forces are left stranded in Egypt.
- **1900** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War General Ian Hamilton, commanding a force of about 6,000 men with twenty-six field guns, is sent to capture Commando Nek and Silkaatsnek, between Brits and Pretoria, and to cover Baden-Powell's retreat to Pretoria.
- **1901** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War the British parliament votes an additional £12,500 00 for munitions.
- **1901** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War Sir G. Lagden, formerly Resident Commissioner in Basutoland, is appointed by the British as the Commissioner of Native Affairs in the Transvaal and the 'Orange River Colony'.
- **1938** - Air Force Base Waterkloof is founded with two hangars, a runway and No's 1 and 2 Fighter-bomber Squadrons and No 3 Communication Squadron, mainly equipped with Hawker Hartbeest Aircraft. Lt. Col. H.G. Willmot is first permanent Officer Commanding.
- **1944** - The Warsaw Uprising began as the Polish Home Army, numbering about 40,000 Polish patriots, began shooting at German troops in the streets. The Nazis then sent eight divisions to battle the Poles, who had hoped for, but did not receive, assistance from the Allies. Two months later, the rebellion was quashed.
- **1946** - Andrei Vlasov, Russian general (who fought for both the Red Army and the German Wehrmacht) is executed at age 45.
- **1957** - The United States and Canada form the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD).
- **1975** - An order is issued withdrawing the remaining South African Police from Rhodesia.
- **1979** - Lieutenant Sidney Edward Watts from 1 South West Africa Squadron SWATF was killed when his private Cessna 182 aircraft crashed at Eros Airport outside Windhoek during Squadron night flying exercises. He was 28.
- **1981** - Private Rocco Bernard Du Plooy from 2 Squadron was accidentally killed while on official duty but the exact cause of his

death is unknown. He was 17.

- **1982** - The Kenyan Air Force disbands following an attempted coup by non-commissioned officers in which 159 died.
- **1987** - Corporal Marius Albertus van Zyl from Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident at Oudshoorn while on weekend pass. He was 20.
- **1988** - Seaman Willem Schalk van der Merwe from SAS Rand was killed in a military bus accident in Durban. He was 19.
- **1990** - ANC and its armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) suspends armed actions after twenty-nine years.
- **1990** - Two members of the Cape Regiment were killed in a military vehicle accident at Hammersdale. The casualties were: Rifleman Johannes Jacobus Lourens (27). Rifleman Cupido Johannes Mentoor (21).
- **1992** - Corporal Michael Paul Bankenberg from Group 39 was shot dead by a fellow soldier in Queens-town. He was 21. The soldier who did the shooting then committed suicide. He was 21.
- **1993** - Two members from 3 SAI were killed when their

Mamba Armoured Personnel Carrier overturned near Table Mountain outside Pietermaritzburg. The casualties were: Lance Corporal L. P. Petersen (19). Lance Corporal Johnathan Mervin Thomas (20).

- **1996** - Mohammed Farah Aidid, who has controlled much of Somalia during its civil war, dies of wounds suffered during a skirmish with another faction.

2 August

- **1900** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War Lord Roberts sends his Chief of Staff, Lord Kitchener, to take overall command of the forces engaged against Gen. De Wet.
- **1934** - Paul von Hindenburg, German WW1 general and President of Germany (1925-34), dies of lung cancer at 86.
- **1956** - Having held talks on the escalating crisis over control of the Suez Canal with France and the US, Britain mobilises its forces.
- **1965** - Assistant Veldkornet N.R. Pullen from the 42 Army Air Reconnaissance Squadron was killed when his Cessna 185A crashed near Derby while on a routine low level reconnaissance training flight. He was 20.
- **1976** - French officials disclose that France is to supply South Africa with two destroyer escorts.
- **1982** - Lance Corporal Matheus Bambi from 32

Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 27.

- **1983** - Rifleman Schaullum Lennox Silverton from Regiment Christiaan Beyers was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion in the Kaokoveld. He was 21.
- **1989** - Private Jacobus Petrus Du Plessis from Quartermaster General was shot dead while on duty at the Karl Kling Building in Pretoria. He was 18.
- **1989** - Rifleman Rudolph Ernst Thiel from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was accidentally killed in the Duku-Duku Forest Training area near Mtubatuba when his Unimog overturned on a gravel road during a training exercise. He was 19.
- **1990** - The Iraqi army invaded Kuwait amid claims that Kuwait threatened Iraq's economic existence by overproducing oil and driving prices down on the world market. An Iraqi military government was then installed in Kuwait which was annexed by Iraq on the claim that Kuwait was historically part of Iraq. This resulted in Desert Shield, the massive Allied military buildup, and later the 100-hour war against Iraq, Desert Storm.
- **1999** - At least twelve people are killed in rebel attacks on

a police station, airport and the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) in and around Katima Mulilo.

- **2007** - Holden Roberto, Angolan founder and leader of the FNLA, dies at 84.

3 August

- **1900** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War, in a breach of neutrality, Colonel Stowe, Consul-General of the USA, allows a British Intelligence officer, carrying important papers from Milner to Kitchener, to hide from Danie Theron in his railway carriage.
- **1900** - War correspondent Ernie Pyle (1900-1945) was born in Dana, Indiana. His syndicated column offered sympathetic insights into the experiences of common soldiers during World War II. He received a Pulitzer Prize for his reports of the bombing of London in 1940 and later war reports from Africa, Sicily, Italy and France. He was killed by machine-gun fire near Okinawa in the South Pacific on April 18, 1945.



Jonas Savimbi

- **1900** - President Paul Kruger and Commandant General Louis Botha issued a proclamation in Pretoria which promised to pay those Burghers who remained active with their Commandos for damage done to their farms by the British troops.
- **1911** - An Italian, Commander Piazza, is the world's first pilot to fly a military mission he flies reconnaissance missions over Tripoli.
- **1934** - Jonas Savimbi, former leader of Unita, was born on this day in Munhango, Angola.
- **1940** - Italy begins occupation of British Somaliland.
- **1956** - An event unique in the SAAF history takes place. The SAAF squadron that was placed at the disposal of the United Nations Organisation during the Korean War, is presented with the prestigious United States presidential unit citation, awarded for 'extraordinary heroism against the armed enemy of the United Nations from November 1951 to April 1952'.
- **1974** - Lieutenant Henri Cornelius Lotz from 41 Squadron was killed when his AM-3C Bosbok crashed near Johannesburg. He was 25.
- **1978** - Captain Anthony Howard Brinkworth from 24 Squadron was Reported Missing when his Buccaneer SMk.50, flown by Captain Dries Marais, suffered a double flame-out and crashed into the sea 28 miles off Green Point near Scottburgh and exploded on impact with the water. He was 27.
- **1979** - President Francisco Macías Nguema of Equatorial Guinea is overthrown in a military coup by his nephew Colonel Teodoro Obiang Ngueme Mbasogo.
- **1980** - Two members from 32 Battalion were Killed in Action in Southern Angola when they triggered a booby trap inside an enemy bunker during Operation Vastrap. They were: Corporal Michael Christian Coetzee (26). Corporal Daniel Heinrich Grobler (20).
- **1983** - Rifleman Adriaan Jacobus Booysen Thirion from the Boksburg Commando was killed in an accidental mortar bomb explosion during operations in Southern Angola. He was 25.
- **1985** - Rifleman Mark John Littrell from 1 Parachute Battalion Died of Wounds accidentally sustained while based in the Northern Operational Area. He was 19.
- **1986** - Three members from Durban Regiment were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Durban. The casualties were: Lance Corporal Robert Dennis Sterling (26). Rifleman Trevor Reginald William Holland (24). Rifleman Eric Cornelius Koekemoer (21).
- **2004** - General Muhamed

Lamari, head of Algeria's army, resigns for health reasons.

- **2005** - The Military Council for Justice and Democracy overthrows President Taya of Mauritania in a coup, while he is in Saudi Arabia for the funeral of King Fahd.

4 August

- **1578** - A Portuguese attempt at an invasion against the Moors of Morocco is thwarted at the Battle of Alcazar-el-Kebir. King Sebastian of Portugal, the King of Fez and the Moorish pretender to the throne of Fez, are all killed.
- **1900** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War the Battle of Elands River (Brakfontein), near present-day Swartruggens, that lasted several days, starts.
- **1901** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War Lord Methuen, British general, destroys the village of Schweizer-Reneke, leaving only the church standing.
- **1907** - The French fleet bombards Casablanca, northwest Morocco, following anti-foreign outbreaks.
- **1914** - Germany invades Belgium and when London's ultimatum to Berlin to withdraw expires at midnight, Britain declares war on Germany.
- **1940** - Italy invades British Somaliland and occupies some towns in Sudan and Kenya. General Godwin-Austin and his small

garrison of British troops was unable to stop the Duke d'Acota's 25,000 soldiers who swarmed across the border.

- **1967** - Military conscription became compulsory for all White men in South Africa over the age of 16. Deferment to complete schooling or a university degree was granted, but hardly any White men were exempt from conscription.
- **1972** - Signaler Victor Donald Devenish from 23 Squadron, 2 Signals Regiment was accidentally killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Binga in Rhodesia while deployed there during Ops Falcon (Clandestine Electronic Warfare Deployment). He was 18.
- **1978** - Corporal Barend Phillippus Hendrikus Du Plessis from the South African Air Force died in H.F. Verwoerd Hospital in Pretoria from injuries sustained in a private motor cycle accident. He was 21.
- **1983** - Captain Thomas Sankara seizes power in a military coup in Burkina Faso.
- **1987** - Private Francois du Preez Smit from the Provost School was killed in a military vehicle accident at the Far North Command Headquarters Unit in Pietersburg. He was 18.
- **1988** - Staff Sergeant Marius Horn from 5 SAI was accidentally killed near Eshowe. He was 27.
- **1990** - Lance Corporal

Craig Adrian Maguire from the Army Battle School died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained in the Army Battle School training area. He was 21

- **2003** - The first 200 members of a West African peacekeeping force arrive in Liberia in an effort to stop more than two months of fighting between government forces and rebels, and allow food and medicine to enter Monrovia.

5 August

- **1815** - A peace treaty with Tripoli, which follows treaties with Algeria and Tunis, brings an end to the Barbary Wars.
- **1863** - The Alabama, an American Civil War raider, captures the Northern bark, Sea Bride, outside Table Bay. The Alabama was built during the American Civil War to prey on the mercantile shipping of the Northern states. Her captain and officers were Southerners, her crew British. The Malays composed the well-known folksong *Daar Kom Die Alibama* with reference to this ship.
- **1916** - The British navy defeats the Ottomans at the naval battle off Port Said, Egypt.
- **1971** - PW Botha, the Minister of Defence, says that South Africa has become

self-sufficient in the manufacture of arms. The country is considering exporting weapons.

- **1983** - Rifleman Johannes Jacobus Christoffel Stols from 3 SAI Support Company attached to 52 Battalion, was Killed in Action when his Buffel Troop Carrier detonated a boosted TMA-3 Cheese Mine while on patrol near Ogongo. He was 20.
- **1990** - The United States sends a Marine company into Monrovia, Liberia's capital, to evacuate US citizens because of a rebel threat to arrest Americans in order to provoke foreign intervention in the civil war.
- **1985** - Gunner Riaan Jakob Rautenbach from 61 Mechanised Battalion was accidentally killed when a 120mm Mortar Tube exploded after firing an over-boosted mortar bomb during training at Omuthiya. He was 20.
- **1986** - Four members from the Intelligence School in Kimberley were killed when their SAMIL 50 vehicle overturned approximately



Hugo Bierman

5 km from the Unit Headquarters. The casualties were: Lance Corporal Alan Bernard Clarke (18). Lance Corporal Jacob Johannes de Jager (18). Lance Corporal Jacques Delport (18). Lance Corporal Jacobus Frans Hamman (18).

- **1998** - Otto Kretschmer, German U-boat commander, dies at 86.

6 August

- **1891** - British Field Marshall William Joseph Slim is born on this day.
- **1900** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War the Battle of Elands River takes place. British Gen. Carrington retreats to the Marico River and Zeerust, Western Transvaal, pursued for part of the way by Boer forces. He burns his baggage train and surplus supplies and retires towards Mafeking.
- **1916** - Admiral Hugo (Hendrik) Bierman, former Chief of the Navy and Chief of the SADF, is born in Johannesburg.
- **1945** - The first Atomic Bomb was dropped over the center of Hiroshima at 08h15, by the American B-29 bomber Enola Gay. The bomb detonated about 850 metres above ground, killing over 105,000 persons and destroying the city. Another estimated 100,000 persons later died as a result of radiation effects.
- **1980** - Rifleman Petrus Jacobus from 35 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.

cob from 35 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.

- **1980** - Rifleman Neels Jacobus Reynolds from 41 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 18.
- **1986** - Lance Corporal Jacobus Andries Cornelius Nel from the Intelligence School in Kimberley died in the Universitas Hospital after being critically injured on 05 August 1986 when his SAMIL 50 vehicle overturned 5km from the Unit Headquarters. He was 18.
- **1997** - The SA Air Force announces that Mirages will be phased out because of a cut to the defence budget.

7 August

- **1795** - The Battle of Muizenberg takes place during the Napoleonic War when British troops disembark at Muizenberg and move towards Cape Town, notwithstanding brave defence by Lieut. P.W. Marnitz and Capt. C. Kemper after De Lille vacated his position.
- **1876** - International spy Mata Hari (1876-1917) was born (as Margaret Gertrude Zelle) in Leewarden, Netherlands. Arrested by the French in 1917 as a German spy, she was tried, convicted and sentenced to death. At

her execution, she refused a blindfold and instead threw a kiss to the French firing squad.

- **1900** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War the Battle of Tygerpoort (Venterskroon) takes place between the British under Lord Methuen and the Boers under De Wet. De Wet, with the aid of Capt. Danie Theron and fourteen of his men, escapes and Methuen falls back to regroup.
- **1901** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War Lord Kitchenier publishes his most famous of what the Boers call his 'paper bombs', proclaiming that all officers of the 'late Republics still engaged in fighting and all members of their governments will be permanently banished from South Africa unless they surrender before 15 September.
- **1901** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War the Battle of Fort Mpisane, the final big battle of this war fought in the Lowveld, takes place.
- **1901** - During the 2nd Anglo-Boer War Commandant Manie Maritz attacks Vanrhynsdorp in the Cape Province. Many vehicles, including three laden supply wagons, are taken from the British.
- **1942** - The U.S. 1st Marine Division lands on the islands of Guadalcanal and Tulagi in the Solomon Islands. It is the first American amphibious landing of the war.

- **1963** - The United States (US) informed the United Nations (UN) that it would suspend sales of arms to South Africa. The Security Council adopted Resolution 181 calling upon all states to cease the sale and shipment of arms, ammunition and military vehicles to South Africa. The arms embargo was made mandatory on 4 November, 1977.
- **1964** - Following an attack on two U.S. destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin off North Vietnam, the U.S. Congress approved the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, granting President Lyndon B. Johnson authority "to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression."
- **1970** - Fighting along the Egyptian-Israeli border is brought to a halt as a new 90-day cease-fire takes effect.
- **1973** - Three members from 2 SAI were killed while undergoing Driver and Maintenance training when their Bedford truck collided with an Eland Armoured Car on a narrow bridge on the Walvis Bay to Windhoek road and overturned. The casualties were: Rifleman Kenneth Frampton Beghin (18). Rifleman Christos Constatinou (18). Rifleman Ralph George Leggett (18).
- **1981** - Lance Corporal Jan Mathys de Beer from Air Force Base Waterkloof died

in the H.F. Verwoerd Hospital in Pretoria after being critically injured in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 21.

- **1983** - Two members from 202 Battalion SWATF were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. The casualties were: Rifleman S. Kavarata (21). Rifleman A.H. Katanaga (22).
- **1984** - Rifleman Johannes Hendrik Strydom from the Infantry School died from a gunshot wound sustained as a result of an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle while at the De Brug Training Area. He was 19.
- **1987** - Two members from 121 Battalion were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Ngwavuma near Pongola. They were: Rifleman Sikhumbuzo Eric Mbambo (21). Rifleman Alpheus Dumdum Mbambo (24).
- **1988** - Angola, Cuba and South Africa agreed to a formal ceasefire. Under the terms of the ceasefire and later treaty, Cuba was to withdraw its forces from Angola, and South Africa was to grant Namibia independence and withdraw its forces and elections were to be held in Angola. The treaty was signed on 22 December 1988.

• **1989** - Rifleman Jacques Stefan Barkhuizen from Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident at Hopetown while on route to a tug of war competition. He was 19.

- **1990** - Just five days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, President George Bush ordered Desert Shield, a massive military buildup to prevent further Iraqi advances.
- **1991** - Commandant Frederick Marthinus Ferreira from Eastern Province Command was killed when his military vehicle was involved in a head-on collision with a civilian vehicle at Grahams-town. He was 51.
- **1998** - Terrorist bombs detonate within minutes of each other outside US embassies in buildings in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania killing more than 250 people and wounding approximately 5,000.

8 August

- **1802** - Tjaart van der Walt, frontier farmer and field commandant who played an important role in the third



George H. Bush

frontier war against the combined force of the Xhosa and Khoi-Khoi, is killed in a skirmish in the Kouga mountains, district Humansdorp.

- **1945** - Soviet Russia declared war on Japan and sent troops into Japanese-held Manchuria.
- **1960** - Dag Hammarskjöld, UN secretary-general, instructs Belgium to withdraw its troops from the Congo.
- **1963** - During Operation CAPEX (Cape Exercise), a joint training exercise involving elements of Britain's Royal Navy and both the SA Navy and Air Force, a 35 Squadron Avro MR. Mk 3 Shackleton struck high ground before crashing into the Wemmershook mountain range just outside the town of Worcester, some 96 km east of its destination. All thirteen crew members on board were killed. The casualties were: Captain Thomas Howard Sivertsen (34). Captain Jaques Guillaume Labuschagne (29). 2nd Lieutenant George James Smith (21). Lieutenant Abraham Gert Willem Coetzee (24). 2nd Lieutenant Charles Alwyn du Plooy (19). Candidate Officer Derrick Ian Strauss (19). Warrant Officer II Sydney Shields Scully (46). Flight Sergeant David Hope Sheasby (27). Lance Corporal Charl Paul Viljoen (28). Lance Corporal Marthienus Christoffel Vorster (23).

Lance Corporal Michel Adolf Brodreiss (21). Lance Corporal Matthys Johannes Taljaard (27). Air Mechanic Johannes Chamberlain (20).

- **1988** - South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha announces agreement has been reached for a cease-fire in the Angolan conflict between South Africa, Angola and Cuba. This ends twenty years of bush warfare. The treaty is formally signed at Ruacana in late August.
- **1945** - The second Atomic bombing of Japan occurred as an American B-29 bomber headed for the city of Kokura, but because of poor visibility then chose a secondary target, Nagasaki. About noon, the bomb detonated killing an estimated 70,000 persons and destroying about half the city.
- **1967** - Biafran troops, under the command of Colonel Ojukwu, have crossed the Niger River into Nigeria's Mid-Western State and are heading towards Benin City. Nigeria's leader General Yakubu Gowon, promoted since his reinstatement of Federal rule, is planning an offensive against the Biafran capital Enugu.
- **1975** - The French government has decided to supply no further continental (ground or air) armaments to South Africa. This political decision does not affect naval armaments or existing contracts.
- **1981** - Two members from

5 Reconnaissance Regiment were Killed in Action while carrying out pseudo operations in enemy territory. They were: Rifleman Mahlomola Samuel Mokoena (25). Lance Corporal I van Maleta (23).

- **1983** - Rifleman M. Frans from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action while carrying out operations against enemy forces. He was 22.
- **1983** - Two members from 40 Squadron were killed when their Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I crashed near Centurion. The casualties were: Lieutenant Leon Jacobs (22). Lance Corporal Pieter Johannes Terburgh (21).
- **1984** - Rifleman Stephanus Badenhorst from 1 Parachute Battalion died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained at the De Brug Training Area during COIN OPS Training. He was 19.
- **1985** - Bombardier Hendrik Petrus Uys from the School of Artillery was killed in a military vehicle accident near Potchefstroom. He was 20.
- **1985** - Rifleman Edwin Williams from 8 SAI died from a gunshot wound resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while he was stationed at Ondangwa. He was 23.
- **1986** - Rifleman M.C. Joao from 32 Battalion was burnt to death at Buffalo when his house caught fire and burnt

down during the night. He was 32.

- **2004** - Several military officers and civilians are arrested in Mauritania for plotting a coup.

10 August

- **1900** - British General Carrington reaches Mafeking and narrowly avoids being court-martialled for his inexplicable flight from Elands River (Brakfontein). He later explains his actions to Lord Roberts in Pretoria but a furious Roberts transfers him back to Bulawayo in Rhodesia.
- **1945** - Japan offers to surrender in World War 2 if Emperor Hirohito is permitted to keep his throne.
- **1961** - First use of the Agent Orange in Vietnam by the U.S. Army.
- **1972** - Naval Headquarters at Simon's Town announce that the second series of joint British South African exercises off the Cape Coast will begin on 14 August 1972 and will continue for seven days.
- **1973** - Leading Seaman Hendrik van der Merwe from SAS Protea was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 27.
- **1978** - Two members from 5 SAI attached to "B" Company, 2nd Platoon, 54 Battalion SWATF, were killed after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in an accidental Rifle Grenade explosion. The casualties were: Lance Cor-

poral Karl Paul Viljoen (22). Rifleman Johannes Gerber le Roux (18).

- **1983** - With support from Libya in their long-running civil war, Chadian insurgents overrun the outpost of Faya-Largeau in northern Chad.
- **1985** - Two members from Sector 30 SWATF were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Welinitschia. The casualties were: Corporal Albert Johan Kotze (19). Rifleman Johannes Frederik Louw (20).

11 August

- **1940** - A week before Mussolini orders General Rodolfo Graziani to invade Egypt from Libya, the British RAF raids airfields and Italian military bases.
- **1977** - Rifleman Michael Gerrard Lemmer from 2 SAI was accidentally killed during a training exercise near Otjiwarongo. He left the confines of the Temporary Base (TB) during the night and on returning, was shot dead by the Bren Gunner who mistook him for an insurgent. He was 18.
- **1982** - The South African government has released details of a South African Defence Force (SADF) raid into Southern Angola. Between two and three hundred South West African People's

Organisation (SWAPO) fighters are believed to have been killed, with upwards of another hundred injured at a forward base in the Cambeno Valley. A significant amount of equipment and material was taken and destroyed, including rations originally obtained from the UN High Commission for Refugees.

- **1990** - Egyptian and Moroccan troops land in Saudi Arabia to prevent Iraqi invasion.
- **1993** - UN forces kill seven Somali gunmen who shot at a surveillance helicopter, as militias of warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid intensify an offensive against peacekeepers.
- **1998** - Congolese rebels fighting President Laurent Kabila say they are closing in on the capital, while the government rounds up Tut-sis, suspected of supporting the rebellion.



Emperor Hitohito

12 August

- **1900** - The rearguard of the Boer forces under De Wet fights a running battle with Lord Methuen's British force. Methuen seizes wagons and prisoners abandoned by the Republicans, as well as one of the Armstrong guns captured at Stormberg.
- **1918** - Wing Commander Guy Penrose Gibson, VC, DSO & Bar, DFC & Bar, was the first Commanding Officer of the Royal Air Force's No. 617 Squadron, which he led in the "Dam Busters" raid in 1943, was born on this day.
- **1960** - UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld and UN troops enter rebel province of Katanga in Zaire.
- **1968** - Over 5,000 soldiers supported by tanks, armoured cars and air force units begin manoeuvres in an exercise code named Operation Subasa designed to test the ability of South African defence forces to deal with terrorist activities.
- **1970** - Rifleman Christopher Coetzee from 2 Parachute Regiment was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 21.
- **1975** - Able Seaman Hugo Johan Jacobus Bus from SAS Kimberley accidentally drowned at East London when the boat in which he was a passenger, capsized near Stoney Point during a Naval beach landing exercise. He was 23.
- **1978** - Three members from 1 Parachute Battalion were Killed in Action after walking into an enemy ambush in Southern Angola while in hot pursuit of a SWAPO/PLAN insurgent group approximately 45 men strong. The casualties were: Lance Corporal Pierre Johannes Du Bois (19). Rifleman Johannes Barend Greyling (20). Rifleman Cornelis Frederik van der Nest (20).
- **1981** - Two members from 6 SAI were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola near the Cut-line. They were: Corporal Marthinus Johannes van Staden (19). Rifleman Jacob Jacobus Blom (19).
- **1981** - Four rockets exploded in Voortrekkerhoogte (renamed Thaba Tshwane on 19 May 1998), a large military base in Verwoerdburg (now Centurion) close to Pretoria. The African National Congress (ANC) accepted responsibility.
- **1993** - US marines open fire on 3,000 Somali demonstrators protesting against the US presence in the country.

13 August

- **1900** - During the Battle of Elands River, one of Col. Hore's men, having sneaked through the besieger's lines, reaches the British lines near Mafeking and confirms that the Australians and Rhodesians are still holding out. Lord Roberts orders Kitchener to divert three brigades

from the hunt on De Wet to relieve Col. Hore.

- **1926** - Communist revolutionary and President of Cuba, Fidel Castro, was born on this day.
- **1967** - Umkhonto we Sizwe's (MK) Luthuli Detachment in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and Zimbabwean African People's Union (ZAPU) guerrillas engaged Rhodesian forces in Wankie (now Hwange) Game Reserve, near the border of Zambia and Botswana. The operation became known as the Wankie Campaign.
- **1973** - Captain Dietlof Ziegfried Weyers from 2 SAI died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while stationed at Walvis Bay. He was 31.
- **1975** - Lance Corporal Machiel Casparus Eksteen Potgieter was accidentally shot dead after being struck by a bullet resulting from the accidental discharge of a 7.62 MAG machine-gun. He was 18.
- **1980** - Rifleman Johan Calitz from 3 SAI Died of Wounds received while on patrol in the Okatopi area when his Section was ambushed by approximately 50 PLAN insurgents. He was 20.
- **1981** - Two members from SWATF were killed while returning to Sector 50 Headquarters when the privately owned civilian aircraft in which they were flying as passengers, crashed shortly after take-off from Gobabis.

14 August

- The casualties were: Colonel Jacobus Cornelius Theron (63). Lieutenant Josef Johannes Fourie (41).
- **1983** - Rifleman Gavin Viljoen from 7 SAI was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident near Phalaborwa. He was 19.
- **1984** - Two members from the South African Cape Corps were killed when their Buffel Troop carrier overturned at Eersterivier. The casualties were: Rifleman Jannie van Wyk (18). Rifleman Jan Johannes Jacobus Wildschutt (20).
- **1988** - Lance Corporal Arthur Mark Fletcher from 5 SAI died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained due to an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle while undergoing training at Henley Dam. He was 18.
- **1988** - Special Constable Andreas Ipinge 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 26.
- **1997** - Heavy fighting rages in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, between forces of the president and those of a former military ruler.
- **1998** - Rebels fighting Congolese President Laurent Kabila capture a power transformer in western Congo, sending the capital, Kinshasa, into darkness.
- **1870** - David Farragut, American Admiral who coined the phrase "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!", dies at 69.
- **1896** - English World War I fighter pilot Albert Ball VC, DSO & Two Bars, MC was born on this day. At the time of his death he was the United Kingdom's leading flying ace, with 44 victories.
- **1900** - End of the 'first De Wet hunt'. De Wet's entire force crosses the unoccupied Olifants Nek Pass near Rustenburg and camps on the banks of the Hex River. He has achieved all his objectives: captured a train, inflicted losses on the enemy, increased his own numbers and managed to rest some of his burghers, while occupying the attention of 50,000 British troops.
- **1945** - Following the two Atomic Bomb drops and believing that continuation of the war would only result in further loss of Japanese lives, delegates of Emperor Hirohito accepted Allied surrender terms originally issued at Potsdam on 26 July 1945, with the exception that the Japanese Emperor's sovereignty would be maintained. Japanese Emperor Hirohito, who had never spoken on radio, then recorded an announcement admitting Japan's surrender,

without actually using the word. The announcement was broadcast via radio to the Japanese people at noon the next day. The formal surrender ceremony occurred later, on 2 September 1945, on board the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

- **1960** - UN peace-keeping forces finally replace Belgian troops in the Republic of Congo.
- **1974** - A sharp increase in South African defence expenditure is announced.
- **1980** - Three members from 6 SAI were Killed in Action when their patrol was ambushed by a numerically superior force of SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near Eenhana. The casualties were: Corporal Daniel Johannes Deyzel (20). Lance Corporal Avril Jewaskiewitz (19). Rifleman Christoffel Jacobus Mijburgh (20).
- **1981** - Corporal Cecil Charles McAlister from Regiment Schoonspruit, was Killed in Action dur-



Fidel Castro

ing an attack on their TB by SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near Opuwa in the Kaokoveld. He was 27.

- **1981** - Lance Corporal Wynand Spies from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was Reported Missing in Action during operations in Southern Angola while acting as part of a 3-man rearguard protecting the evacuation of two wounded personnel after an attack. He was shot and presumably killed during this rear-guard action but owing to extremely heavy and concentrated enemy fire, his body could not be recovered. After prolonged political negotiations, his remains were eventually returned to South Africa three years later. He was 20.
- **1986** - Sergeant Johannes Petrus Coetzer from 911 Battalion SWATF was killed in a private motor vehicle accident near Keetmanshoop. He was 22.
- **2004** - Germany apologises for the massacre of some 65,000 Hereros in South-West Africa (Namibia) by their soldiers during the 1904 rebellion, but rules out compensation.

15 August

- **1769** - French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) was born on the island of Corsica. Originally an officer in King Louis' Army, he rose to become Emperor amid the political chaos that followed the French Revolution.

lution.

- **1865** - Comdt Louw Wepener (53) is killed in combat during an attack on Moshesh at Thaba Bosigo in the Free State.
- **1973** - Leading Seaman Ivan William Kearns from SAS Protea died from injuries received in a military vehicle accident near Bredasdorp on 10 August 1973. He was 26.
- **1973** - Rifleman Mark Cornelius van Heerden from 1 SAI died at Potchefstroom after contracting meningitis while on his way to participate in a military exercise in Gazankulu. He was 18.
- **1979** - Sergeant Barend Cornelius Roux from the Regiment De Wet, attached to 53 Battalion was Killed in Action in Southern Angola when his patrol was ambushed by a numerically superior force of SWAPO/PLAN insurgents just North of Oshigambo. He was 26.
- **1981** - Rifleman Melato Chamba from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action when his patrol was ambushed by a numerically superior enemy force in Southern Angola. He was 24.
- **1988** - Rifleman Brink Stander from 1 SAI was killed in a private motor vehicle accident on the Brandfort to Bloemfontein Road while he was on a weekend pass. He was 31.
- **1994** - Carlos the Jackal, freelance terrorist, is arrested in Sudan and flown to

Paris for trial. He is eventually sentenced to life in prison by a Paris court for the 1975 murders of two French secret agents and an alleged informer.

16 August

- **1777** - During the American Revolutionary War, the Battle of Bennington, Vermont, occurred as militiamen from Vermont, aided by Massachusetts troops, wiped out a detachment of 800 German-Hessians sent by British General Burgoyne to seize horses.
- **1780** - The Battle of Camden in South Carolina occurred during the American Revolutionary War. The battle was a big defeat for the Americans as forces under General Gates were defeated by troops of British General Charles Cornwallis, resulting in 900 Americans killed and 1,000 captured.
- **1888** - Thomas Edward Lawrence, better known as Lawrence of Arabia (1888-1935), British adventurer, soldier, and author, is born in Tremadoc, Wales.
- **1917** - In a renewed thrust of the Allied offensive launched at the end of July in the Flanders region of Belgium - known as the Third Battle of Ypres, or simply as Passchendaele, for the village that saw the heaviest fighting - British troops capture the village of Langemarck from the Germans.

- **1901** - General De la Rey protests the British mistreatment of women and children.
- **1942** - US Army Air Force planes see action for the first time in North Africa, bombing German military positions from their base in Egypt.
- **1959** - William "Bull" F Halsey, US vice-admiral (WW II Pacific), dies.
- **1979** - Rifleman Erasmus Albertus Venter from 4 SAI was killed during Operation Safraan after a fellow soldier picked up an unexploded SAAF Impala DEFA 30 mm High Explosive cannon projectile and between the two of them, attempted to take the shell apart with a Swiss Army knife. During this process, the cannon projectile exploded, killing him instantly. He was 20.
- **1980** - Lance Corporal Hendrik Jacobus van der Walt from 16 Maintenance Unit was killed at Luhebu in South West Africa when the military vehicle he was driving, overturned. He was 18.
- **1981** - Rifleman B Jacob from 101 Battalion SWATF was critically wounded on 14 August 1981 during a contact with PLAN insurgents in the Koakoveld. He succumbed to his wounds in hospital on 16 August 1981. He was 22.
- **1982** - Rifleman William Edwin van Heerden from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during

a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 19.

- **1986** - Lance Corporal Andre Hercolli Erasmus from the Cape Regiment was Killed in Action after suffering shrapnel wounds during a SWAPO/PLAN stand-off attack on Ruacana. He was 20.
- **1986** - Candidate Officer Christopher Hugh Snyman from 101 Air Commando Squadron was killed when his private aircraft flew into High Tension wires and crashed near Hoedspruit. He was 37.
- **1988** - Staff Sergeant Gideon van Rooyen from 2 Special Service Battalion was killed instantly when his Armoured Car overturned at the Rooisloot Training Area, crushing him in the turret hatch. He was 26.
- **1991** - Rifleman Mark William Hein from 8 SAI was accidentally shot dead while on duty in Tokoza Township by a fellow soldier who was playing around with his loaded rifle. He was 18.
- **2003** - Ugandan military ruler Idi Amin, 78, who presided over an eight-year reign of terror from 1971-1979, where an estimated 300,000 people were killed and tortured to death, dies of multiple organ failure.

Carlos the Jackal

17 August

- **1901** - The ZAR Executive Council instructs Commandant-General Louis Botha to investigate and, if necessary, to punish Assistant Commandant-General Tobias Smuts for the burning of Bremersdorp, because his actions were not according to the 'customs of civilized warfare'.
- **1940** - The Italian invasion of British Somaliland, which began on August 4, is complete. The Royal Navy successfully evacuated British troops via the port of Berbera. There is now little to stop the Italians controlling the southern entrance to the Red Sea. Meanwhile the 5th Indian Division, newly arrived in East Africa, is deployed along the Sudan-Abyssinia and Sudan-Eritrea border as part of the Sudan Defence Force, and a revolt is started in Abyssinia by those loyal to the Emperor, Haile Selassie.



- **1943** - During World War II in Europe, the Allies completed the conquest of the island of Sicily after just 38 days. This gave the Allies control of the Mediterranean and also led to the downfall of Benito Mussolini and Italy's eventual withdrawal from the war. However, the Germans managed to evacuate 39,569 troops, 47 tanks, 94 heavy guns, over 9,000 vehicles and 2,000 tons of ammunition back to the Italian mainland from Sicily.
- **1962** - The South African Minister of Defence, J.J. Fouché, announces that the striking power of the Defence Force has been increased twenty-fold as compared with two years earlier, while that of Navy is to be increased ten-fold in the next few years.
- **1962** - Two members from 17 Squadron were killed when their Alouette II Helicopter flew into High Tension Cables in Du Toit's Kloof and crashed in flames. The crew were: Lieutenant Keith Lynford Martin (22). Sergeant Andrew Robert Foote (39).
- **1963** - Captain Richard William Davies from 40 Squadron was killed when his AT-6 Harvard, Serial No. 7322 struck High Tension Cables and crashed near Benoni. He was 27.
- **1977** - Lance Corporal George Allen Deacon from 2 Field Engineer Regiment was killed in an accidental explosion at Okalongo. He was 19.
- **1977** - Two members, one from 5 Squadron and the other from 8 Squadron were killed when their Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I crashed at Riemvasmaak Bombing Range near Upington while carrying out a night bombing exercise. The crew were: Major James McFarlane Wilson Kerr (30). Major Barry Leonard Moody (38).
- **1981** - Two members from 4 Field Regiment were killed in Military Vehicle accident at Oshivello. The casualties were: Lance Bombardier Henri Victor Louis Olver (19). Gunner Dirk Jacobus Loubser (20).
- **1988** - Special Constable Filimon Ndevaumba from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 29.
- **1990** - Two members from Eastern Transvaal Command were killed when their Samil 20 vehicle overturned at Pafuri. The casualties were: Rifleman Agus Mlahlekm Khoza (28). Rifleman Mphakati Isaiah Mkhombo (age unknown).
- **1991** - Major Harper Martin Geldenhuys from 32 Battalion was accidentally killed at Pomfret while making a video of a C-47 Dakota as it was taking off from the

runway. He was standing on the end of the runway and as the aircraft passed overhead, the aircraft tail wheel struck him on the head, killing him instantly. He was 26.

18 August

- **1914** - Germany declares war on Russia while President Woodrow Wilson issues his Proclamation of Neutrality.
- **1957** - The first two Avro Shackleton Mk III anti-submarine aircraft arrive in South Africa.
- **1979** - Rifleman Glen Colin Coppard from 4 SAI was Killed in Action in a land-mine explosion when he stepped on the device while assisting with a wounded soldier. He was 20.
- **1979** - Three members from 3 SAI were Killed in Action in Southern Angola when they triggered a Soviet POMZ-2M anti-personnel picket mine during clearing operations inside an enemy base. The casualties were: Corporal Johannes Petrus Maritz (20). Lance Corporal Frank Nienaber (21). Rifleman Joseph Benjamin Ruben Jordaan (20).
- **1981** - Rifleman Gavin Dickenson Elliott from 5 SAI died from multiple shrapnel wounds accidentally sustained when a 90mm High Explosive Shell exploded. He was 22.
- **1982** - Two members from 44 Parachute Pathfinder Company and one mem-

- ber from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment were Reported Missing approximately 40 miles inside Matabeleland during Operation Drama, a clandestine mission in Zimbabwe. All three men have no known grave and remain unaccounted for. The casualties were: Staff Sergeant Peter David Berry (33). Sergeant Robert Trevor Beech (27). Sergeant John Andrew Wessels (24).
- **1982** - Private Wynand van Rhyn from the South African Medical Corps, attached to 2 Military Hospital, Wynberg was Reported Missing when he failed to return after going hiking alone on Table Mountain. His body was later located by other hikers the following day and recovered. It appeared that he had lost his way and in the dark, fallen and broken his leg and had subsequently died from shock and exposure during the night. He was 19.
- **1993** - Sergeant M. Dube from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was accidentally killed when his parachute failed to deploy while carrying out a freefall parachute jump. He was 35.
- **1998** - Congolese rebels send President Laurent Kabila's troops fleeing as they advance to within 200 km of the capital, now deprived of electricity.

19 August

- **1901** - At Graaff-Reinet, P.J. Fourie, J. van Rensburg and

L.F.S. Pfeiffer are executed by a British firing squad for treason and the murder of British troops.

- **1940** - First flight of the B-25 Mitchell medium bomber.
- **1942** - Dieppe Raid. An Allied force of 7,000 men carry out a large daytime raid against German positions at the French seaport of Dieppe. Aided by tanks and aircraft, the commando force—made up of approximately 5,000 Canadians, 2,000 British soldiers, and a handful of American and Free French troops—gained a foothold on the beach in the face of a furious German defense. During nine hours of fighting, the Allies failed to destroy more than a handful of their targets and suffered the death of 3,600 men. More than 100 aircraft, a destroyer, 33 landing craft, and 30 tanks were also lost.
- **1944** - The 6th Division entered Florence, Italy and was active there until 1945.
- **1968** - Nigeria's Federal troops have launched a major offensive against multiple targets in Biafra. Despite claims of 2,000 people being massacred, the leader of the Nigerian military government, General Yakubu Gowon, has stated that his troops are 'behaving correctly.'

- **1976** - Lance Corporal Carlos Alberto Correia Pinto Ribeiro from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was Reported Missing in South Eastern Angola during a contact with enemy forces between Luenge and Coutada de Mucusso. He was driving a Unimog loaded with a ton or more of High Explosive. The South African Force was ambushed while the company was returning to Buffalo. His vehicle was hit by a Soviet RPG-7 Anti-Tank Rocket causing the explosive cargo to detonate. He has no known grave and remains unaccounted for. For administrative purposes, he was officially declared dead in 1983. He was 25.
- **1982** - Rifleman R. Moses from 101 Battalion SWATF was killed in a military vehicle accident in Northern Owamboland. He was 24.
- **1984** - Corporal Albert Ryan from 32 Battalion died of injuries sustained in a private motor vehicle accident at Port Shepstone. He was 25.



Rudolf Hess

- **1987** - Rudolf Hess, German Nazi official (Deputy Fuhrer who dramatically escaped to Britain in 1941, sentenced to life in Spandau Prison), commits suicide at 93.
- **1988** - Lance Corporal Raymond Victor Jagga, an Ops Medic from the Central Medical Command was assigned to F Squadron School of Armour and attached to 61 Mechanised Brigade. He was Killed in Action when his Ratel was struck by two rockets. He was 19.
- **1988** - Gunner Jaco Petrus van der Merwe from 10 Artillery Brigade was Reported Missing after he went swimming in the Cunene river and disappeared. It is thought that he was taken by a crocodile. He has no known grave and remains unaccounted for. He was 20.
- **1993** - Lance Corporal Douglas Gardiner Scott from 1 Special Service Battalion was killed when two Rooikat armoured cars were involved in a collision and overturned at Deduza. He was 18.
- **1968** - Approximately 200,000 Warsaw Pact troops and 5,000 tanks invade Czechoslovakia to crush the "Prague Spring"—a brief period of liberalization in the communist country.
- **1975** - Trooper Leon William Bessinger from the Prince Alfred's Guard was killed in a military vehicle accident near Peddie in the Eastern Cape. He was 26.
- **1977** - Two members from 40 Squadron were killed when their AT-6 Harvard crashed while carrying out a routine general flying sortie. The aircraft went into a spin from which the pilot was unable to recover and the aircraft crashed near Delmas. The casualties were: Captain Keith Neil Smith (27). 2nd Lieutenant Paul Christopher Sarbutt (24).
- **1978** - Private Jacobus Johannes Etienne Bothma from the Defence Headquarters Personnel Unit died from a gunshot wound to the neck, accidentally sustained in a shooting incident while he was on duty in Pretoria. He was rushed to 1 Military Hospital but succumbed to his injuries the same day. He was 19.
- **1988** - Lance Corporal Brian Albert Hoy from Regiment

20 August

- **1955** - Simultaneous attacks by Algerian rebels against French targets in the Constantine district of Algeria have resulted in over 500 deaths and 200 wounded. At the same time nationalists have taken to the streets in Morocco. The attacks and demonstrations mark

the second anniversary of the French deposition of the Sultan of Morocco, Siyyidi Mohammed V ibn Youssef, in favour of Muhammad Ben Aarafa.

Noord Transvaal was accidentally killed after being crushed in the Commanders turret when his Ratel overturned approximately 40km South of Ruacana. He was 26.

- **1995** - Liberia's main warring factions signed a peace accord calling for a ceasefire after more than five years of civil war and the start of democratic rule in one year.
- **1998** - US military forces attack a chemical plant in Sudan and what they describe as a terrorist camp in Afghanistan. Said to be linked with terrorists, the attacks are in response to the bombings of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania 13 days earlier.
- **1998** - Zimbabwe intervenes in the Democratic Republic of Congo to support the regime against a rebellion. The last Zimbabwean soldiers withdraw at the end of 2002. Troops from Angola, Namibia, Chad, and Sudan also intervened to support the Kinshasa regime.

21 August

- **1863** - During the American Civil War, William Quantrill led 450 irregular Confederate raiders on a pre-dawn terrorist raid of Lawrence, Kansas, leaving 150 civilians dead, 30 wounded and much of the town a smoking ruin. In 1862, Quantrill had been denied a Confederate

commission by the Confederate Secretary of War, who labeled Quantrill's notions of war as 'barbarism.'

- **1900** - The Battle of Bergendal, near Vanwyksvlei, starts. Gen. Joachim Fourie's men force the 11th Hussars to retreat at 20.00, with 7 killed, 3 missing, presumed dead, and 26 wounded.
- **1918** - The Second Battle of the Somme begins.
- **1912** - Lord Roberts, commander-in-chief of the British forces during the 3rd Anglo-Boer War, congratulates Gen. Louis Botha on his appointment as honorary general in the British army.
- **1939** - The Soviet Union and Germany sign the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact, a 10-year non-aggression treaty, with a secret addendum, to partition Poland.
- **1940** - Leon Trotsky, Russian Marxist revolutionary, political theorist and founder of the Red Army, assassinated at 62 by an ice-pick wielded by Ramón Mercader.
- **1965** - Air Mechanic James Roland Bolzern from 3 Satellite Radar Station died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained in a shooting incident at Mafeking. He was 24.
- **1973** - Four members from 85 Advanced Flying School were killed when an Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I was involved in a mid-air collision with another Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I during a training exercise near Pietersburg. The casualties were: Captain Christiaan Lemmer Smith (29). 2nd Lieutenant David Lanian James Snadden (22). Captain Frans Reitz van Zyl (29). 2nd Lieutenant Clifford Yates (23).
- **1976** - Rifleman Dale Robert Whitter from 2 SAI died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained at the Farm "Woodholme No. 202". He was 18.
- **1978** - Rifleman Jacobus Alwyn van der Berg from the Kaffrarian Rifles died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained at Oshakati due to the accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 25.
- **1980** - The United States and Somalia sign an agreement giving US naval and air forces access to military facilities in the East African country in return for American military aid.
- **1981** - Rifleman Jan Jacobus Minnie from the Infantry School was accidentally killed when he inadvertently used a dud high explosive mortar bomb as a hammer, causing the device to explode, killing him instantly. He was 18.
- **1986** - Staff Sergeant Johannes Petrus van Niekerk from Sector 20 Headquarters Intelligence Section

died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained at Rundu. He was 32.

- **1987** - Rifleman C.A. Augusto from 32 Battalion died from causes unknown while stationed at Buffalo. He was 27.
- **1994** - The last French troops pull out of Rwanda, ending their controversial humanitarian mission.
- **1998** - Angolan troops enter the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) war on Laurent Kabila's side.

22 August

- **1864** - The first Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field is signed by 12 countries. The international treaty, known as the Geneva Convention, also guarantees the neutrality of members of the Red Cross and is honoured in South Africa.
- **1922** - Michael Collins, Irish nationalist leader, killed in



Michael Collins

ambush by anti-treaty forces during the Irish Civil War at 31.

- **1934** - General Herbert Norman Schwarzkopf Jr (1934-2012) was born on this day. While serving as Commander-in-chief, United States Central Command, he led all coalition forces in the Gulf War in 1990/1991.
- **1979** - Rifleman Barend Gabriel Bester from 1 SAI died of wounds in 3 Military Hospital in Bloemfontein after being struck in the chest by a piece of shrapnel in an accidental hand grenade explosion at the General De Wet Training Range. He was 19.
- **1980** - Two members from 4 SAI were Killed in Action when their Section was ambushed by SWAPO/PLAN insurgents between Eenhana and Oshigambo whilst sweeping the road for landmines. The casualties were: Rifleman Pieter Jacobus De Beer (19). Rifleman Andries Petrus Wiese (19).
- **1984** - Private Udo Louis Gevers from the South African Intelligence Corps attached to Sector 20 Headquarters was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Kavangoland. He was 20.

23 August

- **1901** - A group of eight surrendered Boer prisoners of war are shot by the Bushveld Carbineers and a German missionary, Reverend

C.A. Daniel Heese murdered, because he may have witnessed the atrocity.

- **1974** - Two members from the School of Artillery were killed in a private motor vehicle accident on the Potchefstroom to Johannesburg road while on weekend pass when their vehicle was involved in a head-on collision with another vehicle while overtaking. The casualties were: Lance Bombardier Michael David Loxton (18). Gunner Joseph Speding Baggott (18).
- **1976** - Rifleman Reinhard Walter Klingenberg from Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident at Three Sisters while on Weekend Pass. He was 19.
- **1976** - Two members from 1 Reconnaissance Commando were Killed in Action during a patrol near the Okavango river when the Wolf vehicle in which they were traveling detonated a landmine and overturned killing Sergeant Soeiro instantly and crushing Staff Sergeant Roxo underneath. The casualties in this incident were: Staff Sergeant Francisco Daniel Roxo HC (43). Sergeant Ponciano Gomes Silva Soeiro (35).
- **1978** - Eight members from 1 Special Service Battalion, one member from 2 Special Service Battalion and one member from the South African Medical Corps were Killed in Action during the

early hours of the morning when the Bungalow in which they were sleeping at Katima Mulilo received a direct hit from a Soviet GRAD-P 122mm High Explosive Katyusha Rocket. The casualties were: Trooper Kevin John Biggs (18). Private Willem Hendrik Christoffel Britz (18). Trooper Hendrik Willem De Lange (18). Trooper Dennis Michael Elworthy (20). Trooper Gerhardus Petrus Erasmus (18). Trooper Laurie Johannes Lesch (19). Trooper Jan Jurgens Rotschutte (20). Trooper Gideon Johannes Smit (18). Trooper Willem Stephanus Smuts (19). Trooper Abraham Daniel van der Merwe (18).

- **1980** - Rifleman Helgard Brink Colling from SWA SPES (SWATF) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1981** - Rifleman Antonio Catamba from 32 Battalion died from a gunshot wound sustained during a shooting incident at Buffalo. He was 42.
- **1994** - Eugene Bullard, the only black pilot in World War I, is posthumously commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

24 August

- **1814** - During the War of 1812, Washington, D.C., was invaded by British forces

that burned the Capitol, the White House and most other public buildings along with a number of private homes. The burning was in retaliation for the earlier American burning of York (Toronto).

- **1951** - The Mau Mau rebellion starts in Kenya.
- **1973** - Private Waldemar Adriaan Nelson from the Technical Service Corps was accidentally killed in a military vehicle accident in Bloemfontein. He was 19.
- **1980** - Lance Corporal Daniel Langman from 41 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 26.
- **1981** - Rifleman Adao Joaquim from 32 Battalion was accidentally killed by friendly fire during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 26.
- **1981** - Two members from 1 SAI were Killed in Action during the attack on "Target Yankee" in Southern Angola during Ops Protea. The casualties in this incident were: Rifleman Florence Cornelius Smit (18). Rifleman Martinus Godfrey Stapelberg (19).
- **1986** - Sapper Leon Bryan Kuyler from 1 Construction Regiment died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained in a shooting incident at the Unit while he was on Guard Duty. He was 20.
- **1986** - Lance Corporal Con-

rad du Bois Nelson from the Intelligence School in Kimberley succumbed to injuries in the Universitas Hospital after being critically injured on 05 August 1986 when his SAMIL vehicle overturned 5km from the Unit Headquarters. He was 18.

- **1987** - Rifleman Maliphathwe Godfrey Ndela from 21 Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident in Soweto. He was 21.
- **1988** - Gunner William Faul van Niekerk from the Witwatersrand Command Intelligence Section was killed in a military vehicle accident at Doornkop. He was 19.
- **1991** - Two members from 113 Battalion were killed when their water tanker vehicle overturned at Tzaneen. The casualties were: Lance Corporal John Sidney Shisari (26). Rifleman Milleon Bullus Khoza (31).

25 August

- **1911** - Võ Nguyên Giáp (1911-2013) was born on this day. Giáp was a general in the Vietnam People's Army and a politician. He is considered one of the greatest military strategists of the 20th century.
- **1966** - Candidate Officer G.A.K. Howson from 41 Squadron was killed when his Cessna 185D crashed near Krugersdorp while on

a low level reconnaissance flight. He was 23.

- **1976** - Sergeant José Correia Pinto Ribeiro from 1 Reconnaissance Commando was killed in a military vehicle accident while evacuating battle casualties to a hospital in South West Africa. He was 27.
- **1978** - Rifleman Johannes Hendrik De Jager from 5 SAI was killed in a private motor vehicle accident 5km outside Ladysmith on the Colenso Road. He was 19.
- **1981** - One member from 17 Squadron and one member from 87 Helicopter Flying School were Killed in Action when their Alouette III Helicopter Gunship was shot down by enemy 14,5mm anti-aircraft fire about 500m from the target area while providing close-air support operations over Mongua in Southern Angola just prior to the launch of Ops Protea in Angola. The crew were: Lieutenant Johannes Gysbertus Roos (24). Sergeant Clifton Stacey (21).



Eugene Bullard

- **1981** - Captain Louis Harmse from 1 SAI was Killed in Action during Ops Protea in Southern Angola during enemy bunker clearing operations. He was 27.
- **1981** - Lance Bombardier Hendrik Abraham Johannes Grobler from 4 Artillery Regiment was Killed in Action in Southern Angola during Ops Protea. He was 20.
- **1988** - Trooper Owen Leon Wolfaardt from 1 Special Service Battalion was killed when his armoured car overturned during an exercise at the General de Wet Training Area. He was 20.
- **1988** - Special Constable Tsaanda Mbunguha from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 27.
- **1989** - Signaller Andre' Rousseau from 2 Signals Regiment died in the Klerksdorp Hospital from injuries received in a motor vehicle accident at Sannieshof. He was 20.
- **1991** - Rifleman Ambros Nijanyana Sekonjela from 21 Battalion was Killed in Action after being shot dead by persons unknown at Mandelaview during a riot-related incident while he was on foot patrol in Katlehong. He was 21.
- **1966** - The People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), the armed wing of SWAPO, fought in a battle against South African occupying forces at Omugulugwombashe in northern South West Africa (Namibia).
- **1974** - A Defence Bill is passed in South Africa laying down penalties for any person or organization inciting anyone to avoid military service.
- **1976** - Two members of Bravo Group were killed when their Unimog overturned near Rundu. They were: Rifleman Harry Albert Bekker (19). Rifleman Andries Jacobus Pretorius (19).
- **1978** - Lance Corporal Francois Louw from the South African Cape Corps was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Ruacana. He was 21.
- **2011** - John McAleese, British SAS Trooper, Team leader during 1980 Iranian Embassy Siege, dies aged 62.

27 August

- **1914** - German Togo is occupied by British and French troops.
- **1916** - Romania declares war on Austria-Hungary, formally entering World War I. Romanian troops cross the bor-

der of the Austro-Hungarian Empire into the much-contested province of Transylvania.

- **1945** - US troops land in Japan after Japanese surrender.
- **1965** - Air Mechanic Johann Andre' Venter from Central Flying School Dunnottar was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed on the farm "Rusplaas" near Piet Retief while on a routine low level navigation exercise. He was 17.
- **1969** - Israeli commando force penetrates deep into Egyptian territory to stage mortar attack on regional army headquarters in Nile Valley of Upper Egypt.
- **1974** - 2nd Lieutenant Albertus Stephanus Gouws from 4 Squadron was killed when his Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I crashed near Potchefstroom while on a routing training exercise. He was 21.
- **1975** - Rifleman Gert Antonie Senekal from 2 SAI was Killed in Action during the attack to capture the town of Pereira D'Eca (Ongiva) in Southern Angola during Ops Savannah. He was 19.
- **1977** - Ordinary Seaman (Diver) Barry Juan Moolman from SAS Donkin accidentally drowned during a diving training exercise at Port Elizabeth. He was 27.
- **1979** - Rifleman Frans Lilungwe from Sector 70 Headquarters SWATF was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 23.
- **1979** - Louis Mountbatten,

1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma, British naval officer and statesman, last Viceroy of India (1947), is assassinated by an IRA bomb on his boat in Ireland at 79.

- **1981** - Two members from 5 SAI were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces near Ongiva in Southern Angola during Ops Protea. The casualties were: Rifleman David Nicolas Janse van Rensburg (20). Rifleman Ettienne Marius Snyman (19).
- **1983** - two members attached to 54 Battalion were killed in action. The casualties were: Rifleman Joseph Wayne Muller (20). Rifleman David Prins (24).
- **1985** - Rifleman Jan Buijense from the North West Command Maintenance Unit died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained at Potchefstroom as a result of an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 21.
- **1988** - Lance Corporal Gary Lamb from 1 SAI, attached to 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was shot dead by a fellow soldier during an argument while they were stationed at Lohatla. He was 19.
- **1990** - Rifleman Jose' Joaquim from 201 Battalion SWATF was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 24.
- **1992** - Former commander of the Simon's Town naval base Dieter Gerhard is released from prison where he has

been serving a life sentence since 1983 after being convicted of acting as an agent for the Soviet Union. He is deported to Switzerland.

- **1993** - Colonel Pieter Jacobus Bakkes from the South African Military Health Service died from cancer in 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria. He was 49.

28 August

- **1940** - The South African Air Force flying out from Kenya bombs Italian bases in Somaliland.
- **1941** - SS General Franz Jaeckeln marched more than 23,000 Hungarian Jews to bomb craters at Kamenets Podolsk, ordered them to undress, and riddled them with machine gun fire. Those who didn't die from the spray of bullets were buried alive under the weight of corpses that piled atop them. All told, more than 600,000 Jews had been murdered in Ukraine by war's end.
- **1974** - Rifleman Albino Moreira Christello from 11 Commando Regiment was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident 140km East of Rundu. He was 18.
- **1980** - Two members from 41 Battalion were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. They were: Rifleman Jacob

Fredericks (18). Rifleman Joseph van Rensburg (19).

- **1981** - A member from 6 SAI and a member from the South African Medical Corps were both Killed in Action while on patrol in Southern Angola. The casualties were: Lance Corporal Petrus Kruger (20). Lance Corporal Mark Anthony Plateel (19).
- **1981** - Rifleman Domingos Paulo from 32 Battalion died from a gunshot wound sustained in a shooting accident at Fort Doppies in the Caprivi Strip. He was 32.
- **1983** - Rifleman Jorge Namibi from 32 Battalion was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident while in pursuit of an enemy patrol in Southern Angola. He was 28.
- **1990** - Rifleman Laurens Stef Mdaka from the Kruger National Park Commando was critically injured in a military vehicle accident at Letaba Bridge on 17 August 1990. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries on 28 August 1990. He was 25.



Roger Bushell

26 August

- **1944** - French General

29 August

- **1792** - In one of the worst maritime disasters, 900 men drowned on the British battleship Royal George. As the ship was being repaired, a gust of wind allowed water to flood into open gun ports. The ship sank within minutes.
- **1848** - The Battle of Boomplaats, where the British under Governor Harry Smith conquer the Voortrekkers under Commandant Andries W. Pretorius, takes place.
- **1973** - Constable M.C. Mancini from the South African Police was Killed in Action during a contact with insurgents when his patrol was ambushed at Mount Darwin, Rhodesia. He was 22.
- **1974** - Lance Corporal Stephanus Marais from 1 Reconnaissance Commando drowned in a diving accident in Mossel Bay Harbour during a Training Exercise. His body was recovered the following day. He was 19.
- **1985** - Sergeant Petrus Cornelius Frederick Du Plessis Cohen from the Soutpansberg Military Area Provost Unit was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Messina. He was 27.
- **1985** - Lance Corporal Marcell Stephen Lombard from 2 Field Engineer Regiment was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 29.
- **1986** - Sapper Willem Jacobus Coad from 1 Construction Regiment was killed when the water tanker vehicle he was driving, overturned at Komatipoort. He was 18.
- **1987** - Corporal Kirk Hendriksen from 5 SAI was killed when he accidentally fell off a moving train while trying to prevent a prisoner in his custody from escaping. He was 22.
- **1987** - Rifleman Cornelis Dilman from 1 Special Service Battalion died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained during a shooting incident in Northern Owamboland. He was 26.

30 August

- **1900** - General Ben Viljoen releases about 2,000 British prisoners of war from the camp at Nooitgedacht.
- **1910** - Squadron Leader Roger Joyce Bushell (1910-1944) was a South African-born British military aviator, who became famous as the organiser of a mass escape from a German prisoner of war camp in 1944 was born on this day. The film *The Great Escape* was based on this event.
- **1977** - Corporal Johannes Jacobus Basson from Regiment Mooi River Died of Wounds after being grievously burned during a mortar bomb attack by SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near Etale Base. He was 19.
- **1978** - Rifleman Howard D'Arcy Remington from Infantry School was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned near Oshivello during a night pursuit of SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in the Tsumeb area. He was 20.
- **1978** - Rifleman Jacobus Paulus Jansen from Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident in Oudtshoorn when his vehicle was involved in a head-on collision with a delivery truck in Victoria Street. He was 18.
- **1980** - Lance Corporal Willem Hendrik Smit from 2 SAI was Killed in Action while searching as Kraal in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1980** - Rifleman Jose Cabinda from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola, just north of Rundu. He was 23.
- **1980** - Private Herman Nico Booysen from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed in a motorcycle accident between Stilfontein and Klerksdorp while on leave. He lost control of his motor cycle and hit a lamp post. He was thrown clear of his motorcycle but was struck by another motorcycle and killed instantly. He was 19.
- **1982** - Corporal Josef Johannes de Beer from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed in a private motorcycle accident at Christiana. He was 19.
- **1982** - Rifleman Reginald Chivovo from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was killed when his parachute failed to open during a practice jump at Phalaborwa. He was 23.

- **1986** - Private Andrew Morris Byrd from the South African Medical Corps was killed in a self-inflicted shooting accident. He was 20.
- **1990** - Rifleman Tears Mashile from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was killed while carrying out helicopter insertion training near Madimbo. He accidentally became entangled in the rappelling ropes when the helicopter got airborne and fell to his death. He was 25.
- **1998** - Troops allied with the government of Congo capture the strategic port town of Matadi from rebel forces trying to oust President Laurent Kabila.
- **1988** - South African troops are withdrawn from Angola.

31 August

- **1900** - Commandant Danie Theron captures a train and 30 soldiers at Klip Station, near the present-day Soweto.
- **1942** - The British army under General Bernard Law Montgomery defeats Field

Marshal Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps in the Battle of Alam al-Halfa in Egypt, thereby stopping the German offensive in North Africa.

- **1965** - Air Mechanic (Pilot Under Training) Johannes Jurie Delpont was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed near Ermelo during a solo night navigation exercise. He was 21.
- **1976** - Captain Jack Steven Cloete from the Danie Theron Combat School was killed when his military vehicle overturned at Wolmaranstad. He was 36.
- **1977** - Rifleman George Frederick Morkel Langenhoven from 4 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident at Alldays. He was 18.
- **1979** - Sapper Leon Lambert from 2 Field Engineer Regiment, attached to 5 Military Works Unit at the Army Battle School in Lohatla, was accidentally killed when the Bedford truck in which he was traveling as a passenger, overturned 30km outside Vryburg on the Lohatla to Vryburg road after the vehicles front tyre burst. He

was 18.

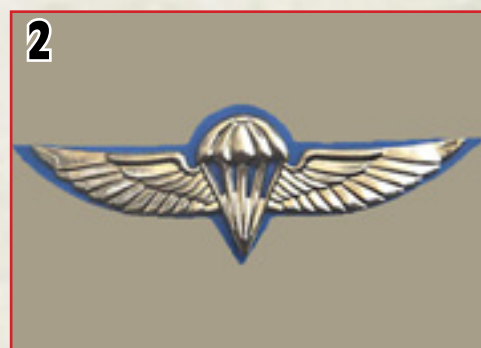
- **1979** - 2nd Lieutenant Frederick Francois de Wit from 2 Signal Regiment was accidentally killed at Carolina in a non-military related incident. He was 23.
- **1980** - Rifleman Izak Gabriel Du Plessis from Noordvaal Commando was killed in a private motor cycle accident while on duty. He was 24.
- **1981** - The US vetoes a UN Security Council resolution criticising South Africa for raids in Angola.
- **1983** - Rifleman Pieter Frederick van Eeden from 1 SAI was accidentally killed at the General De Wet Training Terrain in Bloemfontein when he picked up an unexploded 40mm High Explosive "Snotneus" grenade in the veld. While he was handling the device, it exploded, killing him instantly. He was 19.





Parachute Wings

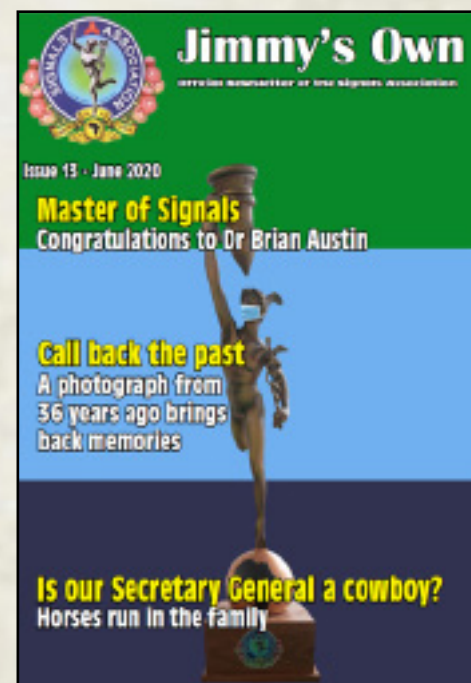
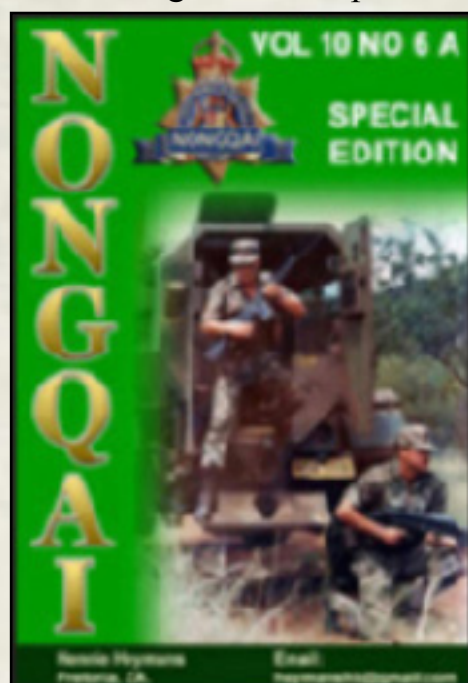
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| 2. Austria | 12. Rhodesian Selous Scouts |
| 3. Serbia | 13. Uganda |
| 4. US Army | 14. French |
| 5. Chile | 15. US Navy |
| 6. British army | |
| 7. Italy | |
| 8. South Africa | |
| 9. French Foreign Legion | |
| 10. Russian Federation | |
| 11. Luftwaffe Fallschirmjäger | |



Useful links

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

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



Military Despatches Website



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



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



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

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

Hipe!

media

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editor@hipe.co.za



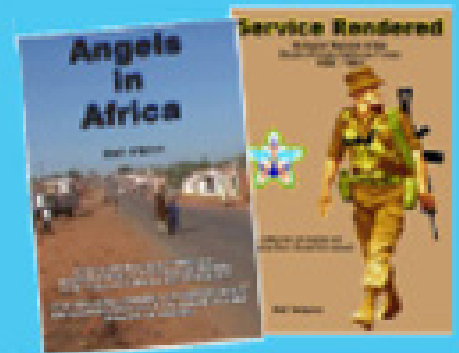
Online Magazines

Flip book magazines with pages that can be turned.



E-books

Produced in any electronic format required.



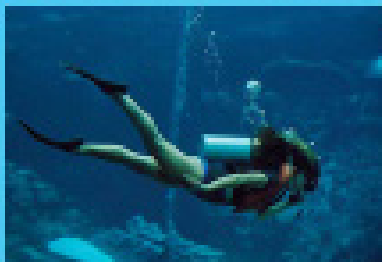
2D & 3D Animation

Produced in any video format.



Video Production

Scripting, storyboard, filming and editing done to any video format required. We also do aerial and underwater video and stills.



Still Photography

If you're thinking digital media then think Hipe Media.