



Military Despatches

Vol 39 September 2020

Battles won against all odds

No-one told them they were supposed to lose

Winning the booby prize

In a war zone even the most mundane object can kill

Abu-Ageila

Decisive tank battle in the Middle East

Võ Nguyên Giáp

The school teacher that defeated France and the USA

For the military enthusiast



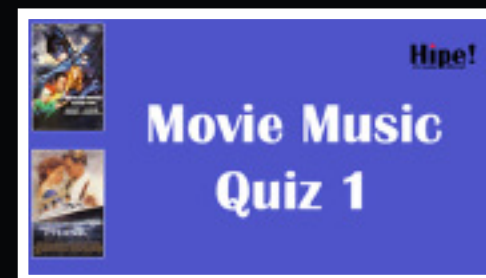
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How much do you know about movie theme songs? Take our quiz and find out.



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



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



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

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.



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

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

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Editor's Sitrep

So, it's officially spring. I just wish someone would have reminded the weather about that, because it's freezing cold at the moment.

As I've probably mentioned before, I always breathe a sigh of relief when 1 September rolls around. That's because August is a bit of a strange month for me. Let me explain.

I was born in August, as was my brother one year and eight days later. My wife was also born in August. So we have a few birthdays to celebrate. But it's also a time of sadness as well.

My wife's mother passed away in August. As did my own mother, father and brother. So if I follow family tradition then there's a pretty good chance that I will ring down the curtain and join the choir invisible in August. So if I make it through to September I always feel good for another year. Then again, I tend not to stick to tradition.

This August was also a sad month for me. On 2 August Dave Revell passed away.

Many of our readers will know Dave. He was a member of the Memorable Order of Tin Hats (MOTH) and was the former Old Bill at Red Barn/ Tavern of the Seas Shellhole. He was also a for-

mer Provincial Old Bill of Cape Western Dugout. During November 2019 he was appointed Old Bill of the Order.

Born in London in 1942, Dave joined the Royal Navy in 1957 and, between 1962 and 1964, served on HMS Afrikander at Youngsfield Military Base. Upon his discharge from the Royal Navy he was approached to play soccer semi-professionally for Cape Town City but, with a young family to support, he opted to join the South African Navy and was amongst the first crew members to receive training on the Daphne-Class submarines.

He then served as a Submariner for the following 11 years. Dave retired in 1998 with the rank of Warrant Officer Class 1.

I was honoured to have known Dave and I will miss him and his sense of humour. We will remember him.

Please read my article on page 19. Hopefully it will clear a few things up.

Remember to wear a mask, wash your hands, and keep your social distancing. The Covid-19 pandemic is not over yet.

Until next time.

Hipe! media

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10 Battles won against all odds

These are battles, and one war, where the outnumbered side tore up the script. What should have been an easy victory for the stronger army turned out very differently.

History is filled with instances of small, over-powered armies trying unusual tactics and getting destroyed in the process. Since there is no novelty value they quickly get forgotten by history.

Which makes it all the more incredible when some comparatively small or ill-equipped band of soldiers wins the day against what seems like overwhelming odds.

These battles are in chronological order.

10. Agincourt 25 October 1415

The Battle of Agincourt saw a depleted English army, led by Henry V and composed of 3,000 longbowman, achieve victory over a superior French army of 30,000 cavalry and heavy infantry.

The English achieved this unexpected victory through a combination of better tactics, favourable terrain, and the missile superiority of the longbow.

Henry V personally led his troops into battle and participated in hand-to-hand combat. The English adopted a defensive stance, erecting wooden fortifications and raining down arrows on the advancing French army.

When the English archers ran out of arrows, they dropped their bows and using hatchets,

swords and the mallets they had used to drive their wooden stakes in, counter attacked the now shaken, fatigued and wounded French men-at-arms massed in front of them.

The French forces had sustained heavy losses, and were bogged down in the mud and encumbered in their heavy plate armour. The counter attack from the English was a decisive blow, and the rest of the French army, having witnessed the slaughter, fled the field of battle.

Henry V's victory at Agincourt, against a numerically superior French army, crippled France and started a new period in the war during which Henry V married the French princess Catherine, and their son, Henry, was made heir to the throne of France as well as of England. The battle saw the death of between 6,000 and 9,000 French troops, with comparatively few English losses.

9. Battle of Mikatagahara 25 January 1573

Tokugawa Ieyasu was the founder and first shogun of the Tokugawa shogunate of Japan. In 1573 Takeda Shingen advanced into Ieyasu's province with a large army. He demanded that he be given safe passage through Ieyasu's territory. Takeda's intent was not to attack Ieyasu, nor to seize Hamamatsu.

Rather he wished to avoid conflict if possible to save his forces to destroy his rival Oda Nobunaga and march on Kyoto.

Nobunaga, however, was an ally of Ieyasu. So there was no way that Ieyasu would allow Takeda safe passage through his territory. A battle between the two forces was inevitable. Takeda led an army of 20,000 men, while Ieyasu was based at Hamamatsu Castle with 8,000 men.

Ieyasu drew up his forces on a high plain called Mikatagahara, just north of Hamamatsu. In one of the best demonstrations of cavalry-based tactics, Takeda destroyed Ieyasu's forces. It was one of Ieyasu's worst defeats and complete disaster was only narrowly averted.

With his remaining Samurai having fled, Ieyasu retreated to Hamamatsu Castle accompanied by only five ninja loyal to him. When Takeda's vanguard, numbering about 5,000 and led by Baba Nobuharu and Yamagata Masakage, arrived at Hamamatsu Castle it seemed as if Ieyasu was facing certain defeat.

The ninja were used to facing overwhelming odds and they suggested to Ieyasu that they employ a tactic known as the "empty fort strategy". They lit torches all over the castle and began to beat a large war drum.



SOUTHERN VICTORY: The Battle of Chancellorsville was a victory for the Confederate Forces, but it cost them one of their best generals.

The gates of the castle were then thrown open wide.

Convinced that Ieyasu was about to attack them, the vanguard stopped and made camp for the night. They intended to wait for Takeda's main force to arrive before they went any further. During the night a small band of ninja led by Hattori Hanzo attacked the camp, throwing the vanguard into confusion and retreat.

Uncertain of the remaining strength of the Tokugawa forces, and worried that reinforcements from Oda Nobunaga were on their way, Takeda Shingen decided to withdraw his forces back to his own territories and try again the following year. Unfortunately for him he died in battle before this could happen.

8. Battle of Auerstadt 14 October 1806

Although Napoleon Bonaparte hogged pretty much all the glory the French military won in the first few decades of the nineteenth century, their victory won at the greatest odds was by

his subordinate, Field Marshal Davout.

In October 1806 Napoleon was preparing to attack what he thought was the main Prussian army while he sent Davout north with 26,000 men to cut off any desperate retreats by the Prussians towards the Russian army.

As it transpired, Napoleon had it backwards because the main Prussian army of 63,000 men was coming was coming for Davout, with odds of far more than two to one. Initially the French troops dug in as best they could and held off initial assaults, but after some time, Davout realised that if the Prussians were not attacking with their full force, there must be something wrong with the organisational structure.

So Davout ordered his final reserved troops to go onto the attack, which would have seemed like suicide at such great odds. Instead it caught the Prussians by surprise and routed them.

In typical fashion, Napoleon repaid Davout for this success by dismissing his victory. He

claimed that Davout has exaggerated the size of the Prussian army by saying that Davout "always saw double."

Yet according to the Prussians own records, Davout had been correct. It then took Napoleon years before he gave his best general any honours.

7. Battle of Chancellorsville 30 April to 6 May 1863

The Battle of Chancellorsville was a major battle of the American Civil War (1861–1865), and the principal engagement of the Chancellorsville campaign.

It was fought from 30 April to 6 May 1863, in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, near the village of Chancellorsville.

During this battle the Northern army had 134,000 soldiers while the Southern army had 62,000. You also need to take into consideration that the Southern Army was full of troops that were constantly hungry and a lot of them were barefoot.

The two armies faced off across the Rappahannock River in Virginia, a few dozen kilo-

metres north of the Southern capital of Richmond. Basically it meant an instant victory for the North if they captured it.

Then the Northern commander, Major General Joseph Hooker, decided that he would keep half of his huge army in their current position to distract the southerners while 70,000 went far downriver, crossed in secret, then came up the rear of the Southern line to him them on the flank.

Commander of the Southern Army, General Robert E. Lee's response was basically to use Hooker's own strategy against him. He sent about a third of his already small army to go behind the 70,000 soldiers that had just been manoeuvring up behind him.

To convince the Northerners that their tiny flanking unit was actually the whole army retreating, the Southerners looped around and marched down the same route before making the 20 kilometre trek into the Northern army's rear.

When they attacked, it so unnerved Hooker that by the next day his army was already mostly in retreat.

It's worth noting that the results of this battle were that it cost the life of Stonewall Jackson, one of their three best generals, and made General Robert E. Lee dangerously overconfident for the Battle of Gettysburg, where he effectively ruined the South's last hope of victory.



WINTER WAR: The Finns were no push-over in battle, as the Russians learnt to their cost in 1939/1940. The Battle of Suomussalmi was a humiliating defeat for the Russians.

6. Rorke's Drift 22 January 1879

The Battle of Rorke's Drift, also known as the Defence of Rorke's Drift, was an engagement in the Anglo-Zulu War. The successful British defence of the mission station of Rorke's Drift, under the command of Lieutenants John Chard of the Royal Engineers and Gonville Bromhead, began when a large contingent of Zulu warriors broke off from their main force during the final hour of the British defeat at the day-long Battle of Isandlwana on 22 January 1879, diverting 9.7 km to attack Rorke's Drift later that day and continuing into the following day.

Just over 150 British and colonial troops defended the station against attacks by 3,000 to 4,000 Zulu warriors. The massive but piecemeal attacks by the Zulu on Rorke's Drift came very close to defeating the much smaller garrison, but were consistently repelled.

Eleven Victoria Crosses were awarded to the defenders, along with a number of other decorations and honours. The British suffered 17 killed and 15 wounded. A total of 351 Zulus were killed and about 500 wounded.

5. Battle of Suomussalmi 7 December 1939-8 January 1940

On 30 November 1939, the Soviet 163rd Rifle Division crossed the border between Finland and the Soviet Union and advanced from the north-east towards the village of Suomussalmi.

The Soviet objective was to advance to the city of Oulu, effectively cutting Finland in half. This sector had only one Finnish battalion (Er.P 15), which was placed near Raate, outside Suomussalmi.

Suomussalmi was taken with little resistance on 7 December (only two incomplete companies of covering forces led

a holding action between the border and Suomussalmi), but the Finns destroyed the village before this, to deny the Soviets shelter, and withdrew to the opposite shore of lakes Niskanselkä and Haukiperä.

On December 9, the defenders were reinforced with a newly founded regiment (JR 27). Colonel Hjalmar Siilasvuo was given the command of the Finnish forces and he began immediate counter-measures to regain Suomussalmi.

The main forces advanced on Suomussalmi, but failed to take the village, suffering serious losses.

On December 24, Soviet units counterattacked, but failed to break through the surrounding Finnish forces.

Reinforced with two new regiments (JR 64 and JR 65), the Finns again attacked on 27 December.

This time, they took the village, and the Soviets retreated in panic over the surrounding frozen lakes. A large part of them managed to reach the Russian border along the Kiantajärvi lake.

During this time, the Soviet 44th Rifle Division had advanced from the east towards Suomussalmi. It was entrenched on the road between Suomussalmi and Raate and got caught up in the retreat of the other Soviet forces.

Between 4 January and 8 January 1940, the 44th Rifle Division was divided into isolated groups and destroyed by the Finnish troops (in a tactic

known as motti), leaving much heavy equipment for the Finnish troops.

The battle resulted in a major victory for the Finns. If the Soviet Union had captured the city of Oulu, the Finns would have had to defend the country on two fronts and an important rail link to Sweden would have been severed. The battle also gave a decisive boost to the morale of the Finnish army.

The Finns suffered 750 killed or missing and 1,000 wounded.

The Russian losses were 23,000 killed or missing and 2,100 were taken prisoner. The Finns captured 43 tanks, 71 field-guns, 29 anti-tank guns, 260 trucks, and 1,170 horses.

4. Battle of Singapore 8 to 15 February 1942

The Battle of Singapore, also known as the Fall of Singapore, was fought in the South-East Asian theatre of World War II when the Empire of Japan invaded the British stronghold of Singapore—nicknamed the "Gibraltar of the East". Singapore was the major British military base in South-East Asia and was the key to British imperial interwar defence planning for South-East Asia and the South-West Pacific. The fighting in Singapore lasted from 8 to 15 February 1942, after the two months during which Japanese forces had advanced down the Malayan Peninsula.

At the start of the Japanese war with Britain during World War II, the group of islands called Singapore was consid-

ered impregnable against Japanese forces. It was defended by 85,000 British and Commonwealth troops, while the Japanese numbered only 36,000.

On 9 December 1941 Japanese forces snuck onto the island through jungles and swamps while the main British force was expecting an air and sea attack and had placed their troops on the other side of the island, expecting a naval invasion.

It was vital to the Japanese that they maintain speed during their advance. To achieve this their infantry travelled on bicycles when they reached solid land, many of them stripping down to their vests. They also found an abandoned British armoured car which contained a list of all the British defensive positions. This allowed the Japanese to hit their targets perfectly and captured all of their targets much earlier than they expected, including the valuable British airfields. Once this had been achieved, Japanese planes were easily able to sink British warships that were sent to bolster the island defences.

As they Japanese rode along they quickly wore out the tires on their bicycles and started riding on the rims. This also worked to their advantage because the sounds of clattering, rimless bikes sounded to the British like tanks, and assuming that more Japanese tanks were coming led to more retreats.

The battle was a disaster for the British. Not only did they lose their major base in South-

East Asia, 5,000 of them were killed or wounded and more than 80,000 were taken prisoner. In comparison the Japanese suffered 1,714 killed and 3,378 wounded.

3. Siege of Jadotville 13–17 September 1961

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

In the resulting strife and chaos following independence, Moïse Tshombe declared the State of Katanga's secession from the rest of the Congo. The

Christian, anti-communist pro-Western Tshombe declared, "We are seceding from chaos."

Favouring continued ties with Belgium, he asked the Belgian government to send military officers to recruit and train a Katangese army. Naturally Belgium and many western countries had a strong interest in the Katanga Province. Much of the world's supply of copper, cobalt and uranium was to be found there. In fact the uranium for the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima had come from a mine in Jadotville.

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

Prime Minister of the Congo, Patrice Lumumba, requested intervention from

UN forces and UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld

sent a UN force under the direction of Irish representative Conor Cruise O'Brien.

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

The Irish troops had a problem. Not only had none of them ever seen combat, they had never even fired a shot in anger. They were also lightly armed with only light personal weapons, a small number of water-cooled Vickers machine guns and 60mm mortars.

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

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

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

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

Quinlan's instincts proved spot on. While most of his men were at mass on 13 September the Katangans attacked. Expecting to take the men off guard, the first attackers moved in rapidly but were spotted by an alert sentry. A warning shot by Sgt. Billy Ready alerted the company to the threat. The Irish maned their positions and began to return fire. It was the start of a battle that would last six days and five nights.

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

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

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

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

offered Quinlan an opportunity to surrender. An offer which he declined.

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

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

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

At the end of the battle the

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

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

2. The Six-Day War 5 to 10 June 1967

This was not a single battle as such, but rather a war. Imagine you're a small country that is surrounded by larger, more powerful countries. They make no secret of the fact that they want to wipe your country off the face of the earth. Your highly efficient intelligence sources have overwhelming evidence that your country faces an imminent attack within the next 48 hours. The solution is obvious – you launch a pre-emptive strike against them.

This was the situation that Israel was faced with in June 1967. Israeli intelligence were convinced that Egypt (then known as the United Arab Republic), Jordan, and Syria were planning to attack Israel within the next few days.

The odds were not in favour of Israel. They had a total of 264,000 troops of which 214,000 were reserves. They also had 300 combat aircraft and 800 tanks. The combined Arab armies could field 525,000 troops, an advantage of more than two to one. They also had 2,424 tanks and 939 combat aircraft.

Israel knew that for their attack to have any chance of success it was vital that they achieve air superiority. Egypt was regarded as the main threat and the initial Israeli air strikes would be against eight Egyptian airfields in Sinai, on the Suez Canal and around Cairo.



TOP TEN

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

The relative lateness of the hour was chosen for a number of reasons. First of all the Egyptians would be hit when they least expected it. By that time the early morning mist in the Nile Delta had lifted. Most importantly, the Egyptian air patrols and radar surveillance had been stood down with the passing of the time for a classic dawn attack. More over the change-over of watches within the Egyptian air command was taking place.

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

Once the Israelis had secured air superiority the outcome of the war was never in doubt. They then launched their ground attack and before long the Arab armies were in full retreat.

While the war lasted for six days it was, for all intents and purposes, over after three hours. In that time the Israelis inflicted a huge defeat on the Arabs from which they could never hope to recover.

The Israelis losses were 983 men killed, 4,517 wounded and 15 captured. They lost 400 tanks and 46 aircraft.

The Arab armies lost 18,206 killed or missing and more than



twice that many wounded. A total of 5,452 were captured. Hundreds of tanks were destroyed, as were more than 450 aircraft.

1. The Battle of Longewala 4 to 7 December 1971

The Battle of Longewala was one of the first major engagements in the western sector during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, fought between assaulting Pakistani forces and Indian defenders at the Indian border post of Longewala, in the Thar Desert of Rajasthan state in India.

Major Kuldip Singh Chandpuri was in command of a company of the Indian Army's 23rd Battalion, Punjab Regiment. He was faced with a difficult choice in that a Pakistani mechanised infantry force was about to assault his position at last light. Available to him were 120 Indian soldiers and a jeep mounted with a M40 recoilless rifle. Facing him were between 2,000 and 3,000 Pakistani infantry accompanied by 30 to 40 tanks. He faced a choice of either attempting to hold out until rein-

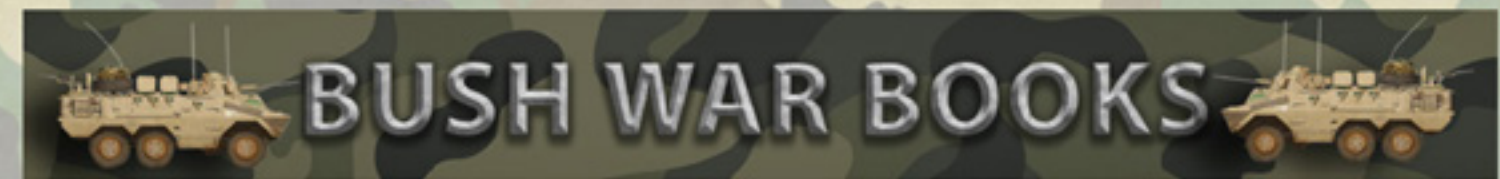
forced, or fleeing on foot from a Pakistani mechanised infantry force. He chose the former option.

He knew that if he could hold out until first light, he had four Hunter attack jets to call on. He was also fortunate in that he had an Indian Air Force forward air controller with him.

Major Chandpuri instructed his troops to construct dummy minefields in the form of areas hastily ringed with barb wire, which was conventionally how minefields were designated.

This allowed the Indians to funnel the Pakistanis into deep sand which bogged down their tanks. In trying to extricate their tanks from the sand engines began to overheat to the point where some of them caught fire.

These tactics combined to stall the Pakistanis until first light when the Indians were able to call in an air strike. The Pakistanis were routed and retreated in disorder. 200 Pakistani soldiers were killed and 36 tanks were destroyed. The Indian casualties were two men killed.



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

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

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

Special Forces - Utti Jaeger Regiment

Part nineteen of a series that takes a look at Special Forces units around the world. This month we look at Finland's Utti Jaeger Regiment.

The Finnish Defence Forces (*Puolustusvoimat*) are responsible for the defence of Finland.

A universal male conscription is in place, under which all men above 18 years of age serve for 165, 255, or 347 days.

Alternative non-military service for all men, and volunteer service for all women are possible.

Finland is the only non-NATO European Union state bordering Russia. Finland's official policy states that a wartime military strength of 280,000 personnel constitutes a suffi-

cient deterrent.

The army consists of a highly mobile field army backed up by local defence units. The army defends the national territory and its military strategy employs the use of the heavily forested terrain and numerous lakes to wear down an aggressor, instead of attempting to hold the attacking army on the frontier.

Finland's defence budget equals approximately €3.2 billion or 1.3% of GDP. The voluntary overseas service is high-

ly popular and troops serve around the world in UN, NATO and EU missions. Homeland defence willingness against a superior enemy is at 76%, one of the highest rates in Europe.

In war time the Finnish Border Guard (which is its own military unit in peacetime) will become part of the Finnish Defence Forces.

Special Forces

The Utti Jaeger Regiment (*Utin Jääkäriykmentti*) is the Finnish Army training and development centre for special forces and helicopter operations in charge of the Army Special Forces Unit and the Special Forces Qualification Course.

The Utti Jaeger Regiment is responsible for training special forces for the Finnish Army as well as up-keeping high readiness of the Army Special Forces Unit and helicopter operations and performing executive assistance tasks.

The regiment consists of around 400 hired personnel and 220 conscripts according to sources from 2018.

It's Special Jaeger Company (*erikoisjääkärikomppania*)

served during the War in Afghanistan by training security officials in medical care, firearms, and operational planning, and has been in standby duties as a part of the European Union Battlegroups and NATO Response Force.

The Finnish special forces trace their history to the four long-range reconnaissance patrol detachments (*kaukopartio-osastot*) and Detached Battalion 4 (*Erillinen Pataljoona 4*), which fought in the Continuation War and Lapland War during 1941–1944.[3]

After the wartime units were demobilized in November 1944, the Army re-initiated organised special forces training

in February 1962 by establishing the Parachute Jaeger School (*Laskuvarjojääkärikoulu*) at Utti, near the city of Kouvola. On 1 January 1997, the Utti Jaeger Regiment was formed by merging the Parachute Jaeger School, Military Police School and Helicopter Wing.

The Parachute Jaeger School was later reformed into the Special Jaeger Battalion and the Helicopter Wing reinforced into the Helicopter Battalion.

Special Jaeger

According to the newspaper *Helsingin Sanomat*, a typical special forces soldier has served in the Defence Forces for seven years and is around 28–29-years-old. On average, they run 3,180 metres in a Cooper test and bench press 110 kg.

Before applying for and attending the year-long Special Forces Qualification Course, they often have served as a paratrooper or a combat diver during conscript service. Approximately 12 students are chosen for the course out of a 100 applicants after a four-day exam.

All of the course attendees are trained in communications, engineer and medical care, and receive specializations later, such as sniper, vehicle, high-altitude military parachuting, military intelligence or forward air control training.

Those chosen for career tracts after the basic course serve at either Utti Jaeger Regiment or Special Operations Detachment of the Naval Reconnaissance Battalion, of the Coastal Brigade.



TRUE COLOURS: Colours of the Utti Jaeger Regiment.

Organisation

As of 2018, the Utti Jaeger Regiment is divided into four units in addition to the headquarters:

- Special Jaeger Battalion
- Special Jaeger Company – hosts the special jaeger non-commissioned officers, maintains special forces readiness and capabilities of the Army, and oversees the Special Forces Qualification Course.
- Paratrooper Company – trains conscripts in basic long-range reconnaissance patrol, sissi, urban and air assault operations.
- Helicopter Battalion – equipped with 20 NH90 tactical transport helicopters and 7 MD 500 light helicopters; responsible for all helicopter operations and training of the Defence Forces.
- Support Company – trains conscripts in support tasks and handles logistics in co-

- operation with the Logistics Centre.
- Logistics Centre



Unit Insignia

Notable characters

Over the years the Finnish Special Forces have produced a few notable characters. Two of them were Simo “Simuna” Häyhä and Lauri Törni.

White Death

Simo “Simuna” Häyhä was a Finnish sniper during the 1939-40 Winter War between Finland and Russia. Häyhä was deployed as a sniper in the 6th Company of JR 34.

Weapons used by the Utti Jaeger Regiment



RK 95 TP



H&K MP5



Sako TRG



FN SCAR

Nicknamed ‘White Death’ he is reported by western sources to have killed 505 men during the Winter War, the highest recorded number of sniper kills in any major war.

He was feared by the Russian, who gave him the nickname *Belaya Smert* (White Death).

Unlike most snipers, he preferred iron sights over telescopic sights.

The Russians made every effort possible to kill Häyhä. They used counter-snipers and artillery barrages in their efforts.

On 6 March 1940 Häyhä was hit his lower left jaw by an explosive shell fired by a Red Army soldier. Fellow soldiers that found him said that half his face was missing and that they did not expect him to survive.

But survive he did. Shortly after the war, Häyhä was promoted from *alikersantti* (Corporal) to *vänrikki* (Second lieutenant) by Finnish Field Marshal Carl Gustaf Emil Mannerheim.

Although it took a long time, Häyhä recovered from his horrific wounds. He became a successful moose hunter and dog breeder.

Simo Häyhä died in a war veterans’ nursing home in Hamina in 2002 at the age of 96, and was buried in Ruokolahti.

Lauri Törni

Some men have fought in three different wars, but rarely have they fought for three different countries. Lauri Allan Törni was one such man.

While Törni was studying at business school he joined the Civil Guard. When he graduated in 1938 at the age of 19, he joined the 4th Independent Jae-

ger Battalion, an elite infantry unit.

Not long after that, on 30 November 1939, the Soviet Union invaded Finland. It was the start of the Winter War.

Törni did his part, fighting against the Soviets at Rautu and again at Lake Ladoga.

Törni had distinguished himself during the Winter War and had been promoted to the rank of 2nd lieutenant. Yet instead of celebrating, he was seething.

He vowed revenge against the Soviet Union and he was not particular how he achieved it.

Which was probably why in 1941 he headed for Vienna in Austria. He spent the next seven weeks training with the *Waffen Schutzstaffel* (Waffen SS).

He did so well during his training that he was given the rank of *Untersturmführer*.

On 22 June 1941 the Soviets invaded Finland once again, kicking off the Continuation War.

This time, however, Finland was not alone. They now had an ally against the Soviets - Nazi Germany.

Once again Törni distinguished himself and was placed in charge of a unit informally named "Detachment Törni".

Törni was awarded Finland's highest military decoration - the Mannerheim Cross of the Order of the Cross of Liberty. The celebrations were, however, very brief.

Eventually the Finns were forced to retreat and sign the Moscow Armistice on 19 September 1944.

As part of the armistice signed with the Soviets, the Finns were

required to expel all German forces on their soil. This resulted in the Lapland War between Finland and Germany. The war would last from September to November 1944 and result in over 8,000 casualties.

Although Törni was a patriot, he did not agree with his country's decision to expel the German forces. It wasn't that he had become pro-Nazi, it was just that he was fiercely anti-Soviet and fanatically anti-Communist.

He went to Germany, learning to be a saboteur until his training was cut short in March. Unable to return to Finland, he joined a local unit fighting the Soviets near Schwerin before surrendering to the Allies.

They threw him in a POW camp in Lübeck, which he escaped, finally returning to Finland in June.

Törni was arrested for fighting for the wrong side. He was charged with treason. He was thrown into prison, but he escaped. He was recaptured in April 1946 and sentenced to six years in prison. Yet again he escaped, and yet again he was recaptured.

He served two years before receiving a pardon from the president in December 1948.

By this stage he was fed up with his country and he made his way to Sweden the following year.

In 1950 he boarded a cargo ship bound for America. In 1954 he joined the US Army. By then he had a new name - Larry Thorne.

With his experience he was soon on his way into the Special Forces. While in the Spe-



WHITE DEATH: Simo "Simuna" Häyhä was nicknamed "White Death" by the Russians. It is estimated that he killed 505 men during the Winter War.

cial Forces, he taught skiing, survival, mountaineering, and guerrilla tactics.

In turn he attended airborne school, and advanced in rank; attending Officer Candidate School, he was commissioned as a 1st lieutenant in the Signal Corps in 1957.

While serving in Vietnam in 1965 the helicopter in which he was travelling crashed in a mountainous area of Phước Sơn District, Quảng Nam Province, Vietnam, 40 km from Da Nang. Rescue teams were unable to locate the crash site.

In 1999 his remains were found by a Finnish and Joint Task Force-Full Accounting team and repatriated to the United States.

Formally identified in 2003, his remains were buried on 26 June 2003 at Arlington National Cemetery. He was memorialised on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

As for Finland, they consider him a national hero, once more.

Military Despatches - the future

Editor **Matt Tennyson** tries to clear up the confusion of his last editorial post.

It was singer Britney Spears that had a hit with a song called "Oops I Did It Again". And, being Irish, this is not a phrase I am uncommon with.

In my last editorial I mentioned that most of my freelance work (from whence I make my income) has dried up due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Yet bills still needed to be paid each month.

I stated that My dilemma was 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?

I received a number of e-mails from readers wanting to help. In fact too many to mention them all individually. However I must thank Robbie Roberts, Brian Porter, Padre Tony Bethke, Lucille Byrnes, Ken Lightfoot and Regine Lord. A humble thank you for your generous offers of assistance.

I think because I worded my editorial so badly (my fault, and mine alone) many people thought that I was on the brink of starvation and on the bones of my arse. Rest assured, I am not quite there yet. Let me try and put things into perspective.

I started Military Despatches in July 2017 for two reasons.

First of all I am passionate about military history. So I get a lot of pleasure out of doing

the magazine every month. I have to do a fair bit of research each month and I end up learning so much. My thinking was that maybe a few other people would also find this kind of stuff interesting. I had no idea at the time just how many people would end up reading the magazine each month.

The second reason I started the magazine was in honour of my late father. Not only was a World War II veteran, he was also a historian. It was from him that I inherited my love of history. It was my way of saying "Thanks dad, not only did you teach me well, but you also taught me that history was not a dead subject."

It was only when the magazine had been going for a few months and I saw the surprising, ever-growing number of readers that I discovered a new reason for the magazine. Maybe I could use it to raise funds to assist military veterans.

Throughout history military veterans have received the "shit end of the stick". Soldiers do not start wars, nor do they end them. They're just the mugs that have to fight them.

During wars, soldiers are often feted and have medals pinned on their chests. After a war, usually only if they are victorious, they will get to march in a parade and be showered with praise. Yet nothing is forgotten as quickly as yester-

day's hero.

Society often treats military veterans with disdain. Probably because it reminds them of the war. Or because the younger generations know very little of the war or why it was fought. Often it is because the military veterans were on the 'losing' side.

Since I began Military Despatches I have done a number of projects for veteran's associations. All of them at no cost. I have also helped out individuals whenever I could.

This wasn't done because I am a good person, but rather because I am a military veteran myself and I know that 'but for the grace of God' it could be me in their shoes.

I always say that Military Despatches will pick up the bill. The only problem is that Military Despatches has never made a single cent. So I have always paid out of my own pocket. At the moment, this has become more difficult. This is what I meant by focusing on other projects that can actually bring in an income.

So to sum up - Military Despatches will keep going. And no, we will not be charging anyone to read the magazine.

Maybe, in the future, I may look at advertising in the magazine. Until then, thank you for your support. I really appreciate it.

Winning the booby prize

A simple act such as picking up a torch and switching it on, opening a door, or starting a vehicle can be lethal. In a war zone anything could be booby trapped and throughout history these sneak devices have been employed with great success.

Not everything on the battlefield or in a war zone may be what it appears to be.

You open a door that is slightly ajar, and it blows up in your face. You pick up a pair of discarded binoculars and raise them to your eyes, but they are out of focus. When you try to adjust the focus the binoculars explode, along with your head.

You've just had your first introduction to the world of booby traps.

The Spanish word *bobo* translates to "stupid, daft, naïve, simple, fool, idiot, clown, funny man, one who is easily cheated" and similar pejorative terms. The slang of *bobo*, *bubie*, translates to "dunce".

The term "booby trap" gives rise to the idea that an individual with the misfortune to be caught in the trap does so because the individual is a "booby", or that an individual who is caught in the trap thereby becomes a "booby".

A booby trap is a device or setup that is intended to kill, harm, or surprise a person, unknowingly triggered by the presence or actions of the victim. As the word trap implies, they sometimes have some form of bait designed to lure the victim towards it. At other times, the trap is set to act upon trespassers that violate personal or restricted areas.

The device can be triggered

when the victim performs some type of everyday action, e.g., opening a door, picking something up, or switching something on. They can also be triggered by vehicles driving along a road, as in the case of victim-operated improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Booby traps can range from the simple to the very complex.

Booby traps are often used in warfare, particularly guerrilla warfare. Many booby traps are designed to injure or maim, rather than kill the victim. And there is very sound reasoning for this.

If a soldier activates a booby trap and is killed, there is nothing more that you can do for him. The troops may pause for a moment, and then move on.

Let's say, however, that the booby trap blows the soldier's foot off. At least one, but probably two, other troops will have to move the injured soldier out of the combat zone. The injured soldier will have to be evacuated, often by helicopter, for medical treatment.

This treatment and rehabilitation of the injured soldier will cost time, resources and money.

If the soldier has lost a limb it can have a demoralising effect on others.

Booby traps are also often employed by defending or retreating armies. They can be effective at slowing down advancing forces.

In addition to the obvious ability of booby traps to kill or injure, their presence has other effects such as these:

- Demoralise soldiers as booby traps kill or maim comrades.
- Keep soldiers continually stressed, suspicious and unable to relax because it is difficult for them to know which areas, buildings or objects are safe.
- Slow down troop movement as soldiers are forced to sweep areas to see if there are more booby traps.
- Make soldiers cautious instead of aggressive and confident.
- Create no-go areas (real or imagined) after a booby trap has killed or wounded someone.
- Cause a section or platoon to have to stop in order to deal with casualties, thus slowing and delaying those troops.
- Create confusion and disorientation as a prelude to an ambush

During the Vietnam War the Viet Cong became masters at constructing cheap, simple, but highly effective booby traps.

Punji Stakes

Few booby traps were as simple, or as cheap to make, as the punji stake.

Bamboo was cut into lengths, heated to harden it, and then sharpened to form a stake or

spike. This task was normally carried out by the women and children of a village.

A pit would then be dug and the stakes would be embedded in the ground with the sharp side pointing upward. The pit was then covered with thin branches and soil, leaves, grass or bush to match the surrounding terrain.

When a person stood on the trap their weight would cause the sticks to break and the person's leg would fall into the pit. The sharpened punji stake would penetrate through the boot and foot.

Sometimes punji stakes would be embedded into the side of the pit, with the sharp tips angled downwards.

This would make extricating an injured soldier even more difficult because if he merely tried to pull his leg out of the pit, the downward stakes would penetrate the leg as well.

Often the tips of the punji stakes were coated with animal or plant toxin. Another common tactic was to smear the punji stakes with human faeces. In the hot and humid climate of the Vietnam jungle, wounds would quickly turn septic.

Punji sticks are banned from use as weaponry under the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Not that this has ever stopped anyone, or even slowed them down.

The Viet Cong also employed a number of other home made booby traps. One of them was the deadfall trap.

A heavy object, usually a log, was suspended by roped in a tree. the log would have a number of spikes driven into it,

with the sharp tips pointing outwards. This was connected to a trip wire. When the wire was tripped, the log would swing down at chest or head height, impaling anyone unlucky enough to be in its path.

Another Viet Cong booby trap was the 'grenade in a tin'. A hand grenade was fitted with a zero second delay fuse, the pin was pulled, and the grenade pushed into an empty tin can. The can would stop the firing lever from being released.

A trip wire was then attached to the grenade. When the wire was tripped the grenade would be pulled from the tin, the firing lever would be released, and it would explode immediately.

The VC would also rig a motorcycle with explosives and then abandon it. Some US soldier would be tempted to ride

the motorcycle and thus trigger the explosives.

Project Eldest Son

The Americans had a few tricks of their own during the Vietnam War.

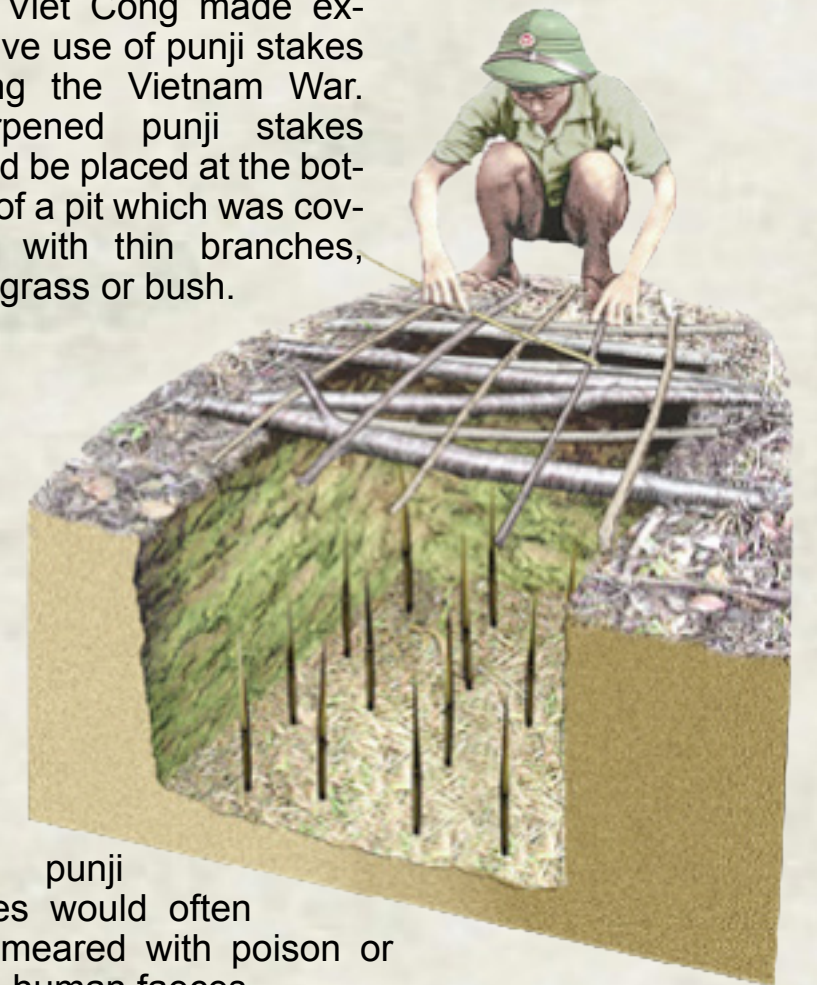
The CIA and Green Berets would booby trap the enemy's ammunition supply in an operation code-named 'Project Eldest Son'.

The propellant in a rifle or machine-gun cartridge was replaced with high explosive. Upon being fired, the sabotaged round would destroy the gun and kill or injure the shooter.

Mortar shells were similarly rigged to explode when dropped down the tube, instead of launching properly.

This ammunition was then carefully re-packed to eliminate any evidence of tampering,

The Viet Cong made extensive use of punji stakes during the Vietnam War. Sharpened punji stakes would be placed at the bottom of a pit which was covered with thin branches, soil, grass or bush.



The punji stakes would often be smeared with poison or even human faeces.

and planted in enemy munitions dumps by covert insertion teams.

A sabotaged round might also be planted in a rifle magazine or machine-gun belt and left on the body of a dead VC soldier, in anticipation that the deceased's ammo would be picked up and used by his comrades.

No more than one sabotaged round would be planted in any case, magazine, or belt of ammunition, to reduce the chances of the enemy finding it no matter how diligently they inspected their supplies.

False rumors and forged documents were circulated to make it appear that the Communist Chinese were supplying the VC with defective weapons and ammunition.

American radio stations, which were naturally monitored by the North Vietnamese, would broadcast warnings to American troops, telling them to be careful of picking up and using enemy weapons.

The 'Troubles'

During the "Troubles" in Northern Ireland, booby trap bombs were often used by the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) to kill British Army soldiers and Royal Ulster Constabulary officers.

A common method was attaching the bomb to a vehicle so that starting or driving it would detonate the explosive.

According to the Sutton Index of Deaths, 180 deaths during the Troubles were the result of booby trap bombs, the vast majority of them laid by the

Provisional IRA.

Baiting the trap

Attractive or interesting objects are frequently used as bait. For example, troops could leave behind empty beer bottles and a sealed wooden packing case with "Scotch Whisky" marked on it before leaving an area. The rubble-filled packing case might be resting on top of an M5 or M142 firing device, connected to some blocks of TNT or to some C4 explosive stuffed into the empty fuze pocket of a mortar shell.

Alternatively, the weight of the packing case might simply be holding down the arming lever of an RGD-5 grenade with a zero-delay fuze fitted and the pin removed. Either way, when the case is moved; the booby trap detonates, killing or severely injuring anyone in the immediate area.

Many different types of bait object can be used e.g. soldiers will be tempted to kick an empty beer can lying on the ground as they walk past it. However, the can (partially filled with sand to add weight) may be resting on top of an M5 pressure-release firing device screwed into a buried M26 grenade.

As a rule, booby-traps are planted in any situation where there is a strong likelihood of them being encountered and triggered by the targeted victims.

Typically, they are planted in places that people are naturally attracted to or are forced to use. The list of likely placement areas includes:

- The only abandoned houses left standing in a village,



HELLO HITLER - GOODBYE IVAN: During World War II no Russian soldier could resist ripping a painting of Hitler off the wall. The results were often fatal.

which may attract enemy soldiers seeking shelter.

- A door, drawer or cupboard inside a building that someone will open without thinking of what might be connected to it. If a door is locked, this makes people believe there could something valuable behind it so they are more likely to kick it open, with fatal results.
- Vehicles abandoned by the roadside, perhaps with some kind of victim "bait" left on the back seat such as a suitcase or large cardboard box.
- natural choke-points, such as the only footbridge across a river, which people must use whether they want to or not.
- Important strategic installations such as airfields, railway stations and harbour facilities, all of which the invading forces will want to occupy and use.
- Anything of use or value

that people would naturally want to possess or which makes them curious to see what is inside it, e.g. a crate of beer, a pistol, a flashlight, discarded army rucksack or even a picture torn out of a pornographic magazine.

During World War II when the Germans were retreating from Russia, they often made use of booby traps to slow down the advancing Red Army.

For example, all the buildings in an area would be destroyed, but one would be left intact. More often than not this building would be used as a command post by the Russians. It would be packed with explosives that were attached to one or more trigger devices. When the explosives were triggered the building and those inside would be destroyed.

A common German booby trap was to leave a painting

of Adolf Hitler hanging on the wall. No Russian soldier could resist ripping the painting from the wall, thereby triggering the explosives that the painting was attached to.

Another ingenious German booby trap involved fixing a crucifix to a wall. While the communists claimed not to believe in God, the Germans knew that most common Russian soldiers

were actually deeply religious. They would never dream of defiling a crucifix.

This was not the case with the political commissars. The political commissar or political officer responsible for the political education (ideology) and organization of the unit they were assigned to. They were introduced by the Cheka (Soviet secret police and forerunner of the NKVD and later KGB) to ensure the government's political control of the military.

The commissar would have no problem with ripping a crucifix off the wall. This would then detonate the explosives. Down would come the crucifix, up would go the commissar.

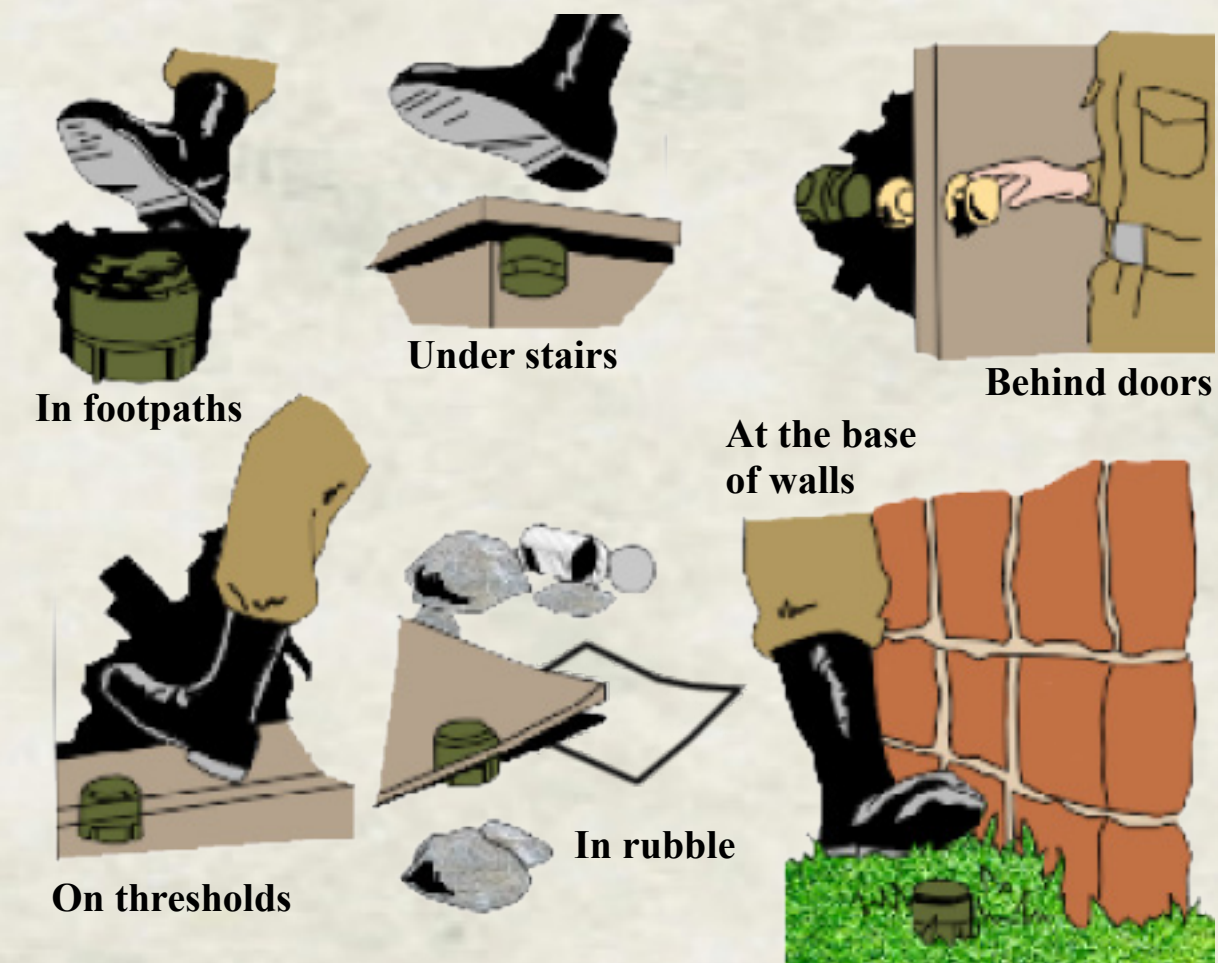
This would be ideal for the Germans because a political commissar was regarded as a high value target.

Here to stay

Booby traps have been around for a long time and they look set to remain a part of warfare for the foreseeable future.

In many conflict areas, particularly in the Middle East, the IED (Improvised Explosive Device) has become part of the scenery.

Many of these IED's can be command detonated. A cell-phone is attached to the explosives and acts as the trigger. Once the target is nearby, an observer dials the number of the phone and this sets off the explosion.



No shipmate will be left behind

Sea Cadet officer, Sub Lieutenant Mike Taylor needs our help and this is an appeal to the readers of Military Despatches.



**S/Lt Mike Taylor
Sea Cadet Officer
TS Springs**

The Officer Commanding TS Springs (Gauteng), Lt Cdr Chris Hand, initiated a project to assist a fellow Sea Cadet officer who is in need of an urgent life changing operation.

This initiative has been supported by the Sea Cadet organisation and an appeal has

gone to all Training Ships, ex Cadets and friends of the Sea Cadets.

S/Lt Mike Taylor, aged 46, was diagnosed as a young man with cancer after contracting severe malaria. Over the years, he has had good times, and bad times.

As his cancer(s) have progressed, he has received various treatments, first through a private medical aid, and lately through Government Health Services.

The past year has seen his disease progression get worse. With limited funds available to the State they are unable assist other than offer pain relief. In the past three months, Mike's condition has deteriorated and he is in constant pain.

After consulting with a pain specialist it has been determined that an operation is required to sever certain nerve connections to his leg and groin areas to alleviate the pain as even morphine does not help anymore.

S/Lt Taylor has been an active adult Officer instructor at TS Springs since 2017 where he has assisted in providing opportunities for and shar-



HELPING OTHERS: S/Lt Mike Taylor with TS Springs Sea Cadets preparing food parcels during COVID-19 for Sea Cadet families

ing his knowledge of nautical matters.

He has been a mentor and role model to the more than 100 TS Springs Sea Cadets.

Despite his situation he has during COVID-19 been actively involved in packing and delivering food parcels to Sea Cadet families from TS Springs.

Unfortunately, this type of operation can't be performed by the State and the only hope is via a private procedure.

His family are also without an income as his wife has been forced to close her business due to COVID-19.

The cost of the operation is around R50,000 with another

R15,000 for post operative care.

This operation will provide S/Lt Taylor with an opportunity to continue to be a supportive husband and loving father of their two sons while continuing to contribute in a positive way towards maritime youth development.

Should you be one of the "family", a friend of the Sea Cadets or interested in assisting please see the TS Springs Facebook page or www.seacadets.za.org OR "backabuddy" – Mike Taylor campaign.

All the funds will be paid directly to the hospital, surgeon, anaesthetist, and other professional service providers.

Bravo Zulu to, Lt Cdr Chris Hand, OC TS Springs, for initiating the campaign, the Sea Cadet organisation, units around the country and the "family & friends" for assisting Lt Mike Taylor. "No shipmate shall be left behind."

We are looking forward to seeing S/Lt Mike Taylor back in action doing what he loves – mentoring and being a role model to the TS Springs Sea Cadets.

IED - Insane, Effective, Deadly

In modern wars and conflicts the enemy could be anyone. And they will use any weapon and tactic to inflict casualties and damage. One of the most common weapons is the IED.

The battlefield has always been a harsh environment. After all, they have been places where people are trying very hard to kill each other.

Yet there was a time when war was far more simple. No less dangerous or horrific, but more simple. You could identify your enemy by the uniform they were wearing. There were certain protocols that governed the way the war was fought.

These days, however, things are not that simple. The battlefield could be anywhere - an open field, an urban area, the local shopping mall, or your back yard.

And it is often not that easy to distinguish who the enemy are. In many cases they do not wear a uniform of any sort. The enemy could be anyone - the man dressed in jeans and a tee-shirt that looks as if he could be a soldier, the harmless looking old man sitting on the street corner, or even the 10 year old schoolgirl with pigtails and a smile.

And the enemy will make use of any weapon or tactic

that could cause harm or damage. This often makes a war extremely difficult to fight.

The majority of modern conflicts consist of asymmetric unconventional warfare. This is war between belligerents whose relative military power differs significantly, or whose strategy or tactics differ significantly.

This is typically a war between a standing, professional army and an insurgency or resistance movement militias who often have status of unlawful combatants.

The professional army has certain advantages. For instance they are usually better trained, better equipped, and

have large resources that they can call upon.

But they also have disadvantages. They are normally easily identified by their uniform and equipment, their conduct and tactics are usually governed by "rules of engagement", and they are normally fighting in an unfamiliar and hostile environment.

The insurgents or militia are also at an obvious disadvantage - they are usually not well trained, often have inferior equipment, and their tactics are often not well co-ordinated.

On the other hand, they have some strong advantages. They are often highly motivated and dedicated to their cause, they are fighting on 'home ground', and they will use anyone and anything to achieve their objectives.

In many cases they receive

assistance from external sources. This assistance can take the form of providing training and weapons, financial assistance, or even offering sanctuary.

One of the most common and popular weapons used by insurgents and militia is the improvised explosive device (IED).

IED

An improvised explosive device (IED) is a bomb constructed and deployed in ways other than in conventional military action. It may be constructed of conventional military explosives, such as an artillery shell, attached to a detonating mechanism.

An IED is a bomb fabricated in an improvised manner incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic, or incendiary chemicals and designed

to destroy or incapacitate personnel or vehicles. In some cases, IEDs are used to distract, disrupt, or delay an opposing force, facilitating another type of attack.

IEDs may incorporate military or commercially sourced explosives, and often combine both types, or they may otherwise be made with homemade explosives.

An IED has five components: a switch (activator), an initiator (fuse), container (body), charge (explosive), and a power source (battery).

An IED designed for use against armoured targets such as personnel carriers or tanks will be designed for armour penetration, by using a shaped charge that creates an explosively formed penetrator. IEDs



are extremely diverse in design and may contain many types of initiators, detonators, penetrators, and explosive loads.

IEDs are triggered by various methods, including remote control, infrared or magnetic triggers, pressure-sensitive bars or trip wires (victim-operated).

In some cases, multiple IEDs are wired together in a daisy chain to attack a convoy of vehicles spread out along a roadway.

IEDs have been used in no fewer than 17 countries. In the second Iraq War, IEDs were used extensively against US-led invasion forces and by the end of 2007 they had become responsible for approximately 63% of coalition deaths in Iraq.

IEDs are commonly used as roadside bombs. They vary in both sophistication and strength, with some being very simple devices while others are far more complex.

IED delivery mechanism

Most IEDs are static weapons. They are placed in various locations and are detonated when the target is within range.

The device could be contained in a vehicle parked next to the side of the road, placed in a dustbin or under some rubble, or even disguised in a case of beer, in a child's toy, or in a piece of 'abandoned' military equipment.

These are excellent weapons for slowing down advancing troops, as nearly every object is regarded with suspicion and needs to be checked before the troops can advance.

Ernst Jünger mentions in his war memoir, *Storm of Steel*,



VBIED: Explosives packed in the boot of a car. These devices are known as VBIED (Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices).

the systematic use of IEDs and booby traps to cover the retreat of German troops at the Somme region during World War I.

Another early example of coordinated large-scale use of IEDs was the Belarusian Rail War launched by Belarusian guerrillas against the Germans during World War II. Both command-detonated and delayed-fuse IEDs were used to derail thousands of German trains during 1943–1944.

Throughout 'The Troubles' in Ireland, the Provisional IRA made extensive use of IEDs in their 1969–97 campaign. They used barrack buster mortars and remote controlled IEDs. Members of the IRA developed and counter-developed devices and tactics.

IRA bombs became highly sophisticated, featuring anti-handling devices such as a mercury tilt switch or microswitches. These devices would detonate the bomb if it was moved in any way.

Many IED, however, do not

wait for the target to come to them. Rather, they are delivered to the intended target.

Vehicle-borne IEDs (VBIED) are vehicles laden with explosives that are then driven to the target.

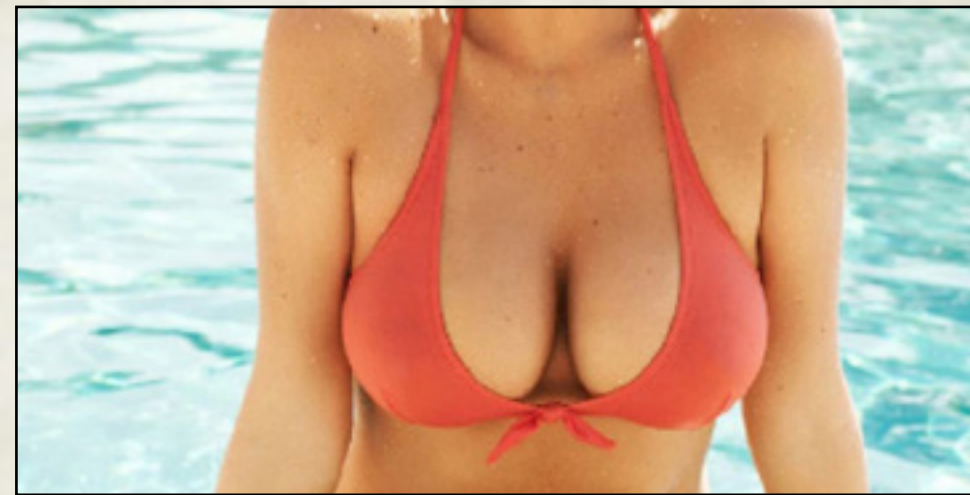
The explosive can then be detonated by remote control or by the driver or passenger. These are commonly known as car bombs.

On occasion the driver of the car bomb may have been coerced into delivery of the vehicle under duress, a situation known as a proxy bomb.

In most cases, however, the driver or passenger that detonates the bomb is a more than willing participant and considers it a great honour to become a martyr for the cause.

Car bombs can carry thousands of kilograms of explosives and may be augmented with shrapnel to increase fragmentation.

Now if a car can carry a large amount of explosives, just think of the amount of explosives that



BOOBY TRAP: While they may look visually attractive, they could easily be explosive-filled implants.

could be carried by a truck. ISIS has used truck bombs with devastating effects.

On 23 October 1983, at 06:22, a 19-ton Mercedes-Benz flat-bed truck drove through an open vehicle gate of the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine stationed at Beirut International Airport.

The truck drove through a guard hut in front of the building and smashed into the lobby of the building serving as the barracks for the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit.

The truck, which had been hijacked earlier, was packed with explosives. And these were no ordinary explosives.

The bed of the truck was surrounded by 20 kg compressed butane canisters employed with pentaerythritol tetranitrate (PETN). These canisters surrounded 9,525 kilograms of TNT.

Once in the lobby of the building the driver, an Iranian national named Ismail Ascari, detonated his explosives.

The resulting explosion killed 220 Marines, 18 sailors and three soldiers, making this incident the deadliest single-day death toll for the United States

Marine Corps since the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II, the deadliest single-day death toll for the United States Armed Forces since the first day of the Tet Offensive in the Vietnam War and the deadliest terrorist attack on American citizens overseas.

Boats laden with explosives can be used against ships and areas connected to water. An early example of this type was the Japanese *Shinyo* suicide boats during World War II. The boats were laden with explosives and attempted to ram Allied ships, sometimes successfully, having sunk or severely damaged several American ships by war's end.

Suicide bombers used a boat-borne IED to attack the USS Cole, US and UK troops have also been killed by boat-borne IEDs in Iraq.

Using animals as a method of delivering IEDs or as incendiary devices has been around for a long time.

Do a bit of research on the 'anti-tank dog' and the 'bat bomb' that were developed during World War II.

In recent times, a two-year-

old child and seven other people were killed by explosives strapped to a horse in the town of Chita in Colombia.

The carcasses of certain animals were also used to conceal explosive devices by the Iraqi insurgency.

War pigs are reported to have been used in ancient warfare as military animals, mostly as a countermeasure against war elephants.

Pliny the Elder reported that "elephants are scared by the smallest squeal of the hog". The Romans exploited squealing pigs (and rams) to repel the war elephants of Pyrrhus in 275 BC.

Historical accounts of incendiary pigs or flaming pigs were recorded by the military writer Polyaeus and by Aelian.

Both writers reported that Antigonos II Gonatas' siege of Megara in 266 BC was broken when the Megarians doused some pigs with combustible pitch, crude oil or resin, set them alight, and drove them towards the enemy's massed war elephants.

The elephants bolted in terror from the flaming, squealing pigs, often killing great numbers of their own soldiers by trampling them to death.

One of the most difficult IEDs to deal with is the suicide bomber wearing explosives and detonating them in order to kill others including themselves.

The bomber will conceal explosives on and around their person, commonly using a vest (or possibly a prosthetic and will use a timer or some other trigger to detonate the explosives.

In addition, there is the psy-

chological impact of fighters prepared to deliberately sacrifice themselves for their cause.

The Americans have made great use of drones, both for observing and attacking potential targets.

It was only a matter of time before insurgents reasoned that what was “sauce for the goose, was sauce for the gander.”

Small commercial drones, operated via a cellphone or tablet and equipped with a camera, can be purchased for as little as R2,000.

The camera transmits live video footage to the operator who is then able to control the height and direction of the drone.

The camera can then record still images or video footage than can be used for intelligence purposes. They can also be used as IED, as a report from early 2019 about an attack on Russian forces in Syria by 13 homemade drones points out.

According to the report, “Ten drones attacked a Russian airbase at Khmeimim. The other three went for a nearby naval base at Tartus.

“Rather than being quadcopters (the most popular design for commercial drones), the craft involved in these attacks resembled hobbyists’ model aircraft. Their wingspans were about 13 feet, and they were crudely constructed of wood and plastic and powered by lawnmower engines.

“Each carried 10 home-made shrapnel grenades under its wings.”

I have saved the best for last. As early as May 2012 American counter-terrorism officials



FLYING BOMB: Cheap commercial drones are now being used as a method of delivering IEDs.

leaked their acquisition of documents describing the preparation and use of surgically implanted improvised explosive devices.

The devices were designed to evade detection. The devices were described as containing no metal, so they could not be detected by X-rays.

Security officials referred to bombs being surgically implanted into suicide bombers’ “love handles”.

According to the UK security officials at MI-6, female bombers could travel undetected carrying the explosive chemicals in otherwise standard breast implants. The bomber would blow up the implanted explosives by injecting a chemical trigger.

IED triggering methods

For an IED to be successful it has to explode. Various methods are used to detonate an IED.

Command-wire improvised explosive devices (CWIED) use an electrical firing cable that affords the user complete control over the device right up

until the moment of initiation.

The trigger for a radio-controlled improvised explosive device (RCIED) is controlled by radio link. A signal from the transmitter causes the receiver to trigger a firing pulse that operates the switch.

One of the most common methods these days is to use a mobile phone to trigger the detonation. This uses a radio-controlled IED (RCIED) incorporating a mobile phone that is modified and connected to an electrical firing circuit.

The easiest method is the victim-operated improvised explosive devices (VOIED), also known as booby traps. They are operated by means of movement. Switching methods include tripwire, pressure mats, spring-loaded release, push, pull or tilt.

IEDs have become a huge problem and will continue to be so in the future. As quick as solutions to combat them are found, counter-methods are invented.



The Tin Hat

Putting your thinking helmet on because this month our quiz is about exactly that - helmets. We show you 15 helmets, you tell us what they are. You’ll find the answers to the quiz on page 104.



Operation Cicero (Pt I)

In probably one of the most important spy stories of World War II, an Albanian, code-named "Cicero", was selling top secret British information to the Germans. By Paul Rosslee.

On Tuesday, 26 October 1943 at about 22h00, Ludwig Carl Moyzisch, officially the Commercial Attaché at the German Embassy in Ankara, received a phone call from the First Secretary, Albert Jenke, asking him to come to their flat immediately on an urgent matter.

By the time Moyzisch arrived at the Embassy compound it was about 22:30 and the only lights on were at the Jenke's apartment.

Frau Jenke opened the door with the words: "There is a character in there" pointing to the drawing room "he has something he wants to sell us."

After saying that her husband would talk to him in the morning, left them alone with the instructions to switch off the lights and close the front door when he leaves.

Moyzisch saw a man sitting in an arm chair: "I guessed he was in his fifties, he had thick black hair...dark eyes...small nose and a firm chin."

After they introduced themselves, the man identified himself as "Pierre" and said in French: "My proposition is of the utmost importance to your government...I can give you extremely secret papers, the most secret that exist...they come straight from the British Embassy...but I'll want money...a lot of money".

After asking for £20,000 for two rolls of film and arrange-

ments to meet on the night of 30 October, the man left.

So, began one of the most important spy stories of World War II.

The man, code named "CICERO" by Franz von Papen, German Ambassador in Ankara, Turkey, was Elyesa Bazna, valet to Sir Hughe Knatchbull-Hugessen, British Ambassador in Ankara.

Throughout his book "Operation Cicero" (1950) Moyzisch maintains that he never knew the man's real name.

This I find hard to believe, as the very next morning, Albert Jenke told Moyzisch that Bazna used to work for him as a valet until he caught him reading his correspondence.

Ankara, in 1943/44 was probably the most important neutral capital in the world, as it was close to all military actions, Russia, Balkans, Middle East and North Africa and was probably German's best access to the outside world.

It was, therefore, also home to many Intelligence organisations, British, Russian, American, German and, of course, Turkish.

The Germans had, in fact, five Intelligence organisations operating in Ankara at that time:

- Sicherheitsdienst
- Nachrichtendienst - both falling under SS General Joseph Kalternbrunner)
- Abwehr - under Admiral Canaris

- Himmler's 'private' intelligence service under Jost. and

- the German's Foreign Office's own Intelligence Section;

Unlike the British (who had three - MI5, MI6, SOE) under a central control, the Germans unfortunately spent most of their time spying on each other.

As Moyzisch said "there were fantastic and highly complex cross currents of intrigue and counter-intrigue, personal vendettas between important people.

"And not always between various organisations but also within the same organisation with Ribbentrop hating von Papen and more often than not contradicting von Papen out of sheer bloody mindedness."

Bazna was born in Albania. At age 16 he had joined a French army unit in Istanbul but was caught stealing.

He was sentenced to three years in a French Labour Camp in Marseilles, eventually returning to Turkey where he had a number of menial jobs.

He has been described as "a typical petty criminal from the Balkans, a man with no values except greed who was apolitical and opportunistic, taking advantages of whatever chances he found to try to get rich".

He could speak Albanian, Turkish, Serbo-Croatian, and French, the latter was the standard language of diplomacy at



CICERO: Elyesa Bazna, code-named 'Cicero' by the Germans, sold top secret British intelligence to the Germans for nearly two years

that time.

He maintained that he could read basic English but had difficulty speaking it, but events proved this to be untrue.

After being fired by the Jenke's he was hired by Douglas Busk, the First Secretary of the British Embassy who, in turn, recommended Bazna for the position of valet to Sir Hughe Knatchbull-Hugessen in 1943 (who assumed, wrongly, that Busk had had a background check done on Bazna).

Anthony Cave Brown, author of Bodyguard of Lies, wrote, "Soon, Bazna had ingratiated himself to the extent that Sir Hughe elevated him from purely household duties to a position of a guard to the door of his study and quietly turned a blind eye to the fact that Bazna was having an affair with Lady Knatchbull-Hugessen's maid in the servants' quarters" (this was a woman by the name of Mara).

Jenke had called Moyzisch

because, besides being the commercial attaché, was also the resident Sicherheitsdienst officer (the intelligence agency of the SS and fell under SS General Joseph Kaltenbrunner's all powerful Nachrichtendienste) under whose control such operations fell.

The next morning Moyzisch reported the matter to von Papen, who in turn (because of the amount of money involved), sent an immediate signal to the Foreign Office in Berlin to obtain authority and funding from Ribbentrop.

A return signal supplied the necessary authority and stated that money would arrive by special courier on or before the 30th.

The afternoon of Saturday, 30 October, Moyzisch was called into von Papen's office. Von Papen had an enormous amount of bank notes on his desk and suggested that Moyzisch count them.

"I was astonished by the mass of banknotes...ten, twenty- and fifty-pound notes...in bundles...they looked suspiciously new...somehow I felt vaguely suspicious about this". Von Papen must have guessed his thoughts: "Looks altogether too new, these notes" he said.

Moyzisch was lucky enough to have a professional photographer at the Embassy and a dark room in the cellar, so when he met Cicero at 22h00 in the Embassy gardens, he had him wait in his office while the photographs were developed.

When Moyzisch returned to his office, all Cicero said was "Well?", Moyzisch then opened his safe and handed Cicero the bundle of money which he stuffed inside his coat and with "Au revoir, monsieur" vanished into the night".

On inspection it was discovered that none of these documents were older than a fortnight and most were date-stamped a few days previously, all of these were marked either "Top Secret" or "Most Secret".

They were signals passed between various embassies and the Foreign Office in London, concerning political and military matters of the utmost importance - but for Moyzisch it was the message that was more important: the determination and ability of the Allies to utterly destroy the Third Reich.

After discussion with von Papen and Jenke, the photographs were deemed genuine, a copy was given to the Military Attaché and a signal was dispatched to the Foreign Office in Berlin.

A few nights later Cicero was

back with another two rolls and a demand for £30,000, which Moyzisch did not have.

Cicero handed the films over anyway, saying that Moyzisch could pay him for two deliveries the next time he saw him "I'll be back, you see!".

Cicero also asked for a Leica camera as had borrowed the one he had used, from a friend.

Soon Moyzisch was inundated with signals from Germany with many and varied questions for and about Cicero, the most insistent was for his name, which Moyzisch continued to maintain he did not have.

Unfortunately General Kaltenbrunner started to take a personal interest in Cicero and Moyzisch started to receive more and more signals from his vast staff, Moyzisch said "by now...a dozen offices in Berlin must have had complete filing systems dealing with Cicero".

Cicero had stopped meeting in the Embassy complex and Moyzisch would pick him up at a designated point in a car and they would drive around while talking.

Moyzisch would then drop him off and return to the dark-room to develop the film(s).

On 4 November, a special courier arrived from Berlin and delivered a suitcase containing £200,000 for future operational expenses in Operation Cicero.

On 6 November von Papen handed Moyzisch a signal, coming from the Foreign Ministry, instructing Moyzisch to be in Berlin on the 8th and that a seat had been booked on the Istanbul-Berlin flight for the 7th, meaning that he would have to leave immediately on the over-

night train from Ankara.

On arrival at Sofia, Moyzisch was taken from the Lufthansa Ju52 by a young man stating "I have instructions from General Kaltenbrunner that a special plane is waiting for you to take you to Berlin" and was taken the rest of the way in a Luftwaffe aircraft.

On arrival in Berlin he was taken immediately to Gen Kaltenbrunner who wanted to see the documents before they were to be shown to Ribbentrop. Kaltenbrunner personally interrogated Moyzisch and had the photographs inspected by a group of experts (who eventually agreed that they were genuine).

Kaltenbrunner eventually told Moyzisch that he was taking over the operation from the Foreign Office and the £200,000 had come from his coffers.

He was also furious that various details that had been sent to Ribbentrop had not been shared with him and "judging from the nasty glint in his eye he would have loved to put his hands around Ribbentrop's throat".

It would be two days before Moyzisch actually got to see Ribbentrop and more importantly, before Ribbentrop got to see that actual photographs.

After examining them he asked Moyzisch if he believed them to be genuine "not that I am interested in your personal opinions, they are hardly likely to relieve my considerable misgivings!"

Ribbentrop eventually stated that they were "too good to be true". He was never convinced that the Cicero documents to be true.

Moyzisch was eventually to spend almost 3 weeks in Berlin on Ribbentrop's whim before being allowed to return to Ankara.

While in Berlin Moyzisch was shocked to discover, that if he went to any function, he was invariably asked about Cicero.

Moyzisch was to see Cicero the next evening after his return. Cicero complained that he had had to destroy a number of films, as he was concerned about being caught with them, but still was able to hand over two new films, which were developed and sent on the next flight to Berlin.

Most of these were of a political nature and concerned with attempting to break up Turkish-German relations!

"Documents of this sort might have provided valuable lessons for our [German] politicians... if they were prepared to... study...British diplomacy... and political activity abroad... nor were they prepared to give credence to any statement that opposed their preconceived ideas".

Ankara appreciated Sir Hughes's activities more than Berlin. The end of November saw Moyzisch in Istanbul again.

At one stage Cicero had asked Moyzisch for US Dollars as well as English Pounds, so Moyzisch took £5,000 in new notes to their bank in Ankara to exchange.

A few weeks later his suspicions were confirmed when the manager phoned Moyzisch to tell him some of the pound notes were counterfeit. Moyzisch complained to Berlin, who told him that the bank

must have made a mistake, but still gave him authority to repay the bank with Embassy funds.

While in Berlin Moyzisch had heard rumours of a secret German project to forge British currency.

Although he could not believe that Berlin would jeopardise an operation as important as Cicero by paying him with forged money, he wanted to be sure. Moyzisch therefore took the notes to another bank in Istanbul (that the Consulate General) used and asked them to examine the notes on the pretext that the Embassy had been offered the notes in tender and wanted to check if they were genuine. After a few days he was informed that the bank considered them genuine.

By now Cicero, as far as Moyzisch was concerned, had passed a crucial test. One of Cicero's earlier reports stated that the Allies would start bombing Sofia on 13 November 1943, when this took place, many in Berlin started to believe his intelligence.

Moyzisch was shocked to discover that Belin had not informed Sofia of the raid, which caught the city unprepared.

December was the busiest month for both Cicero and Moyzisch but had started on a bad note. Moyzisch received a personal signal from Kaltenbrunner ordering him to stop showing von Papen, with immediate effect, any intelligence obtained from Cicero. Not only did Moyzisch choose to ignore this message, he showed it to von Papen as well.

Critical intelligence was being supplied by Cicero, who

was meeting Moyzisch every second or third day. He had brought copies of minutes of the first Cairo conference as well as the Tehran Conference.

As Moyzisch said: "Sitting there...typing a résumé of what the batch of photographs told me...I realised with brutal clarity that I was writing nothing less...than a preview of German's destruction".

These were dispatched to Berlin. By now Cicero was using film at such a rate that Moyzisch had rolls flown in from Berlin, as Ankara had only one photographic shop.

Cicero saw Moyzisch a day or two later, meeting as usual, at a street corner and driving around Ankara. Cicero gave Moyzisch another roll of film plus a little box: "Open it later...they'll know what to do with it in Berlin".

Suddenly Moyzisch realised that they were being followed and a car chase ensued through the streets of Ankara. Moyzisch was able to "loose his tail" but was very frightened by the matter. He never did discover who followed them that night, but presumed it was Turkish Intelligence.

When developed, the they showed that the Turkish President, Inonu and the Foreign Minister had secretly gone to Cairo (2nd Cairo Conference, 4-6 December 1943) to meet Churchill and Roosevelt. No one in Ankara had even realised that they had left.

This was despatched to Berlin along with the box. Inside the box was a wax impression for a new safe key. MI5 had finally realised there was a leak and

had the lock to Sir Hughes's safe changed.

The next meeting was arranged at a friend's house, Cicero supplied two rolls of film, which was subsequently developed. This brought a further puzzle.

One of the exposures clearly showed Cicero's hand holding the document being photographed – so, Cicero had an "assistant". While this was never established, it was presumed to be Mara, Lady Knatchbull-Hugessen's maid, with whom Cicero was having an affair. This brought a flood of questions from Berlin as well, but Moyzisch chose to ignore them.

The next batch of films brought more headache for the Embassy. It included a document dealing with Anglo-Turkish relations and that Ankara was prepared to accept British military personnel into Turkey, especially RAF and Navy, as well as the numbers involved, in contravention to Turkey's neutral status.

The wording included the line: "to maintain a threat to the Germans from the eastern Mediterranean until Overlord is launched." Moyzisch "showed Herr von Papen this grimly serious document...Herr von Papen decided to act at once...and the results were far reaching". He was never to learn, until after the war, what "Overlord" meant.

To be concluded in the October issue of Military Despatches.

Army speak 101

The military has always had their own way of doing things. And this includes having a rich vocabulary of slang terms.

The military world-wide has always had their own way of doing things. And this includes having their very own language.

The South African Defence Force (SADF) used a strange mixture of Afrikaans, English, slang and techno-speak that few outside of the military could hope to understand.

Some of the terms were humorous, some were clever, while others were downright crude.

Other armed forces around the world also have their own slang terms.

This article looks at just a few of these slang names and terms. Obviously we had to leave out some of the more crude and offensive terms. But I'm sure most of our readers will remember them.

Here is but a small sample of military slang.

- **Admin vortex (British)** - A disorganised Soldier.
- **Admiral of the Swiss Navy (Allied Forces WWII)** - A self-important person.
- **Agitate the gravel (Rhodesian Army)** - Lets go. Leave the place.
- **Air-dale (UK and US)** - Derogatory term for a pilot or aircrew.
- **Amen wallah (British Army)** - Used during World War I to describe a Chaplain.
- **Archie (British)** - Expression used during World War

I to describe an anti-aircraft gun.

- **Armoured cow (Australia)** - Tinned milk.
- **Army Banjo (Allied Forces WWII)** - Shovel.
- **Army Strawberries (Allied Forces WWII)** - Prunes.
- **Army's Lawn Dart (US)** - UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. Named for its inability to stay in the air. Also Known as a "Crash Hawk".
- **Asino morto (Italian)** - "Dead donkey", term for canned ham.
- **Axle Grease (Allied Forces WWII)** - Butter.
- **Bagger (Ireland)** - Derogatory term referring to an Irish reservist Soldier, comparing him/her to a sandbag, i.e.; useless.
- **Bait layer (Australian)** - An Army cook. Refers to a person who drops poison meat to kill dingos. The are also known as a Ration Assassin.
- **Battery Acid (SADF)** - Slang term given to concentrated cold drink that was mixed with water.
- **Bayonet Course (Allied Forces WWII)** - Hospital treatment for venereal diseases. "Bayonet" refers to the male member.
- **Beasting (British)** - Punishment drill or PT.
- **Become a Gold Star in Mom's Window (Allied Forces WWII)** - A gentle way of saying killed in ac-

tion.

- **Blister Mechanic (Allied Forces WWII)** - Medic.
- **Blou Gat (SADF)** - Expression used to describe a national serviceman who had reached the halfway point of his initial national service. It is an Afrikaans word literally meaning 'blue arse'.
- **Bokkop (SADF)** - Slang term for infantry soldier. It is derived from the Afrikaans word 'Buck Head'. The emblem of the infantry was a Springbok's head.
- **Bohica (US Navy)** - Bend over, here it comes again.
- **Blanket-stacker (British)** - Any storeman (even if he doesn't deal with blankets).
- **Bleu (France)** - A recruit. Derived from the French term for barely-cooked steak, symbolizing a "raw" recruit.
- **Blue on blue contact (UK and US)** - A friendly fire incident.
- **Body Snatcher (Allied Forces WWII)** - Stretcher bearer.
- **Boomer (US Navy)** - A nuclear ballistic missile submarine, or personnel serving aboard same.
- **Boozier (Australian)** - Pub or Bar on an Army Base.
- **Bottled Sunshine (Allied Forces WWII)** - Beer.
- **Bowl us the ages ek se (Rhodesian Army)** - What is the time?
- **Box 500 (British)** - The



Bokkop

nickname given by the SAS to MI5. Their official address is PO Box 500, London.

- **Brake Shoes (SADF)** - Slang term used to describe Provita Biscuits.
- **Brass (Worldwide)** - Top ranking officers.
- **Bravo Zulu (Worldwide navies)** - Well done.
- **Brown Navy (SADF)** - A term used to describe the South African Navy's Marines. They wore the normal brown uniform of the SADF, as opposed to the 'blue navy' who were the seafaring element of the navy.
- **Bundu (Rhodesian Army)** - The bush, the countryside.
- **Bungalow Bill (SADF)** - When troops lived in a bungalow or dormitory one of them would often be put in charge. Although this troop usually had no rank he was known as the Bungalow Bill.
- **Canned Morale (Allied Forces WWII)** - A movie.
- **Canteen medals (Australian)** - Beer or food stains on the breast of a shirt or jacket.
- **Charles (US)** - Nickname for the Viet Cong during

the Vietnam War. Shortened from the phonetic alphabet Victor Charles for VC.

- **Cherry (US)** - New recruit still in basic training.
- **Chibuli (Rhodesian Army)** - Beer.
- **Chicken Parade (SADF)** - Basically a clean up of an area, picking up papers, cigarette butts, and general refuse. In the navy this was known as 'skirmishing'.
- **Civvie sitrep (Rhodesian Army)** - News on the commercial radio.
- **Clutch Plate (SADF)** - Slang term given to hamburger patties.
- **Craphat (British)** - Used by members of the parachute regiment to denote what they class as lesser regiments. Taken from the fact that they wear the coveted Maroon beret that no-one else wears.
- **Culling (Rhodesian Army)** - Killing the enemy.
- **Dad (Allied Forces WWII)** - The oldest member of a group.
- **Dart thrower (Australian)** - A member of the Australian Intelligence Corps. Refers to the perceived method of identifying compounds/areas of interest for future operations, usually conducted eyes-shut with non-master hand to ensure statistically random results.
- **Devil Dodger, Siel Tiffie (SADF)** - Slang term for a padre, chaplain or priest.
- **Dicker (British)** - A look out, usually used to describe an enemy. A friendly look out is a stag.
- **Dirt dart (Australian)** -

Paratrooper.

- **Dirty Gertie of Bizerte (Allied Forces WWII)** - A promiscuous woman.
- **Doss bag (British)** - Sleeping bag.
- **Egyptian PT (British)** - Sleeping, particularly during the day. Probably dates from WW2 or before.
- **Elephant Virgin (SADF)** - Slang term given to slices of polony.
- **Engine Mountings (SADF)** - Slang term given to tinned braised Steak.
- **Flat dog (Rhodesian Army)** - Crocodile.
- **Fish and Chips (British)** - Slang term for urban warfare (Fighting in someone's house, causing havoc in people's streets).
- **Fitter and turner (SADF)** - Nickname for a chef, because he fits food into a pot and turns it into sh*t.
- **Flossie (SADF)** - Slang term for the Hercules C-130 transport aircraft.
- **Freds (Rhodesian Army)** - Frelimo. Mozambique Army.
- **Gimpy (British)** - The L7A2 GPMG 7.62x61mm belt-fed general purpose



Staaldak

machine gun.

- **Glasshouse, the (British)** - Military prison.
- **Go Kart (SADF)** - Slang term used for a twenty-man toilet. These were fibreglass toilet shells which were placed over a hole dug in the ground. They were mounted on wheels for easy movement.
- **God (British)** - The Regimental Sergeant Major.
- **Gomos (Rhodesian Army)** - Hills.
- **Gong (British)** - A campaign medal.
- **Green slime (British)** - Army intelligence personnel.
- **GV (SADF)** - A term used for someone who was very enthusiastic. It was short for the Afrikaans *Grens Vegter* or 'border fighter'.
- **Gypo (SADF)** - Used as a term for avoiding work. A person that was lazy was known as a *gypo gat*.
- **Gypo Guts (SADF)** - Slang term for diarrhoea.
- **Hondo (Rhodesian Army)** - War, conflict (Shona).
- **Houding (SADF)** - An Afrikaans word meaning 'attitude'.



Jimmy

- **Interflora (SADF)** - Derogatory term for a member of the Signals Corp. Their emblem of the winged figure of Mercury was also used by the national florists, Interflora.
- **Jimmy (SADF)** - Slang term for signaller.
- **Jol (SADF)** - An Afrikaans slang expression for a party.
- **Jollie patrollie (SADF)** - Used to denote any excursion or activity regarded as fun. Literal translation means 'jolly patrol'.
- **K-Car (Rhodesian Army)** - Nickname given to an Alouette III helicopter armed with twin FN-MAG light machine guns. The K stood for 'kill'.
- **Katunda (Rhodesian Army)** - Personal kit.
- **Kettenhunde (German WW II)** - Military Police, named for the chain and badge they wore as a symbol of their duties.
- **Lemon (Rhodesian Army)** - Nothing there. Normally used to describe an operation or patrol which produced nothing.
- **Long (Rhodesian Army)** - Many / much / a lot.
- **Min Dae (SADF)** - Afrikaans expression meaning 'few days'. This was used by troops who had only a short time before they completed their military service.
- **Min Dae Chips (SADF)** - Slang term for Cornflakes (breakfast cereal).
- **MMWC (Rhodesian Army)** - The leader / person in charge. (Main man what counts).



Tommy cooker

- **Mujiba (Rhodesian Army)** - Young insurgent supporter, their 'eyes and ears' (Shona).
- **Muti - (Rhodesian Army)** - Medicine of any description.
- **Mushi (Rhodesian Army)** - Really nice / good.
- **Noddy Car (SADF)** - Slang expression for an Eland-60 armoured car.
- **Numpty (Australian)** - An individual who just doesn't get it
- **Olifant Skilfers (SADF)** - Slang term for Cornflakes (breakfast cereal). It is an Afrikaans expression meaning 'elephant dandruff'.
- **Ou Man (SADF)** - Term used for a troop who only had a short time left of his national service. It is Afrikaans for 'old man'.
- **PB's (SADF)** - Term for local population. From the Afrikaans 'plaaslike bevolking'.
- **Pineapple (Allied Forces WWII)** - A hand grenade.
- **Pongo (SADF)** - Slang for members of the army. Refers to the often unavailability of washing facilities. The expression; "Everywhere the army goes, the pong goes," was the origin of this.
- **Put your slayer onto sing (Rhodesian Army)** - Put your LMG/rifle on automatic.



Varkpan

- **Retread (Allied Forces WWII)** - A veteran of World War I fighting in World War II.
- **Rofie (SADF)** - Term used for a new recruit. It comes from the Afrikaans word meaning 'scab'.
- **Santa Maria (SADF)** - SADF issued underpants. Hardly ever worn by the troops but rather used to polish floors or boots.
- **Screw (Australian)** - Corporal.
- **Shrapnel (SADF)** - Slang term for tinned mixed Vegetables.
- **Shumba (Rhodesian Army)** - Lion Lager. From the Shona word for Lion.
- **Skrapnel hoender (SADF)** - Term used to describe a meal consisting of shredded chicken. It is an Afrikaans expression meaning shrapnel chicken.
- **Sleeve trash (Australian)** - NCOs. They wear their rank on their sleeve as opposed to officers who wear theirs on their shoulder.
- **Slot (Rhodesian Army)** - To kill.
- **Sniffel tiffy (SADF)** - Member of the Intelligence Corps. From the Afrikaans 'sniffing mechanic'.
- **Staaldak (SADF)** - Afrikaans term for the helmet

that was issued to SADF troops. It was hardly ever referred to as a steel helmet though. Even the English speaking people would refer to it as a staaldak.

- **Stay frosty (US)** - Regular term among Soldiers to both stay calm and stay alert.
- **Suurstof dief (SADF)** - Derogatory term for those in non-combatant roles. Afrikaans expression meaning 'oxygen thief'.
- **Tab (British)** - To march quickly with full pack and rifle. Used by the British Army.
- **Tampax Tiffy (SADF)** - Slang term for a medic.
- **Taxi's (SADF)** - Cloths or strips of blankets which were wrapped around your boots so as not to dirty the floor.
- **Throw some sky into my rounds (Rhodesian Army)** - Put air in the tyres of a vehicle.
- **Tiffy (SADF)** - Mechanic or member of the Technical Services Corps.
- **Tit's up (British)** - To be dead, lying on your back with your chest facing skyward, hence Tits-Up.
- **Tommy (German WW II)** - British soldier.
- **Tommy cooker (German WW II)** - German nickname for the American Sherman tank.
- **TTL (Rhodesian Army)** - Tribal Trust Land.
- **Tubbin (Australian)** - Thumb Up Bum, Brain In Neutral.
- **Varkpan (SADF)** - Slang term for the tray on which food was sometimes served.

It is an Afrikaans word meaning 'pig pan'.

- **Vasbyt (SADF)** - Afrikaans term meaning 'bite fast'. It was used to encourage each other.
- **Vleisbom (SADF)** - Derogatory term used to describe parabats (paratroopers), usually by non-parabats. Afrikaans term meaning 'meat bomb'.
- **Vindaloos (British)** - Fireproof underwear used by the SAS.
- **Vorster Orrel (SADF)** - Nickname for the Valkiri 127 mm multiple rocket launcher. It refers to the late President John Vorster. The feared Soviet equivalent was nicknamed the 'Stalin Organ'.
- **White Gold (SADF)** - Slang expression for toilet paper.
- **Wombles (Rhodesian Army)** - Police Special Reserve. Middle aged volunteers who patrolled the urban areas.
- **Yomp (British)** - To march quickly with full pack and rifle. Used by the Royal Marines.

Trust you enjoyed these.



White Gold

COVID-19 UNABLE TO SINK TS ROOK

By Lt Lisa Spencer, Officer Commanding, TS Rook

The year 2020 started with a bang with eight new Sea Cadet Nee Entries at TS rooks, a successful swimming gala at TS Bounty and a great training day at TS Arethus (Guanteng water unit).

Everyone was excited and eager to hone their Sea Cadet skills and have some "Serious" Fun.

Then... Covid-19 hit like a hurricane, with the potential to destroy everything in its path.

Sea Cadet parades came to an abrupt end but that didn't mean cadets at TS Rook came to an end. "Borrowing" an idea from TS Woltemade the decision

was made to use the Whatsapp group to give the cadets challenges to complete. These they could then post onto the group once completed.

In this way, we have managed to cover 90% of the theory in the New Entry and Basic Seaman task books during Lockdown. Senior Cadets were given separate tasks to complete relevant to their curriculum. Covering practical tasks have been more challenging but cadets have posted videos of themselves doing bends and hitches, piping and teaching their siblings how to march. The ingenuity of the Cadets has been very interest-

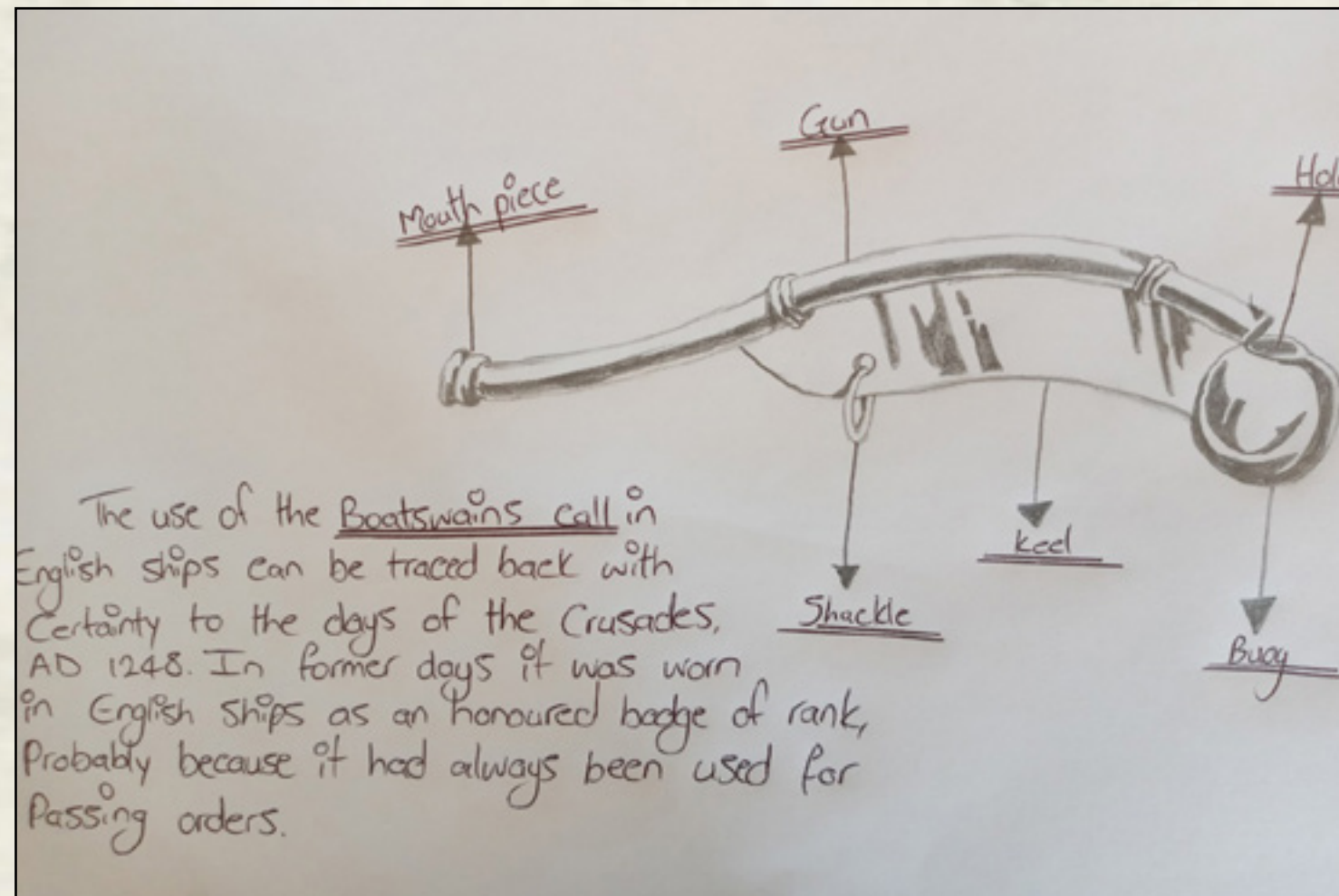
ing.

One of the tasks was to create a Bosun's Call, show how it is held, to find a bit of history about it and to "pipe" the STILL and CARRY ON.

Seaman Leshawn Gordon who was enrolled as a Cadet in November 2019, is one of the cadets who has taken up the challenges set. Seaman Gordon submitted 3 drawings and a video of himself "piping".

When asked how he felt about the tasks and the lack of cadet activities he responded:

"I love the tasks, it's been a long time since my brain has



BOSUN'S PIPE: The Bosun's Pipi / Call beautifully drawn by Seaman Leshawn Gordon and submitted as part of his online submission to the Officer Commanding TS Rook.



been challenged, they are fun and hard, they give me the chance to show my different skills". "I miss attending the unit every Saturday. I think about going, but then the virus is in the way."

As a ship's company, we may have been buffeted around by the current storm and had to change tack a few times in order to remain afloat. Yet with the innovative ideas and training videos from my officers, the hard work from the Cadets and support of the parents, TS Rook is still sailing and having "Serious" Fun.

SOS - If anyone out there is able to assist the Sea Cadets with data or data as prizes for online work please see www.seadafets/za.org.

WELL DONE: Seaman Leshawn Gordon from TS Rook who responded to the online Basic Seaman course offered during COVID-19 by the Officer Commanding & Officers.



Springbok

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



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

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

A matter of survival - Shelters III

Over the next few months we will be running a series of articles looking at survival, something that has always been important for those in the military. This month we look at tepees and lean-tos.

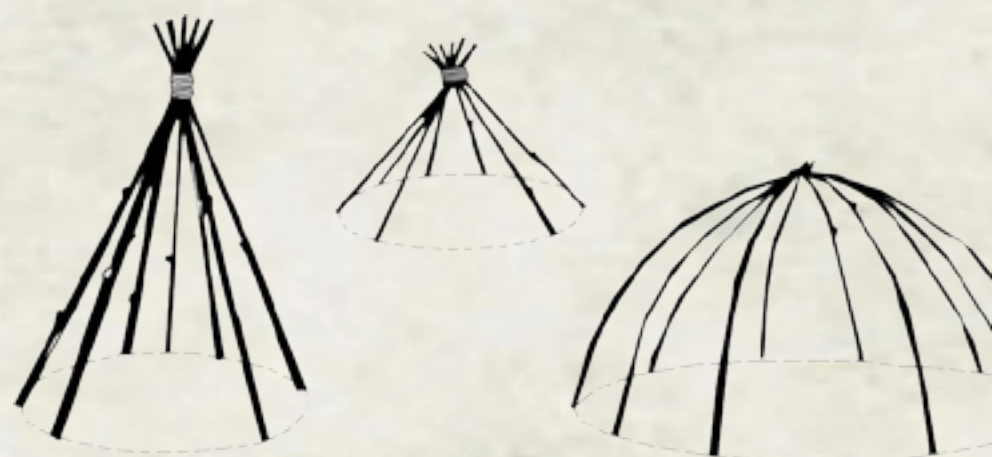
Last month we took a look at temporary shelters. This month we are going to look at more sturdy constructions that can be used for a longer period of time.

Tepees

Best known from its North American forms, the tepee in various forms occurs in many cultures.

The quickest type to erect uses three or more angled support poles, tied where they cross to make a cone.

They can be tied on the ground and lifted into place before covering with hides, birch bark panels or sheeting. Leave an opening at the top for ventilation.



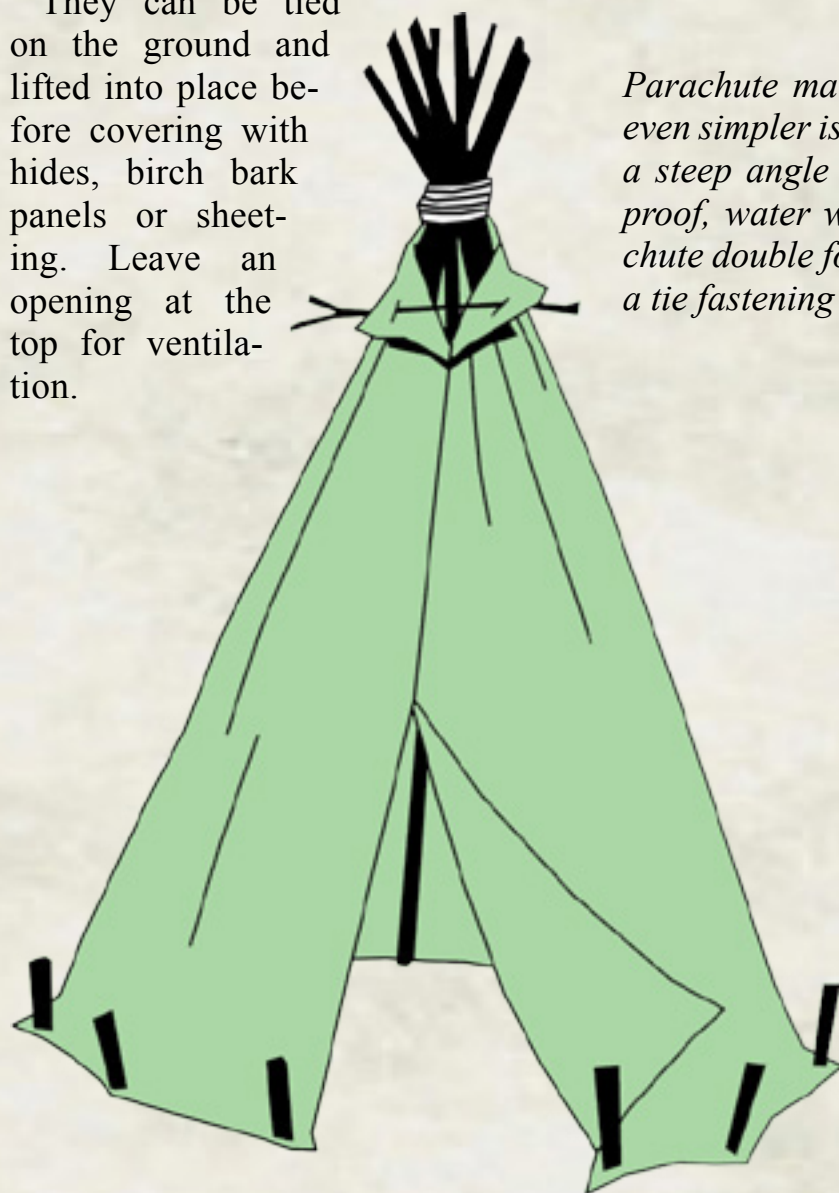
Parachute tepee

A parachute tepee is simple to construct. If you have a large sheet of plastic it can also be used to construct a parachute

tepee.

A parachute, suspended by its centre, makes an instant tepee. Peg out the bottom edge.

Parachute material can be used to cover a tepee, but even simpler is to suspend one from a tree. Give the sides a steep angle and, even when the fabric is not waterproof, water will run off. Fold a segment of the parachute double for a door flap, slit along a seam and make a tie fastening to close it.

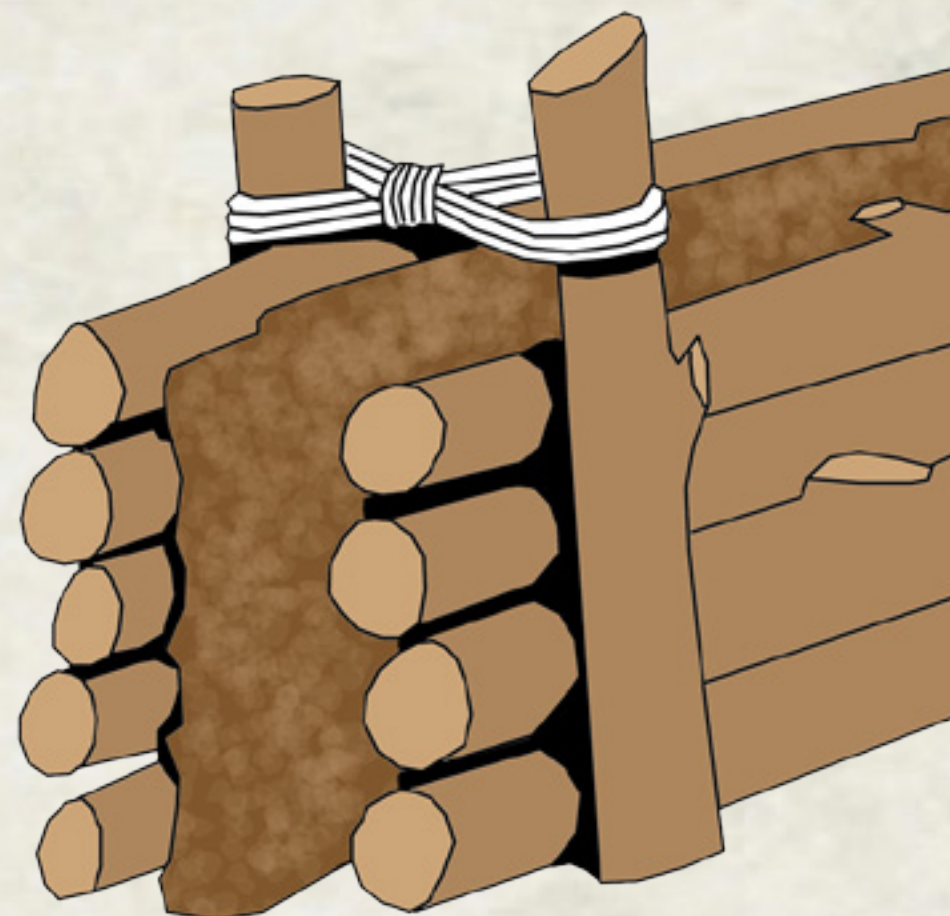


Stick walls and screens

It is easy to build walls by piling sticks between uprights driven into the ground and, if possible, tied at the top.

Caulk them well to keep out wind and rain. There are ideal for making one side of a shelter, for blocking a shelter's opening or for a heat reflector

behind a fire. If large rocks are not available use this method to dam a stream.



To make a very sturdy stick wall, increase the space between the uprights, use two stacks of sticks and, as you build it, fill the space between with earth.

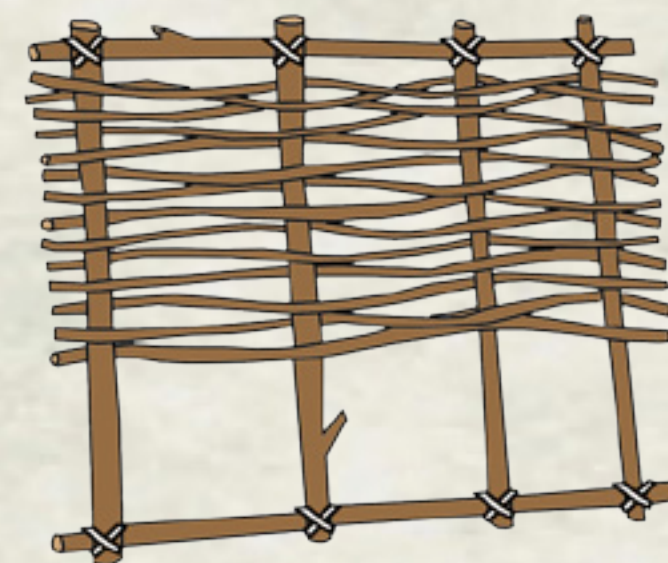
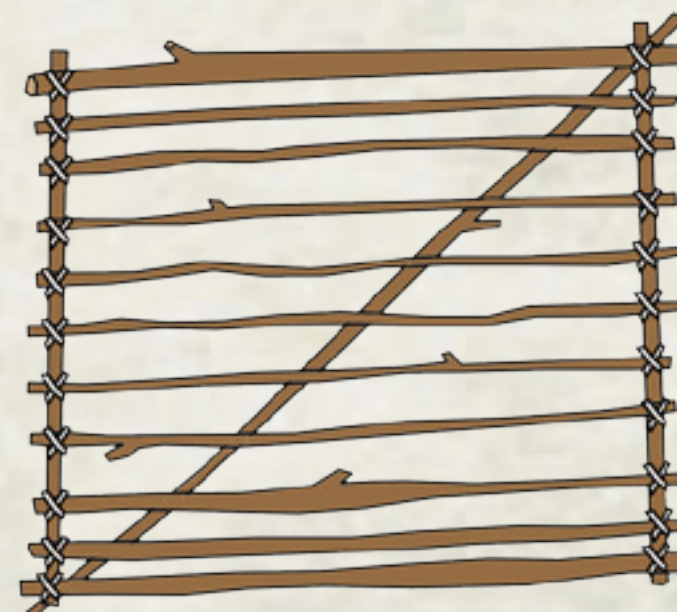
Coverings

Make wattle and woven coverings for roofs or wall from springy saplings, plant stems, grasses and long leaves (ei-

ther whole or, if large enough, shredded for tighter weaving). First make a framework from less pliable materials, either *in situ* or as a separate panel to at-

tach later. Tie the main struts in position. Weave in more pliant materials.

If no ties are available drive vertical stakes into the ground



and weave saplings between them. Caulk with earth and grasses.

If suitable firm cross pieces are too few, weave creepers between the uprights.

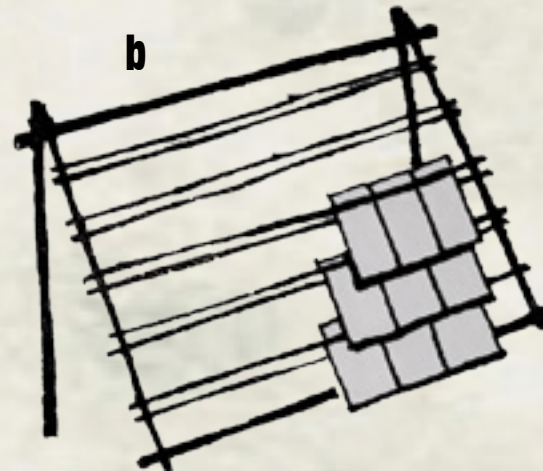
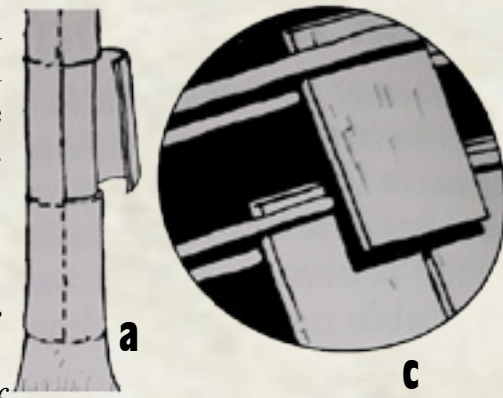
Long grass can be bunched and woven, overlap the ends irregularly to make a continuous warp and weft. Or use birch bark to make shingles.

Ring a birch tree with even 60cm cuts and carefully remove the bark (a). Across a frame fix pairs of canes or creepers in close spaced pairs



Very large leaves, lashed or weighted down, or hooked over lines of creeper, can be overlapped like tiles or shingles to keep out the rain.

(b). Upper ends of shingle are gripped between the canes, the lower ends rest on top of those below (c).



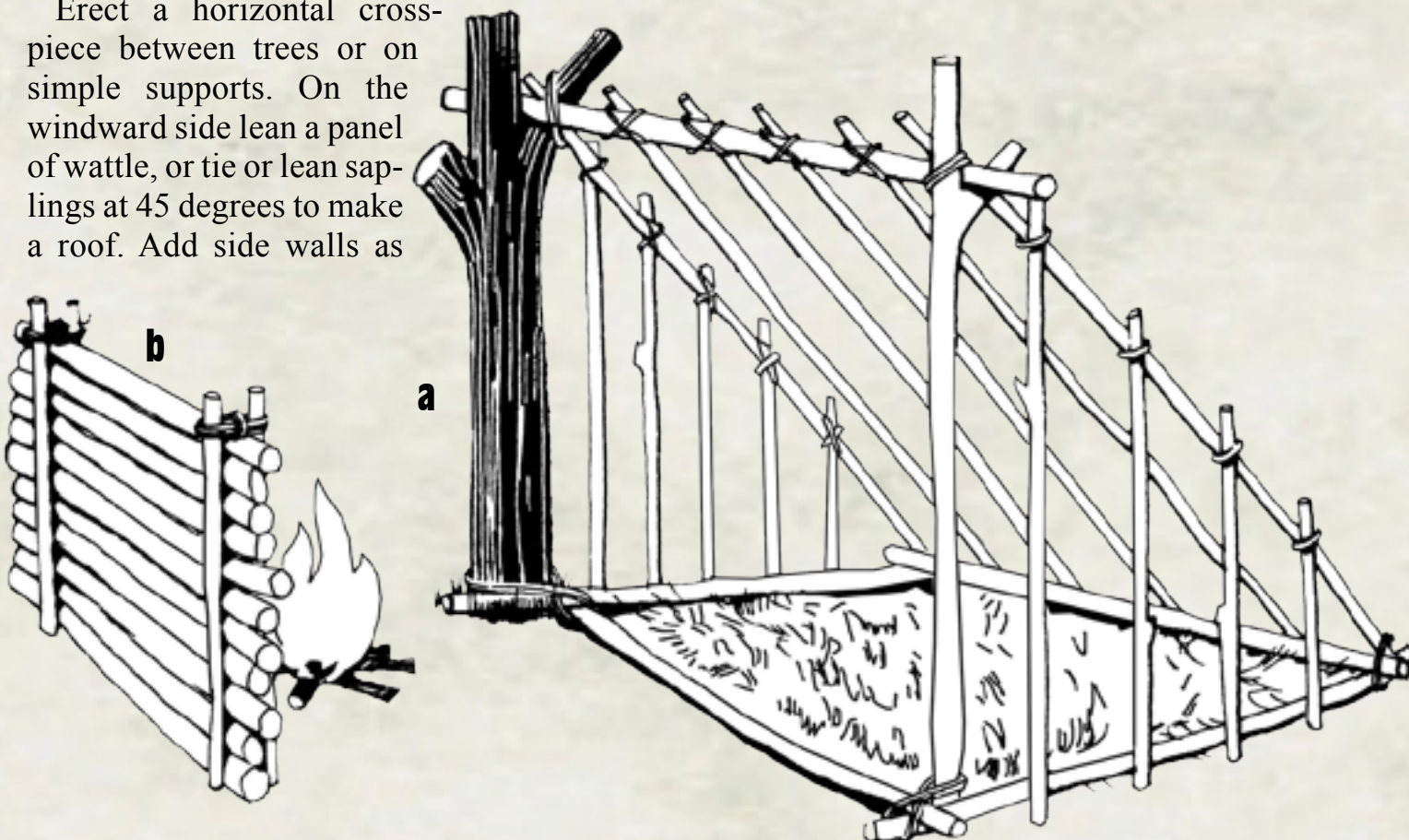
Open lean-to shelter

If there is nothing solid to lean a roof against and you are not trying to keep out heavy rain or a blizzard, use panels of wattle or frames covered in grass for protection.

Erect a horizontal cross-piece between trees or on simple supports. On the windward side lean a panel of wattle, or tie or lean saplings at 45 degrees to make a roof. Add side walls as

necessary (a). Site your fire on the leeward. All side pieces and - this is important - build a reflector (b) on the other side of the fire to make sure that you get the full benefit of the warmth.

Next month we will look at more permanent shelters including using caves and building sod shelters and log cabins.



A RICH LIVING HISTORY
AIRCRAFT FROM THE 1930's TO MODERN DAY

**HISTORIC
COLLECTION**

SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE MUSEUM PORT ELIZABETH

HISTORIC LOCATION

The museum is located on the grounds of the historic old WWII 42 Air School on the South side of the airport in the vintage Air Gunnery Training Centre & Bellman hangar.

RICH HISTORY

The valuable historic grounds, buildings and artifacts displayed in the museum reflect a richly diverse history of South African Air Force aircraft, the people, and the wars.

ART GALLERY

A collection of aviation and contemporary oil paintings and illustrations, including prints & postcards, are on display and available to purchase by artist Don Bell. The artist also accepts commissions for original works customised for the owner.

LIBRARY

The extensive library contains over 600 aviation and aircraft related books.



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Sit in a real Buccaneer flight simulator and fly the integrated gaming-sim.

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e: saafmpe@gmail.com

www.saafmuseum.org.za



Rank Structure - Finnish Defence Forces

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 Finnish Defence Forces.

The Finnish Defence Forces (*Puolustusvoimat*) are responsible for the defence of Finland.

A universal male conscription is in place, under which all men above 18 years of age serve for 165, 255, or 347 days.

Alternative non-military service for all men, and volunteer service for all women are possible.

Finnish Army

The Finnish Army (*Maavoimat*) is the land forces branch of the Finnish Defence Forces. Today's Army is divided into six branches: the infantry (which includes armoured units), field artillery, anti-aircraft artillery,

engineers, signals, and materiel (support) troops.

The commander of the Finnish Army since 1 August 2017 is Lieutenant General Petri Hulkko.

Finnish Air Force

The Finnish Air Force (*Ilmavoimat*) is one of the branches of the Finnish Defence Forces. Its peacetime tasks are airspace surveillance, identification flights, and production of readiness formations for wartime conditions. The Finnish Air Force was founded on 6 March 1918.

The current commander is Major General Pasi Jokinen.

Finnish Navy

The Finnish Navy (*Merivoimat*) is one of the branches of the Finnish Defence Forces.

The navy employs 2,300 people and about 4,300 conscripts are trained each year. Finnish Navy vessels are given the ship prefix "FNS", short for "Finnish Navy ship", but this is not used in Finnish language contexts.

The Finnish Navy also includes coastal forces and coastal artillery.

The current commander is Rear Admiral Jori Harju.



Finnish Army

Non-commissioned Officers (NCO)



Sotamies
(Private)



Korpraali
(Private First Class)



Alikersantti
(Corporal)



Kersantti
(Sergeant)



Ylikersantti
(Staff Sergeant)



Vääpeli
(Sergeant First Class)



Ylivääpeli
(Master Sergeant)



Sotilasmestari
(Sergeant Major)

Officers



Upseerioppilas
(Student Officer)



Upseerikokelas
(Candidate Officer)



Vänrikki
(Second Lieutenant)



Majuri
(Major)



Everstiluutnantti
(Lieutenant Colonel)



Eversti
(Colonel)



Prikaatikenraali
(Brigadier General)



Kenraalimajuri
(Major General)



Kenraaliluutnantti
(Lieutenant General)



Kenraali
(General)



Finnish Air Force

Non-commissioned Officers (NCO)



Sotamies
(Private)



Korpraali
(Private First Class)



Alikersantti
(Corporal)



Kersantti
(Sergeant)



Ylikersantti
(Staff Sergeant)



Vääpeli
(Sergeant First Class)



Ylivääpeli
(Master Sergeant)



Sotilasmestari
(Sergeant Major)

Officers



Upseerioppilas
(Student Officer)



Upseerikokelas
(Candidate Officer)



Vänrikki
(Second Lieutenant)



Majuri
(Major)



Everstiluutnantti
(Lieutenant Colonel)



Eversti
(Colonel)



Prikaatikenraali
(Brigadier General)



Kenraalimajuri
(Major General)



Kenraaliluutnantti
(Lieutenant General)



Kenraali
(General)



Finnish Navy

Non-commissioned Officers (NCO)



Matruusi
(Seaman)



Ylimatruusi
(Able Seaman)



Alikersantti
(Corporal)



Kersantti
(Sergeant)



Ylikersantti
(Staff Sergeant)



Pursimies
(Boatswain)



Ylipursimies
(Senior Chief Petty Officer)



Sotilasmestari
(Master Chief Petty Officer)

Officers



Upseerioppilas
(Student Officer)



Upseerikokelas
(Candidate Officer)



Aliluutnantti
(Ensign)



Luutnantti
(Lieutenant J.G.)



Yliluutnantti
(Lieutenant)



Kapteeniluutnantti
(Senior Lieutenant)



Komentajakapteeni
(Lieutenant-Commander)



Komentaja
(Commander)



Kommodori
(Captain)



Lippueamiraali
(Commodore)



Kontra-amiraali
(Rear Admiral)



Vara-amiraali
(Vice Admiral)



Amiraali
(Admiral)

The Six Day War

In Part II of our Head-to-head series on the Six Day War, we look at the armour used by Israel, Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

In the history of modern warfare only two wars have been shorter than the Six-Day War in 1967.

The 'Football War' fought in 1969 between El Salvador and Honduras lasted for just 100 hours (four days).

Of course the shortest war in history was the Anglo-Zanzibar War. It was fought on 27 August 1896 between the Zanzibar Sultanate and Great Britain. The entire war lasted all of 38

minutes.

While it was known as the Six-Day War, the end result of the war was all but decided on the first day - 5 June 1967.

In a pre-emptive strike on the morning of 5 June, The Israeli Air Force had taken out the Arab air forces while they were still on the ground.

They first struck at Egypt before turning their attention to Jordan and Syria. The fact of the matter is that the Jordanian

and Syrian Air Forces had been destroyed within the space of 25 minutes.

Six hours or so after the first IAF aircraft had soared into the morning sky, Israel had won the Six-Day War.

Destroying the Arab air forces didn't just mean that Israeli troops could operate without the threat of air attack; it also meant that Israeli aircraft could relentlessly bomb and strafe Arab ground troops, which



Centurion tank

turned the Egyptian retreat from Sinai into a rout. A total of 418 Arab aircraft were destroyed for the loss of 27 Israeli aircraft.

Not that the tank crews and paratroopers on the ground wouldn't face some hard fighting in the Sinai, the Golan and Jerusalem.

The war saw some classic tank battles, such as the Battle of Abu-Ageila. The Egyptians had 66 tanks (T34/85s with 85 mm guns) and 22 tank destroyers (SU-100s with 100 mm guns).

The Israelis had 150 tanks with over 100 Centurion and Super Shermans armed with 105 mm guns. The rest were

AMX-13s with 75 mm guns). The Israeli guns were not only more accurate, they also had a longer range.

The Israeli forces were led Major General Ariel Sharon, later a prominent politician and prime minister of Israel.

The battle was decisive defeat for the Egyptians and was critical to the eventual loss of the entire Sinai Peninsula to Israel.

The victory at Abu-Ageila meant the road to the Central Sinai was open for the Israelis in general, Sharon and his forces in particular. Many of the Egyptian units remained intact and could have tried to prevent the Israelis from reaching the Suez Canal.

However, when the Egyptian Minister of Defence, Field Marshal Abdel Hakim Amer heard

about the fall of Abu-Ageila, he panicked and ordered all units in the Sinai to retreat to the west bank of the Suez canal within a single day.

There was no plan for the retreat, so the units left behind heavy equipment, and sometimes even outpaced their commanders. This resulted in the Israelis racing to capture abandoned sites, and obtaining significant amounts of abandoned tanks and equipment.

During this battle the Egyptians suffered 2,000 casualties and 64 tanks were destroyed. The Israelis had 42 troops killed, 140 wounded and eight tanks were destroyed.



T55 tank



Israel 800 tanks

M50 and M51 Sherman

The Sherman M-50 and the Sherman M-51, both often referred abroad as the Super Sherman, were modified versions of the American M4 Sherman tank that served with the Israel Defence Forces from the mid-1950s to early 1980s. The M-51 was also referred to as the Isherman (i.e. Israeli Sherman). However, the designations "Super Sherman" and "Isherman" were never used by the Israeli Defence Forces.

- Weight: 31.6 tonnes
- Length: 6.06 metres
- Width: 2.62 metres



- Height: 2.74 metres
- Crew: 5
- Armour: 13–76 mm
- Main Armament: 105 mm Modèle F1
- Secondary Armament: 1 × .50 cal Browning M2HB
- machine gun, 2 × .30-06 Browning M1919A5 machine guns
- Engine: Continental R-975 Gasoline
- Range: 161 km
- Max speed: 40.2 km/h

M48A3 Patton

The Sherman M-50 and the Sherman M-51, both often referred abroad as the Super Sherman, were modified versions of the American M4 Sherman tank that served with the Israel Defence Forces from the mid-1950s to early 1980s. The M-51 was also referred to as the Isherman (i.e. Israeli Sherman). However, the designations "Super Sherman" and "Isherman" were never used by the Israeli Defence Forces.

- Weight: 49.6 tonnes
- Length: 9.3 metres
- Width: 3.65 metres



- Height: 3.1 metres
- Crew: 4
- Armour: 110–220 mm
- Main Armament: 105 mm L7
- Secondary Armament: 1 × .50 cal Browning M2HB
- machine gun, 1 × .M37/T153 machine gun
- Engine: AVDS-1790 diesel
- Range: 463 km
- Max speed: 48 km/h

Centurion

The Centurion was the primary British army main battle tank of the post-Second World War period. Introduced in 1945, it is widely considered to be one of the most successful post-war tank designs, remaining in production into the 1960s, and seeing combat in the front lines into the 1980s.

Israel's army used Centurions in the 1967 Six-Day War, 1973 Yom Kippur War, and during 1978 South Lebanon conflict and 1982 Lebanon War.

- Weight: 52 tonnes



- Length: 7.6 metres
- Width: 3.38 metres
- Height: 3.01 metres
- Crew: 4
- Armour: 51–152 mm
- Main Armament: 105 mm L7
- Secondary Armament: 1 × Co-axial .30 cal Browning machine gun
- Engine: Rolls-Royce Meteor
- Range: 80 km
- Max speed: 35 km/h



Egypt 1,200 tanks

T-34/85

The T-34 is a Soviet medium tank introduced in 1940, famously deployed during World War II against Operation Barbarossa.

Egypt went on to build the T-34-100, a local and unique conversion that was made up of a Soviet BS-3 100 mm heavy field-artillery gun mounted within a heavily modified turret.

- Weight: 26.5 tonnes
- Length: 6.68 metres
- Width: 3.0 metres
- Height: 2.45 metres



- Crew: 5
- Armour: 15–60 mm
- Main Armament: 85 mm D-5T gun
- Secondary Armament: 2 × 7.62 mm DT machine guns
- Engine: Model V-2-34 38.8 L V12 Diesel engine
- Range: 250-300 km
- Max speed: 53 km/h

T-54/T-55

The T-54 and T-55 tanks are a series of Soviet main battle tanks introduced in the years following the Second World War. The first T-54 prototype was completed at Nizhny Tagil by the end of 1945.

T-54s and T-55s have been involved in many of the world's armed conflicts since the later part of the 20th century.

- Weight: 36 tonnes
- Length: 9.00 metres
- Width: 3.37 metres
- Height: 2.4 metres
- Crew: 4

- Armour: 20–205 mm
- Main Armament: D-10T 100 mm rifled gun
- Secondary Armament: 12.7 mm DShK heavy machine gun
- Engine: Model V-55(V-54) V-12 water-cooled. 38.88-l diesel
- Range: Various
- Max speed: 48 km/h



PT-76

The PT-76 is a Soviet amphibious light tank that was introduced in the early 1950s and soon became the standard reconnaissance tank of the Soviet Army and the other Warsaw Pact armed forces.

Overall, some 25 countries used the PT-76. The PT-76 is used in the reconnaissance and fire-support roles.

- Weight: 14.6 tonnes
- Length: 7.63 metres
- Width: 3.15 metres
- Height: 2.325 metres
- Crew: 3

- Armour: 7–25 mm
- Main Armament: 76.2 mm D-56T rifled tank gun
- Secondary Armament: 7.62 mm PKT machine gun coax machine gun
- Engine: V-6 Type diesel
- Range: 400 km
- Max speed: 44 km/h



SU-100

The SU-100 (Samokhodnaya Ustanovka 100) was a Soviet tank destroyer armed with a 100 mm anti-tank gun in a casemate superstructure.

It was used extensively during the last year of World War II and saw service for many years afterwards with the armies of Soviet allies around the world.

- Weight: 31.6 tonnes
- Length: 9.45 metres
- Width: 3.0 metres
- Height: 2.25 metres
- Crew: 4



- Armour: 20–75 mm
- Main Armament: 100 mm D-10S gun
- Secondary Armament: 12.7 mm DShK heavy machine gun
- Engine: Kharkiv Model V-2 V-12 diesel engine
- Range: 250 km
- Max speed: 48 km/h

Syria 400 tanks

Syria used the same tanks as Egypt. They also used Panzer IV, Sturmgeschütz III and Jagdpanzer IV (ex-German vehicles)

Jordan 200 tanks

Jordan used US M47, M48, and M48A1 Patton tanks. These were all American tanks.

Iraq 400 tanks

Iraq were equipped with the same tanks used by the Egyptian army.



M47 Patton tank



Panzer IV

Võ Nguyên Giáp

With no formal military training, this history teacher would go on to become one of the greatest military strategists of the 20th century.

He was a history teacher, with no direct military training, but he was influenced by historical military leaders, personally citing T. E. Lawrence and Napoleon as his two greatest influences.

He would go on to transform a rag-tag band of rebels into a light-infantry army capable of taking on a larger, better equipped, modernised army.

He was an effective logistician and would go on to become a general and later a politician. He was considered one of the greatest military strategists of the 20th century and would earn the nickname 'Red Napoleon'.

His name was Võ Nguyên Giáp.

Early life

Võ Nguyên Giáp was born on 25 August 1911 in Quảng Bình Province, French Indochina.

His father, Võ Quang Nghiêm, was a minor official and a dedicated Vietnamese nationalist. Giáp had two sisters and a brother.

When Giáp was eight years old his father was arrested by the French colonial authorities for subversive activities. He died in prison a few weeks later.

Soon after this one

of his sisters was also arrested. Although she was not held for long the harsh treatment in prison made her ill. She died a few weeks after being released.

Giáp was an intelligent young boy and had been taught at home before going to the village school.

He was soon transferred to the

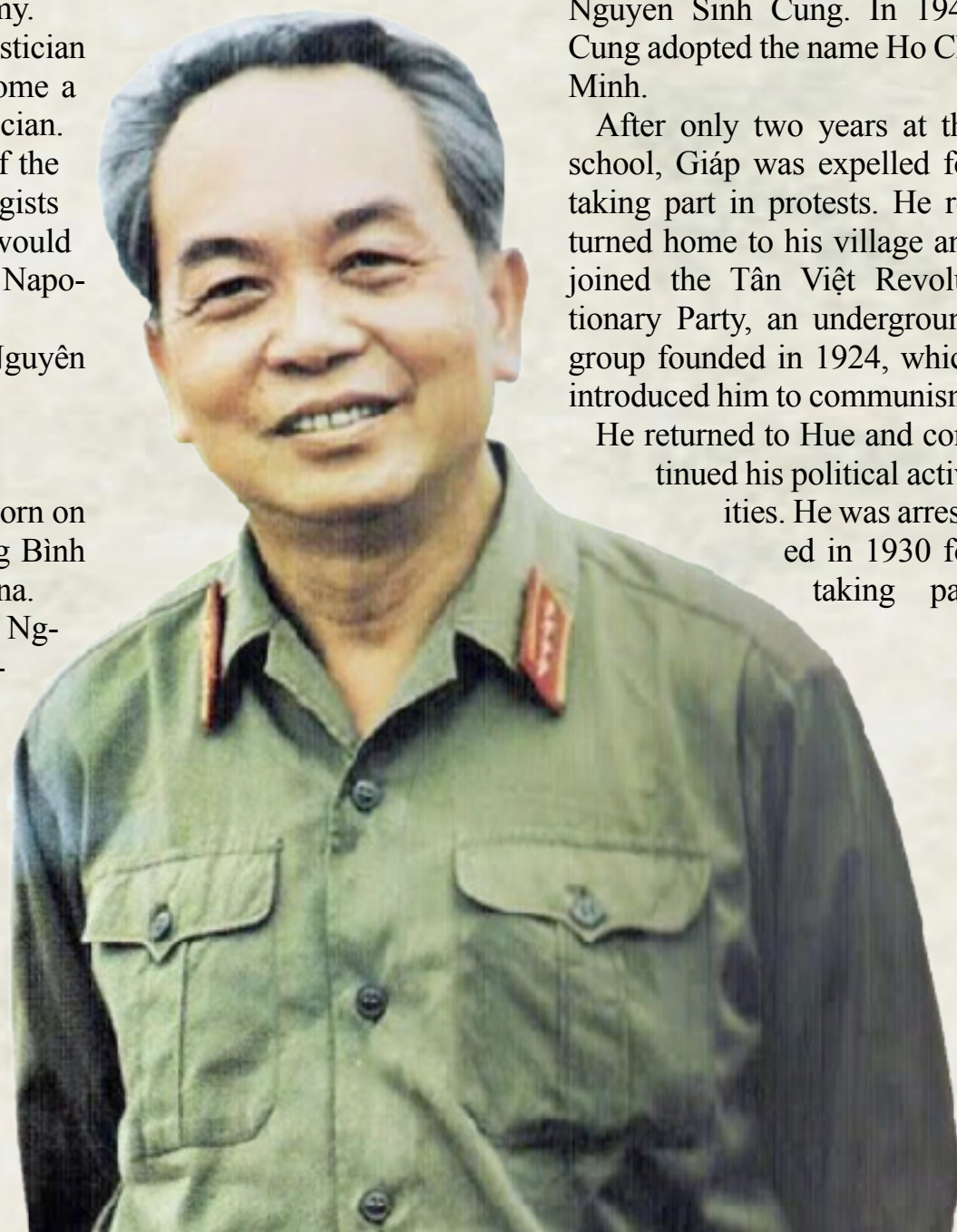
district school and, at the age of 13, he left home to attend the Quốc Học (National Academy) in Huế.

Also attending the academy was Ngô Đình Diệm, who would become the President of South Vietnam from 1955 to 1963.

Years earlier the same school had educated another boy, Nguyen Sinh Cung. In 1943 Cung adopted the name Ho Chi Minh.

After only two years at the school, Giáp was expelled for taking part in protests. He returned home to his village and joined the Tân Việt Revolutionary Party, an underground group founded in 1924, which introduced him to communism.

He returned to Hue and continued his political activities. He was arrested in 1930 for taking part



in student protests and served 13 months of a two-year sentence at Lao Bảo Prison.

He joined the Communist Party of Vietnam in 1931 and took part in several demonstrations against French rule in Indochina as well as assisting in founding the Democratic Front in 1933.

From 1933 to 1938, Giáp studied at the Vietnam National University of Hanoi where he earned a bachelor's degree in law with a major in political economy.

Exile in China

While studying at university he met Nguyen Thi Minh Giang and in June 1938 they were married.

Due to his political activities he failed the examinations for the Certificate of Administrative Law and was unable to practice as a lawyer. Instead he took a job as a history teacher at the Thăng Long School in Hanoi.

Besides his teaching, he also worked as a journalist, writing articles for Tiếng Dân (Voice of the People).

All the while, Giáp was a dedicated reader of military history and philosophy, revering Sun Tzu. He also made a particular study of Napoleon's generalship, and greatly admired T. E. Lawrence's Seven Pillars of Wisdom, learning from it practical examples of how to apply minimum military force to maximum effect.

The French outlawed the Indochinese Communist Party after the signing of the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact. The reasoning

was that if Hitler and Stalin had joined forces, then the communist must be bad.

The party decided that Giáp should leave Vietnam and go into exile in China. On 3 May 1940 he said farewell to his wife, left Hanoi and crossed the border into China. Giáp's wife was arrested, sentenced to fifteen years imprisonment.

In China, Giáp joined up with Hồ Chí Minh, then an adviser to the People's Liberation Army.

In September 1940, Vichy France agreed to the Japanese occupation of Vietnam, to 'protect' Indochina.

In May 1941 the Eighth Congress of the Indochinese Communist Party decided to form the Viet Minh and Giáp was made responsible for establishing an intelligence network and organising political bases in the far north of the country.

World War II

In 1942 Giáp and about forty men moved back into Vietnam and established themselves in remote caves near the village of Vu Nhai. This and similar small groups in the mountains were the basis of the Viet Minh, the armed wing of the Vietnam Independence League.

For the next few years he and his comrades worked steadily to build up a small military force and to win local people over to the communist cause. By the end of 1943 several hundred men and women had joined the Viet Minh.

During the summer of 1943 Giáp learnt that his wife had

been beaten to death by guards in the central prison in Hanoi. Her sister was guillotined and Giáp's only daughter died in prison of unknown causes.

In September 1944 the first Revolutionary Party Military Conference was held and it was agreed that the time was now right to take the military struggle forward into a new phase. The formation of the Vietnam Liberation army was proclaimed, with Giáp as its commander.

Ho Chi Minh decided that for propaganda purposes, the Armed Propaganda Unit had to win a military victory within a month of being established, so on Christmas Day 1944 Giáp led successful attacks against French outposts at Khai Phat and Na Ngan. Two French lieutenants were killed and the Vietnamese soldiers in the outposts surrendered. The Viet Minh attackers suffered no casualties.

A few weeks later, Giáp was wounded in the leg when his group attacked another outpost at Dong Mu.

In one of the ironies of history, between May and August 1945 the United States, keen to support anti-Japanese forces in mainland Asia, actively supplied and trained Giáp and the Viet Minh.

Major Archimedes Patti, in charge of the so-called 'Deer Team' unit, taught the Viet Minh to use flamethrowers, grenade launchers and machine guns.

In a single month they succeeded in training around 200 hand-picked future leaders of the army they were to oppose a few

decades later. Growing stronger, Giáp's forces took more territory and captured more towns up until the announcement on 15 August by the Japanese Emperor of his country's unconditional surrender to the allies.

On 2 September 1945 Ho Chi Minh declared the independence of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. He formed a new government, with Giáp as Minister of the Interior.

He had no idea that the future of postwar Vietnam had already been decided by Truman, Churchill and Stalin at the Potsdam conference.

The country would be occupied temporarily to get the Japanese out. The northern half would be under the control of the Nationalist Chinese and the southern half under the British.

In October the British moved out and handed control back to the French. In May 1946 an agreement between the French and the Chinese was made. The Chinese moved out, and the French moved in.

Ho Chi Minh and Võ Nguyên Giáp pursued lengthy negotiations with the French, seeking to avoid an all-out war to cement their independence.

Ho Chi Minh departed for France on 31 May to negotiate with the French at Fontainebleau and Giáp was effectively in charge of the government in Hanoi.

In August 1946 Giáp married Ba Hanh and they went on to have two boys and two girls.

First Indochina War

The tense standoff between the Vietnamese government and the French occupiers escalat-



FUTURE LEADERS: Võ Nguyên Giáp (left) and Hồ Chí Minh in Hà Nội, October 1945.

ed dramatically on 23 October when the French commander Argenlieu ordered the cruiser *Suffren* to bombard Haiphong in response to repeated skirmishes with Vietnamese forces as they tried to bring arms and contraband into the port.

Around six thousand people were killed, and fourteen thousand wounded in the bombardment.

Giáp, acting as de facto President in the absence of Ho Chi Minh, tried to maintain some kind of peace but by the time Ho returned in November, both sides were on a war footing.

Local fighting broke out repeatedly and on 27 November Ho's government, concluding

that it could not hold Hanoi against the French, retreated back up into the northern hills where it had been based two years previously.

On 19 December the Vietnamese government officially declared war on France and fighting erupted all over the country.

The first few years involved a most low-level, semi-conventional resistance fight against the occupying French forces.

When it became clear that France was becoming involved in a long drawn-out and so far not very successful war, the French government tried to negotiate an agreement with the Viet Minh. They offered to help set up a national government and promised



that they would eventually grant Vietnam its independence.

Ho Chi Minh and the other leaders of the Viet Minh did not trust the word of the French and continued the war.

While growing stronger in Vietnam, the Việt Minh also expanded the war and lured the French to spread their force to remote areas such as Laos. In December 1953, French military commander General Henri Navarre set up a defensive complex at Điện Biên Phủ in the Mường Thanh Valley, disrupting Việt Minh supply lines passing through Laos. He surmised that in an attempt to reestablish the route, Giáp would be forced to organise a mass attack on Điện Biên Phủ, thus fighting a conventional battle, in which Navarre could expect to have the advantage.

Giáp took up the French challenge. While the French dug in at their outpost, the Việt Minh were also preparing the battlefield. While diversionary attacks were launched in other areas, Giáp ordered his men to covertly position their artillery by hand. Defying standard military

practice, he had his twenty-four 105 mm howitzers placed on the forward slopes of the hills around Dien Bien Phu, in deep, mostly hand-dug emplacements protecting them from French aircraft and counter-battery fire.

With anti-aircraft guns supplied by the Soviet Union, Giáp was able to severely restrict the ability of the French to supply their garrison, forcing them to drop supplies inaccurately from high altitude.

Giáp ordered his men to dig a trench system that encircled the French. From the outer trench, other trenches and tunnels were gradually dug inward towards the centre. The Viet Minh were now able to move in close to the French troops defending Dien Bien Phu.

On 13 March 1954, Giap launched his offensive. For 54 days, the Viet Minh seized position after position, pushing the French until they occupied only a small area of Dien Bien Phu.

The French surrendered on 7 May. Their casualties totaled over 2,200 men dead, 5,600 wounded and 11,721 taken prisoner. The following day the

French government announced that it intended to withdraw from Vietnam.

The Interwar Years

With the French gone, Giáp moved back to Hanoi. He expanded and modernised the army, re-equipping it with Russian and Chinese weapons systems.

On 7 May 1955 he inaugurated the Vietnamese Maritime Force and on 1 May 1959, the Vietnamese People's Air Force.

During the late 1950s Giáp served as Minister of Defence, Commander in Chief of the People's Army of Vietnam, Deputy Prime Minister, and deputy chairman of the Defence Council.

The departure of the French and the de facto partition of Vietnam meant that the Hanoi government only controlled the north part of the country. In South Vietnam there were still several thousand guerillas, known as Viet Cong, fighting against the government in Saigon.

It was decided that the time for escalating the armed struggle in the South was right and in July that year Giáp ordered the opening up of the Ho Chi Minh trail to improve supply lines to Viet Cong units.

The Vietnam War

Giáp remained commander in chief of the People's Army of Vietnam throughout the war against South Vietnam and its allies, the United States, Australia, Thailand, South Korea, and the Philippines.

He oversaw the expansion of the PAVN (People's Army of

Vietnam) from a small self-defence force into a large conventional army, equipped by its communist allies with considerable amounts of relatively sophisticated weaponry, although this did not usually match the weaponry of the Americans.

Giáp has often been assumed to have been the planner of the Tết Offensive of 1968, but this appears not to have been the case. The best evidence indicates that he disliked the plan, and when it became obvious that Lê Duẩn and Văn Tiến Dũng were going to conduct it anyway, he left Vietnam for medical treatment in Hungary, and did not return until after the offensive had begun.

Peace talks between representatives from the United States, South Vietnam, North Vietnam, and the NLF (National Liberation Front of South Vietnam - better known as the Viet Cong) began in Paris in January 1969.

In an effort to put pressure on both North and South Vietnam during the negotiations, President Nixon ordered a series of air raids on Hanoi and Haiphong, codenamed Operation Linebacker II.

The operation ended on 27 January 1973, after 12 days with heavy casualties and destruction. Both the U.S. and North Vietnam then agreed to sign the Paris Peace Accords that had been proposed in October. South Vietnam objected, but had little choice but to accept it. Clearly, the advantage had been given to Hanoi.

The last U.S. combat troops left in March 1973. Despite the treaty, there was no end in fighting. South Vietnamese attempts to regain communist controlled territory inspired their oppo-



TOWARDS THE END: This photograph of Võ Nguyên Giáp was taken in the mid-1990s.

nents to change strategy. Communist leaders met in Hanoi in March for a series of meetings to plan for a massive offensive against the South.

Fall of Saigon

On 30 April 1975 Saigon fell. The standard view of this period is that after Ho Chi Minh's death in September 1969, Giáp lost a power struggle in 1972 shortly after the failed Easter Offensive where he was blamed by the Politburo for the offensive's failure.

Giáp was recalled to Hanoi where he was replaced as field commander of the PAVN and from then on watched subsequent events from the sidelines, with the glory of victory in 1975 going to the chief of the general staff, General Văn Tiến Dũng, and that Giáp's role in the 1975 victory is largely ignored by official Vietnamese accounts.

Post War

Soon after the fall of Saigon, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was established. In the new government, Giáp maintained his position as Minister

of National Defense and he was made Deputy Prime Minister in July 1976. In December 1978 he oversaw the successful Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia which drove the Khmer Rouge from power and ended the Cambodian genocide. In retaliation, Cambodia's ally China responded by invading the Cao Bang province of Vietnam in January 1979 and once again Giáp was in overall responsibility for the response, which drove the Chinese out after a few months. He finally retired from his post at the Defense Ministry in 1981 and retired from the Politburo in 1982. He remained on the Central Committee and Deputy Prime Minister until he retired in 1991.

On 4 October 2013, the Communist Party of Vietnam and government official announced that Võ Nguyên Giáp had died.

He was given a state funeral on 12 and 13 October 2013 and his body lay in state at the national morgue in Hanoi until his burial at the Vũng Chùa - Đảo Yến in his home province of Quảng Bình. He was 102 at the time of his death.



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Utrinqe Paratus The Parachute Regiment

Formed more than 78 years ago and colloquially known as the Paras, the Parachute Regiment is regarded as one of the most elite units in the world. And they have the battle honours to prove it.

It was none other than British Prime Minister Winston Churchill that directed the War Office to investigate the possibility of creating a corps of 5,000 parachute corps.

Churchill had been impressed by the success of German airborne troops during the Battle of France. If it worked for the Germans then Churchill was determined that it would work for the British as well.

On 22 June 1940 No. 2 Commando was turned over to parachute duties and on 21 November it was re-designated the 11th Special Air Service Battalion, with a parachute and glider wing. It was these men who took part in the first British airborne operation, Operation Colossus, on 10 February 1941.

On 10 February 1941 In September, the battalion was re-designated the 1st Parachute Battalion and assigned to the 1st Parachute Brigade.

To fill out the brigade, the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Parachute Battalions were raised by calling for volunteers from all units in

the British Army. The first operation by the Parachute Regiment was Operation Biting in February 1942. The objective was to capture a Würzburg radar on the coast of France. The raid was carried out by 'C' Company, 2nd Parachute

Battalion, under the command of Major John Frost.

In India, the 50th Indian Parachute Brigade was raised on 27 October 1941, comprising 151 (British), 152 (Indian) and 153 (Gurkha) Parachute Battalions along with the brigade signals, sapper squadron and 80 Parachute Field Ambulance.

Training

Volunteers would have to do a 12 day course carried out at the No. 1 Parachute Training School at Royal Air Force base Ringway.

The initial jumps were made

from a converted barrage balloon and this was finished with five parachute jumps from an aircraft. Anyone that failed to complete a parachute jump was returned to his old unit.

At the end of the course those that had qualified were presented with their maroon beret and parachute wings. They were then posted to a parachute battalion.

Parachute training was not without its dangers. During the first 2,000 jumps at Ringway three men were killed.

Paratroopers were expected to fight against superior numbers of the enemy that was equipped with artillery and tanks. There had to be a strong *esprit de corps* for them to have any chance of success.

Training was designed to encourage a spirit of self-discipline, self-reliance, and aggres-

siveness. Emphasis was given to physical fitness, marksmanship and fieldcraft.

A large part of the training focused on assault courses and route marches.

Equipment

The Paras did have their own distinctive uniform. First was the maroon beret at first with the Army Air Corps cap badge and from May 1943 the Parachute Regiment cap badge which is still in use today.

Parachute wings were worn on the right shoulder above the airborne forces patch of Bel-lerophon riding the flying horse Pegasus.

On operations, Paras wore the airborne forces pattern steel helmet instead of the normal Brodie helmet. After 1942, the Denison smock was issued as the first camouflaged uniform for the British Army.

The British Paras did not use a reserve parachute. At a cost of

£60 each, the War Office considered them a waste of money.

The Paras were not issued with any special weapons and their small arms were the same as the rest of the army.

They used the standard bolt action Lee-Enfield rifle and the Enfield or Webley revolver or the M1911 pistol.

For a submachine gun, they used the British Sten in North-west Europe, which was issued in higher numbers than to a normal infantry battalion. Paratroopers attached to Eighth Army used the Thompson sub-machine gun in the North African and Mediterranean theatre and during Operation Dragoon.

Each section had a Bren light machine gun and the platoon had a 2-inch mortar. The only battalion heavy weapons were eight 3-inch mortars, four Vickers machine guns and after 1943, ten PIAT anti tank weapons.

World War II Battle Honours

During World War II the Parachute Regiment earned no fewer than 23 battle honours.

These were:

North West Europe 1942

- Bruneval

North Africa 1942–43

- Oudna
- Soudia
- Djebel Azzag
- Djebel Alliliga
- El Hadjeba
- Tamera
- Dejebel Dahara
- Kefel Debna

Sicily 1943

- Primosole Bridge

Italy 1943–44

- Taranto
- Orsogna

Greece 1944–45

- Athens

North West Europe 1944–45

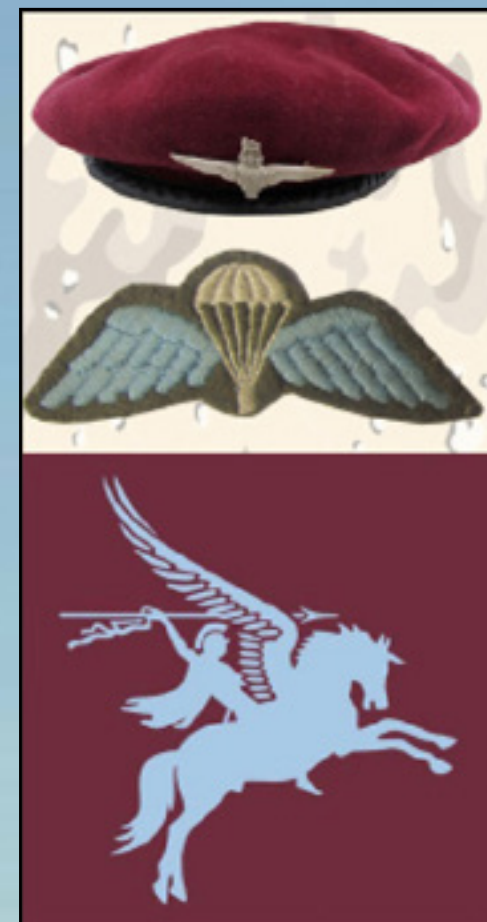
- Normandy Landing
- Pegasus Bridge
- Merville Battery
- Breville
- Dives Crossing
- La Touques Crossing
- Southern France
- Arnhem
- Ourthe
- Rhine

Arnhem

Operation Market Garden was an ambitious plan to shorten the war in Europe.

The strategic goal was to encircle the heart of German industry, the Ruhr Area, in a pincer movement. The aim of Operation Market Garden was to establish the northern end of a pincer ready to project deeper into Germany.

The success of the operation depended on taking a series



of nine bridges, the last being at the city of Arnhem over the Rhine river.

Market was the airborne element of the operation. The American 101st Airborne Division would be responsible for capturing the bridges around Oosterbeek while American 82nd Airborne Division would take care of the bridges around Nijmegen. The final bridge at Arnhem would be left to the Parachute Regiment.

They would have to capture the road, rail and pontoon bridges over the Lower Rhine at Arnhem and hold them until relieved, which was expected to occur two or three days later.

On 17 September the 1st Parachute Brigade landed and headed towards Arnhem, but only the 2nd Battalion, largely unopposed, made it to the bridges.

The railway bridge was blown up as they approached and the pontoon bridge was missing a section.

By dusk, most of the 2nd Battalion and some supporting units, including the Brigade Headquarters, numbering about 740 men, had taken the northern end of the Arnhem road bridge.

According to Allied intelligence, the bridges at Arnhem would be defended by nothing more than German Home Guard.

What they did not know was that the 9th SS Panzer Division, under SS-Obergruppenführer Wilhelm Bittrich, had been withdrawn from the front lines and stationed just outside of Arnhem for a period of rest and refitment. They arrived in Arnhem on the second day.



STALEMATE: The Paras controlled one side of the bridge, the SS the other. The above image is a still photo from the film 'A Bridge Too Far'.

At the start of the operation the Allies captured several bridges between Eindhoven and Nijmegen.

Lieutenant-General Brian Horrocks' XXX Corps ground force advance was delayed by the initial failure of the airborne units to secure bridges at Son en Breugel and Nijmegen, and German forces demolished the bridge over the Wilhelmina Canal at Son before it could be secured by the 101st Airborne Division.

The 82nd Airborne Division's failure to capture the main highway bridge over the Waal River at Nijmegen before 20 September also delayed the advance of XXX Corps.

Although they were only supposed to capture and hold the bridge for 48 hours, the Paras held it for nine days against a panzer division.

The only awards of the Victoria Cross to the Parachute

Regiment in the war were for the Battle of Arnhem. The two recipients were Captain John Hollington Grayburn of the 2nd Battalion, and Captain Lionel Ernest Queripel of the 10th Battalion. Both awards were posthumous.

Arnhem has since become a byword for the fighting spirit of British paratroops and set a standard for the Parachute Regiment.

Post War

For most of the next 20 years, the Parachute Regiment was involved in numerous peacekeeping and small scale operations associated with the withdrawal from empire.

This included operations in Cyprus and the Suez during the 1950s, and in Kuwait, Aden and Malaysia during the 1960s.

From 1970 the British spent 38 years in Northern Ireland during Operation Banner.

The 2nd Battalion spent more time there than any other infantry battalion. Between 1971 and 1996, 51 men of the Parachute Regiment were killed while serving in Northern Ireland.

The Falklands War

On 2 April 1982, the Falklands War began when Argentine forces began the invasion of the British Overseas Territories of the Falkland Islands and South Georgia.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher announced on 3 April that a naval task force was being sent to the South Atlantic to "restore British administration" to the Falkland Islands.

Part of the force that was sent to the Falklands included the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, Parachute Regiment.

On 21 May, the 2nd Battalion was the first major unit to land in the Falklands, just south of San Carlos on the eastern side of San Carlos Water.

The first battle in the campaign was the Battle of Goose Green, undertaken by the 2nd Battalion on 28 May. On 29 May, after a day long battle, the Argentine commanders, agreed to surrender.

The battle had cost the battalion 15 dead and 37 wounded. The Argentinians had lost 55 dead, about 100 wounded and 1,500 were taken prisoner. Lieutenant-Colonel H. Jones was later awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross, amongst other awards, were one DSO, and two DCMs.

The Parachute Regiment won four battle honours during the

War. These were:

- Falkland Islands
- Goose Green
- Mount Longdon
- Wireless Ridge

The 21st Century

In May 1999, the British government decided to send a force of 17,400 troops to take part in operations in Kosovo, saying that the troops would be needed to rebuild the infrastructure after the Kosovo War. This force included the 1st Battalion, Parachute Regiment.

In August 2001, the 2nd Battalion took part in NATO's in-



tervention in the Republic of Macedonia (Operation Essential Harvest) to disarm the rebel National Liberation Army.

In May 2000, Operation Palliser was the name given to the evacuation of British, Commonwealth and European Union citizens from Sierra Leone.

Included in the task force was 1st Battalion, less 'A' Company but reinforced by 'D' Company, 2nd Battalion.

During Operation Barras, a combined team from one Company of the 1st Battalion and the SAS (Special Air Service)

rescued six members of the Royal Irish Regiment that were being held hostage by an armed rebel group known as the West Side Boys.

In January 2003, the British government announced that the 1st Armoured Division would be sent to the Persian Gulf for potential operations in Iraq.

Included were the 1st and 3rd Battalions, Parachute Regiment. The Regiment won battle honours at Al Basra.

In May 2006, as part of the 16 Air Assault Brigade, the 3rd Battalion were sent to Afghanistan for Operation Herrick.

In December 2006, it was announced that Corporal Bryan Budd 3rd Battalion had been awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross for two separate acts of "inspirational leadership and

the greatest valour" which led to his death during actions against the Taliban in Afghanistan in July and August 2006.

In conclusion

Nowadays the 1st Battalion is permanently under the command of the Director Special Forces in the Special Forces Support Group. The 2nd and 3rd Battalion are parachute infantry, and the 4th Battalion falls under Army Reserve.

During World War II the Parachute Regiment was given the nickname 'Red Devils', both for their distinctive maroon berets and their fighting spirit.

Their motto is *Utrinque Paratus* (Ready for anything), something they have proved countless times. They are a regiment that was forged in battle.

With an advantage of two-to-one in tanks and with total air superiority, the outcome of the Battle of Abu-Ageila was a forgone conclusion for the Israeli Defence Force during the 1967 Six-Day War.

On 5 June 1967 the Israeli Defence Force had launched a pre-emptive strike against the united Arab forces of Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

In the first hours of the war the Arab air forces had been all but neutralised, giving the Israeli Air Force air supremacy and removing the threat of Arab air attack.

Yet while the war was all but over on the first day, there were still ground battles to be fought. The Battle of Abu-Ageila was one such battle.

The Battle of Abu-Ageila (also known as the Battle of Umm-Qatef) was a military confrontation between the Israel Defence Forces and the Egyptian Army in the Six-Day War of June 1967.

The decisive defeat of the Egyptians was critical to the eventual loss of the entire Sinai Peninsula to Israel.

Leading Israeli forces was Major General Ariel Sharon, later a prominent politician and prime minister of Israel.

Background

The Israeli attack at Abu-Ageila was part of the Israeli offensive into the Sinai Desert. Southern Command's offensive consisted of three divisions: Israel Tal's 84th Division, Avraham Yoffe's 31st Division, and Ariel Sharon's 38th Division.

Sharon was tasked with the capture of the road junction at Abu-Ageila, in order to gain access to the central route into the Sinai Desert. The Egyptians had taken considerable preparations to prevent a breach there.

Egyptian defences had focused on the Um-Katef (or Umm-Qatef) plateau to the east of Abu-Ageila, roughly 25 kilometers (16 mi) from the Israeli border. The defences were an important part of the overall defence plan, called Qahir, in the preparations for the expected war, later known as the Six-Day War.

Opposing Forces

Israeli troops numbered about 14,000. Egyptian troop strengths have been estimated at 8,000. More

importantly, the Israelis had significant advantage in armour: Against 66 Egyptian World War II-era Soviet T34/85 with 85 mm guns and 22 SU-100 with 100 mm guns, the Israeli forces fielded a total of 150 modern tanks: light AMX-13s with 75 mm guns, as well as a hundred British Centurion and both M-50 and M-51 Sherman tanks, considerably upgraded from their WWII vintage and armed with French 75 mm and 105 mm tank guns.

The guns used by the Centurions here were the 105 mm Royal Ordnance L7 tank guns, specifically designed to defeat the Soviet T-54 (much more modern than both types of tanks used by the Egyptians in this battle).

On the other side, the best tank gun available for the Egyptians was the 100 mm cannon used by the 22 SU-100 tank destroyers (a late-WWII artillery piece over-matched by Centurion's frontal armour, although it posed a threat to AMX-13s). As a result, in addition to the IDF's numerical superiority, the Israeli tanks also had a greater effective range and firepower than their Egyptian opponents.

Order of battle

Israeli forces

- 38th Armoured Division
- Divisional Mechanised Reconnaissance Battalion
- 14th Armoured Brigade (with Super Sherman tanks)



Maj General Ariel Sharon

- 63rd armoured battalion (with Centurion tanks)
- 99th "Negev" Infantry Brigade
- 80th Paratroopers Brigade
- 6 artillery battalions (105 mm & 155 mm Howitzers)
- Divisional engineering battalion
- Force A-B, improvised brigade-size battle group

Egyptian forces

- 2nd Infantry Division
- 12th Infantry Brigade
- 37th, 38th, 39th Infantry Battalions
- 51st Artillery Brigade
- 330th, 332nd, 334th Artillery Battalions
- 2 Anti-aircraft Companies
- 1 Anti-tank Rocket Company

Attached to 12th Brigade

- 6th Tank Regiment (66 T34/85)
- 288 Tank Battalion
- 1 Mechanised Antitank Battalion (22 SU-100)
- 352nd Infantry Battalion
- 299th Artillery Battalion
- 336th Medium Artillery Bat-

alion

Egyptian defences

The Egyptian defence was constructed as follows: the 2nd infantry Division prepared defenses in the area between Abu-Ageila and Kusseima, with the center placed at the area Um-Katef Plateau – Ruafa Dam, with the 12th Infantry Brigade defending Um-Katef and the 10th Infantry Brigade Kusseima.

Um-Katef made a good position, because it was bordered by an area of sand dunes to the north and rocky mountains to the south.

On this plateau, the Egyptians constructed three parallel trenches of about five kilometres each, reinforced by concrete bunkers.

Every trench was defended by an infantry battalion, with the forward trench reinforced by a dug-in tank squadron. To the rear were two supporting artillery battalions (330th, 334th), behind them the balance of 288th Tank Battalion ready to counter-attack.

To the north, blocking the Batur Track at Position 181, were 38th Infantry Battalion, 299th Artillery Battalion and an antitank company of ten SU-100. They were to protect the flank of the main position to the southeast.

Five kilometres to the West of the Um-Katef Plateau perimeter was the Ruafa Dam. Dug in here were the 352nd Infantry Battalion, and the 332nd and 336th Artillery Battalions. Five kilometres to the northwest of Abu-Ageila, at the well and logistic center at Awlad Ali, the balance of the 6th Tank Regiment (one tank battalion) was

positioned to block enemy forces coming from the northeast or against the positions of the 12th Brigade to the east or southeast.

To the east in front of the 12th Brigade positions on the ridge at Umm Tarafa was an outpost manned by an infantry company of 38th Battalion, a squadron of tanks from 288th Battalion, and two B-10 recoilless guns.

At Position 239, south of Umm Tafara was a platoon of 37th Infantry Battalion, with two B-10 recoilless guns and two antitank weapons. Further east at Tarat Umm Basis near the Israeli border was the 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, which was to give warning of any Israeli attack.

Battle

The Israeli attack-plan was based on intelligence gathered two days before the war started, which indicated Um-Katef was defended by only one infantry battalion.

Based on this information, the Israelis planned a frontal attack by their reinforced independent tank battalion. After aerial bombardments, this tank battalion started its attack on Um-Katef on the 5 June at 08:15.

The attack came to a halt however, due to resistance from an unknown Egyptian formation and an unknown minefield, causing the loss of seven Israeli Centurions.

New orders for the independent tank battalion were to break off the attack and to attack from the north, through the sand dunes. Now the 14th armoured brigade (two tank battalions Super Shermans and two armoured infantry battalions in halftracks) was ordered to attack frontally

further south. After a short aerial bombardment, this attack commenced at 12:30, but was forced to a halt as well.

Now that strength and positions of the Egyptians were known, General Sharon changed his plans. The independent tank battalion was ordered to drive through the sand dunes following a camel-path and attack the Egyptian armour at the Ruafa Dam.

At the same time, the 14th armoured brigade would attack from the East. However, before this could happen, Um-Katef would have to be taken, a task given to Sharon's infantry brigade, held in reserve up till then.

This infantry attack was to occur under the cover of darkness, following a secondary approach to Um-Katef through the sand dunes. Meanwhile, the Israeli armour would provide support and all Israeli artillery would be used in support of this attack.

This meant there would be no suppressing fire on the Egyptian artillery, making the Israeli infantry extremely vulnerable. It was decided that the Egyptian artillery would be taken out of action prior to the attack using the brigade of paratroopers.

However, with only six helicopters available, only a limited number of units could be used.

Meanwhile, the independent tank battalion was engaged by the Egyptian defenders in the sand dunes by 16:00 and were able to continue to their positions near Abu-Ageila and the Ruafa Dam at 18:00.

The infantry brigade was in place at around 23:00, while the paratroopers, after being discovered and fired upon by Egyptian



artillery, made it to their attack positions at 23:00.

The attack started on 5 June, at 00:00 hours, after the Israeli artillery had been firing from 23:30–00:00 hours with Israeli tanks moving into position under the noise of the artillery.

After heavy fighting, the Israeli infantry battalions broke through the trenches at Um-Katef, with one-third of them cleared by 02:30. Now the engineers started clearing a way through the minefield which was completed at 04:00, allowing the 14th armoured brigade to roll on to the Ruafa Dam.

On 6 June at 07:00, the Israelis attacked the Egyptian tank battalions and antitank battalions from two sides, with the Centurion tanks of the 14th from the east and the Super Sherman tanks from the west.

After three hours of fighting, these Egyptian units were destroyed, after which remnants of the 12th Egyptian Brigade were cleared. At around 12:00, the road junction at Abu-Ageila was in Israeli hands and the road to the Sinai was open.

The battle ended with 40 KIA and 19 tanks lost for the Israelis, and 2,000 killed and 60 tanks lost on the Egyptian side.

Battle

The victory at Abu-Ageila meant the road to the Central Sinai was open for the Israelis in general, Sharon and his forces in particular.

Many of the Egyptian units remained intact and could have tried to prevent the Israelis from reaching the Suez Canal. However, when the Egyptian Minister of Defense, Field Marshal Abdel Hakim Amer heard about the fall of Abu-Ageila, he panicked and ordered all units in the Sinai to retreat to the west bank of the Suez canal within a single day.

There was no plan for the retreat, so the units left behind heavy equipment, and sometimes even outpaced their commanders. This resulted in the Israelis racing to capture abandoned sites, and obtaining significant amounts of abandoned tanks and equipment.

So much was captured intact that after the war three mechanized and two armoured brigades were created from this abandoned equipment. The withdrawal order effectively meant the defeat of Egypt. By 8 June, most of the Sinai area had been occupied by Israeli forces.



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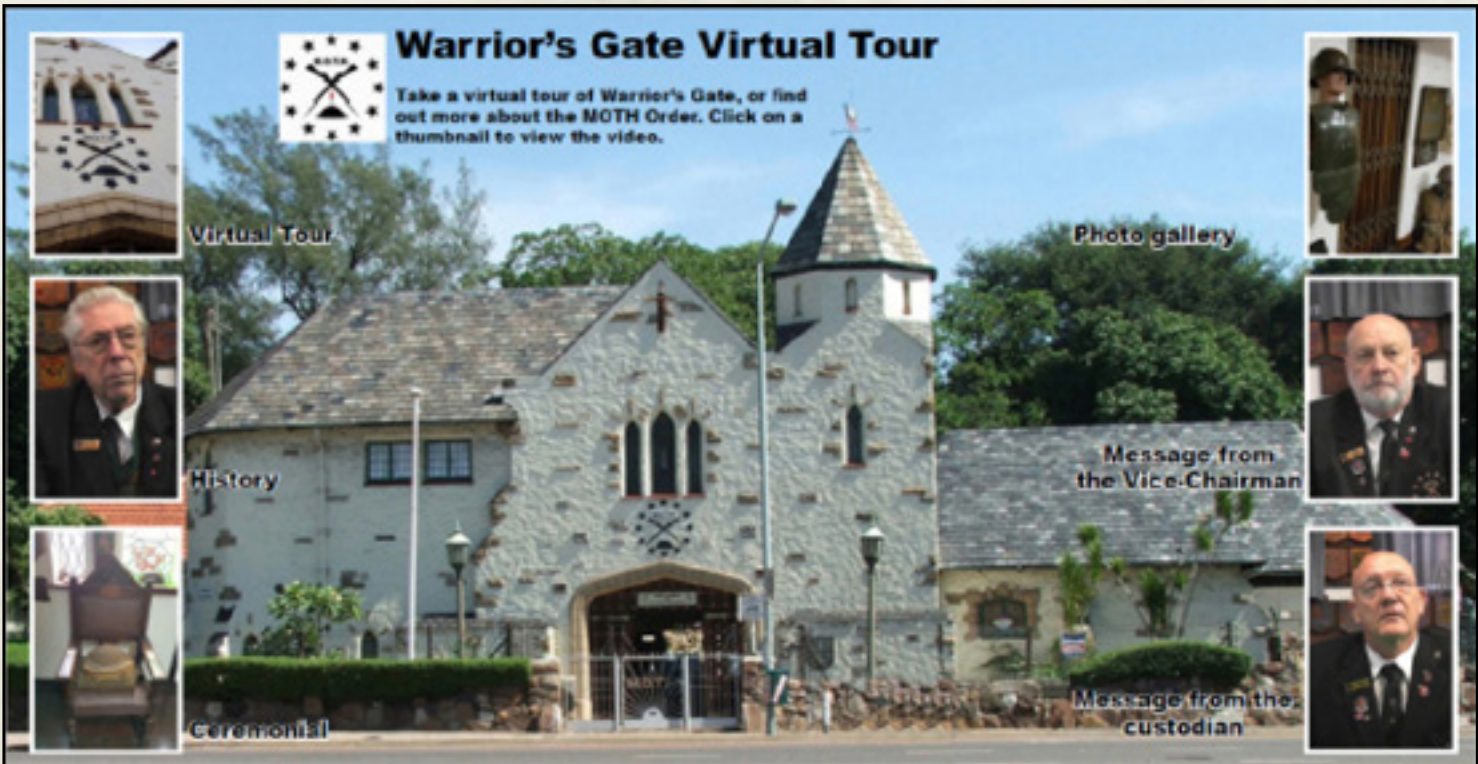
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Click on the photograph below to take a virtual tour of Warrior's Gate and find out more about the Memorable Order of Tin Hats.





Fasten your seatbelts and prepare for take off with Captain Matt 'Crash' O'Brien. Be afraid. Be very afraid.

In the previous 38 issues of Military Despatches I have reviewed games and simulators that have been military related. This is not the case with this review.

While this simulator may not be of interest to everyone if, however, you are a pilot or have an interest in flying then read on.

The very first Microsoft flight simulator, Flight Simulator 1.0, was released back in 1982. Eleven upgraded versions were released during the following years with the last one, Flight Simulator X, released in 2006.

Then in September 2019 Microsoft announced that they were working on a new version of Flight Simulator. It was released to "universal acclaim" on 18 August 2020.

Flight Simulator simulates the entire Earth using textures and topographical data from Bing Maps. Three-dimensional representations of the world's features, such as terrain, trees, grass, buildings, and water are generated by Microsoft Azure technology.

FS 2020 was developed by Asobo Studio. Flight Simulator uses Asobo's in-house developed game engine, and leverage

Bing Maps data, accessing over two petabytes (two million gigabytes) of data from the cloud on demand.

Flight Simulator populates the world with animals and roads with vehicles, water will flow realistically based on wind direction, grass will have individual grass blades and trees will have individual leaves, creating the illusion of a living world.

The game world includes over 2 million cities and towns, 1.5 billion buildings, 2 trillion trees, and 37,000 real-world airports.

For the first time ever in a game I was able to fly over my own house. Yet while the graphics are incredible, this is a flight simulator. So how realistic is actually flying an aircraft in the game? To sum it up in one word - "Wow!"

There are three versions of FS 2020. There is a standard version, a deluxe version and a premium deluxe version.

The standard version comes with 20 aircraft, the deluxe with 25 and the premium deluxe with 30. Each aircraft has been developed in conjunction with the actual aircraft designers. Every instrument, nut and

bolt is there.

The standard version has 14 propeller or twin propeller aircraft. This includes the Icon A5 which means you can take off and land on water. There are also three turbo-prop aircraft, a jet (Cessna Citation CJ4), and two commercial airline planes (A320 Airbus and 747-B).

The deluxe version has another five propeller or twin-prop aircraft. The premium deluxe version has another three propeller aircraft, a jet, and a commercial airliner.

You can adjust the settings to make flying as simple or as realistic as you choose. You can set up a flight plan to go from airport A to airport B.

The most basic level will put you at the controls of the aircraft you have selected with the engines running and you will be lined up on the runway ready to take off. You take off, fly to the airport that you have selected, and land.

There are various 'assists' that you can select to make things easier. For example you can select that your co-pilot handles all communications, set the radios to the right frequency and so on. You can select markers that show you directions and



even show you the glide slope when you come in to land.

On more difficult settings you get to do everything. Start up your aircraft from cold, deal with ground services such as refuelling, communicate with Air Traffic Control (ATC), taxi to the runway, fly the aircraft according to your flight plan, and land.

The actual flying of the aircraft is superb. There are also realistic physics and weather systems, and utilization of real-world weather data. Connect to real-world weather via the Internet and the conditions where you are flying will be 100% accurate to what is happening in real life.

The clouds and weather system is beautiful. Clouds are volumetrically modelled, with 32 layers determining shape, density, and "fuzziness". Flying through rain or a storm is amazing. Wind and turbulence will affect your aircraft just as it does in real life.

Flying at night is breathtak-

ing. I took off from Cape Town International Airport (FACT) and using VFR (Visual Flight Rules) was able to follow the M5 up to Muizenberg and then follow Main Road through to Simon's Town.

Talking about airports, there are more than 37,000 of them in the game of which 30, 35, or 40 are hand-crafted replicas of their real-world counterparts, depending on the edition.

You can fly anywhere in the world. Fly over Victoria Falls, Table Mountain, Mount Everest, the pyramids, Machu Picchu or wherever you want to go.

When connected to the Internet you can not only choose real-world weather but can also choose real-world air traffic. If there is a plane in the sky in real life, it will be in the game at exactly the same position and altitude.

You will need a pretty powerful computer, graphics card, and hard drive space to handle the game. And you will also need a good Internet speed, preferably

an uncapped connection.

The standard version costs R999, the deluxe version R1,300 and the premium deluxe R1,899.

Click [here](#) to view the various aircraft and hand-crafted airports (including Cape Town).



Publisher - Xbox Game Studio

Genre - Flight Sim

Score - 9.8/10

Price - R999 (on Steam)



Enemy at the Gates

Released: 2001

Running time: 131 minutes

Director: Peter Jean-Jacques Annaud

Enemy at the Gates is a 2001 film loosely based on a true story. It is a fictionalized version of sniper Vasily Zaytsev, a Hero of the Soviet Union during World War II.

In 1942 Zaytsev, a young shepherd from the Ural Mountains, finds himself on the front lines during the Battle of Stalingrad.

After a failed attack on a German position Zaytsev uses his impressive shooting skills, taught to him at a young age by his grandfather, to save both himself and a Russian Political Commissar, Danilov.

Shortly afterwards Nikita Khrushchev arrives in Stalingrad to take over the defence of the city. He demands ideas to improve the morale of the Soviet troops.

Danilov suggests that people need to have heroes to give them hope and that the army newspaper needs to be publishing stories about the exploits of these heroes.

Khrushchev asks Danilov if he knows any heroes in Stalingrad and he says that he knows of one.

The army newspaper paints Zaytsev as a national hero and a propaganda icon. He is transferred to the sniper division and he and Danilov become friends.

Both become romantically interested in Tania Chernova, a resident of Stalingrad who has become a private in the local militia. Seeing as how she stud-

ied German at Moscow University Danilov has her transferred to an intelligence unit away from the battlefield.

With the Soviet snipers, and Zaytsev in particular, taking an increasing toll on German officers the director of the Wehrmacht sniper school at Zossen, Major Erwin König, is deployed to Stalingrad to take out Zaytsev. When the Red Army command learns of König's mission, they dispatch König's former student Koulikov to help Zaytsev kill him.

Sacha Filippova, a young Soviet boy, volunteers to act as a double agent by passing König false information about Zaytsev's whereabouts, thus giving Zaytsev a chance to ambush the major.

Zaytsev and Tania have fallen in love and this causes a great deal of jealousy from Danilov who disparages Zaytsev in a letter to his superiors

What follows is a deadly game of cat-and-mouse as the two snipers hunt each other in the ruined city.

While Vasily Zaytsev was a real person, the story of his duel with König is fictional. No sniper named König has ever been identified in the German records.

Enemy at the Gates is well worth watching. There are a couple of really good scenes such as when König sets a trap for Zaytsev in an old factory.

The film was based on the book *Enemy at the Gates: The*

Battle for Stalingrad by William Craig and the movie runs for 131 minutes.

Cast

- Jude Law – Vasily Zaytsev
- Joseph Fiennes – Commisar Danilov
- Rachel Weisz – Tania Chernova
- Bob Hoskins – Nikita Khrushchev
- Ed Harris – Major Erwin König
- Ron Perlman – Koulikov
- Eva Mattes – Mother Filippova
- Gabriel Marshall-Thomson – Sasha Filippova
- Matthias Habich – General Friedrich Paulus



Click on the box cover to watch a trailer of the film.

Cuito Cuanavale - Frontline Accounts by Soviet Soldiers

Compiled and edited by Gennady Shubin, Igor Zhdarkin, Vyacheslav Barabulya and Alexandra Kuznetsova-Timonova this book is a follow-up to the very successful *Bush War* which provided personal, first-hand encounters of Soviet military advisors to the Angolan Army.

This volume concentrates on the climax of this conflict - the 1987/8 Battle of Cuito Cuanavale.

It was the largest battle on African soil since World War II. South Africa and Unita went up against Angolan FAPLA troops and their Cuban allies. It was a battle that to this day is hotly debated with both sides claiming victory.

The Soviet soldier's experi-

ence of the war and their views and assessment of their South African enemies as well as their Cuban and Angolan allies will fascinate South African readers. At the same time they offer new insights into the conflict.

Having known quite a few people that took part in the battle I've been lucky enough to listen to first-hand accounts. I also read a number of books on the battle, mostly written from the South African perspective.

This book gives a fresh and unique perspective in that it gives a glimpse of how the 'other' side saw the battle.

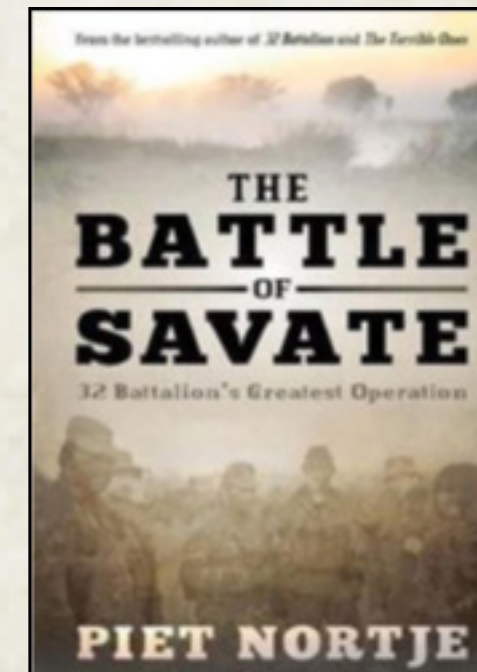
The book is well written and the accounts really are personal. Anyone that served in combat will find themselves nodding their heads and identifying with



many of the stories. After all, no matter in which army you were, soldiers remain soldiers.

Softcover: 208 pages

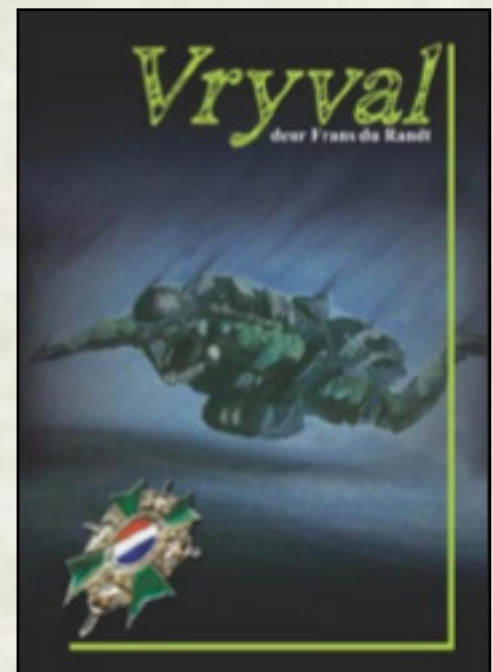
Price: R255.00



The Battle of Savate
R300



We Conquer from Above
R395



Vryval
R275

All books are available from [Bush War Books](http://bushwarbooks.com)

This month in military history

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

1 September

- **1862** - Following his brilliant victory at the Second Battle of Bull Run two days earlier, Confederate General Robert E. Lee strikes retreating Union forces at Chantilly, Virginia, and drives them away in the middle of an intense thunderstorm. Casualties and losses: US 1,300 - CSA 800.
- **1870** - The Battle of Sedan was fought between the French and the Prussian forces in Sedan, France resulting in German victory. The French Emperor, Napoleon III was captured in the battle resulting in the end of the Second French Empire.
- **1878** - British Major General John Frederick Charles Fuller was born on this day. He was an advocate of tank warfare and became one of the founders of modern armoured warfare. He was also a strong Nazi sympathiser.
- **1900** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War Two Australians of the Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen, Lieutenant Wyllly and Private Bisdee, display exceptional bravery during an ambush by Boers in assisting a wounded officer and allowing five other wounded to escape. They were later awarded the Victoria Cross for extraordinary bravery.
- **1900** - Britain annexes the ZAR (Transvaal Republic).
- **1900** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War Commandant Piet Fourie, joined by Nieuwoudt and Kritzing, take Ladybrand, OFS, in a street by street fight, but fail to capture the British garrison, who retreats to a position at the foot of Platberg.
- **1939** - Germany invades Poland, starting World War II.
- **1950** - Korean War: 13 North Korean divisions open assault on UN lines.
- **1963** - The new Air Force Memorial on Bays Hill, south of Pretoria, is inaugurated by State President C.R. Swart and attended by about 8 000 people, including dignitaries of other countries. The monument is a memorial to almost 3,000 members of the SAAF who died in action through the years in war and peace.
- **1967** - Ilse Koch, Nazi war criminal (commonly known as "The Bitch of Buchenwald") hangs herself in prison at 60.
- **1969** - Colonel Muammar Gaddafi seizes power in Libya after a coup d'état, deposing King Idris and exiling him to Egypt.
- **1979** - Lieutenant Chris Jansen from 1 Satellite Radar Station at Mariepskop was killed in a private motor vehicle accident at Pilgrims Rest. He was 22.
- **1981** - A bloodless coup under General André Kolingba ousts President David Dacko of the Central African Republic.
- **1981** - Albert Speer, German architect and Nazi leader (Reich Minister for Armaments and War Production), dies of a stroke at 76
- **1982** - The United States Air Force Space Command is founded.
- **1983** - Warrant Officer Class II Johannes Petrus Lodewickus van Bosch from the South African Engineer Corps, attached to Sector 20 Headquarters was killed in a military vehicle accident between Rundu and Bagani when his military vehicle was involved in a head-on collision with another military vehicle. He was 39.
- **1983** - Seaman A.R. Roux from the South African Marines was critically wounded after being accidentally shot by another Leading Seaman while his platoon was on patrol in the Caprivi. He was casevaced by helicopter to Katima Mulilo but unfortunately succumbed to his

wounds while still aboard the helicopter and was certified dead on arrival. He was 18.

- **1983** - Korean Air Lines Flight 007 was shot down by a Russian fighter jet while on route from New York to Seoul, killing all 269 persons on board. The Boeing 747 reportedly strayed 160 kilometres off course over secret Soviet Russian military installations on the Kamchatka Peninsula and Sakhalin Island. It crashed in the Sea of Japan.
- **1986** - Rifleman Simon Robert Hood from 32 Battalion was killed when he accidentally fell off the back of a moving Buffel Troop Carrier near Rundu. He was 24.
- **1988** - Lance Corporal Petrus Jacobus Herbst from Walvis Bay Command was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident between Otjiwarongo & Okahandja. He was 20.
- **1995** - Chief warlord Charles Taylor and other key militia leaders are installed in a new ruling council in Liberia.
- **2003** - A new UN force with a wider mandate takes over from the French-led force in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Abraham Lincoln reluctantly restores Union General George B. McClellan to full command after General John Pope's disaster at the Second Battle of Bull Run, Virginia, on August 29 and 30.
- **1864** - During the American Civil War, Atlanta was captured by Sherman's Army. "Atlanta is ours, and fairly won," General William T. Sherman telegraphed President Lincoln.
- **1870** - Napoleon III surrendered to the Prussians during the Battle of Sedan, resulting in the fall of the Second French Empire.
- **1878** - Werner Eduard Fritz von Blomberg was born on this day. He was a German *Generalfeldmarschall*, Minister of War, and Commander-in-Chief of the German Armed Forces until January 1938.
- **1898** - In the Anglo-Egyptian War Lord [Sir Herbert] Kitchener's force of 25,000 decisively defeats the Dervishes at the Battle of Omdurman, Sudan, taking Khartoum. 10,000 Sudanese fall in battle.
- **1898** - The machine gun is used for the first time in battle.
- **1939** - Nazi Germany captured the Free City of Danzig, Poland.. A concentration camp was set up at Stutthof, where several prominent

2 September

- **31 B.C.** - Roman legions under Augustus Caesar defeated Mark Anthony's naval force at Actium.
- **1862** - Civil War: President

Danzing Jews were deported.

- **1944** - Future President George Herbert Walker Bush is serving as a torpedo bomber pilot in the Pacific theater of World War II when his squadron is attacked by Japanese anti-aircraft guns. Bush was forced to bail out of the plane over the ocean. After floating on a raft for four hours, a submarine crew fished a safe but exhausted Bush out of the water.
- **1945** - Japan officially signs the act of unconditional surrender to the Allied nations on board the American battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay.
- **1958** - United States Air Force C-130A-II is shot down by fighters over Yerevan, Armenia when it strays into Soviet airspace while conducting a SIGINT mission. All the crew were lost.
- **1962** - Soviet Russia agreed to send arms to Cuba, lead-



Albert Speer

ing to the October Missile Crisis after the shipments were discovered by the U.S.

- **1964** - Alvin York, American World War I soldier who led a famed attack on a German machine gun nest (Medal of Honour), dies at 76.
- **1977** - Rifleman Matthys Christiaan Henn from 4 SAI was critically injured in a military vehicle accident between Middelburg and Greefswald on 31 August 1977 and succumbed to his injuries in 1 Military Hospital on 02 September 1977. He was 18.
- **1978** - Rifleman Arau Chilimba from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment attached to D Squadron Rhodesian Special Air Service, was killed instantly in Mocambique when he accidentally walked into the helicopter tail rotor after being inserted into the designated drop zone inside enemy territory. He was 24.
- **1982** - Two members from 5 Maintenance Unit were grievously burned in an accidental petrol explosion at Ondangwa on 30 August 1982. Both members were evacuated to the 1 Military Hospital Burn Unit where they succumbed to their injuries on 02 September 1982. The casualties were: Private Gordon Gray Crossland (18). Private Hendrik Lambertus Groenewald (20).
- **1984** - Able Seaman Crispin John Canner from SAS Unity died from a gunshot

wound after being accidentally shot by a fellow sailor while carrying out guard duty at the Slangkop Radio Station. He was 24.

- **1989** - Lance Corporal Hendrik Jacobus Bekker from the Eastern Transvaal Command Provost Unit, South African Corps of Military Police, was accidentally killed after being struck by a moving train while on leave in Nelspruit. He was 18.
- **1999** - Major Kenneth Arthur Newman from 22 Squadron was killed when his Alouette III Helicopter, Serial No. 616 suffered engine failure and crashed in dense bush at Sea View, Port Elizabeth. He was 50.
- **2002** - The Sudanese government suspends peace talks with the country's main rebel group, the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, or SPLA, after rebels seize the strategic town of Torit.
- **1969** - The Nigerian Central Government forces began Operation OAU in order to seize the remaining Biafran cities. Though the Biafran forces were not very strong they managed to keep control over Umuahia and later recaptured Owerri and Aba cities.
- **1972** - U.S fighter-bombers attacked, Phuc Yen, one of the largest air bases in North Vietnam, and shot down a MiG aircraft. In all, 47 MiG aircraft were shot down since the North Vietnamese attack began.

3 September

- **1777** - The Flag of the United States is flown in battle for the first time. The British Army and their Hessian allies defeated an American militia at the Battle of Cooch's Bridge.
- **1783** - The American Revolution ends with the signing of the Treaty of Paris by the United States and the Kingdom of Great Britain. America is officially free from Britain.
- **1800** - Two rebels of the Graaff-Reinet Rebellion five years previously, Martinus Prinsloo and Adriaan van Jaarsveld, are sentenced to death and sixteen rebels receive life-long penalties. They had rebelled against the Company and had proclaimed the territory a free republic.
- **1916** - The Allies turn back the Germans in WW I's Battle of Verdun.
- **1939** - Great Britain and France declared war on Nazi Germany after its invasion of Poland two days earlier.
- **1939** - The United Kingdom and France begin a naval blockade of Germany that lasts until the end of the war. This also marks the beginning of the Battle of the Atlantic.
- **1941** - First use of Zyklon-B gas in Auschwitz (on Russian prisoners of war).
- **1942** - In possibly the first Jewish ghetto uprising, residents of the Łachwa Ghetto in occupied Poland,

informed of the upcoming "liquidation" of the ghetto, unsuccessfully fought against their Nazi captors.

- **1943** - Italy signed an armistice with the Allies during World War II in Europe as the British Eighth Army, commanded by General Bernard Montgomery, invaded the Italian mainland from Sicily.
- **1950** - A US Military Assistance Advisory Group arrived in Saigon to look into the French request for American military aid and assistance in the training of the South Vietnamese troops.
- **1974** - Joint routine exercises are held between the British Royal Navy and the South African Navy, under the Simonstown Agreement, and again from 14 October 1974.
- **1978** - Four Crew Members and 44 Passengers from Air Rhodesia Viscount "Hunyani" Flight RH825 were killed when the aircraft was shot down by ZIPRA insurgents using a Soviet SAM-7 Grail shoulder-launched Surface-to-Air Missile approximately five minutes after take-off from Kariba Airport. Almost immediately a distress signal was received to the effect that the aircraft engines had failed. The aircraft crashed near the northern border with Zambia in the Urungwe Tribal Trust Land, 40km South-East of Kariba Dam. Eighteen

people survived the initial crash but 10 survivors were executed by the ZIPRA Terrorists who returned to the accident scene to loot the aircraft contents. The remaining eight passengers managed to escape. The four crew members were posthumously awarded the Rhodesian Meritorious Conduct Medal (MCM) for brave and gallant conduct.

- **1980** - General Constand Viljoen is appointed as Chief of the South African Defence Force (SADF) and Lieutenant-General Jan Geldenhuys as Chief of the Army, with effect from 7 October 1980.
- **1981** - Rifleman Cornelius Jacobus Vermaak from Special Forces Headquarters died in the Edenvale Hospital from injuries sustained in a Military Vehicle Accident in Edenvale. He was 19.
- **1985** - Two members from 6 SAI were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Grahamstown. The casualties were: Rifleman Orlando De Portugal Gonçalves (19). Rifleman Shaun Patrick Atkins (21).
- **1986** - South Africa's government re-imposes order prohibiting journalists from reporting actions of security forces.
- **1987** - One member from 42 Squadron and one member from 4 Field Regiment

were Killed in Action when a 42 Squadron Atlas AM3-C Bosbok, Serial No 934 was shot down by a Soviet SA-8 Gecko Surface-to-Air Missile South of Lomba river in Southern Angola during Ops Modular. The casualties were: Lieutenant Richard William Glynn (21). Commandant Johann Christiaan Du Randt (32).

- **2001** - Sierra Leone's president Ahmed Tejan Kabbah shakes hands with his rebel counterpart General Issa Sesay, and declares the West African nation's war over.

4 September

- **1862** - Union General Lee invades North with 50,000 Confederate troops.
- **1886** - The last major U.S.-Indian war came to an end as Geronimo was captured. He died of natural causes in 1909 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.
- **1900** - Danie Theron, an Afrikaner patriot believing in the just and divine right of the Boer to stand against British interference, died during the Second Anglo-Boer War in an inferno of



Constand Viljoen

- lyddite and shrapnel.
- **1916** - British forces take Dar-es-Salaam in Tanganyika.
 - **1918** - United States troops land at Archangel, in northern Russia and stay 10 months. The landing was part of an Allied intervention in the civil war raging in that country after revolution in 1917 led to the abdication of Czar Nicholas II in favour of a provisional government; the seizure of power by Vladimir Lenin and his radical socialist Bolshevik Party; and, finally, Russia's withdrawal from participation alongside the Allies in World War I.
 - **1939** - The House of Assembly defeats Prime Minister Hertzog's motion of neutrality and adopts Smuts' amendment in favour of joining the war. Hertzog resigns premiership the next day and he and his followers side with Dr Malan's National Party. Smuts becomes premier and retains the name United Party for his followers.
 - **1940** - The American destroyer Greer becomes the first U.S. vessel fired on in the war when a German submarine aims a few torpedoes at it, sparking heightened tensions between Germany and the United States. It was a case of mistaken identity. Roosevelt unofficially declared war on anyone who further attacked American vessels in the North Atlantic: "If German or Italian vessels of war enter these waters, they do so at their own peril."
 - **1944** - Two days after the start of the Allied mission to liberate Belgium, the British forces liberated Antwerp from the Germans. In February 1945, Belgium was entirely freed from German occupation, after five months of joint operation by the USA, Canada, Britain and Poland.
 - **1945** - The Wake Island Japanese garrison's 2,200 Japanese soldiers finally lay down their arms and surrender to a detachment of U.S. Marines days after their government had already formally capitulated. Wake Island was one of the islands bombed as part of a wider bombing raid that coincided with the attack on Pearl Harbor and they had held since 23 December of 1941.
 - **1967** - The U.S. 1st Marine Division launches Operation SWIFT, a search and destroy operation in Quang Nam and Quang Tin Provinces in I Corps Tactical Zone (the region south of the Demilitarized Zone). A fierce four-day battle ensued in the Que Son Valley, 25 miles south of Da Nang. During the course of the battle, 114 men of the U.S. 5th Marine Regiment were killed while the North Vietnamese forces suffered 376 casualties.
 - **1969** - Radio Hanoi announces the death of Ho Chi Minh, proclaiming that the

National Liberation Front will halt military operations in the South for three days, September 8-11, in mourning for Ho. He had been the spiritual leader of the communists in Vietnam since the earliest days of the struggle against the French and, later, the United States and its ally in Saigon.

- **1975** - Representatives of Egypt and Israel sign interim peace agreement in Geneva.
- **1980** - Rifleman A.F. Chipa from 32 Battalion accidentally drowned near Buffalo. He was 27.
- **1980** - Private Frederick Jacobus Janse van Vuuren from the Air Force School of Technical Training was killed in a Private Motor Vehicle Accident, at Nelspoort. He was 21.
- **1981** - Four members from 1 Special Service Battalion were killed when their Eland armoured car overturned during a training exercise at Ottosdal. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant Derek Charl De Villiers (20). Trooper Mark Rodney Harty (20). Trooper Willem Frederick Raubenheimer (19). Trooper Johannes Martin Schoeman (18).
- **1982** - Private Johannes Albertus O'Neill from 5 Maintenance Unit was grievously burned at Ondangwa on 30 August 1982 when he lit a cigarette while standing near petrol drums and the petrol fumes ignited causing an explosion. He succumbed

- to his injuries in 1 Military Hospital on 04 September 1982. He was 18.
- **1984** - Private Auguste Jansen from the Natal Command Workshop, Technical Service Corps was admitted to Addington Hospital on 01 September 1984 suffering from severe head injuries after being assaulted by persons unknown. He succumbed to his injuries on 04 September 1984. He was 19.
- **1990** - Rifleman Anton Malan from Infantry School was accidentally killed when a 40mm multiple grenade launcher barrel exploded during a firing training exercise at Oudtshoorn. He was 22.

5 September

- **1781** - In the Battle of the Chesapeake the British Navy is repelled by the French Navy, leading to the British surrender at Yorktown.
- **1876** - German field marshal and World War II war criminal Wilhelm Ritter von Leeb was born on this day. Units under Leeb's command committed atrocities against the civilian population and closely cooperated with the SS Einsatzgruppen, the mobile killing squads primarily tasked with the murder of the Jewish population as part of the Holocaust. He was found guilty and sentenced to three years.
- **1877** - Crazy Horse, the last great Sioux war chief, dies on this day at the age of 37.
- **1901** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War Lieutenant Hannam and members of the Bushveld Carbineers, fighting on British side, fire on wagons with women and children who offer no resistance, killing two children and wounding a girl.
- **1914** - The Battle of the Marne. Thirty miles north-east of Paris, the French 6th Army under General Michel-Joseph Maunoury begins attacking the right flank of German forces advancing on the French capital. By the next day, the counterattack was total. More than two million soldiers fought in the Battle of the Marne, and 100,000 of them were killed or wounded.
- **1939** - President Franklin Roosevelt declares US neutrality at start of WW II in Europe.
- **1965** - Air Mechanic Henry Cecil Oosthuizen from the Air Force Gymnasium was killed in a private motor vehicle accident in Krugersdorp. He was 19.
- **1969** - In Vietnam Lt. William Calley is charged with six specifications of premeditated murder in the death of 109 Vietnamese civilians at My Lai in March 1968.
- **1970** - Operation Jefferson Glen was launched on September 5th 1970 in the Hue Province to protect the critical installations. The United

States 101st Airborne Division and the South Vietnamese 1st Infantry Division combined forces in what was to become the last major operation in which the U.S. ground forces participated. It was also meant to strengthen the combat capability of the South Vietnamese army so they could enable them to fight the Viet Cong in the North. This parachute regiment left South Vietnam from March 1972.

- **1972** - Eleven members of the Israeli Olympic Team were killed during an attack on the Olympic Village in Munich by members of the Black September faction of the Palestinian Liberation Army. Israeli jets then bombed Palestinian positions in Lebanon and Syria in retaliation on September 8, 1972.
- **1978** - Rifleman Michael Horn Du Plessis from 2 SAI was grievously burned and suffered smoke inhalation



Ho Chi Minh

while assisting to extinguish a veld fire in Windhoek. He succumbed to his injuries later in the day. He was 19.

- **1980** - Lance Corporal Ernesto Sophia from 32 Battalion was accidentally killed by friendly fire in Southern Angola during Operation Vastrap. He was 31.
- **1982** - Private Robert Peter van Spronsen from 5 Maintenance Unit was grievously burned at Ondangwa on 30 August 1982 when a cigarette was lit while standing near petrol drums and the petrol fumes ignited, causing an explosion. He succumbed to his injuries in 1 Military Hospital on 05 September 1982. He was 19.
- **1982** - Douglas Bader, the World War II RAF fighter pilot, dies on this day at the age of 72. Bader lost both his legs in an accident before the war, but he recovered, retook flight training, passed his check flights and then requested reactivation as a pilot.
- **1983** - Sergeant Ernestus Jacobus van Staden from 8 SAI was critically injured in a private motor vehicle accident near Bloemfontein. He succumbed to his injuries in the Universitas Hospital in Bloemfontein shortly after admission. He was 24.
- **1983** - The trial of Commodore Dieter Gerhardt on charges of spying for the Soviet Union began in the Cape Town High Court. Gerhardt was arrested in

1982, sentenced in 1983 to life imprisonment for passing military secrets.

- **1986** - Sapper Gary Edward Schentke from 1 Construction Regiment was accidentally killed when a road grader drove over him during construction work at the new 102 Battalion Base at Homba in the Kaokoveld. He was 19.
- **1993** - Seven Nigerian UN peacekeepers are killed in an ambush by Somalis in Mogadishu.

6 September

- **1228** - The Holy Roman Emperor, Frederick II landed in Acre, Palestine to mark the beginning of the Sixth Crusade. Frederick II was a successor to the Roman rulers of the antiquity and was crowned emperor by Pope Honorius II in 1220.
- **1776** - during the American Revolutionary War, Ezra Lee, an American colonial soldier, commanding the 'Turtle' submarine attempted to time bomb to the hull of British Admiral Richard Howe's flagship 'Eagle' in New York Harbor. It was the first use of a submarine in warfare.
- **1861** - Forces under Union General Ulysses S. Grant bloodlessly capture Paducah, Kentucky, which gives the Union control of the mouth of the Tennessee River.
- **1900** - During the Second Anglo-Boer war the British,

under General French, occupy Carolina. On the same day forces under General Buller occupy Lydenburg.

- **1932** - The Battle of Boqueron started between the Bolivian and the Paraguayan armies. The battle was a major encounter in the Chaco War. The Bolivians had taken over the Boqueron outpost in 1932. The battle raged on for more than three weeks and finally resulted in the Bolivians surrendering.
- **1939** - South Africa declares war on Germany.
- **1944** - Soviet forces captured the city of Tartu manned by 69,000 German troops on their way to re-establishing their rule in Estonia.
- **1949** - Allied military authorities relinquish control of former Nazi Germany assets back to German control.
- **1965** - The US Marines and South Vietnamese forces launched Operation Piranha, as part of a major event during the course of the Vietnam War on the Batangan Peninsula. The operation included a raid on the Vietnam Army 1st regiment, by the Allied forces which resulted in several Vietnamese casualties.
- **1975** - Rifleman Leon Johannes de Wit Scheepers from 2 SAI was part of a group of patrols that were clearing all the islands down-river from Calueque Dam. During this process, he accidentally fell into the Cunene River and drowned

before he could be rescued. He was 18.

- **1976** - Soviet air force pilot Lt. Viktor Belenko lands a MiG-25 jet fighter at Hakodate in Japan and requests political asylum in the United States.
- **1977** - Corporal Thomas John Lewis Jones from 1 Kavango Battalion SWATF was killed when the Bedford truck in which he was travelling on the Rundu / Bagani Road, left the road and collided with a tree some 60 km west of Ondangwa. He was 21.
- **1977** - Commandant Johannes Petrus Human from Sector 70 Headquarters SWATF was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 49.
- **1978** - 2nd Lieutenant Andre Leon Opperman from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action in Southern Angola. He was 19.
- **1979** - During an external operation in Mocambique, code-named Ops Uric, a SAAF Puma helicopter carrying 3 SAAF Crew Members and 14 South African Nationals, all members serving in the Rhodesian Armed Forces, was shot down near Mapai in Mocambique. The SAAF casualties were: Captain Paul Denzil Velleman (25). Lieutenant Nigel David Osborne (22). Sergeant Dirk Wilhelmus Marthinus Retief (29).
- **1980** - Rifleman Alfred Gordon Smith from the Kimber-

ley Regiment was killed in a military vehicle accident at Sishen. He was 58.

- **1985** - Private Pierre Botha from 61 Base Workshops died in an accidental shooting incident at the Base. He was 20.
- **1986** - Lance Corporal Frederick Johannes Klaasen from Air Force Base Waterkloof was killed in a private motor vehicle accident in Paul Kruger Street, Pretoria. He was 20.
- **1987** - Lance Corporal Melvin Ashley Beneke from 1 Parachute Battalion Pathfinders was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces at the Lomba River in Southern Angola during Ops Modular. He was 19.
- **1988** - Sergeant N. Kibanguka from 32 Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 35.
- **1993** - Seven Nigerian United Nations peacekeepers are killed in an ambush by Somalis in Mogadishu.
- **1996** - Army troops drive Hutu rebels from their hillside positions outside Burundi's capital after three days of fighting.

7 September

- **1939** - The German Consulate in Cape Town packs up after South Africa's official declaration of war on Germany the previous day.

Douglas Bader



- **1940** - The German Luftwaffe began its Blitz bombing campaign against London during World War II.
- **1942** - Australian and American forces inflict a significant defeat upon the Japanese at the Battle of Milne Bay.
- **1977** - Rifleman J.M. Maquinda from 32 Battalion died from a gunshot wound, accidentally self-inflicted while on operations in Southern Angola. He was 30.
- **1978** - Major Lukas Gerhardus Grundling from 1 Parachute Battalion accidentally drowned at Wepener during a parachute jump with full kit. He was 29.
- **1986** - Private Shaun Anthony Sprowson from 16 Maintenance Unit was killed when his SAMAC Horse and Trailer overturned on the Rundu to Bagani Road. He was 20.
- **1987** - An intricate prisoner exchange takes place in Maputo, involving 133 Angolan soldiers, anti-apartheid activists, Klaas de Jonge, a

Dutch anthropologist, Pierre Andre Albertini, a French university lecturer and Major Wynand du Toit, a South African officer captured in Angola two years before that.

- **1988** - Constable Hermanus Cornelius Johannes Du Plessis from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 27.
- **1992** - Rifleman Johannes Lodewyk Bouwer Lourens from 4 SAI was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at White River. He was 18.
- **1994** - The U.S. Army closed its headquarters in Berlin, ending the American military presence in the once-divided city after nearly half a century.

8 September

- **1886** - Siegfried Sassoon was born on this day. Decorated for bravery on the Western Front, he became one of the leading poets of the First World War.
- **1900** - General Buller, with 12,000 men and forty-eight guns, attack General Botha's position at Paardeplaats, near Lydenburg and Botha, with his force of 2,000 men, evacuates his position.
- **1914** - General Louis Botha announces the South African government's decision to carry the war into German

South West Africa.

- **1941** - The German Army began its blockade of Leningrad, lasting until January 1944, resulting in the deaths of almost one million Russian civilians.
- **1943** - The United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) carried out a bombing raid against the Italian town of Frascati. The raids targeted the German General Headquarters for the Mediterranean zone (O.B.S.) and the Italian headquarters near the town.
- **1943** - General Dwight Eisenhower publicly declared the surrender of Italy to Allies in the year 1943. The Italian government agreed to suspend all conflicts with the Allies.
- **1944** - London was attacked with a V2 ('Vergeltungswaffen', or 'retaliatory weapon') rocket for the first time on this day in 1944. The attack created a crater of 10 m, took three lives and injured 22 people.
- **1945** - United States troops arrive to partition the southern part of Korea in response to Soviet troops occupying the northern part of the peninsula a month earlier.
- **1951** - Jürgen Stroop, SS General during World War II and commander of Nazi forces during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, executed by hanging for crimes against humanity at age 56.
- **1967** - It is officially disclosed that South African

police are in Rhodesia actively helping in the fight against Nationalist guerrillas. This follows an attempt by several hundred guerrillas to invade South and South West Africa, from Zambia, at the urging of the Liberation Committee of the OAU in Kampala in July 1967.

- **1975** - USAF Tech Sergeant Leonard Matlovich, a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, appears in his Air Force uniform on the cover of Time magazine with the headline "I Am a Homosexual". He is later given a general discharge.
- **1977** - Candidate Officer Leon Loubser Jones from 4 Squadron was killed when his AT-6 Harvard flew into rising ground while he was carrying out a low level flight near Pretoria. He was 20.

9 September

- **1943** - The invasion of Salerno began during World War II in Europe as Allied forces under General Mark Clark made amphibious landings along the western coast of Italy near Naples. Initial gains by the Allies met strong resistance from German forces.
- **1948** - Following the withdrawal of Soviet forces from North Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was proclaimed with Pyongyang as its capital.
- **1971** - 2nd Lieutenant Peter Schalk van der Merwe from

4 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 19.

- **1976** - Rifleman Christiaan Hendrik Pauley from the 1st Battalion Botha Regiment died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained in a shooting incident. He was 17.
- **1976** - Longtime leader of Communist China, Chairman Mao Zedong, died. As a Chinese revolutionary soldier and statesman, he had proclaimed the People's Republic of China in 1949 in Beijing.
- **1984** - Major Erasmus Johannes Louw from 8 SAI was killed instantly when a fellow Officer accidentally shot him in the back of the head with a 1 000ft rocket parachute flare during a training exercise at Riemvasmaak outside Upington. He was 29.
- **1990** - Rifleman Derio Arndse from the 2nd Battalion South African Cape Corps was critically injured in a military vehicle accident on 07 September 1990 and succumbed to his injuries in hospital on 09 September 1990. He was 26.

10 September

- **1802** - Frans Bresler, landdroos of Graaff-Reinet, confers with Lieutenant-Governor Francis Dundas in Algoa Bay on the withdrawal of British troops from the eastern frontier of SA.
- **1813** - At the Battle of Lake

Erie U.S. Naval Captain Oliver Hazard Perry defeats a British flotilla.

- **1900** - Representatives of the ZAR and the Free State governments meet in Nelspruit and decide to allow President Kruger to go to Europe (initially for a period of six months), to prevent the possibility of his falling into British hands and to plead the Republican cause in Europe.
- **1901** - The youngest Boer commandant, 19 year old Commandant Piet van der Merwe and twenty-three burghers are killed in action at Driefontein, Cape Colony, when attacked by about 700 troops under Colonel Crabbe. Only three burghers escape.
- **1914** - The SA parliament decides with 91 votes against twelve to enter into WW1.
- **1919** - Following the defeat of Germany in World War I, the victorious Allies signed the Treaty of Saint-Germain ceding parts of pre-war German-Austria to Italy and Czechoslovakia. Austria was also forbidden to unite with Germany.
- **1943** - Hitler's troops occupied Rome and took over the protection of Vatican City.
- **1967** - Speaking at a special news conference the Rhodesian Prime Minister, Ian Smith, welcomes the partic-

ipation of the South African Police in Rhodesian anti-terrorist operations.

- **1974** - The South African Minister of Defence states that South Africa will provide bases and communication facilities to the maritime forces of Western nations interested in the defence of the Cape route.
- **1979** - Rifleman Albertus Gottlieb from 101 Battalion SWATF was killed in a military vehicle accident in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1985** - Major Johan Petrus Uys from the Bothaville Commando was killed in a military vehicle accident at the intersection of the Bothaville and Wesselsbron Road. He was 51.
- **1987** - Special Sergeant Simeon Shikulo 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 28.



Ian Smith

- **2004** - Mercenary leader Simon Mann is sentenced to seven years in jail by a Zimbabwean court on weapons charges. This was for planning a coup d'état in Equatorial Guinea.

11 September

- **1813** - British troops arrive in Mount Vernon and prepare to march to and invade Washington D.C.
- **1814** - The climax of the Battle of Plattsburgh, a major United States victory in the war which ended Britain's final invasion of the northern states.
- **1840** - British bombard Beirut to force Mehmet Ali, pasha of Egypt, to submit.
- **1900** - Martial law is declared in the Transvaal.
- **1919** - U.S. Marines invade Honduras.
- **1941** - Franklin D. Roosevelt orders any Axis ship found in American waters be shot on sight.
- **1944** - The first Allied troops of the U.S. Army cross the western border of Germany.
- **1956** - Billy Bishop VC, CB, DSO & Bar, MC, DFC, ED, Canadian World War I flying ace, dies aged 62.
- **1965** - The 1st Cavalry Division of the United States Army arrives in Vietnam.
- **1974** - Warrant Officer Class II Olaf Volmer Jensen from 2 SAI Died of Wounds at the hospital at Walvis Bay after sustaining multiple shrapnel wounds in an accidental hand grenade explosion. He

was 44.

- **1977** - Rifleman Rodriques Pedro from 32 Battalion was accidentally killed in an anti-personnel landmine explosion while assisting to lay a minefield during an operation in Southern Angola. He was 32.
- **1977** - Corporal Albertus Petrus van Zyl from the Tygerberg Commando was Killed in Action when his Buffel Troop Carrier detonated a landmine near Oshigambo. He was 31.
- **1983** - 2nd Lieutenant Deon De Villiers from 3 Medical Battalion Group was killed in a military vehicle accident in Bloemfontein. He was 26.
- **2001** - Thousands are killed after terrorists crashed hijacked airliners into the World Trade Centre in New York and the Pentagon in Washington. The effect was felt world wide, also in SA, where i.e. flights to the USA were suspended, security measures at airports tightened, and the economy affected adversely.

12 September

- **1861** - The First Battle of Lexington was fought during the American Civil War between the Union Army and the pro-Confederate Missouri State Guard. The battle was fought from September 12 to September 20, 1861 and is also known as the Siege of Lexington. The

pro-Confederate Missouri State Guard emerged victorious in the battle.

- **1918** - American Expeditionary Forces under the command of General Pershing launched the U. S's major offensive in Europe as an independent army. The attack occurred at the Saint-Mihiel salient in France. This was a strategic location that was occupied by the Germans who blocked rail traffic between Paris and eastern sections of the front. The American offensive forced the German army decided to abandon the salient.
- **1931** - Andries J. Bester (81), Boer commandant during Second Anglo-Boer War, dies in Paul Roux, OFS.
- **1940** - Italian forces begin an offensive into Egypt from Libya.
- **1942** - RMS Laconia, a British troopship, was carrying civilians, Polish soldiers and Italian POWs to Britain via West African coast when a German U-boat U-156 torpedoed the ship. Operating partly under the dictates of the old prize rules, the U-boat commander immediately commenced rescue operations, broadcasting their humanitarian intent to all Allied forces in the area, and was joined by all U-boats in the vicinity. American bombers deliberately bombed U-156 and the rescue mission proved disastrous to both the survivors and the Germans. This event

forced the German navy to forbid such acts of kindness to get an upper edge in the war.

- **1943** - Former Italian Dictator Benito Mussolini was rescued by German paratroopers on orders from Adolf Hitler. Mussolini was being held prisoner by Italian authorities following the collapse of his Fascist regime.
- **1944** - U.S. Army troops enter Germany for the first time.
- **1960** - The Central African Republics, Ghana and Guinea threaten to withdraw their troops from a security force unless the United Nations gives up its control of Leopoldville radio and the Congo's airports.
- **1966** - Minister of Defence P.W. Botha announces in Cape Town that the posts of Secretary for Defence and Commandant-General of the Defence Force are to be combined under one head.
- **1968** - Warrant Officer Class I Pieter Francois Pienaar for the South African Corps of Signals was killed when his military vehicle overturned 11 miles from Colesburg on the Naauwpoort Road.. He was 37.
- **1969** - Rifleman Cornelius Gregorius Labuschagne from 4 SAI was accidentally killed after he suffocated as a result of gas at the Klerksdorp Provincial Hospital. He was 18.
- **1971** - Rifleman Trevor

Cowie from 6 SAI was killed in a private vehicle accident while returning to the unit after a weekend pass. The accident occurred at Howsens Poort, South of Grahamstown. He was 18.

- **1974** - Military officers depose Emperor Haile Selassie from the Ethiopian throne he had occupied for more than fifty years.
- **1978** - Candidate Officer Lancelot Emberger from Central Flying School, Dunnottar was killed when his AT-6 Harvard failed to recover from a spin and crashed near Delmas. He was 22.
- **1979** - Rifleman Johannes Conga HC from "C" Company, 31 Battalion (201 Battalion) was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Zambia. During this action, he deliberately drew enemy fire upon himself in order to save the life of his Officer, Lieutenant Coetzee. Rifleman Conga was posthumously awarded the Honoris Crux Decoration for his unselfish act of self-sacrifice. He was 25.
- **1980** - Corporal Jose Francisco from 32 Battalion was critically wounded by cannon fire from an Alouette Gunship during a contact with a numerically superior enemy force in Southern Angola. He was evacuated to Grootfontein Hospital

where he unfortunately succumbed to his wounds later in the day. He was 29.

- **1980** - Lieutenant Vincent Peter Lautenslager from 8 Squadron was Reported Missing on 12 September 1980 when his Atlas MB326K Impala Mk II flew into the ground near Xangongo while providing close air support to Army Ground Forces in Southern Angola. The subsequent Board of Enquiry found no evidence of hostile enemy action. He has no known grave. He was 23.
- **1980** - The Turkish army under the leadership of General Evren carried out a coup. Before the coup, the country was in a chaos and was without an elected president. The coup was generally welcomed by the public because it brought order to the nation.
- **1982** - Sergeant William Paul Courtney from 4 Reconnaissance Regiment died as a result of injuries sustained in a private motorcycle accident in Central Durban. He was 24.

Benito Mussolini



- **1982** - Corporal Christiaan Benjamin Ehlers from the Air Force Gymnasium was killed in a private motorcycle accident. He was 22.
- **1983** - Rifleman Michael Anthony Costello from 7 SAI was accidentally killed during a fire and movement exercise. He was 20.
- **1983** - Rifleman Johannes August van der Westhuizen from the South African Cape Corps was killed after being struck by a bullet from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while at Bagani. He was 19.
- **1984** - Rifleman Pieter Taljaard from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned. He was 19.
- **1985** - Major Johannes Andries van der Vyver from 32 Battalion was decapitated by aircraft propeller and died instantly. He was 31.
- **1985** - Private Ricky Grant Whitaker from 5 Maintenance Unit died after being accidentally blasted in the face with a fire extinguisher at Ondangwa. He was 18.
- **1987** - Rifleman Fanie de Bruin from the South African Cape Corps was killed when his Buffel vehicle overturned during a contact and subsequent hot pursuit operation against SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 21.
- **1987** - Lance Corporal Stephen Lesley Roman from the South African Cape

Corps was killed in a motor vehicle accident in Mamelodi, North of Pretoria. He was 21.

- **1990** - Lieutenant Edward Diggle from 42 Squadron was killed when his Aeromacchi AM-3C Bosbok crashed at Potchefstroom. He was 20.

- **1990** - A treaty was signed by East and West Germany and the Allies of World War II allowing for the restoration of sovereignty to a reunified Germany.

13 September

- **1759** - James Wolfe, British Army officer who defeated the French in Canada and captured Quebec, dies in battle at the age of 32.
- **1847** - During the American-Mexican War, U.S. forces under General Winfield Scott capture Mexico City effectively ending the war.
- **1851** - American Army physician Walter Reed (1851-1902) was born in Gloucester County, Virginia. Best known for his Yellow Fever research, he served as an army surgeon for more than 20 years. The U.S. Army's general hospital in Washington, D.C., is named in his honour.
- **1860** - Army General John J. Pershing (1860-1948) was born in Laclede, Missouri. He commanded the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) during World War I and oversaw the Meuse-Ar-

gonne operation that helped bring about the Armistice of November 11, 1918.

- **1862** - Union soldiers find a copy of Robert E. Lee's battle plans in a field outside Frederick, Maryland. It is the prelude to the Battle of Antietam.
- **1882** - During the Egyptian Rebellion, British forces under Wolseley rout the Egyptians at Tel-el-Kebir and proceed to occupy Egypt and the Sudan.
- **1889** - Lieutenant-Colonel R.G. Kekewich arrives in Kimberley to assess the military situation and to advise the new General Officer Commanding British Troops in South Africa, Lieutenant-General F.W.E.F. Forestier-Walker, on the defence of the town.
- **1900** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War Lord Roberts issues a proclamation calling on the Republican forces still in the field to surrender.
- **1914** - General Jan C.G. Kemp resigns as officer in the SA army because of the war policy of the Botha government and joins the Rebellion force.
- **1940** - Italy invades Egypt.
- **1946** - Amon Göth, Austrian SS commandant of the Płaszów concentration camp, is executed by hanging at the age of 37.
- **1951** - During the Korean War the 32 day Battle of Heart Break Ridge begins.
- **1964** - Egypt and Saudi Ara-

bia announce agreement of peaceful settlement of two-year-old Yemeni civil war.

- **1970** - Six members from 5 SAI and one member from 3 SAI were killed while being transported in a Gladiator Troop Carrier back to Ladysmith Army Camp. The casualties were: Rifleman Hilton Dudley Coker (19). Rifleman John Grinyer (20). Rifleman Peter Alfons Ernst Leonhardt (19). Rifleman Kevin Eric Mack (18). Rifleman Richard Neville Marriott (17). Rifleman Gregory George Olyott (18). Rifleman Mark Felice Valero (18).
- **1976** - Rifleman Christiaan Frederik Ehlers from 11 Commando Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents approximately 9km from Eenhana. He was 19.
- **1977** - Lance Corporal Paul Onre Dossena from the Natal Mounted Rifles was Killed in Action when his Bosvark vehicle detonated a boosted a Yugoslavian TMA-3 Cheese Mine while travelling to Nkongo. He was 19.
- **1985** - Chief Petty Officer Colin George Clement from Naval Base Simonstown collapsed after apparently suffering a heart attack while he was at the Catering School. He died later in 2 Military Hospital. He was 42.
- **1985** - Rifleman M.H.

Mutirua from 102 Battalion SWATF accidentally drowned during a river crossing while his patrol was carrying out a follow-up Operation against SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 22.

- **1987** - Six members of 32 Battalion were Killed in Action in a single incident during Ops Modular in Southern Angola. The Casualties were: Captain Alfred Desmond McCallum (28). 2nd Lieutenant José Raimundo Alves (20). Lance Corporal Matthys Michael De Klerk (20). Trooper Marthinus Johannes Kuyler (20). Lance Corporal Joao Rodrigues Mananza (33). Lance Corporal Waite Tchipango (31).
- **1988** - Gunner Andre Meiring from 4 Artillery Regiment was killed in a military vehicle accident at the Army Battle School at Lohatla. He was 19.
- **1990** - Private Warren Ralph Beech from 1 Military Town Management Fire Department was accidentally killed when he fell from a fire tower at Voortrekkerhoogte during fire practice drills when his harness safety shackle failed. He was 19.
- **1991** - Rifleman Amos van Wyk from the South African Cape Corps died in Grey's Hospital after being critically injured when the Samil 20

vehicle he was driving overturned near Richmond. He was 17.

14 September

- **1795** - British troops march from Simonstown and General J.H. Craig enters Cape Town. Sluysken formally surrenders on 16 September.
- **1812** - Napoleon and his troops first entered Moscow as the retreating Russians set the city on fire. Napoleon found it was impossible to stay through the winter in the ruined city. He then began a retreat from Moscow which became one of the great disasters of military history. Fewer than 20,000 of the original 500,000 men with him survived the Russian campaign.
- **1852** - Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington and British Prime Minister (1828-30) dies at 83.
- **1886** - Erich Hoepner, World War II German general and early proponent of mecha-



John J. Pershing

nisation and armoured warfare, was born on this day.

- **1901** - Andrey Andreyevich Vlasov, World War II Russian Red Army general, was born on this day.
- **1914** - The first ships with South African soldiers on board leave for the ports of German South West Africa to invade the territory.
- **1942** - A plan designed to fight Italian forces, Operation 'Agreement' is executed in Libya.
- **1980** - Rifleman Robert Edward Buchholtz from 4 SAI was killed in a private motor vehicle accident in East London while on a weekend pass. He was 20.
- **1985** - Sergeant Peter Henry Anthony from 8 SAI was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned near Etale Base. He was 25.
- **1985** - T/Leading Marine Simon Games Auld from 1 Marine Brigade was killed in a private motor vehicle accident in Port Elizabeth. He was 19.
- **1988** - Sapper Andre' Stephan Lategan from 5 Military Works Unit was accidentally killed on the Dwaalboom Road near Thabazimbi while loading a road grader. He went under the trailer to insert the retaining pin but the pin snapped causing both the trailer and grader to fall on him, killing him instantly. He was 21.
- **1992** - Seaman Goodman Mthunzi Maphumulo from Naval Station SAS Jalsena

accidentally drowned during a military training exercise at the Midmar Dam while he was undergoing Basic Military Training. He was 22.

- **1993** - Lance Corporal Pieter Joachim Smith died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while at Broederstroom. He was 22.
- **2002** - The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a Christian fundamentalist rebel group trying to overthrow the Ugandan government since 1987, stages a series of attacks in which four people are killed and forty-one abducted.
- **2003** - President Kumba Yalla of Guinea-Bissau is toppled in a military coup.
- **2004** - The South African Air Force's newest addition, the Gripen fighter jet, takes its first flight around Cape Town, causing an ear-piercing sonic boom.

15 September

- **1776** - British forces under General William Howe captured New York during the American Revolution.
- **1882** - British forces occupy Cairo.
- **1901** - Fifteen members of the notorious special British unit called the Bushveld Carbineers send a petition to Colonel Hall of the Royal Artillery, requesting a full and impartial inquiry into the alleged atrocities perpetrated by members of their unit.
- **1914** - Boer leader General

Koos de la Rey, en route to Potchefstroom with general Beyers, is shot dead when his chauffeur-driven car fails to stop at a roadblock near Langlaagte, Johannesburg. (The roadblock had been erected to forestall William Foster of the Foster Gang, who shot dead a policeman during the day.)

- **1916** - Tanks were first used in combat, during the Allied offensive at the Battle of the Somme, in World War I.
- **1940** - The height of the Battle of Britain occurred as massive German air raids took place against London, Southampton, Bristol, Cardiff, Liverpool and Manchester. The British claimed 185 German planes were shot down.
- **1942** - U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS Wasp is torpedoed at Guadalcanal.
- **1950** - UN forces land at Inchon in South Korea during the Korean War.
- **1962** - The Soviet ship Poltava heads toward Cuba, one of the events that sets into motion the Cuban Missile Crisis.
- **1967** - Egyptian commander in Six-Day War with Israel, Field Marshal Abdel Hakim Amer, commits suicide.
- **1978** - France returns the deposit paid by South Africa for two corvettes and two submarines.
- **1982** - Warrant Officer Class II Pieter Ryno Johannes Swart from the Maritime Operations Centre died after

suffering a fatal heart attack during a fitness walk. He was 52.

- **1984** - Rifleman Otto Bismarck Harms was accidentally killed at the Germiston railway station when he was struck by a moving train. He was 19.
- **1985** - Corporal Bruce Andrew Fidler HC (Posthumous) was an Ops Medic from 7 Medical Battalion Group operating with Special Forces that were providing operational support to Paratroopers and other SADF and UNITA Forces in Southern Angola during Operation Magneto. He was Reported Missing on 14 September 1985 when two vehicles were ambushed by approximately 40 enemy troops. Most of the UNITA soldiers were killed and the two Artillery Officers and Medical Orderly (Bruce) who were in the second vehicle were wounded. The two Officers successfully evaded but Bruce was captured. He was brutally tortured and interrogated by the enemy before being executed but he never once revealed the Order of Battle for an upcoming operation in support of UNITA, or the SADF Artillery positions or the location of the SAMS Surgical Team thereby enabling them to successfully evade capture and reach South African lines. His remains were repatriated back to South Africa in June 1992

and cremated on 15 September 1992. He was posthumously awarded the Honoris Crux for bravery and selfless devotion above and beyond the call of duty in the face of brutal torture. He was 21.

- **1988** - Lance Corporal Brian Collin Deyes from Air Force Headquarters was killed instantly when his private motor vehicle was involved in an accident in Potgieter Street and overturned. He was 20.
- **1997** - An Egyptian military court convicts seventy-two Islamic militants of subversion and sentences four of them to death.

16 September

- **1776** - The Battle of Harlem Heights is fought during the American Revolutionary War.
- **1891** - German admiral and politician Karl Dönitz was born on this day.
- **1910** - SS Colonel Erich Kempka, who served as Adolf Hitler's primary chauffeur from 1934 to April 1945, was born on this day.
- **1914** - The Siege of Przemyśl (present-day Poland) begins during World War I.
- **1940** - Italian troops conquer Sidi Barrani.
- **1943** - The German Tenth Army reports that it can no longer contain the Allied

bridgehead around Salerno.

- **1945** - The surrender of the Japanese troops in Hong Kong is accepted by Royal Navy Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt.
- **1955** - The military coup to unseat President Juan Perón of Argentina is launched at midnight.
- **1955** - A Soviet Navy Zulu-class submarine becomes the first to launch a ballistic missile.
- **1970** - King Hussein of Jordan declares military rule following the hijacking of four civilian airliners by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). This results in the formation of the Black September Palestinian paramilitary unit.
- **1975** - The first prototype of the Mikoyan MiG-31 interceptor makes its maiden flight.
- **1978** - Rifleman Gregory James Engledoe from the South African Cape Corps was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He



Juan Peron

- was 18.
 - **1982** - Rifleman Gabriel Johannes Schwartz from Infantry School was killed in a military vehicle accident at Otjiwarongo. He was 21.
 - **1982** - Beginning of a two day massacre in Palestinian refugee camps in West Beirut as Christian militiamen (the Phalangists) entered Sabra and Shatila and began shooting hundreds of Palestinians, including elderly men, women and children.
 - **1983** - Three members from 102 Battalion SWATF were Killed in Action during a contact with a large group of SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-line. The casualties were: Rifleman K Kavari (19). Rifleman J Tinda. (18). Rifleman K Kavari (18).
 - **1985** - Lance Corporal Glen Stuart Ruthven from 3 Medical Battalion Group was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Maitland. He was 28.
 - **1985** - Gunner Alec Ridgard from 10 Artillery Brigade was critically injured in a private motorcycle accident on 14 June 1985 at Westonaria. He was admitted to the H.F. Verwoerd Hospital in Pretoria where he succumbed to his injuries on 16 September 1985. He was 19.
 - **1987** - Rifleman Pieter Andreas Visagie from 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 23.
 - **1988** - Rifleman Sean Cochrane Ellis from 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident between Ogongo and Okalongo. He was 21.
 - **1991** - Two members from the SADF Dog Training Centre died from the effects of smoke inhalation at Bourkes Luck while assisting to extinguish a raging veld fire. The casualties were: Lance Corporal Adrian Marcel Juskiewicz (18). Lance Corporal Michael Swanepoel (19).
 - **1999** - Lieutenant Sibusiso Madubela of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) went on a murder rampage at 1 South African Infantry Battalion. He opened fire with an R4 Automatic Assault Rifle, killing seven serving SANDF members including one female civilian worker in the employ of the SANDF and wounding another twelve were wounded, one critically. His murder spree came to an abrupt end when he was intercepted and shot dead.
 - **2007** - Mercenaries working for Blackwater Worldwide shoot and kill 17 Iraqis in Nisour Square, Baghdad.
 - **2014** - The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant launches its Kobani offensive against Syrian-Kurdish forces.
- 17 September**
- **1862** - The bloodiest day in U.S. military history oc-

- curred as General Robert E. Lee and the Confederate armies were stopped at Antietam in Maryland by General George B. McClellan and numerically superior Union forces. By nightfall 26,000 men were dead, wounded, or missing.
- **1894** - Battle of the Yalu River, the largest naval engagement of the First Sino-Japanese War.
- **1901** - Commandant-General Louis Botha and General Cheere Emmett join forces to invade Natal.
- **1901** - A Boer column defeats a British force at the Battle of Blood River Poort.
- **1901** - Boers capture a squadron of the 17th Lancers at the Battle of Elands River.
- **1916** - Manfred von Richthofen ("The Red Baron"), a flying ace of the German *Luftstreitkräfte*, wins his first aerial combat near Cambrai, France.
- **1939** - Soviet Russians invaded Eastern Poland, meeting little resistance and taking over 200,000 Poles prisoner. This was done in accordance with the Nazi-Soviet Pact in which the Nazis and Soviets had predetermined how they would divide up Poland.
- **1939** - German submarine U-29 sinks the British aircraft carrier HMS Courageous.
- **1940** - Following Nazi Germany's defeat in the Battle of Britain, Hitler postpones Operation Sea Lion indefinitely.

- nitely.
 - **1941** - Soviet forces enter Tehran marking the end of the Anglo-Soviet invasion of Iran.
 - **1944** - Allied Airborne troops parachute into the Netherlands as the "Market" half of Operation Market Garden.
 - **1944** - German forces are attacked by the Allies in the Battle of San Marino.
 - **1962** - Warrant Officer Class 1 Johannes Jacobus Squier Heunis from 91 Ammunition Depot collapsed and died after suffering a fatal heart attack while in Pretoria. He was 45.
 - **1963** - Adolph Gysbert (Sailor) Malan, SA fighter pilot during WWII and later national president of the Torch Commando, dies in Kimberley.
 - **1965** - The Battle of Chawinda is fought between Pakistan and India.
 - **1980** - Rifleman Adriaan Christoffel Ackerman from 7 SAI was accidentally shot dead by a fellow member while stationed at Nkongo Base. He was 20.
 - **1981** - Rifleman Gerhardus Johan Myburgh from 1 SAI died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while at Omuthiya. He was 19.
 - **1981** - Trooper Diederick Arnoldus Steyn from 2 Special Service Battalion was critically injured in a military vehicle accident on 7 September 1981 and succumbed to his injuries on 1
- Military Hospital on 17 September 1981. He was 19.**
- **1982** - Corporal Luther Johannes Botha from the Northern Transvaal Provost Unit was killed in private motor cycle accident in Hillbrow, Johannesburg. He was 23.
 - **1984** - Corporal C Paulo from 32 Battalion was accidentally smothered and suffocated during a training exercise. He was 28.
 - **1987** - Sergeant Rudolf Morris from the South African Cape Corps died from a stab wound received during an altercation with a fellow soldier while at the Touwsriver Training Area. He was 29.
 - **1991** - Rifleman Louis Johann Swart from the Dog Training Centre died from the effects of smoke inhalation while assisting to extinguish a veld fire at Bourkes Luck. He was 19.
- 18 September**
- **1759** - During the Seven Years' War, the British capture Quebec City.
 - **1898** - War is barely averted when a British expedition to establish a route through Africa reaches an obscure Sudanese fort and finds the French already there.
 - **1900** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War Brigadier-General Stephenson occu-

- pies Nelspruit without opposition and Lord Roberts transfers his headquarters there.
- **1914** - A body of Active Citizen Force (A.C.F.) troops of the Union of SA, nearly 1 800 strong, lands at Lüderitz Bay (Angra Pequena) in South West Africa and advance some distance into the desert.
- **1931** - The Mukden Incident gives Japan a pretext to invade and occupy Manchuria.
- **1939** - Lord Haw-Haw (William Joyce) begins transmitting pro-Nazi/anti-Allied propaganda.
- **1940** - The British liner SS City of Benares is sunk by German submarine U-48; those killed include 77 child refugees.
- **1943** - The Jews of Minsk are massacred at Sobibór.
- **1943** - Adolf Hitler orders the deportation of Danish Jews.

Sailor Malan



- **1944** - The British submarine HMS Tradewind torpedoes the Japanese ship Jun'yō Maru, 5,600 killed.
- **1945** - General Douglas MacArthur moves his command headquarters to Tokyo.
- **1947** - The U.S. Air Force was established as a separate military service.
- **1948** - Operation Polo is terminated after the Indian Army accepts the surrender of the army of Osman Ali Khan, Asaf Jah VII, Nizam of Hyderabad.
- **1961** - Dag Hammarskjöld, United Nations (UN) Secretary General, dies when his plane crashes under mysterious circumstances near Ndola in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia).
- **1964** - North Vietnamese Army begins infiltration of South Vietnam.
- **1969** - Rifleman Collin Arthur Williams from 4 SAI died from lung complications after participating in an unauthorised gas exercise held at the training grounds in Doornkop. He was 18.
- **1970** - Private Abraham Jacobus Goosen from 1 Air Depot was accidentally killed in a crane accident at Voortrekkerhoogte. He was 17.
- **1971** - Egypt and Israel exchange rocket fire across Suez Canal.
- **1973** - Rifleman Terence Arthur Langley from 3 SAI died from a gunshot wound, accidentally self-inflicted while he was stationed at
- Rundu. He was 18.
- **1979** - Corporal Andries Petrus Hanneman from Northern Transvaal Command was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Potgietersrus. He was 19.
- **1981** - Rifleman Petrus Jacobus van Staden from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed in a private motor cycle accident on the Bloemfontein to Winburg Road. He was 18.
- **1981** - Corporal Johannes Jacobus van Staden from the Transvaal Scottish died in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 23.
- **1986** - Airman Hendrik Frensch van Zyl from the Air Force Base Hoedspruit Fire Section was found murdered by persons unknown at Linbro Park, Johannesburg near the Alexandra Township with a knife wound to the neck. He was 20.
- **1988** - 2nd Lieutenant Petrus Gerhardus Lourens Koen from 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was critically injured on 16 September 1988 when his Ratel overturned while traveling between Ogongo and Okalongo in Northern Owamboland. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria where he succumbed to his injuries on 18 September 1988. He was 19.
- **1997** - Muslim extremists fire on a bus outside a museum in Cairo, killing ten people, mostly German tourists.
- **1998** - End of pro-democracy uprisings in Myanmar

- after a bloody military coup by the State Law and Order Restoration Council. Thousands, mostly monks and civilians (primarily students), are killed by the Tatmadaw.
- **1991** - Yugoslavia begins a naval blockade of seven Adriatic port cities.
- **1997** - Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is adopted.
- **2015** - Two security personnel, 17 worshippers in a mosque, and 13 militants are killed following a Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan attack on a Pakistan Air Force base on the outskirts of Peshawar.
- **2016** - Seventeen Indian Army security personnel killed in the Indian Administered Kashmir by anti-government militants.

19 September

- **1676** - Jamestown is burned to the ground by the forces of Nathaniel Bacon during Bacon's Rebellion.
- **1863** - The first day of the Battle of Chickamauga, in northwestern Georgia, the bloodiest two-day battle of the conflict, and the only significant Confederate victory in the war's Western Theater.
- **1870** - Having invaded the Papal States a week earlier, the Italian Army lays siege to Rome, entering the city the next day, after which the Pope described himself as a Prisoner in the Vatican.
- **1916** - During the East African Campaign of World War I, colonial armed forces of

- the Belgian Congo (Force Publique) under the command of General Charles Tombeur captured the town of Tabora after heavy fighting.
- **1918** - Two infantry battalions of Cape Corps capture Square Hill in Palestine.
- **1939** - The Battle of Kępa Oksywska concludes, with Polish losses reaching roughly 14% of all the forces engaged.
- **1944** - Armistice between Finland and Soviet Union is signed, marking the end of the Continuation War.
- **1957** - First American underground nuclear bomb test (part of Operation Plumbob).
- **1978** - Rifleman John James Hearn Cloete from the Rand Light Infantry was accidentally killed in a mortar bomb explosion at the Swartland Training Area near Rundu. He was 23.
- **1983** - Special Constable U. Ndiaombe 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 31.
- **1984** - Rifleman David Schalk van der Merwe from 1 SAI died from a gunshot wound sustained as a result of an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while at the De Brug Training Area. He was 18.
- **1994** - U.S. troops invaded

- Haiti, with the stated goal of restoring democracy.
- **2003** - UN Security Council agrees to send 15,000 peace-keeping troops to Liberia.
- **2006** - The Thai military stages a coup in Bangkok. The Constitution is revoked and martial law is declared.

20 September

- **1834** - The troopship Charlotte is wrecked in Algoa Bay and ninety-seven people drown.
- **1857** - The Indian Rebellion of 1857 ends with the recapture of Delhi by troops loyal to the East India Company.
- **1915** - A new battalion consisting of Cape Coloured men, called the Cape Corps, is established with the view of being dispatched to East Africa in 1916.
- **1941** - The Holocaust in Lithuania: Four hundred three Jews (128 men, 176 women and 99 children) were murdered by *Einsatzkommando* 3 and the local police in Nemenčinė.
- **1942** - The Holocaust in Ukraine: In the course of two days a German *einsatzgruppen* murders at least 3,000 Jews in Letychiv.
- **1965** - Following the Battle of Burki, the Indian Army captures Dograi in course of the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965.
- **1967** - Israeli tank shelling sinks three Egyptian troop-

- carrying boats in the Suez Canal. Israel claims the ships violated the Egyptian-Israeli agreement banning small craft navigation in the waterway.
- **1979** - Emperor Bokassa I is overthrown in a bloodless coup in the Central African Republic.
- **1979** - Rifleman S. Shangweni from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 24.
- **1981** - Two members from 4 SAI were Killed in Action in Southern Angola when their Buffel troop carrier with 11 troops on board, detonated a landmine. The casualties were: Rifleman Roderick James Leonard MacIntosh (18). Rifleman Edward Daniel van Rooyen (19).
- **1987** - Rifleman (Gunner) William George Beukman from 4 SAI was killed in action. He was 19.



Douglas MacArthur

- **1993** - Erich 'Bubi' Hartmann, World War II Luftwaffe fighter pilot, dies on this day at the age of 71. Hartmann was the leading fighter ace of World War II with 352 credited kills.
- **2011** - The United States military ends its "Don't ask, don't tell" policy, allowing gay men and women to serve openly for the first time.

21 September

- **1780** - During the American Revolutionary War, Benedict Arnold gives the British the plans to West Point.
- **1896** - British force under Horatio Kitchener takes Dongola in the Sudan.
- **1899** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War, Hong Kong offers military assistance to Great Britain.
- **1942** - The Holocaust in Ukraine: On the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, Nazis send over 1,000 Jews of Pidhatsi to Belzec extermination camp.
- **1942** - The Holocaust in Poland: At the end of Yom Kippur, Germans order Jews to permanently evacuate Konstantynów and move to the ghetto in Biała Podlaska, established to assemble Jews from seven nearby towns, including Janów Podlaski, Rossosz and Terespol.
- **1942** - The Boeing B-29 Superfortress makes its maiden flight.
- **1953** - Lieutenant No Kum-sok, a North Korean pilot, defects to South Korea and

is associated with Operation Moolah.

- **1960** - United Nations deploys 4 000 troops to Katanga to prevent the massacre of Baluba tribesmen by provincial troops and police in Congo.
- **1964** - The North American XB-70 Valkyrie, the world's first Mach 3 bomber, makes its maiden flight from Palm-dale, California.
- **1966** - Able Seaman Phillipus Johannes Havenga from SAS Simonsberg was killed in a diving training accident in False Bay. He was 20.
- **1971** - Candidate Officer Hendrik Oswald Meyer Odendaal from Flying Training School Langebaanweg was killed when his Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I crashed in the Kouebokke Mountains near Citrusdal while carrying out a solo night Navigation exercise. He was 20.
- **1978** - Rifleman Johanne Cornelius Du Plessis from 11 Commando Regiment was critically wounded in a shooting incident at Etale Base. He later succumbed to his wounds in 1 Military Hospital. He was 21.
- **1978** - Sergeant Hendrik Gerhardus van der Merwe from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment attached to "D" Squadron Rhodesian Special Air Service was Killed in Action when he was hit in the throat by enemy rifle fire while participating in an attack on a ZANLA Base

in the Chimoio area of Mocimboa do Castelo during Operation Snoopy. He was 23.

- **1982** - Rifleman Dumba Catumbele from 201 Battalion SWATF was killed in an accidental explosion in an ammunition bunker at Omega. He was 23.
- **1988** - Rifleman Douw Cornet from 7 SAI attached to 202 Battalion SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Mashari. He was 19.
- **1989** - Rifleman Rivers Ammon Sibuyi from the Kruger National Park Commando was killed after being attacked by a lion while on foot patrol in the Northern section of the Kruger National Park. He was 31.
- **1990** - Charles Taylor, leader of a Liberian rebel faction, announces a unilateral cease-fire set to take effect the next day.
- **2004** - Major Catherine Labuschagne (25) makes history when she becomes the first woman fighter pilot in the world to fly a Gripen fighter jet during the opening of the African Aerospace and Defence Air Show at the Waterkloof Air Force base.
- **2013** - Al-Shabaab Islamic militants attack the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi, Kenya, killing at least 67 people.

22 September

- **1776** - During the American Revolution, Nathan Hale was executed without a trial

after he was caught spying on British troops on Long Island, his last words, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

- **1828** - Shaka, Zulu chief and founder of the Zulu empire, is murdered by his two half-brothers Dingane and Mhlangana. Dingane assumes the throne.
- **1882** - Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, who served as Chief of the Armed Forces High Command (Oberkommando der Wehrmacht or OKW) in Nazi Germany during World War II, was born on this day.
- **1900** - As result of a military notice on this date, the first two refugee camps are established at Pretoria and Bloemfontein, initially with the aim to protect the families of burghers who had surrendered voluntarily. As the families of combatant burghers were also driven into these and other camps, they ceased to be 'refugee' camps and became 'concentration' camps.
- **1900** - The British, under Colonel Settle, enter Schweizer-Reneke, in western Transvaal.
- **1914** - German submarine SM U-9 torpedoes and sinks the British cruisers HMS Aboukir, Hogue and Cressy on the Broad Fourteens off the Dutch coast with the loss of over 1,400 men.
- **1939** - Joint victory parade of Wehrmacht and Red Army in Brest-Litovsk at

the end of the Invasion of Poland.

- **1965** - The Indo-Pakistani War of 1965 (also known as the Second Kashmir War) between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, ends after the UN calls for a ceasefire.
- **1979** - Rifleman William Ledgeton Saunders from 3 SAI was shot dead by another soldier while on guard duty in a bunker at Eenhana. He was 18.
- **1980** - Iraq invades Iran.
- **1985** - Rifleman Hymie Diamond from 5 SAI was killed in a private motor vehicle accident, at Vryheid. He was 19.
- **1989** - Two members from 85 Combat Flying School were killed when their Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I crashed near Sabie during a routine training flight. The casualties were: Lieutenant Werner Bredenkamp (20). Lieutenant Deon Joubert (20).
- **1991** - 2nd Lieutenant Nathaniel Roesch from the Dog Training Centre died from the effects of smoke inhalation while assisting to extinguish a veld fire at Bourkes Luck. He was 19.
- **1998** - Eight members of the SANDF, six from 1 Parachute Battalion and two from 7 Medical Battalion Group, were killed in action by Lesotho Army Forces during Ops Boles.

23 September

- **1869** - General Christiaan Frederik Beyers, Boer general, is born in Stellenbosch.
- **1890** - Field Marshal Friedrich von Paulus (1890-1957) was born on this day. Von Paulus led the German 6th Army at Stalingrad.
- **1942** - The Matanikau action on Guadalcanal begins when U.S. Marines attack Japanese units along the Matanikau River.
- **1950** - During the Battle of Hill 282 in Koera, the first US friendly-fire incident on British military personnel since World War II occurs.
- **1979** - The world press speculates that a bright flash detected by an American satellite between SA and the Antarctic was caused by a South African nuclear bomb explosion.
- **1983** - Lieutenant Frans Willem Conradie from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K (Koevoet) was killed in a motor vehicle accident. He was 30.
- **1986** - A force of about



Catherine Labuschagne

fifty armed dissidents infiltrate the Togolese capital of Lome in an attempt to topple President Gnassingbe Eyadema's government. They are defeated by the military.

- **1990** - Lieutenant Sean James McGuinness from 42 Squadron was grievously burned when his Aermacchi AM-3C Bosbok crashed at Potchefstroom on 12 September 1990. He succumbed to his injuries in 1 Military Hospital on 23 September 1990. He was 23.

24 September

- **1645** - Battle of Rowton Heath, Parliamentary victory over a Royalist army commanded in person by King Charles.
- **1780** - Benedict Arnold flees to British Army lines when the arrest of British Major John André exposes Arnold's plot to surrender West Point.
- **1877** - Battle of Shiroyama, decisive victory of the Imperial Japanese Army over the Satsuma Rebellion.
- **1884** - German weapons designer and engineer Hugo Schmeisser was born on this day. One of the most popular German weapons during World War II was the MP-40 submachine gun. It was often erroneously called "Schmeisser" by the Allies, although Hugo Schmeisser was not involved in the design or production of the weapon.

- **1960** - USS Enterprise, the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, is launched.
- **1964** - South African ordinance workshops have produced the first Belgian F.N. rifle, which is now ready to go into production.
- **1978** - Hasso von Manteuffel, the German general who commanded the 5th Panzer Army during World War II, died on this day at the age of 81.
- **1979** - Civilian rule is established in Ghana after the first military coup under Jerry Rawlings on 4 June, 1979.
- **1982** - Rifleman Don Andries Spence from Bravo Company, 1 Parachute Battalion was killed after being struck by a bullet from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle after a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 20.
- **1987** - Armed forces seize control of Transkei, ousting Prime Minister George Matanzima.
- **1997** - Following the slaying of hundreds of civilians in a series of incidents believed linked to upcoming elections and the long though sporadically fought civil war, the military wing of Algeria's principle Islamic opposition group calls for a truce and orders its guerrillas to 'stop combat operations'.

25 September

- **1900** - The British under Generals R. Pole-Carew and I.S.M. Hamilton occupy the deserted Komatipoort on the ZAR eastern border with Portuguese East Africa (Mozambique). Burnt out railway cars form a train almost twelve kilometres long on the Selati line.
- **1901** - The attack on Fort Itala, occupied by the British, takes place with the British force retreating after fierce fighting and with heavy losses on both sides.
- **1901** - Captain R.D.C. Miers of the South African Constabulary is shot and killed under a flag of truce by Field-cornet Salmon van As, who is tried and executed nine months later.
- **1915** - World War I: The Second Battle of Champagne begins.
- **1944** - Surviving elements of the British 1st Airborne Division withdraw from Arnhem in the Netherlands, thus ending the Battle of Arnhem and Operation Market Garden.
- **1955** - The Royal Jordanian Air Force is founded.
- **1964** - The Mozambican War of Independence against Portugal begins.
- **1964** - Corporal Johannes David Kriel, an Air Photographer attached to 22 Flight (Later 22 Squadron) was Reported Missing when the helicopter he was flying in suffered engine failure and

crashed into Table Bay. He has no known grave and remains unaccounted for. He was 25.

- **1981** - Rifleman Frederick Hikab from the South African Cape Corps, attached to Sector 30 Headquarters SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in the Etosha Game Reserve. He was 22.
- **1985** - Rifleman Anton Botha from Infantry School was critically injured in a private motor vehicle accident between Mossel Bay and Oudtshoorn on 23 Sep 1985. He was transferred to the Tygerberg Hospital where he unfortunately succumbed to his injuries on 25 September 1985. He was 24.
- **1987** - Private Adriaan Jacobus Naude from 1 Maintenance Unit was accidentally electrocuted while offloading military supplies at the Modder River Station, South of Kimberley. He was 18.
- **1987** - Lance Corporal Herman Adolf Oosthuizen from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment attached to Fort Doppies was killed in a military vehicle accident while engaged in anti-insurgency operations in South Eastern Angola. He was 26.
- **1991** - Klaus Barbie, German SS captain, known as the "Butcher of Lyon", dies on this day.
- **1993** - Three US soldiers are killed in Somalia when their helicopter is shot down.

26 September

- **1895** - Jürgen Stroop, the SS commander that led the suppression of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in 1943, was born on this day.
- **1899** - The ZAR government formally requests military assistance from the Orange Free State in accordance with the 1897 Political Defence Agreement.
- **1901** - Fort Prospect, about fifteen kilometres east of Itala, is defended by about 80 men under Captain Rowley of the Dorsetshire Regiment when attacked by a burgher force under Cheere Emmett. A party of Zulu policemen under Sergeant Gumbi, outside the British lines at the time of the first attack, fights their way through to share in the defence, and the attack is repelled with their help.
- **1917** - World War I: The Battle of Polygon Wood begins.
- **1918** - The last major battle of World War I, the Battle of the Argonne, began as a combined force of French and Americans attacked the Germans along a 64 kilometre front.
- **1941** - During World War II, the Western Desert Force was upgraded with the addition of two complete corps: the XIII and XXX. General Sir Alan Cunningham was given overall command of

the newly created Eighth Army. Troops included South African, Australian, New Zealand, Indian, Free French, and Polish soldiers.

- **1941** - The Military Police Corps is created as a permanent branch of the United States Army.
- **1950** - Personnel of the SA Air Force's No 2 (Flying Cheetah) Squadron leave Durban to assist the United Nations in the Korean War.
- **1950** - United Nations troops recapture Seoul from North Korean forces.
- **1959** - Lieutenant General Sir Leslie James Morshead, who led the Australian and British troops at the Siege of Tobruk (1941) and at the Second Battle of El Alamein, dies on this day at the age of 70.
- **1978** - Private Jacob Daniel Otto van As from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident at Grootfontein. He was 18.
- **1981** - Captain Noel John



Klaus Barbie

- Malcolm from 104 Volunteer Air Squadron was killed when his Piper PA-28 crashed while carrying out an officially authorised SAAF tasking. He was 60.
- **1982** - Private William Henry Ludick from the Army Catering Corps was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Kuruman. He was 20.
- **1983** - Soviet nuclear false alarm incident: Military officer Stanislav Petrov identifies a report of an incoming nuclear missile as a computer error and not an American first strike.
- **1985** - Special Warrant Officer Jacob Stephanus from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 39.
- **1987** - Rifleman Rudolf Johannes Badenhorst from Regiment de la Rey was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 20.
- **1988** - Gunner Ignatius Wilhelmus Ferreira from 4 Artillery Regiment was killed 9km from Kathu on the Kuruman road when he was hit by a civilian vehicle while assisting to dig out a field gun that was stuck in the sand. The vehicle failed to stop at the accident scene. He was 21.
- **1777** - Lancaster, Pennsylvania becomes the capital of the United States, for one day after the Second Continental Congress evacuates Philadelphia to avoid invading British forces.
- **1862** - General Louis Botha, soldier, statesman and first prime minister of the Union of South Africa, is born near Greytown, Natal.
- **1899** - The ZAR calls up the South African Republican Burgher Force.
- **1900** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War the policy of concentration camps is officially sanctioned by Lord Roberts.
- **1940** - The Tripartite Pact is signed in Berlin by Germany, Japan and Italy.
- **1942** - Last day of the September Matanikau action on Guadalcanal as United States Marine Corps troops barely escape after being surrounded by Japanese forces near the Matanikau River.
- **1944** - The Kassel Mission results in the largest loss by a USAAF group on any mission in World War II.
- **1981** - Rifleman America Jose from 32 Battalion was shot dead by a fellow soldier during an argument at Buffalo. He was 26.
- **1982** - Private Renier Nicolaas Johannes Grobler from 3 Satellite Radar Station at Mafeking was killed in a pri-

27 September

- **1066** - William the Con-

- vate motor vehicle accident near Ottoshoop while doing a compulsory 30 day camp. He was 22.
- **1982** - Staff Sergeant Willem Petrus Burger from South African Army Headquarters died at 1 Military Hospital after suffering a fatal heart attack. He was 62.
- **1984** - Two members from 2 Special Service Battalion were accidentally killed when their SAMIL 20 overturned at Groot Marico after the front tyre burst, causing the driver to lose control of the vehicle. The casualties were: Trooper Jams Andries Solomon Theodorus Randall (20). Trooper Frans Hendrik Jansen van Vuuren (19).
- **1985** - Rifleman Coenraad Johannes Jacobus Bel from 4 SAI was killed in a private motor vehicle accident while on weekend pass. He was 22.
- **1987** - A British newspaper reports heavy fighting between Angolan government forces and Unita, in which SA is allegedly taking part.
- **1990** - Corporal Freek Johannes Palmer from the Cape Regiment Died of Wounds after being shot by an unknown gunman using a home-made weapon while he was on foot patrol in Kwamashu. He succumbed to his wounds in Addington Hospital later in the day. He was 26.
- **1992** - A Nigerian military-transport plane crashes shortly after taking off from Lagos September 27, killing all 163

- people on board.
- **1993** - The UN Security Council bans sales of arms and fuel to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) because the rebel movement failed to stop fighting the government and renegotiates a 1991 peace settlement to end the country's civil war.
- **1993** - General James 'Jimmy' Doolittle, commander of the Doolittle Raid, a bold long-range retaliatory air raid on the Japanese main islands, on April 18, 1942, four months after the attack on Pearl Harbour, dies at the age of 96.
- **1996** - In Afghanistan, the Taliban capture the capital city Kabul after driving out President Burhanuddin Rabbani and executing former leader Mohammad Najibullah.
- **1961** - A military coup in Damascus effectively ends the United Arab Republic, the union between Egypt and Syria.
- **1984** - Corporal Petrus Johannes Du Plessis from 1 Special Service Battalion died after being grievously burned in an accidental petrol stove explosion at Oshakati while the armoured vehicles were in a laager. He was 22.
- **1988** - Rifleman Rionell Prins from 53 Battalion was accidentally killed after being struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle during operations in Southern Angola. He was 20.
- **1991** - Strategic Air Command (SAC) stands down from alert all ICBMs scheduled for deactivation under START I, as well as its strategic bomber force.
- **1995** - Bob Denard and a group of mercenaries take the islands of the Comoros in a coup.
- **2012** - Somali and African Union forces launch a coordinated assault on the Somali port city of Kismayo to take back the city from al-Shabaab militants.

28 September

- 1781 - American forces backed by a French fleet begin the siege of Yorktown, Virginia, during the American Revolutionary War.
- **1918** - The Fifth Battle of Ypres begins.
- **1939** - Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union agree on a division of Poland after their invasion during World War II.
- **1939** - Warsaw surrenders to Nazi Germany during World War II.
- **1944** - Soviet Army troops liberate Klooga concentration camp in Klooga, Esto-

29 September

- **1865** - The Battle of Naauwpoort, near Clarens in the eastern OFS, takes place

- during the second Basotho War.
- **1900** - The position of Commander-In-Chief at the War Office in London is offered to Lord Roberts.
- **1900** - Major His Highness Prince Christian Victor Albert Ludwig Ernst Anton, heir of Norway, grandson of Queen Victoria and ADC to Lord Roberts, dies of enteric fever in Pretoria.
- **1911** - Italy declares war on the Ottoman Empire.
- **1918** - Bulgaria signs the Armistice of Salonica. The Hindenburg Line is broken by an Allied attack. Germany's Supreme Army Command tells the Kaiser and the Chancellor to open negotiations for an armistice.
- **1935** - Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia, warns the League of Nations that he is going to mobilise his forces because of threats of invasion by Italy.
- **1936** - Spanish insurgents continue their march to the capital of Spain Madrid and large numbers of clergy have

Jimmy Doolittle



now joined the rebels in protests against the leftist controlled government. Many of the priests were butchered by Government forces. This civil war is being fought by two extreme parties who are trying to gain control of the country.

- **1938** - Just two weeks after the Munich agreement was signed and the British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain announced to the world "Peace In Our Time" Hitler is pushing the bounds of the agreement on the German occupation of Czechoslovakia and taking additional areas under Nazi control. Many suspect he had no intention of slowing his occupation of other countries and a second world war is inevitable.
- **1939** - The Active Citizen Force units of SA are authorised to accept volunteers for the duration of the war.
- **1941** - Holocaust in Kiev, Soviet Union: German *Einsatzgruppe C* begins the Babi Yar massacre, according to the *Einsatzgruppen* operational situation report.
- **1942** - East Africa. South African troops are landed at Tulearon (Toliara) on the south west coast of Madagascar, to support the East African force based at Tananarive (Antananarivo).
- **1977** - Four members from 4 SAI were killed in a friendly fire incident near Okalongo when a soldier who formed part of an ambush position,

opened fire. The casualties in this unfortunate incident were: Sergeant Jan Pieter Albertus Furstenburg (24). Corporal Leslie Muller (19). Rifleman Jan Joachim Jacobus de Vos (18). Rifleman Cornelius Johannes Lourens (19).

- **1979** - Ex-president Macias Nguema of Equatorial Guinea is executed following his overthrow on 3 August. No Equatoguinean soldier participates in the execution, because Macias Nguema was and is still believed to have magical powers. The job is done by hired Moroccan troops.
- **1981** - Two helicopter crewmen from 19 Squadron and four members of the SADF including a Medical Doctor were Killed in Action when their Aerospatiale SA330L Puma crashed at Oshakati. The casualties were: Lieutenant Desmond O'Connor (21). Sergeant Daniel Francis Lamprecht (27). Lieutenant (Dr) Cecil George Bartie (27). Candidate Officer James van Zyl (21). Private Hendrik Jacobus Badenhorst (19). Rifleman Richard Anthony Herbst (20).
- **1990** - Rifleman Barry Hart from 6 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident on Beit Bridge Road while traveling towards Vhembe Base. He was 23.
- **1990** - The YF-22, which would later become the F-22 Raptor, flies for the first time.

30 September

- **1832** - Lord Frederick Sleight Roberts, British officer in command during Anglo-Boer War 2, is born in Cawnpore, UK.
- **1901** - The Battle of Moedwil takes place, with the Boer forces under General De la Rey and Kemp retreating after fierce fighting.
- **1901** - Cornelis Broeksma, an attorney from Holland, is executed as a traitor by firing squad at the Johannesburg Fort. Information about appalling conditions in concentration camps and the number of deaths that he had collected got into the hands of the British. His information made its way in code via Amsterdam to London.
- **1915** - Radoje Ljutovac becomes the first soldier in history to shoot down an enemy aircraft with ground-to-air fire.
- **1931** - The War Museum at the 'Vrouemonument' (Women's Memorial) in Bloemfontein is officially inaugurated by General Hertzog.
- **1966** - Nazi war criminals Albert Speer and Baldur von Schirach were released from Spandau prison after serving 20 years. The prison, originally built for 600 inmates, was left with only one prisoner, former Deputy Führer Rudolf Hess.
- **1949** - The Berlin Airlift, which delivers 2 million tons of food and fuel to West Berliners while circumvent-

ing a Soviet blockade, and in which the SAA took part, comes to an end.

- **1954** - The U.S. Navy submarine USS Nautilus is commissioned as the world's first nuclear reactor powered vessel.
- **1971** - It is officially announced that the British and South African naval units will engage in a month of joint manoeuvres in South African waters from 4 October to 3 November 1971.
- **1975** - The Hughes (later McDonnell Douglas, now Boeing) AH-64 Apache makes its first flight. Eight years later, the first production model rolled out of the

assembly line.

- **1980** - Iran continued bombing oil installations in Baghdad in retaliation for Iraq aircraft bombing it's oil refineries in the Persian Gulf. This is the 9th day of the war between these major oil producing nations with both claiming victory during each skirmish.
- **1983** - Rifleman Joshua Daniel Joubert Steyn from 4 SAI, attached to 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was accidentally killed in a shooting Incident at Omuthiya. He was 20.
- **1988** - Sapper Robert Renison from the Army Battle School died from a gunshot

wound, accidentally self-inflicted after he shot himself in the chest while playing with his firearm in the Duty Room at Lohathla. He was 18.

- **1988** - Rifleman Lefu Andries Chauzane from 54 Battalion was accidentally killed near the entrance to 5 Maintenance Unit in Owamboland. He was 18.
- **2004** - The AIM-54 Phoenix, the primary missile for the F-14 Tomcat, is retired from service. Almost two years later, the Tomcat is retired.



F-14 Tomcat



The Tin Hat

1. SADF M87

Kevlar composite helmet that replaced the *staaldak* in the late 1980s.

2. German Stahlhelme

Replaced the traditional Pickelhaube during World War I in 1916. This is a Wehrmacht version.

3. M15 Adrian helmet

Standard French helmet during World War II.

4. Type 92 helmet

Japanese *etsukabuto* (steel helmet) used during World War II.

5. Pickelhaube

Boiled leather spiked combat helmet used by the Germans

until 1916.

6. M1 helmet

Used by the Americans during World War II. and afterwards.

7. Galea

Standard helmet used by the Roman Legion.

8. Brodie helmet

Used by British and Commonwealth troops during both World Wars.

9. German Stahlhelme

Waffen SS steel helmet. Identified by the SS lightning runes.

10. SSH40

Used by the Russians during World War II.

11. US ACH

Advanced Combat Helmet used by the United States.

12. Viking helmet

No, they did not have horns.

13. Mitznefet

Combat helmet used by the Israeli Defence Force (IDF).

14. M38 Stahlhelme

Used by the German Fallschirmjäger (Paratroopers) in World War II.

15. M63 helmet

The M63, better known as the *staaldak*, was used by the SADF until the late 1980s when it was replaced with the kevlar M87.



Military Despatches Website



“Things don’t have to change the world to be important.”

Steve Jobs



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.



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



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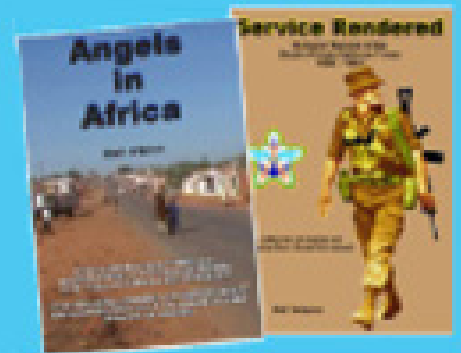
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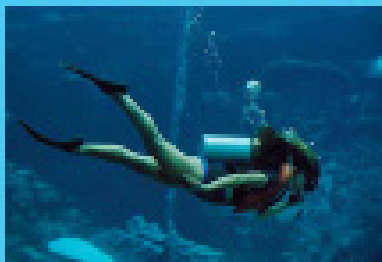
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