Military Despatches

Vol 40 October 2020

Changing the face of warfare

Inventions that changed the way war is fought

We don't talk about that

Topics the military would rather avoid

Volkssturm - The People's Militia

Germany's last ditch effort during World War II

Isoroku Yamato

The architect for the attack on Pearl Harbour

For the military enthusiast

hipe tv

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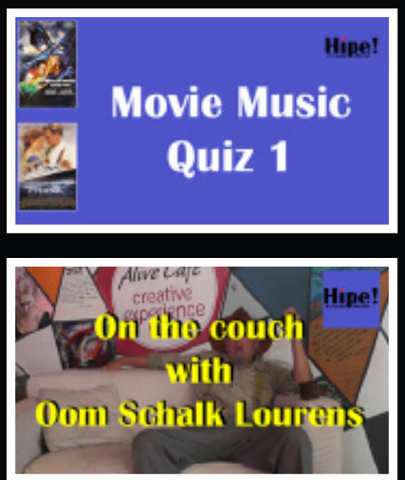
Hipe's Wouter de Goede interviews former 28's gang boss David Williams.

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



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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CONTENTS

October 2020

Features

6
Ten Military Achievements
Ten military achievements that changed the face of warfare.

16
We don't talk about that
The military often likes to boast and dazzle people with facts and figures, telling everyone just how great they are. Yet there are topics that they would rather avoid.

18
The fine art of gypoing
The South African Defence Force had their own language - a mixture of English, Afrikaans, slang and techno-speak. One of the first worlds new conscripts learnt was "gypo" - the way to get out of work or make life easier..

24
Operation Cicero (Part II)
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**.

28
By the left, quick laugh
We could all use a bit of a laugh at the moment.

36
Sea Cadets get creative
Sea Cadets resort to creativity during lockdown.

38
Germany's last ditch militia
During 1944-1945, the Volkssturm, or People's Militia, was designed to salvage victory from the jaws of defeat. It failed on all levels.

42
Survival
This month we look at more permanent shelters, used if you have to spend more than a few days in one spot.

44
Ranks
This month we look at the Japanese Self Defence Force, including the army, navy and air forces.

Quiz

23
Grenades
This month we're longing at things that go bang. We show you 15 grenades, you tell us what they are.

Editor's Sitrep

First of all, I can't believe that we're already in the tenth month of 2020. Secondly it's hard to believe that we've been under lockdown for six months.

The whole Covid-19 pandemic has been a hard knock for most of us on a financial, emotional, psychological and even spiritual level. Quite a few of the military veterans that I knew passed away during lockdown, and we were unable to pay them their due respects because of lockdown restrictions.

The last time I attended a veteran's function, it was a MOTH meeting, was back in March. I have also been unable to visit a lot of friends because of the restrictions.

Now, under Lockdown Level 1, things are starting to slowly get better. But this does not mean that the pandemic is over by any means.

Most military veterans, and I include myself here, have long since passed the spring of our youth. This makes us high-risk, so we have to take even more precautions than most.

It also means that we have missed out on many parades and functions this year. I wonder if the annual Remembrance Day Parade will take place next month and, if it does, I wonder what restrictions will be put in place?

I've been lucky in that doing a radio show every Sunday meant that I could at least get out of the house from the start of the lockdown. Radio was deemed to be an essential service, so I had a permit to travel.

By the way, if you haven't listened to our show, please do. I do a show every Sunday morning from 09h00 to 12h00 along with a fellow military veteran, John Verster. It's called the 'Sunday Breakfast Zone, featuring the two Grumpy Old Men'. We play music from the 60s, 70s, and 80s - in other words, our kind of music.

We also feature the Retro Top Twenty at 09h30 where we take a look at the South African Top Twenty charts for a particular year in the past.

The station broadcast on 88.5 FM, but you'll only pick it up if you live in the Fish Hook area. Otherwise go to www.zoneradio.co.za and click on 'Listen Live'.

That's about if for this month. Enjoy this issue and please remember to stay safe.

Until next time.

Matt

Hipe! media

PUBLISHER
Hipe Media

EDITOR
Matt Tennyson

PHOTO EDITOR
Regine Lord

CONTRIBUTORS
Raymond Fletcher, Ryan Murphy, Matt O'Brien, Paul Rosslee, Matt Tennyson, Lt Cmdr Glenn Von Zeil.

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Hipe!
P.O. Box 31216, Tokai, 7966
South Africa.

email
editor@hipe.co.za

Back Issues
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CONTENTS

Head-to-Head
48
The 1967 Six-Day War
This month we take a look at some of the aircraft used by Israel and Egypt during the Six-Day War.

Famous Figures
52
Isoroku Yamamoto
Japanese Fleet Admiral of the Imperial Japanese Navy, Commander-in-chief of the Combined Fleet during World War II, and the architect of Pearl Harbour.

Forged in Battle
58
French Foreign Legion
While they may be part of the French Army, the French Foreign Legion swear allegiance to the Legion.

Battlefield
64
Operation Deadstick
One of the most important operations of D-Day.

Gaming
70
Bomber Crew
Pick the right crew to carry out your mission and bring your crew back safely.

Movie Review
72
The Monuments Men
Good WWII movie based on a true story.

Book Review
73
Move the Border
A concise history of the Angolan Border War and the main battles of the war.

Front Cover
Members of the Special Forces Group, Japan's Special Forces unit, on manoeuvres. They are part of the Japanese Self Defence Force.

10 Military Achievements

Ten military innovations that changed the face of warfare.

Warfare has been around for as long as recorded history. And those involved in wars have always been on the lookout for weapons or innovations that would give them the edge over the enemy.

In this month's 'Top Ten' we look at ten military innovations that changed the face of warfare. Ten achievements that were game changers.

10. The Chariot

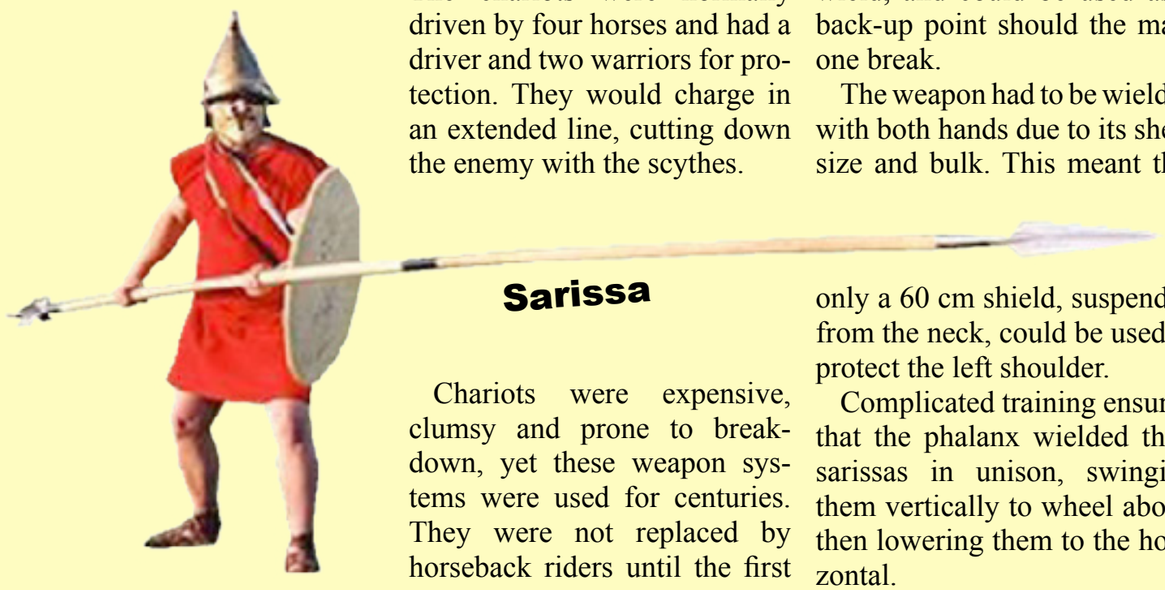
The two-wheeled, horse drawn chariot was one of the most important achievements in history. It provided man with his first concept of personal transport, and for almost 2,000 years it was used as a key military weapon system of war.

The critical invention that allowed the construction of light, horse-drawn chariots was the spoked wheel. The earliest spoke-wheeled chariots date to around 2000 BC.

The chariot, with a driver and an archer armed with a composite bow, revolutionised warfare after 1700 BC.

A common tactic was for a line of chariots to approach the enemy until they were within archery range. The archers would then fire volleys of arrows at them. If the infantry charged, the chariots could quickly turn and retreat, with the archers still able to fire.

Some armies made use of a scythed chariot. The scythed chariot was a modified war chariot. The blades extended horizontally for about one meter to each side of the wheels. The chariots were normally driven by four horses and had a driver and two warriors for protection. They would charge in an extended line, cutting down the enemy with the scythes.



Sarissa

Chariots were expensive, clumsy and prone to breakdown, yet these weapon systems were used for centuries. They were not replaced by horseback riders until the first millennium BC, making these weapon systems the early foundation for cavalry.

9. The Sarissa

It was Philip II of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great, that introduced the sarissa, a long spear or pike about 4-6 metres in length.

Made from tough and resilient cornel wood, the sarissa was a heavy spear, weighing in the region of 5,5 to 6,5 kg.

It had a sharp iron head shaped like a leaf and a bronze butt-spike that would allow it to be anchored to the ground to stop charges by enemy soldiers.

The bronze material of the butt-spike prevented it from rusting. The spike also served to balance out the spear, making it easier for soldiers to wield, and could be used as a back-up point should the main one break.

The weapon had to be wielded with both hands due to its sheer size and bulk. This meant that only a 60 cm shield, suspended from the neck, could be used to protect the left shoulder.

Complicated training ensured that the phalanx wielded their sarissas in unison, swinging them vertically to wheel about, then lowering them to the horizontal.

The sarissa-bearing phalanx would usually march to battle in open formation to facilitate movement. Before the charge, it would tighten its files to close formation or even compact formation.

Their tight formation meant that the phalanx created a wall of spears that were so long that there were five rows of them projecting in front of the front rank of men. Even if an enemy managed to get past the first row, there were still four more rows to stop him.

The Macedonian phalanx was considered invulnerable from the front, except against another such phalanx. The only way it was ever generally defeated was by breaking its formation or outflanking it.

8. Sailing Ships

The first sailing ships were most likely Egyptian and existed around 3000 BC or earlier. They were used on the River Nile, which was ideal for primitive sailing vessels. The winds on the Nile are usually from the North. So if they wanted to go South they just raised the sails on the double mast. If they wanted to go North they just lowered the sails and drifted with the river's current. It was through these early sailing ships that the navy was born.

Produced from the 13th to the 18th centuries and commonly used in Northern Europe, Viking longboats were clinker built boats. They were sturdy, long and slender with a large square sail, making them swift and capable of long voyages. By 1200 AD this type of ship was used by militaries throughout Northern Europe. The skeid, which means 'that which cuts through water, were larger warships, consisting of more than 30 rowing benches.

The technology of the sailing warship developed from 1775 to 1862 and required little extensive research and there were few new developments. Sails, ropes and guns would eventually become the main components of this military weapon system, and timber the most basic and vital component. Timber was available in abundance in most countries.

7. The Cannon

Once upon a time all you needed was a strong castle with towers and thick walls, surrounded by a moat and a drawbridge, and you were sorted.

Then as early as the 12th century the Chinese went ahead and invented the cannon. Suddenly castle walls were not that safe anymore. By the 1350s the cannon was used extensively in Chinese warfare.

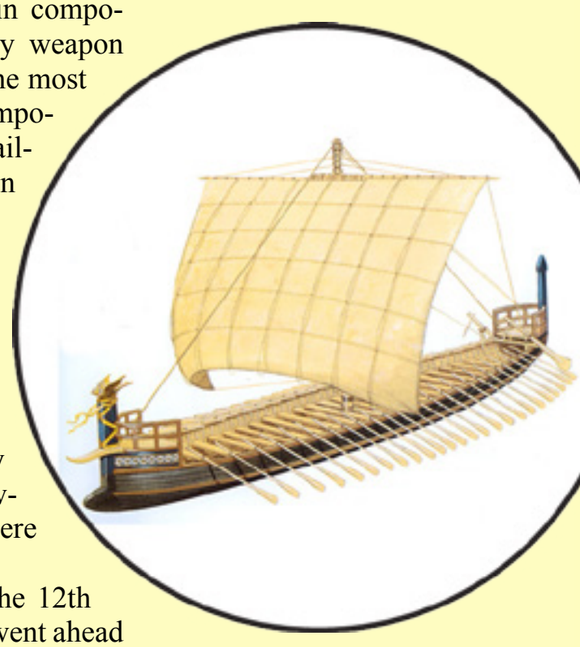
It wasn't long before the cannon made its appearance in Europe and the cannon took on its classic form at the beginning of the 17th century and remained almost unchanged until the mid 19th century when it was superseded by the breech loading rifle gun.

At first cannons were immobile and it took time before the development of the two-wheel gun carriage.

This development led to the formation of a new service within the military and the artillery joined the ranks of the cavalry and the infantry.

The cannon was a shock weapon that was usually used in mass and its placement was critical.

A volley of cannon fire at charging infantry and cavalry could be devastating. They were vulnerable to cavalry that managed to flank them or charge the from the rear, making their powerful fire useless.



Yet it was the cannon that made the once powerful fortresses and castles obsolete.

Later developments would make artillery a valuable part of any modern-day army.

6. The Machine Gun

A machine gun is best described as "a fully automatic firearm that loads, fires and ejects continuously when the trigger is held to the rear until the ammunition is exhausted or pressure on the trigger is released."

The first successful machine gun designs were developed in the mid 19th century.

The Model 1862 Gatling gun had a relatively high rate of fire and more importantly mechanical loading. The weapon was adopted by the United States Navy.

These early machine guns were still powered by hand. This changed with Hiram Maxim's idea of harnessing recoil energy to power reloading in his Maxim machine gun.

The Maxim machine gun used the recoil power of the previously fired bullet to reload rather than being hand-powered, enabling a much higher rate of fire than was possible using earlier designs such as the Nordenfelt and Gatling weapons. Maxim also introduced the use of water cooling, via a water jacket around the barrel, to reduce overheating.

Maxim's gun was widely adopted, and derivative designs were used on all sides during the First World War. The design required fewer crew and was lighter and more usable than the Nordenfelt and Gatling guns.

First World War combat experience demonstrated the military importance of the machine gun. The United States Army issued four machine guns per regiment in 1912, but that allowance increased to 336 machine guns per regiment by 1919.

Machine guns became categorised into light machine guns (LMG), medium machine guns (MMG), and heavy machine guns (HMG).

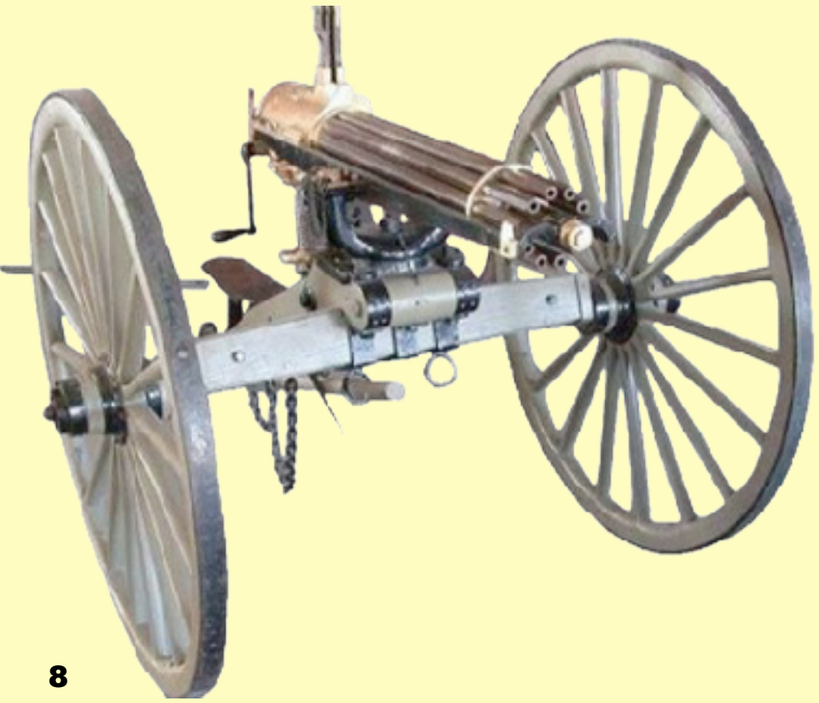
Light machine guns act as squad support weapons, require only one man to operate, and can be carried on patrols.

Medium and heavy machine guns are normally crew-served weapons and require a bipod or tripod. They are generally static weapons used for defence.

Medium and heavy machine guns can also be mounted on vehicles or aircraft.

Some modern machine guns have come a full circle, going back to the Gatling gun's use of multiple rotating barrels.

The General Electric M134, commonly known as the Minigun, can fire up to 6,000 rounds per minute without overheating.



5. The Submarine

If ships were such an innovation, that how about a ship that could travel undetected underwater?

Although experimental submarines had been built before, submarine design only really took off during the 19th century.

Submarines were first widely used during World War I (1914–1918), and now figure in many navies large and small. Today there are 41 countries that make use of submarines as part of their navy.

During World War II, Germany used submarines to devastating effect in the Battle of the Atlantic, where it attempted to cut Britain's supply routes by sinking more merchant ships than Britain could replace.

By the end of the war, almost 3,000 Allied ships (175 warships, 2,825 merchantmen) had been sunk by U-boats.

Military uses for submarines include attacking enemy surface ships (merchant and military), attacking other submarines, aircraft carrier protection, blockade running, ballistic missile submarines as part of a nuclear strike force, reconnaissance, conventional land attack (for example using a cruise missile), and covert insertion of special forces.

In September 1954 the first nuclear submarine was commissioned and these days a number of navies have nuclear submarines.

Some of these submarines are attack submarines, while others are missile boats capable of launching nuclear missiles.

4. Paratroopers

Perhaps no military weapon system has provided as much flexibility on the battlefield as the employment of paratroopers. Certainly no weapon system has been so spectacular.

Shortly after World War I General Billy Mitchell proposed that parachuting troops into combat from aircraft could be effective on the battlefield.

During a demonstration of his concept at Kenny Field in San Antoine, Texas, six soldiers parachuted from a Martin bomber and safely landed. Less than three minutes after exiting from the aircraft they were on the ground, had their weapons assembled, and were ready for action.

Although US military observers dismissed the concept, not all of the observers came to the same conclusion. The German observers eagerly grasped the idea and their military planners worked quickly to establish a military parachute organisation.

The Germans developed their airborne forces and at the start of World War II they used parachute troops in their spearhead assaults in Holland and Belgium. Spurred by the successful employment of airborne troops by the Germans in the invasion of the Low Countries, US military authorities began an all-out effort to develop this new method of warfare.

From the paratroopers of Operation Overlord who first secured the flanks of Normandy's landing beaches, to the mass drops of the US 82nd and 101st Airborne and the British Parachute Regiment that formed part of Operation Market-Garden, to the modern day paratroopers and special forces elements that jump into enemy territory, paratroopers provide a tactical edge in modern warfare.

The paratrooper can drop into areas inaccessible to regular soldiers. They can thin an enemy's defences by forcing them to protect areas that would normally be safe by virtue of geography.

3. Aircraft

On 17 December 1903 a few kilometres south of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina the Wright brothers made the first powered flight.

Balloons were one of the first mechanisms used in air warfare. Their role was strictly recognised for reconnaissance purposes. They provided humans with the first available method of elevating themselves well over the battlefield to obtain the proverbial "birds-eye view."

The first decisive use of a balloon for aerial observation was performed by the French Aerostatic Corps using the *aerostat l'Entreprenant* ("The enterprising one") at the Battle of Fleurus in 1794. The follow-

ing year, during the Siege of Mainz an observation balloon was employed again. However, the French military use of the balloon did not continue uninterrupted, as in 1799 Napoleon disbanded the French balloon corps.

Eleven years after the Wright brothers had made their first flight, the world was at war. And the aircraft would play its role.

At first the aircraft were unarmed and used for aerial reconnaissance and observation. Enemy pilots would pass each other in the sky, often greeting or saluting each other.

Then someone had the bright idea to take a revolver with them and take a few shots at the opposition.

Soon machine guns were being mounted and the aircraft become a weapon system.

The sky became filled with flimsy aircraft performing a fascinating but deadly aerial ballet that became known as 'dogfights'.

If a pilot managed to shoot down five enemy aircraft they earned the title of 'ace'.

The *Fliegertruppen des deutschen Kaiserreiches* (Imperial German Flying Corps) had Manfred von Richthofen, better known as The Red Baron, with 80 kills.

The French air force, *Aéronautique Militaire*, had René Fonck with 75 kills. The United Kingdom's Royal Flying Corps had Edward 'Mick' Mannock with 61 kills.

The aircraft had come into its own.

World War II saw the rapid development of the aircraft as a weapon system. Not only were there fighter aircraft that could reach heights in excess of 12,000 metres and travel at speeds of more than 700 km per hour, there were large four-engine bombers that could travel more than 5,000 kilometres and carry up to 10,000 kg of bombs.

Before the end of the war the first jet engine fighters were in service.

During the Korean War between 25 June 1950 – 27 July 1953 jet fighters engaged in combat for the first time.

Aircraft have become a vital component of any modern day military organisation and gaining air supremacy over the battlefield is considered a must.

2. Aircraft Carrier

If both ships and aircraft rated among the top military innovations, then what about a combination of the two?

We're not talking about a flying ship here, but rather a seagoing airbase. In other words, an aircraft carrier.

Only seven years after the flight of the first heavier-than-air fixed-wing aircraft, an aircraft took off from a ship for the first time.

On 14 November 1910, Eugene Burton Ely took off in a Curtiss pusher airplane from the deck of a United States Navy ship, the cruiser USS Birmingham anchored off Norfolk Navy Base in Virginia.

Two months later, on 18 January 1911, Ely landed his Curtiss pusher airplane on a platform on the armored cruiser USS Pennsylvania anchored in San Francisco Bay. On 9 May 1912, the first airplane take-off from a ship underway was made from the deck of the British Royal Navy's pre-dreadnaught battleship HMS Hibernia.

Early in World War I, the Imperial Japanese Navy ship Wakamiya conducted the world's first successful ship-launched air raid. On 6 September 1914, a Farman aircraft launched by Wakamiya attacked the Austro-Hungarian cruiser SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth and the Imperial German gunboat Jaguar in Kiaochow Bay off Tsingtao. Neither was hit.

The first carrier-launched airstrike was the Tondern Raid in July 1918. Seven Sopwith Camels launched from the converted battlecruiser HMS Furious damaged the German airbase at Tondern, Germany (modern day Tønder, Denmark) and destroyed two zeppelin airships.

The development of flattop vessels produced the first large fleet ships. In 1918, HMS Argus became the world's first carrier capable of launching and recovering naval aircraft.

Launched on 24 September 1960, the USS Enterprise (CVN-65) became the world's first nuclear powered aircraft carrier.

Modern day aircraft carriers are typically the capital ship of a fleet, as it allows a naval force to project air power worldwide without depending on local bases for staging aircraft operations.

As of August 2018, there are 41 active aircraft carriers in the world operated by thirteen navies.

1. The Atomic Bomb

No other weapon system has changed the face of warfare more than nuclear weapons.

Building on scientific breakthroughs made during the 1930s, the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada collaborated during World War II, in what was called the Manhattan Project, to counter the suspected Nazi German atomic bomb project. In August 1945, two fission bombs were dropped on Japan, standing to date as the only use of nuclear weapons in combat. The Soviet Union started development shortly thereafter with their own atomic bomb project, and not long after that both countries developed even more powerful fusion weapons known as "hydrogen bombs".

The first test of a fission ("atomic") bomb released an amount of energy approximately equal to 20,000 tons of TNT. A modern thermonuclear weapon weighing little more than 1,100 kg can release energy equal to more than 1.2 million tons of TNT.

Since the first atomic bomb was tested, over 2,000 nuclear tests have been conducted in over a dozen different sites around the world.

While modern nuclear weapons make the atomic bomb look like a firecracker, the atomic bomb makes this list by virtue of the fact that the bombs dropped at Hiroshima and Nagasaki remain the only two instances of nuclear weapons being used in combat. Let us hope and pray that this remains the case.

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 August issue of Springbok by clicking on the cover to the left.

Special Forces - Special Forces Group

Part twenty of a series that takes a look at Special Forces units around the world. This month we look at Japan's Special Forces Group.

Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution not only forbids the use of force as a means to settling international disputes but also forbids Japan from maintaining an army, navy or air force.

What Japan does have is the Japan Self-Defence Forces (JSDF). This consists of a Ground Self-Defence Force, a Maritime Self-Defence Force, and a Air Self-Defence Force.

Special Forces

The Special Forces Group (Tokushusakusengun) is the Japan Ground Self-Defence Force's counter-terrorist unit

established in 2004 by the then Defence Agency to counter terrorist activities and deter guerilla-style attacks on Japanese soil and to conduct military operations against guerrillas or enemy commandos.

The unit is based in Camp Narashino in Funabashi, Chiba along with the 1st Airborne Brigade. The unit was formerly known as the Special Operations Group.

The SFGp has been referred to as Japan's Delta Force, due to their specialized role in the Japan Ground Self-Defence Force.

Personnel from the Delta Force of the U.S. Army had been responsible for assisting the Japan Ground Self-Defence Force in raising the SFGp's foundations prior to its establishment.

The civilian counterpart of the SFGp are the police Special Assault Teams.

History

In 1998, the Defence Agency had proposed the formation of a unit within the JGSDF that would handle tasks such as counter-terrorism with a selected group of JGSDF soldiers from the 1st Airborne Brigade sent to the United States to be trained by Delta Force operators.

At the same time, two platoons were created from the brigade to be the foundations for the new unit. These consisted of the G Platoon (Formation Unit) and the S Platoon (Research Unit).

The establishment of the unit's framework had been completed in 2003, after three years of training and organisation. The unit's structure is based on that of Delta Force and Green Berets of the United States Army.

On 27 March 2004, the Defence Agency activated the unit as the Special Operations Group with the mandate under the JGSDF as its counter-terrorist unit.

In 2005, the SFGp had deployed four of its operators to serve as bodyguards for the commander of the JGSDF's contingent in Iraq under the Japanese Iraq Reconstruction and Support Group.

On 28 March 2007, the SFGp, along with the 1st Airborne Brigade, the 1st Helicopter Brigade, and the 101st NBC Protection Unit, became part of the newly created Central Readiness Force.

The unit changed its English name on 26 March 2008 from SOG to SFGp or the Special Forces Group.

On 18 January 2018, the SFGp conducted one of their few exercises before the presence of the Australian and Japanese prime ministers.

Formation

- Commander (Led by a Colonel)
- Executive Officers (Led by a Lieutenant Colonel)
- Headquarters
  - 1st Department (General Affairs)
  - 2nd Department (Intelligence)
  - 3rd Department (Planning)
  - 4th Department (Supply)
- Headquarters Administration Unit (Led by 3 Majors)
- 1st SFGp Company
  - Company Headquarters
  - 1st Platoon (HALO)
  - Specialized squads (e.g. Assault, Sniper)
  - 2nd Platoon (Naval warfare)
  - 3rd Platoon (Mountain warfare)
  - 4th Platoon (Urban warfare)
- 2nd SFGp Company
- 3rd SFGp Company
- Training Unit

Training

Potential recruits to the SFGp are drawn from Ranger-qualified personnel of the 1st Airborne Brigade. As such, all SFGp soldiers are Airborne-qualified.

For specialized training, the 1st Platoon have their free-fall training under the 1st Airborne Brigade with the 2nd Platoon under the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force.

The SFGp has a training facility inside the JGSDF Camp Narashino to conduct training on various techniques, especially on CQB tactics.

Weapons

Assault rifles

- Colt M4A1 SOPMOD Block I: Armed with M203s and QDSS-NT4 suppressors.
- Howa Type 89
- HK G36
- Heckler & Koch HK416

Battle Rifles

- Heckler & Koch HK417
- FN SCAR

Sub-machine guns

- HK MP5SD6
- Minebea PM-9

Personal defence weapons

- Heckler & Koch MP7
- FN P90

Pistols

- Heckler & Koch USP

Sniper rifles

- Remington M24

Others

- Type 91 MANPADS
- Type 01 Anti-Tank missile
- Howa 84RR recoilless rifle
- Various Hand grenades

Weapons used by the Japan Special Forces Group

Heckler & Koch HK416

FN SCAR

FN P90

Remington M24

Equipment

The SFGp has access to equipment used by the JGSDF, such as the Komatsu LAVs and Toyota Koukidoushas for transport and reconnaissance use.

They also work in conjunction with the 1st Helicopter Brigade to provide mobility support, though they can be also deployed via C-130 Hercules aircraft.

Unit Features

As part of regulating and protecting the identities of the various soldiers serving in the SFGp, their faces are hidden in balaclavas and cannot be revealed except with authorization from their commanding officers.

It is said that certain areas of Camp Narashino camp such as the SFGp barracks are inaccessible without the proper identifications.

We don't talk about that

The military often likes to boast and dazzle people with facts and figures, telling everyone just how great they are. Yet there are topics that they would rather avoid. Like for instance how much money they spend annually, their mistakes and other topics that are taboo.

Most of our stories look at subjects such as military history, weapons, military technology, famous figures in military history, battles and so on.

Yet what about those topics that the military doesn't really like to talk about? From military *faux pas* to military spending, from deception to desertion.

Big budgets

Many countries around the world spend billions upon billions on their armed forces. And you may have guessed, correctly, that the United States leads the way in military spending.

The US yearly spends about $600 billion (R8,58 trillion) per year on its military.

China comes in at number two with $129 billion.

In fact even if you added up the budgets of the next seven military forces in the world they still wouldn't surpass that of the United States.

Insane training

Every nation prides itself on the level of training its soldiers and, especially, special forces have to go through.

In fact, many of you will probably remember your own military training and try to convince everyone that it was tougher than anywhere else.

Then there is Spetsnaz, the Russian Special Forces. Fair enough, they do all sorts of stressful training. But it's one exercise that really stands out. Spetsnaz are known to actually shoot each other with hand guns – using live ammunition. Sure they wear body armour – but seriously.

Gas guzzlers

Today we are more environmentally aware than ever before. We've become tree huggers par excellence. We use less packaging, we recycle, we cut down on electricity usage, and we conserve water as much as possible. Then we have the military.

All over the world, ships, planes and tanks burn an incredible amount of fuel. And who wins the prize for being the worst culprit? You guessed it – of course it's the United States.

Various estimates and official figures put the yearly petrol consumption of the US Military at upwards of three to four billion litres.

In World War II the US Military was using 3,7 litres of fuel per soldier per day, in the 21st century that level has gone as high as 83 litres.

Female Special Forces

Over the past few decades the role of women in the military has expanded greatly. This includes roles in operational units and even special forces.

But can you guess which military has the first all-female special forces unit? Surprisingly, it's Norway.

Known as Hunter Troop this all-female force was created to respond to new challenges on the battlefield.

Specifically, the force came about when all-male units reported difficulty in interacting with female civilians in Muslim countries. The big question is, are these ladies tough enough?

Well the women who make it in to Hunter Troop can do all the things their male counterparts can do.

The fact that only 4% of applicants make it through the selection and training suggests that these ladies can probably kick some serious butt.

Desertion

If you're a soldier who runs away from your post or leaves your unit without permission, then you have just gone AWOL (absent without leave).

If, however, you're a soldier who runs away from your post or leaves your unit without permission, and have no intention of ever coming back, then you have just deserted.

Desertion happens in every military, but usually not on any great scale. Well, unless you're the Afghan Army that is.

Over the last few years this force has taken on more responsibility for fighting insurgents and groups such as the Taliban. It has also experienced a huge surge in desertion. According to reports, 4,000 men are deserting every month.

Given that the starting salary of a soldier is just $130 (R1,860) a month and the fact that they're fighting against people who don't bother taking prisoners, it kind of makes sense why so many leave and never come back

Nukes, nukes and more nukes

Okay, we all know that there are many nuclear weapons all over the world and things could get really ugly, really quickly if they are ever used.

But do you realise just how many and how powerful these weapons actually are?

Latest figures put the number of warheads at around 15,000. Listen, if it makes you feel any better that's actually a lot less than there used to be.

On the other hand, almost every one of these weapons is at least several times more powerful than the bombs that levelled Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Sci-fi reality

As kids, most of us watched TV shows and movies where spaceships and people armed with lasers blasted away at each other.

There were even rumours that the military had laser guns, but hey, these were just rumours weren't they? The problem is that the equipment needed to shoot a laser is big and clunky. Or at least, it used to be.

Today the US Military is actively testing lasers and even has one deployed aboard one of its naval vessels, the *USS Ponce*.

This laser can destroy small boats, drones and slow moving aircraft.

Check out the August 2018 issue of Military Despatches for more sci-fi weapons already being tested and used by the military.

Norway's Hunter Troop

Under the sea

Would it surprise you to know that the largest submarine fleet in the world isn't American, Russian or even Chinese? This honour actually goes to North Korea.

While definitely not the most power or capable force in the world, it is estimated that North Korea operates over 70 diesel-electric submarines.

Most of them are pretty old and most likely very unsafe.

Nonetheless, some have been outfitted to fire ballistic missiles, which could one day give the isolated state a much greater nuclear deterrent.

The Tsar Bomb

Your probably know that nuclear weapons are pretty destructive. But what is the biggest nuclear weapon ever exploded?

That particular record belongs to Russia's Tsar Bomb. With a blast equivalent to 50 million tons of TNT, when this thing was tested in 1961 people sat up and took notice.

The bomb created a fireball eight kilometres in diameter. The blast wave shattered windows five miles away. It was so bright that people could see the flash 965 kilometres away – even through thick clouds.

A fair chunk of change

Let's face it, like the rest of us, the military are concerned about soaring prices. Take the F-35 Stealth fighter for example.

This high-tech fighter will end up averaging out at $85 million (R 1,216,082,250) per plane. That's a lot of money in anyone's books.

The fine art of gypoing

The South African Defence Force had their own language - a mixture of English, Afrikaans, slang and techno-speak. One of the first worlds new conscripts learnt was "gypo" - the way to get out of work or make life easier.

National Servicemen in 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.

One of the expressions that would often be heard was "gypo". Basically the word meant to avoid duties or work, or to find a way to make the work easier. A *gypo gat* (gypo arse) was someone that was lazy. You could even have gypo guts (diarrhoea).

For as long as there have been soldiers, there have been soldiers that are experts at finding an easier way to do things. More often than not these methods would be frowned upon by the military.

Here are a few examples of how troops would find a way to gypo.

Gary was 17 when he did his national service at 3 South African Infantry Battalion (3 SAI) in 1975. He tells the following story.

Besides weekend pass, one of the most important things for a troop was to receive mail from home. Whether it was a letter from your parents, one of your relatives, or even from a friend, those letters let you know that people were thinking about you.

Of course the best was to receive a letter from you girlfriend.

During basic training the arrival of post for a national servicemen was too good an opportunity to let slip by.

After supper our corporal used to come to our bungalow with the post.

He would put the letters on a table and then pick up an envelope and read out the name. If your name was called you had to go forward and stand at attention in front of the corporal.

Before we were given our letters we had to go through the same process.

"Drop and give me twenty," the corporal would tell us.

We were expected to do twenty push-ups for each letter we received. Imagine if your girlfriend, mother and grandmother had all written you a letter. It would cost you 60 push-ups before you received them.

I came up with the perfect gypo. I contacted my girlfriend and all of the friends and relatives that used to write to me. I told them to seal their letter in an envelope but not to include a stamp.

Then they used to deliver the letters to my parents. My parents would take all the letters for me and place them in a large envelope and this was posted to me.

So I would only receive 'one' letter and only have to do 20 push-ups. In reality I used to get ten to twelve letters in that envelope.

One thing that troops were not very fond of was morning inspections.

They would constantly be looking at ways to gypo inspections. Kobus (18) did his basic training at the Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg. Some of the members of his squad came up with what they thought was a perfect gypo.

One of the things that was always a pain in the butt was making your bed for inspection.

It sounds easy. After all, you just pull your blanket and sheets straight and there you go. Not in the army.

Your bed had to be made in a precise way. And the blanket had to have what was known as 'hospital corners' and it had to be pulled so tight that it was square. So it took valuable time and effort just to make your bed.

Our idea was to make the bed, get it perfect, and then make sure that it stayed that way. In order to this some of us decided to sleep on the floor next to the bed. Of course according to standing orders this was illegal.

Some of the guys even managed to organise a spare mattress. During the day these were stored up in the ceiling.

CARRYING HANDLE GYPO: When marching with the rifle in the shoulder-arms position, the carrying handle of an R1 rifle could be tucked into your web belt, taking the strain of the 4,3 kg weapon off your forearm.

For two weeks our gypo seemed to be working. Then, one morning at about 2.00 am, the lights were switched on in the bungalow and our corporal, along with five or six other corporals, stormed in.

We were kicked awake and the offenders had to get dressed in our browns (nutria uniform) with our webbing, *staaldak* (steel helmet) and rifles and fall in outside.

From 2.30 to 6.00 am we were chased around the obstacle course. I thought I was going to die.

We were really stupid. Did we think that our corporals didn't know about the gypo of sleeping on the floor?

Of course there were occasions when a gypo would not go according to plan.

Mark was 18 when he did his basic training at 5 SAI in Ladysmith.

One night we were busy cleaning the floors for inspection the next morning. I was polishing the tile floor with some stuff that was called Dri-Brite.

It was a thick, creamy liquid and I spilled some of it on my boot. I wiped it off with a cloth and then noticed that it left my boot shinning.

I though I had discovered a new gypo. Instead of going to all the trouble of shinning my boots until they gleamed for inspection, I would use some of this Dri-Brite on them.

About half an hour before inspection I smeared this stuff on the toes of my boots and rubbed it over with a cloth. My boots were gleaming.

I was standing next to my bed for inspection. The corporal took one look at my boots and went ballistic.

"And that," he shouted, pointing down at my boots.

I looked down and nearly had a heart attack. Once the Dri-Brite had soaked into my boots and then become dry it left a milky white residue across the toes of my boots.

"Ja Mister Dri-Brite," the corporal said. "You and I are going to have a good chat at the obstacle course."

Now I knew why no-one else had tried the Dri-Brite gypo.

The SADF liked to make sure that troops weren't left sitting around with nothing to do. If there was nothing to do, they would find something for you to do. And normally it would be something mundane and unpleasant.

Of course there were always people that found a way around this.

Brian did his national service at One Parachute Battalion. He remembers someone that perfected the art of gypoing.

I was a signaller and was in O-Company (Support Company). There was another national serviceman in my company, a lance corporal by the name of Kim.

Whenever I would see him he would be walking around the unit with a clipboard. Sometimes he would stop and count things and then write something down on his clipboard.

About two years after I finished national service I bumped into Kim when I was on holiday in Cape Town. We had a beer together and chatted about old times.

I asked him what his actual function was when he was at the unit. I remembered him and his clipboard.

"My actual function was to do as little as possible," Kim laughed. "I would wander around with my clipboard and, because it looked as if I had obviously been given a job to do, no-one bothered to stop me and ask what I was actually doing. I looked busy, so everyone naturally assumed that I was busy."

Brian also remembers an incident when he was doing his PT course when he was caught gypoing.

While on PT course a mate and myself got bust for gypoing. One of the favourite things for the instructors to do was chase us around the parachute packing building.

This was just above the parachute training hangar and it was quite a big building. We would be standing in front of the hangar and one of the instructors would tell us to run around the parachute store.

"*Een minuut om die pakhuis. Cheers*!" (One minute around the stores. Cheers!)

Now the only way you could make it around the parachute stores was to sprint as fast as possible. It was almost impossible for everyone to finish in under a minute. So you would get sent again.

"Oh," the instructor would say, "Your mates don't want to work together. You are saying screw the corporal. Well the corporal says screw you. Around the stores, one minute. There you go."

This little game could go on for some time and it was not uncommon to make six or seven trips around the parachute packing stores. The more trips you made, the more tired you became.

Anyway, on this one occasion we got chased around the parachute stores and my mate and I decided to be clever. On the first run around the building we dropped out and sat down behind the stores.

We reasoned that we always had to run at least four times before the instructor tired of the game. So what we would do was sit and wait until everyone came around for the fourth time and then we would join the group again.

LEOPARD CRAWL: A pair of extra socks could be used to protect the elbows when doing leopard crawl.

True to my luck, the RSM of the unit came to give everyone a pep talk just as they got back from the first trip around the building. He spoke to them for a few minutes and the instructors then ran everyone down to the parade ground for another PT exercise.

After about ten minutes my mate and I realised that something was amiss. We sneaked around the side of the parachute stores and, to our dismay, saw that there was nobody outside the hangar.

We looked like two total idiots as we tried to sneak down the road and find the rest of the group. Of course we were dressed in PT smocks, so anyone could see that we were from the PT course.

We finally saw them on the parade ground but had no chance of joining them without being seen.

"Oh yes," said one of the instructors as we approached the group, "and just where have we been? Took a quick holiday in the Bahamas maybe?"

That evening when everyone else was dismissed my mate and I had to report for an extra hour of PT training. I can't remember how many times we were chased around the obstacle course.

Tim was 17 when he did his basic training at 5 SAI in Ladysmith.

I hated it when we had to go to the shooting range. I enjoyed the shooting part of it, it's all the other crap that went with it that I was not fond of.

If we weren't actually shooting then our instructors would keep us occupied with stuff like leopard crawling all over the place.

The ground was always full of small stones and they used to kill my elbows. A mate of mine showed me a good gypo for it.

When we went to the shooting range I would take two sets

KEEP IT CLEAN: Lining the inside of your dixies with a plastic Jiffy Bag would ensure that you didn't need to wash them.

of old army socks with me. The toes had been cut off and I would pull these over my elbows. It helped a hell of a lot.

Another gypo that my mate showed me was when we were out doing field training. We would have to eat out of our dixies. The biggest problem was cleaning them after each meal.

The food was often greasy and thought the cooks would put out a drum of hot water to wash our dixies, the water wouldn't stay hot for very long. And it would soon become greasy.

We would take a plastic Jiffy Bag and use it to line the inside of the dixie. After you had eaten you just threw the Jiffy bag away and your dixie was left spotless.

Marching any amount of time while carrying a rifle in the shoulder arms position could be a strain on the arm. Of course some troops found a way around this. Kevin was one of them.

During basics most morning would be spent on the parade ground doing drill.

Once we were issued with our rifles, they were R1s back then, we would have to drill with our rifles. Often you would spend 30 to 40 minutes marching up and down doing left turns, right turns, about turns, mark time and slow march.

The R1 weighed 4,3 kg and after a while it would feel as if it weighted 40 kg. Your left forearm would take strain.

We had a perfect gypo for it. The R1 had a carrying handle and we would tuck the handle into our web belt. That way all you needed to do was use your hand to make sure it stayed upright.

Of course it was too good to last. We all had to hand our rifles into the weapons tiffie (armourer) one afternoon and when we got them back the next morning all of the carrying handles had been cut off.

Back in the days before mobile phones, troops would have to make use of a coin-operated public telephone if they wanted to call home or speak to their girlfriend. These public telephones were known as 'tickey boxes'.

If you were calling long distance it could cost a fair amount of money. Especially if you were living off a national serviceman's salary.

So naturally a method was found to gypo the phone.

One of the things that just about any national serviceman could tell you about was the 'long tickey'.

This was an ingenious method that was used to save money when using the public telephones.

A piece of cotton thread was attached to a coin, usually a one rand coin, with the aid of a piece of tape.

The coin was then inserted into the coin slot on the telephone and the loose end of the thread was wrapped around the button that had to be pushed to deposit the coin.

The button was then pressed, allowing the coin to drop into the telephone. As it dropped into the phone, the coin depressed a lever that would register the fact that a coin had been deposited, as well as the denomination of the coin. The coin would then drop into a deposit box inside the phone.

What would happen with a 'long tickey' was that the coin would depress the lever but would not drop into the coin receptacle.

When the telephone required more money to continue a call you just pressed the button again and the same coin would depress the lever once again.

In this manner a single coin could be used to register hundreds of rands worth of calls.

Naturally this was highly il-

legal and the telephone service company, which was the Post Office at that time, instructed the SADF to keep a wary eye out for this type of activity. If you were caught using a 'long tickey' you would find yourself in serious trouble.

Wednesday afternoons in the SADF were dedicated to sports parade.

There was a long list of sports that you could participate in and they would also try and accommodate sports that were not on the list.

Naturally sports parade was the perfect opportunity to gypo. A fair number of permanent force members would claim that they took part in sports that were off the base. Instead of actually taking part in these sports, they would use the time as an afternoon off.

For national servicemen this was not so easy. But there were those that made a plan.

Todd did his national service at the Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg. He remained at the unit for his entire two years. His gypo worked for the entire time he was there.

During our first sports parade we were told what sports were available. I told them that I played ice hockey. Not only that, but I was about to be selected to play at provincial level and was almost certain to be selected to play at national level.

If you played any sport at that level they would go to great lengths to try and accommodate you.

Obviously there was no ice rink at the Army Gymnasium. There wasn't even an ice rink in Heidelberg. In fact the nearest ice rink was the Carlton Sky Rink in Johannesburg, 45 km away.

I had a letter from my club to say that not only did I play for them, but I was a valuable and essential member of the team.

The letter also stated that we had hockey practice on a Wednesday afternoon from 3.00 to 6.00 and on Saturday mornings from 9.00 to 11.00 and that we played our matches on Saturday afternoon from 3.00 to 4.00.

During basic training we were not allowed to keep our own cars on base. So they arranged that the duty driver would take me through to Johannesburg, drop me off at the ice rink, and then fetch me again just after 6.00.

On Saturday morning my girlfriend would drive through from Johannesburg to fetch me and then drop me off again on Saturday evening.

After basics I was allowed to keep my own car on the base and would drive through to Johannesburg on Wednesday afternoons.

We would also have a weekend pass every second week, so that was no problem. On the weekends when I didn't have a pass I could still go through on a Saturday morning and had to report back by 8.00 on the Saturday evening. I had a special sports pass. It was a great arrangement.

It's a good thing that they never bothered to check, because the thing is that I never played ice hockey. The fact is that I couldn't even skate. It was all a gypo.

My girlfriend's brother did play ice hockey. In fact he went on to play for South Africa. He arranged the letter for me from his coach who thought it was a good laugh.

On Wednesday afternoon my girlfriend would skip class at university, meet me in Johannesburg, and we would either go to a movie or she would take me through to her house where we had our own sports parade.

No matter where soldiers are, not what army they are in, they will always find ways to make life easier.

If any of our readers know of any good gypo's that they can remember, drop me an e-mail and we can do a follow-up story at some stage.

TICKEY BOX: A 'long tickey' could be used to gypo a public telephone.

Quiz

Grenades

This month we're looking at things that go bang We show you 15 grenades, you tell us what they are. You'll find the answers to the quiz on page 94.

Operation Cicero (Pt II)

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**.

Continued from the the September issue of Military Despatches.

Von Papen asked for an immediate interview with the Turkish Foreign Minister, Numan Menemencioglu, who naturally denied the allegations. Von Papen called his bluff and let out that he knew much more than the Turkish government might think, to which Menemencioglu answered that von Papen had been misinformed.

Menemencioglu then contacted Sir Hughe and both agreed that there was definitely some high-level leak at the British Embassy. Sir Hughe immediately informed Whitehall of the conversation, ending with the words: "Papen evidently knows more than is good for him". Moyzisch had photographs of this signal within two days!

With the films and transcripts being forwarded to Berlin it would be clear that Moyzisch had defied Kaltenbrunner's instructions with regard to von Papen seeing the documents. The next courier brought Moyzisch a message that he was going to be held responsible for disobeying a direct order. Moyzisch wrote: "I felt as if I were posting off my own death-warrant" sending out the next batch of documents.

Mid December also brought a request from an Embassy official in Sofia, requesting the transfer of his daughter "Elisabet" to Ankara, as the allied bombing of the city was affecting her and he felt she was near breaking point. As "Elisabet" was (apparently) an experienced secretary, fluent in both English and French and already in the diplomatic service, von Papen obtained authority via the Foreign Ministry to have her transferred. She finally arrived in Ankara very early in January 1944.

In his book, Moyzisch takes great trouble in trying to keep "Elisabet's" identity secret, as he does with Cicero, his own secretary and a few others talked about in the book. Throughout his book he always refers to his secretary as "Schnürchen"

Moyzisch's workload had trebled by this stage and von Papen decided that Moyzisch needed another secretary. Schnürchen had also slammed her hand in the safe just before Christmas and while not seriously hurt, was unable to use her hand for about two weeks and could not type, it was planned that Elisabet was going to Moyzisch' office.

Moyzisch collected Elisabet at the station and was very disappointed "the first impression she made was appalling. She struck me as a perfectly dreadful woman…her appearance when she stepped off the train…was a distinct shock".

Elisabet was unable to start work the day after her arrival; Moyzisch arranged for a doctor and she was booked off sick for 10 days. When she did start work, she was a disappointment, to say the least. Although (apparently) fluent in English and French her work was poor, her spelling bad and her grammar non-existent. To make matters worse she was slovenly as well. Eventually Moyzisch asked Schnürchen to talk to her about having a bath and washing her hair. Elisabet obviously realised that the comments came from Moyzisch and refused to speak to him for about a week. She did, however, improve her appearance, but not her work. When reprimanded for bad work she would have crying fits that could carry on for days, where she would simply sit at her desk, unable to work. When her mood "swung" so would be overly happy – the problem was that these mood swings could take place anytime, within a few hours or a couple of days.

By mid-January the key, made to the mould supplied by Cicero, arrived. Cicero phoned Moyzisch from time to time explaining that, although the key fitted, he discovered that alarms had also been fitted to the safe (specially brought from England); these, he said, he would have to learn to bypass.

Moyzisch realised that Operation Cicero, as it was, was finished and told him so. Cicero was greedy and the £10 000 per delivery was too attractive not

"Don't you trust me?" Elisabet asked

to continue.

14 January 1944 was an important date for Operation Cicero and "any doubts Berlin might still harbour about the genuineness of the documents were dispelled once and for all…in a singularly ghastly manner". Among the documents photographed by Cicero was a copy of minutes of military staff talks, giving specific dates of intended heavy bombing raids on Balkan cities, 14 January was one – heavy raids on Sofia.

Moyzisch attempted to phone Sofia on the morning of 15 January, only to be told that the connection to Sofia had been cut. The night of the 14th Sofia had received the heaviest raid so far in the war, with high casualties.

Cicero was only to supply further documents by mid-February, but the quality was not up to his normal standard. Moyzisch was surprised when, receiving the documents (the Embassy petty cash list) was instructed by Berlin to pay him £10 000 anyway.

Moyzisch also had other problems, starting mid-January and until beginning of February. 3 Abwehr agents had defected to the British and as SD officer, he was responsible for the investigation. Schnürchen also went down with a serious case of flu' and was booked off work, leaving him with Elisabet (whose work, he was pleased to note, improved, unfortunately her temperament didn't).

The worst day of Moyzisch's week was Friday when the courier flight left for Berlin - this generally involved late night work on Thursdays. This particular Thursday night was no exception and much to his surprise Elisabet volunteered to work late to finish her typing. At around midnight Moyzisch woke up and remembered that he had left the key in the safe (this, under normal circumstances was not a problem as Schnürchen would keep it until the next morning), he got up, dressed, and drove to the Embassy, catching Elisabet still in the office. He insisted that she leave, even, as she protested, her work was not finished and checking the safe, took the key. Elisabet asked "Don't you trust me? Your secretary is allowed to keep the key" and started to cry.

Her constant outbursts of tears and hysteria were starting to work on everyone at the Embassy's nerves. Moyzisch spoke to von Papen who was hesitant to just send her "home" as this might reflect badly on her father. "Home" was actually back to Berlin (an "RTU" today) and as von Papen said, the poor girl might end up in a factory. They decided to write to her father and tell him that they felt that she needed medical care and that they suggested that he invite her back "to visit"; they would also send a detailed report to her father, describing her symptoms and have him arrange for a medical opinion.

Near the end of March 1944 Schnürchen was still off on sick leave when Moyzisch had to go Istanbul suddenly. While he was away a Diplomatic Bag arrived at the Embassy with documents for Moyzisch. Correctly, under the circumstances, Elisabet opened all the correspondence, including one enquiring about Cicero. When Moyzisch returned Elisabet handed him all the correspondence for his attention and asked him who "Cicero" was. He answered that that was something she did not need to know - but the damage was done. When he himself read the letter, it was obvious that the person they were referring to was someone in the British Embassy and Operation Cicero concerned the British Embassy.

Elisabet's father eventually wrote back, apologising for the delay. He had been transferred to Budapest, not a simple task in war-time Europe. He thanked von Papen for his concern and said that he would only be able to have Elisabet home by Easter. As this was about two weeks away, both Moyzisch and von Papen breathed a sigh of relief.

On 3 April, the Monday before the Easter weekend, Elisabet asked if she could ask Moyzisch a favour: her father had invited her to Budapest over Easter and although she did not have leave, would he be able to spare her. Moyzisch obviously played along and told her it would be difficult, but he thought he could spare her. It was decided that she would leave that Thursday on the night train to Istanbul, catch the

Berlin flight on Friday and disembark in Budapest and would return the following Thursday. Moyzisch made all the necessary arrangements and paid for her train ticket himself. Von Papen wrote the covering letter which was to be sent in the Diplomatic Bag, to her father.

Thursday morning 6 April Elisabet asked Moyzisch if she could leave at lunch time to pack. Moyzisch was to meet her at the station at 17:30 with her ticket, which he said he had forgotten at home. He wanted to hand it to her at the station to ensure she would catch the train.

At 17:30 both Moyzisch and von Papen were at the station but Elisabet failed to arrive. Von Papen said to Moyzisch: "Isn't she here yet, that secretary of yours?" "No Sir" "Wants to make a nuisance of herself up to the last, she'll probably turn up just as the train leaves, some woman are like that". The train left without her……

Moyzisch was concerned and went to her apartment, which she shared with another woman from the Embassy. He was told that she had left at 15:00 with three large suitcases – her room was empty and all her clothes gone.

Moyzisch went back to the Embassy and called the Consulate in Istanbul with instructions that, on arrival, the train was to be searched. There was still a chance that she had somehow missed them and was on the train.

A thorough search was also made in Ankara, including asking the Turkish Interior Ministry for assistance, but Elisabet has disappeared. Berlin was officially informed and "the expected avalanche of signals began to arrive from Berlin, each asking…questions I could not possibly answer".

11 April brought two messages from Berlin, a signal from Kaltenbrunner that Moyzisch was to return to Berlin immediately on the next flight (the 13th) and a letter sent by a friend in the Foreign Office that under no circumstances must Moyzisch return as he was being held responsible for the 3 Abwehr disappearances as well Elisabet's.

The following morning, before he was to leave Ankara he received a call from a man he had known in Berlin, saying that "they" (the British) knew the trouble he was in and that they were prepared to help him and his family escape – it was the first of many, he also received an anonymous letter simply stating:

"In the British Embassy everything is known about Cicero"

Needless to say, Moyzisch did not return to Berlin despite the numerous instructions to do so. Moyzisch was able to arrange "sick-leave" and was booked off for about two weeks to recover. By the time he returned in May, Turkey had decided to break off diplomatic arrangements with Germany, so until August 1944 Moyzisch was kept busy repatriating the over 2000 "official" Germans (and their families) home. When von Papen left on 5 August 1944, Operation Overlord, which he had heard about, was 2 weeks "old" – the Allies had another foothold in Europe.

KALTERNBRUNNER: Both the Sicherheidtsdienst and the Nachrichtendienst fell under SS General Joseph Kalternbrunner.

Moyzisch and his family were not able to return to Berlin and were interned within the Embassy compound until April 1945, when they, being Austrians, were eventually returned to Vienna. Moyzisch himself was investigated for war crimes, as he was a member of the Sicherheitsdienst, but was cleared, eventually giving testemony as a witness at Nuremburg, where both Ribbentrop and Kaltenbrunner were found guilty and hanged.

During his internment Moyzisch was to discover that only about £35 000 of the eventual £300 000 which Cicero received, was in fact genuine – Moyzisch's hunch was correct, it also explains why Berlin was not concerned about the last few payments of £10 000 for "junk".

How did Cicero obtain those documents? It eventually transpired that Sir Hughe was in the habit of taking work home with him which and depending on their importance, kept them either locked in a dispatch case or his safe. After lunch every afternoon he would have a sleep. Cicero would simply take his keys, open both and photograph the documents. MI5 eventually did a security check, especially after von Papen's protest but, unbelievably (and probably because he always maintained his English was bad) Cicero was cleared, but the damage was done. Sir Hughe, probably due to the simple fact the British never learned HOW MUCH intelligence was obtained, was lucky to escape with a severe reprimand.

As Moyzisch says: "In the long run all that the German leaders learnt was…they were…to lose the war…what they perhaps did see was that the Allies were stronger than Berlin feared…and this unpleasant fact they refused to face. I hoped at the time that the…complete and accurate information that was presented to them would make them realise that the alternative to Germany was no longer victory or defeat…but utter annihilation…I was, of course quite wrong".

Cicero managed to disappear from the British Embassy and after the war attempted to buy a hotel with the money he had earned. He was arrested for passing counterfeit money and was imprisoned. He died in 1960, a poor man.

The Germans were never to find "Elisabet" and no one has heard of "Elisabet" since that Thursday morning, 6 April 1944.

During research on this article I came across a declassified CIA document, released in 1994:

Elisabet's real name was Nele Kapp. Her father was the Consul General in Sofia. She had been brought up in English-speaking countries and had gone to school in Cleveland, Ohio. Both Nele and her father detested the Nazi regime - silently, of course. Nele was unhappy in Sofia and even more so in Ankara where had no family to support her. She was, in fact, far more neurotic than Moyzisch and von Papen realised.

The Americans thought this important enough to pass onto the British.

She eventually made contact with the American Embassy where she offered secrets for freedom. She was then handed over to the American Military Attaché and started passing over information gathered in Moyzisch's office, on German activities and other documents which Moyzisch would be passing onto Berlin. She had also learned along the way of Cicero.

She reported to her Handler that after a call, Moyzisch would become very excited and the office would be "locked-down" for a day or two after. She eventually deduced that Cicero was in the British Embassy.

The Americans thought this important enough to pass onto the British, but as far as the Americans knew, they didn't act upon the information,

Nele somehow or other discovered the plan to transfer her, but being neurotic, misread everything and believed that Moyzisch had discovered she was spying for the Americans and was planning to hand her over to the Gestapo – the trip to Budapest being a ruse.

She approached her Handler and asked for help to escape – to which the American Embassy agreed.

Nele then went to Moyzisch and asked for permission to visit her parents, believing that it would play exactly as Moyzisch had planned.

At lunch time, 6 April 1944, she went home to pack and at 15:00 was secretly picked up and taken to the American Embassy and housed there for two weeks while the hue and cry died down, believing that Nele was to be captured "dead or alive".

She had her blonde hair cut short and dyed black and dressed in different clothes, caught the train to Istanbul.

She and her Handler got off at a small station called Balikesir and was collected by an RAF officer (irony!) and taken to the coast, where an OSS agent collected them by boat, landing her in Cairo and on to America, where she eventually settled.

By the left, quick laugh

We could all use a bit of a laugh at the moment.

Let's face it, the past few months have been stressful to say the least. We could probably all do with a bit of a smile. So here, just for you, are a few military jokes.

What's the difference between a fighter pilot and a fighter jet?

The jet stops whining when the engines are shut off.

During training exercises, the Lieutenant who was driving down a muddy back road encountered another Jeep stuck in the mud with a red-faced Colonel at the wheel.

"Your car stuck, sir?" asked the Lieutenant as he pulled alongside.

"Nope," replied the colonel, coming over and handing him the keys. "Yours is."

How do you knock out a sailor when he's drinking water?

Slam the toilet seat on his head.

Two crows were flying along slowly minding their own business enjoying the scenery, when all of a sudden out of the blue an F/A-18E/F Super Hornet goes screaming past, barely missing the now somersaulting, and wildly flapping crows.

"Oh my goodness!" exclaims one crow in surprise. "He was sure moving!"

The other crow replies: "I reckon you would be too if you had two backsides and both of them were on fire!"

What do you call a soldier who survived mustard gas & pepper spray?

A seasoned veteran.

The Sergeant-Major growled at the young soldier: "I didn't see you at camouflage training this morning."

"Thank you very much, sir."

What's the difference between the Army and the Boy Scouts?

The Boy Scouts have adult supervision.

A sergeant had just chewed out one of his troops, and as he was walking away, he turned to the troop and said: "I guess when I die you'll come and dance on my grave."

The troop replied: "Not me, Sarge…no sir! Promised myself that when I got out of the Army I'd never stand in another long line again."

How do they separate the men from the boys in the navy?

With a crowbar!

The platoon commander, a young lieutenant, and the platoon sergeant were in the field. As they go to bed for the night, the sergeant said: "Sir, look up into the sky and tell me what you see?"

The lieutenant said: "I see millions of stars."

"And what does that tell you, sir?" asked the sergeant.

"Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Theologically, it tells me that God is great and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it tells me that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you, sarge?"

"Well sir, it tells me that somebody stole our bloody tent."

Have you heard about the karate champion who joined the military?

He nearly killed himself the first time he saluted!

A famous Admiral and an equally famous General were fishing together when a sudden storm hit. When it died down both renowned warriors were struggling helplessly in the water.

The Admiral floundered his way back to the boat and pulled himself painfully in. Then he fished out the General, using an oar.

Catching his breath, he puffed, "Please don't say a word about this to anyone. If the Navy found out I can't swim I'd be disgraced."

"Don't worry," the general said. "Your secret is safe. I'd hate to have my men find out I can't walk on water."

What's the difference between the Russian civil airline Aeroflot and the Scud Missile?

Aeroflot has killed more people.

An Air Force cargo plane was preparing for departure from Thule Air Base in Greenland. They were waiting for the truck to arrive to pump out the aircraft's sewage holding tank.

The Aircraft Commander was in a hurry, the truck was late in arriving, and the Airman performing the job was extremely slow in getting the tank pumped out.

When the commander berated the Airman for his slowness and promised punishment, the Airman responded: "Sir, I have no rank, it is 20 below zero, I'm stationed in Greenland, and I am pumping sewage out of airplanes. Just what are you going to do to punish me?"

An American soldier, serving in World War II, had just returned from several weeks of intense action on the German front lines.

He had finally been granted R&R and was on a train bound for London.

The train was very crowded, so the soldier walked the length of the train, looking for an empty seat.

The only unoccupied seat was directly adjacent to a well-dressed middle-aged lady and was being used by her little dog.

The war weary soldier asked, "Please, ma'am, may I sit in that seat?"

The English woman looked down her nose at the soldier, sniffed and said, "You Americans. You are such a rude class of people. Can't you see my little Fifi is using that seat?"

The soldier walked away, determined to find a place to rest, but after another trip down to the end of the train, found himself again facing the woman with the dog.

Again he asked, "Please, lady.

May I sit there? I'm very tired."

The English woman wrinkled her nose and snorted, "You Americans! Not only are you rude, you are also arrogant. Imagine!"

The soldier didn't say anything else; he leaned over, picked up the little dog, tossed it out the window of the train and sat down in the empty seat.

The woman shrieked and demanded that someone defend her and chastise the soldier.

An English gentleman sitting across the aisle spoke up, "You know, sir, you Americans do seem to have a penchant for doing the wrong thing.

"You eat holding the fork in the wrong hand. You drive your cars on the wrong side of the road. And now, sir, you've thrown the wrong bitch out the window."

Four strangers traveled together in the same compartment of a passenger train. Two men and two women faced each other. One woman was a very wealthy and sophisticated 70 year old lady who was decked out in the finest of furs and jewelry. Next to her Sat a beautiful young woman, nineteen years old, who looked like something right off the cover of a fashion magazine. Across from the older lady was a very mature looking man in his mid-forties who was a highly decorated Sergeant Major in the Army. Next to the Sergeant Major sat a young troop fresh out of basics on his first weekend pass.

As these four strangers traveled, they talked and chatted about trivial things until they entered an unlighted tunnel, and there they sat in complete darkness and total silence, until the sound of a distinct kiss broke the silence; following the kiss a loud slap could be heard throughout the cabin.

In the ensuing period of silence the four strangers sat quietly with their own thoughts.

The older lady was thinking, "Isn't it wonderful that even in this permissive day and age there are still young women who have a little self-respect and dignity?"

The young woman, shaking her head and greatly puzzled, asked herself, "Why in the world would any man in his right mind want to kiss an old fossil like that when I'm sitting here?"

The Sergeant Major, rubbing his sore face, was outraged that any woman could ever think that a man in his position would try to sneak a kiss in the dark.

The troop, grinning from ear to ear, was thinking, "What a wonderful world this is when a troop can kiss the back of his hand and then smack a Sergeant Major in the face and get away with it!"

A British General had sent some of his men off to fight for their country in the Falkland Island Crisis.

Upon returning to England from the South American island, three soldiers that had distinguished themselves in battle were summoned to the General's office.

"Since we weren't actually at war," the General began, "I can't give out any medals.

"We did, however, want to let each of you know your efforts were appreciated. What we've decided to do is to let each of you choose two points on your body.

"You will be given two pounds sterling for each inch of distance between those parts. We'll start on the left, boys, so what'll it be?"

Soldier 1: "The tip of my head to me toes, sir!"

General: "Very good son, that's 70 inches which comes to 140 pounds"

Soldier 2: "The tip of the finger on one outstretched hand to the tip of the other, sir!"

General: "Even better son, that's 72 inches which comes to 144 pounds"

Soldier 3: "The palm of my left hand to the tip of my left pinky, sir!"

General: "That's a strange but fair request, son!

As the general begins the measurement: "What! Son, where is your left pinky?"

Soldier 3: "Back at Goose Green on the Falkland Island where it was shot off, sir!"

The CIA had an opening for an assassin. After all the background checks, interviews, and testing were done, there were three finalists. two men and a woman.

For the final test, the CIA

agents took one of the men to a large metal door and handed him a gun. "We must know that you will follow our instructions, no matter what the circumstances. Inside this room, you will find your wife sitting in a chair. Kill Her!!!"

The man said, "You can't be serious. I could never shoot my wife."

The agent said, "Then you're not the right man for this job. Take your wife and go home."

The second man was given the same instructions. He took the gun and went into the room. All was quiet for about five minutes. Then the man came out with tears in his eyes. "I tried, but I can't kill my wife."

The agent said, "You don't have what it takes. Take your wife and go home."

Finally, it was the woman's turn. She was given the same instructions, to kill her husband. She took the gun and went into the room. Shots were heard, one shot after another. They heard screaming, crashing, banging on the walls.

After a few minutes, all was quiet. The door opened slowly and there stood the woman. She wiped the sweat from her brow. "This gun is loaded with blanks", she said. "I had to beat him to death with the chair."

A Sergeant was addressing a squad of 25 and said: "I have a nice easy job for the laziest man here. Put up your hand if you are the laziest."

24 men raised their hands, and the sergeant asked the other man "why didn't you raise your hand?"

The man replied: "Too much trouble raising the hand, Sarge."

Having just moved into his new office, a pompous, new colonel was sitting at his desk when a signalman knocked on the door.

Conscious of his new position, the colonel quickly picked up the phone, told the Signaller to enter, then said into the phone, "Yes, General, I'll be seeing him this afternoon and I'll pass along your message. In the meantime, thank you for your good wishes, sir."

Feeling as though he had sufficiently impressed the young troop, he asked, "What do you want?"

"Nothing important, sir," the signaller replied, "I'm just here to connect up your telephone."

A crusty old Sergeant Major found himself at a gala event, hosted by a local liberal arts college. There was no shortage of extremely young, idealistic ladies in attendance, one of whom approached the Sergeant Major for conversation.

She said, "Excuse me, Sergeant Major, but you seem to be a very serious man. Is something bothering you?"

"Negative, ma'am," the Sergeant Major said, "Just serious by nature."

The young lady looked at his awards and decorations and said, "It looks like you have seen a lot of action."

The Sergeant Major's short reply was, "Yes, ma'am, a lot of action."

The young lady, tiring of trying to start up a conversation, said, "You know, you should lighten up a little. Relax and enjoy yourself."

The Sergeant Major just stared at her in his serious manner.

Finally the young lady said, "You know, I hope you don't take this the wrong way, but when is the last time you had sex?"

The Sergeant Major looked at her and replied, "1955."

She said, "Well, there you are. You really need to chill out and quit taking everything so seriously! I mean, no sex since 1955! Isn't that a little extreme?"

The Sergeant Major, glancing at his watch, said in his matter-of-fact voice, "You think so? It's only 2130 now."

American Military reaction to snakes.

- Civilian: Runs away from the snake screaming.
- Paratrooper: Lands on and kills the snake.
- Armour: runs over snake, giggles, and looks for more snakes.
- Infantry: "Look, a putty cat. Come here kitty....Ouch! Hey, that's not a putty tat."
- Army Aviation: Has GPS grid to snake. Can't find snake. Back to base for crew rest and the club and some sort of drink called "The Snake."
- Ranger: Plays with the snake, then eats it.
- Military Intelligence: Analyzes all available intelligence and national asset input on the reptilian situation; reports sighting of Godzilla to National Command Authority.
- Judge Advocate General: Advises the snake on the rules of engagement and the law of war as it pertains to the snake and its defensive posture.
- Quartermaster: Captures snake and applies a National Stock Number (NSN) to it. Implements a Found On Installation (FOI) procedure and picks up snake on property book. Has company commander sign hand receipt for "Snake, Green, One Each," as non-expendable unit property.
- Navy SEAL: Expends all ammunition, several grenades and calls for naval gunfire in a failed attempt to kill the snake. The snake bites the SEAL then retreats to safety.
- Artillery: Kills snake, but in the process kills several hundred civilians with a massive TOT with three FA BDEs in support. Mission is considered a success and all participants (cooks, mechanics, clerks) are awarded Silver Stars.
- Marine Recon: Follows the snake and gets lost.
- Pathfinder: Guides the snake elsewhere.
- AF Fighter Pilot: Mis-identifies the snake as a Russian HIND helicopter and engages it with missiles. Crew chief paints a snake on airplane.
- AF Pararescue: Wounds the snake in first encounter, then feverishly works to save the snake's life.
- Green Beret: Makes contact with the snake, builds rapport, wins its heart and mind, then trains it to kill other snakes.

A soldier ran up to a nun. Out of breath he asked, "Please, may I hide under your skirt. I'll explain later."

The nun agreed...

A moment later two Military Police ran up and asked, "Sister, have you seen a soldier?"

The nun replied, "He went that way."

After the MPs ran off, the soldier crawled out from under her skirt and said, "I can't thank you enough, sister. You see, I don't want to go to the Border."

The nun said, "I understand completely."

The soldier added, "I hope I'm not rude, but you have a great pair of legs!"

The nun replied, "If you had looked a little higher, you

would have seen a great pair of balls…. I don't want to go to the Border either."

A guy was telling about this girl Sue who disguised herself as a man and joined the army.

"But, wait a minute," said his friend, "She'll have to dress with the boys and shower with them, too, won't she?"

"Sure," replied the guy.

"Well, won't they find out?"

The guy shrugged. "Who's gonna tell?"

At one Army base, the annual trip to the shooting range had been canceled for the second year in a row, but the semi-annual physical fitness test was still on as planned.

One soldier mused, "Does it bother anyone else that the Army doesn't seem to care how well we can shoot, but they are extremely interested in how fast we can run?"

A redneck girl from down south joins the US Marine Corps. This is the first letter that she sent back home.

Dear Ma & Pa:

Am well. Hope you are. Tell brother Walt & brother Elmer the Marine Corps beats working for old man Minch by a mile. Tell them to join up quick before maybe all of the places are filled.

I was restless at first because you got to stay in bed till nearly 6 a.m., but am getting so I like to sleep late. Tell Walt & Elmer all you do before breakfast is smooth your cot and shine some things. No hogs to slop, feed to pitch, mash to mix, wood to split, fire to lay. Practically nothing. Men got to shave but it is not so bad, they git warm water.

Breakfast is strong on trimmings like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, etc..., but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, ham, steak, fried eggplant, pie, and other regular food. But tell Walt & Elmer you can always sit between two city boys that live on coffee. Their food plus yours holds you till noon, when you get fed again. It's no wonder these city boys can't walk much.

We go on "route" marches, which the Platoon Sergeant says are long walks to harden us. If he thinks so, it is not my place to tell him different. A "route march" is about as far as to our mailbox at home. Then the city guys gets sore feet and we all ride back in trucks. The country is nice, but awful flat.

The Sergeant is like a schoolteacher. He nags some. The Capt. is like the school board. Majors & Colonels just ride around & frown. They don't bother you none.

This next will kill Walt & Elmer with laughing. I keep getting medals for shooting. I don't know why. The bulls-eye is near as big as a chipmunk and don't move. And it ain't shooting at you, like the Higgett boys at home. All you got to do is lie there all comfortable and hit it. You don't even load your own cartridges. They come in boxes.

Be sure to tell Walt & Elmer to hurry & join before other fellers get into this setup & come stampeding in.

Your loving daughter, Gail

A visitor, returning to Kuwait for the first time since the Gulf War, was impressed by a sociological change.

On previous visits she noted that women customarily walked about five paces behind their husbands.

She observed that the men now walked over 50 paces behind their wives!

She approached one of the women for an explanation: "What enabled women here to achieve this marvellous reversal of roles?"

"Land mines," replied the Kuwaiti woman.

A young national serviceman is working late at DHQ one evening.

As he comes out of his office about 8 P.M. he sees the General standing by the classified document shredder in the hallway, a piece of paper in his hand.

"Do you know how to work this thing?" the General asks. "My secretary's gone home and I don't know how to run it."

"Yes, sir," says the national serviceman, who turns on the machine, takes the paper from the General, and feeds it in.

"Now," says the General, "I just need one copy…"

An Israeli soldier who just enlisted asked the Commanding Officer for a three-day pass.

The CO says "Are you crazy? You just join the Israeli army, and you already want a three-day pass? You must do something spectacular for that recognition!"

So the soldier comes back a day later in an Arab tank!

The CO was so impressed, he asked "How did you do it?"

"Well, I jumped in a tank, and went toward the border with the Arabs. I approached the border, and saw an Arab tank. I put my white flag up, the Arab tank put his white flag up. I said to the Arab soldier, "Do you want to get a three-day pass? So we exchanged tanks!"

A man in Amsterdam feels the need to confess, so he goes to his priest.

"Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned. During World War II, I hid a 19 year old female refugee in my attic."

"Well," answers the priest, "that's not a sin."'

"But I made her agree to have sex with me once a week and pay me 20 guilders for every week she stayed."

"I admit that wasn't good, but you did it for a good cause."

"Oh, thank you, Father. That eases my mind. I have one more question."

"What is that, my son?"

"Do I have to tell her that the war has been over for the past 40 years?"

A new soldier was on sentry duty at the main gate.

His orders were clear.

No car was to enter unless it had a special sticker on the windshield.

A big Army car came up with a general seated in the back.

The sentry said, "Halt, who goes there?"

The chauffeur, a corporal, says, "General Wheeler."

"I'm sorry, I can't let you through. You've got to have a sticker on the windshield."

The general said, "Drive on!"

The sentry said, "Hold it! You really can't come through. I have orders to shoot if you try driving in without a sticker."

The general repeated, "I'm telling you, son, drive on!"

The sentry walked up to the rear window and said, "General, I'm new at this. Do I shoot you or the driver?"

The sailor came home from a secret two year mission only to find his wife with a new born baby.

Furious, he was determined to track down the father to extract revenge.

"Was it my friend Sam", he demanded.

"No !" his weeping wife replied.

"Was it my friend Jim then?" he asked.

"No !!!" she said even more upset.

"Well which one of my no good friends did this then?" he asked.

"Don't you think I have any friends of my own?" she snapped.

Murphy's Laws of Combat

1. You are not Superman.
2. Suppressive fire - won't.
3. If it's stupid but works, it's not stupid.
4. Don't look conspicuous - it draws fire.
5. Don't draw fire - it irritates the people around you.
6. When in doubt, empty the magazine.
7. Never share a foxhole with someone braver than you.
8. Never forget that your weapon was made by the lowest bidder.
9. If your attack is going really well, it's an ambush.
10. No plan survives the first contact intact.
11. If you are forward of your position, the artillery will fall short.
12. The enemy diversion you are ignoring is the main attack.
13. The easy way is always mined.
14. If you are short of everything except enemy, you're in combat.
15. Incoming fire has the right of way.
16. No combat ready unit has ever passed an inspection.
17. If the enemy is in range, so are you.
18. Friendly fire - isn't.
19. Radios will fail the moment you need fire support urgently.
20. Tracers work both ways.
21. The only thing more accurate than incoming fire is incoming friendly fire.
22. When the pin is pulled, Mr Grenade is not your friend.

A young, newly promoted lieutenant was sent to the Border for the first time.

During a briefing on landmines, the corporal doing the briefing asked for questions.

The lieutenant raised his hand and asked, "If we do happen to step on a mine, corporal, what do we do?"

"The normal procedure, Lieutenant, is to scream, jump 50 metres in the air and scatter yourself over a wide area.

A young boy was talking to his father about his experiences on the Border.

"Did you ever kill anyone

dad," the boy asked his father.

"Probably," said his dad. "I was the base chef."

A young recruit has lost his bush hat while on a training exercise. He is told that he will have to replace it at a cost of R95.

"Okay," he says. "Now I understand why a captain in the navy goes down with his ship."

When returning from the border, some of the national servicemen would send fake letters home to their parents.

These were very official looking documents and were often printed on paper with a SADF letterhead.

Here is an example of one of the letters that was popular in the late 70s and early 80s.

To parents/neighbours/brothers/sisters/relations/relatives of:

Number:

Rank:

Name:

who will be returning from the border after months away on special duty.

The following must be strictly complied with:

1. Lock your daughters away (warn the entire neighbourhood).
2. Fill your fridge with beer or any other alcoholic beverage.
3. Get his civvies out of mothballs.
4. Ensure that the Hi-Fi is in working order and switch it to Radio Owambo.
5. Buy dog biscuits.

Very soon the above mentioned soldier will once more be in your midst, dehydrated, demoralised, bossies, sand mad, and eager to resume his place in society as a human being, entitled to human liberty and justice while he is engaged in a somewhat delayed pursuit of happiness.

In making your preparations to welcome him back to civilisation you must make allowances for the unfavourable environmental situation which has been his lot for the past months.

Therefore show no sign of alarm if he:

- Prefers to sit on the floor instead of a chair.
- Always kicks his feet against the steps before entering the house.
- Has a fit at the sight of Bully Beef.
- Tries to buy beer for 25c at the cafe.
- Howls at the full moon.
- Pulls the ring off a beer can and hurls it at a passing car when it backfires.
- Has a braai in the lounge.
- Pulls the wings off flies and watches them for hours on end.
- Tries to conceal his beers as he thinks a PF might spot him and arrest him for smuggling beers.
- Wears only a pair of underpants and sandals.
- Visits the neighbours or the girl across the street dressed only in a towel.
- Screams at anything that reminds him of the army or insults anyone that looks important - even the postman.

If you see him trying to bribe a barman at the backdoor of the bar for more beer, just remind him that there is a bottle store down the road where he can buy beer freely.

When the budget cuts really begin to be felt

Do not worry if he wakes up at midnight and acts strangely - just give him a broom and tell him to patrol the house. But do remember the password when you come home as a broomstick shoved up your rear end is painful.

Ensure that he is properly dressed before going to bed as he may dash out into the garden when the alarm rings in the morning to perform 'STAND-TO'. By placing the alarm under his pillow or locking the doors, this may be overcome. He may have a tendency to rush to the window at 05h00 in the morning and look for terrorists in the shrubbery.

Don't scream at him when he tears up the lace curtains in the lounge for a mosquito net as he was used to sleeping under one.

He will probably try to zip up his blankets when he goes to bed at night.

Make all his purchases for him, gently establishing in his mind that threatening, arguing and fighting with shopkeepers is taboo in civilisation.

Be warned that he is used to paying 25c for a beer and does not drink water/Coke/Fanta except when mixing it with alcohol. Under no circumstances may he be served less than one bottle of alcohol or a dozen beers at a time. Liquid refreshments should at no time be served in a glass.

His civilian clothes should not be ironed or well washed. You may find him at a local building site, dressed in a pair of underpants, holding a bundle of washing, arguing with the builder and shouting that it is his turn to use the concrete mixer to do his washing.

If you find him grovelling around in the children's sand pit, don't worry, he is only missing the fine white sand of Owamboland.

His language may be a little embarrassing at first, but in a relatively short time he can be taught to speak normally again.

Never ask him why the boy down the road has a higher rank than he does, and never make flattering remarks about the Air Force or Navy, or you will have to start the language lesson all over again.

A close check should be kept on him when he is in female company.

Life-size colour pictures of girls are very useful for reminding him of what women look like. He will be fascinated by recordings of the clear tinkling way they talk and by the lack of swear words. Although his intentions may seem dishonourable, they are good and sincere.

When he goes to the movies and laughs at horrible scenes, or throws popcorn at people, or makes funny noises, just pretend that you don't know him and sit somewhere else.

IN GENERAL

- He will prefer to brush his teeth at the garden tap.
- He will prefer to shave in front of a broken windowpane.
- Acclimatise him gradually to warm water and baths to prevent a deep state of shock.
- As his usual vehicle was a Buffel he may want to swap your motorcar for a Buffel. If such a vehicle is unobtainable he will pack sandbags on the floor and in the boot of your car.
- If sandbags have been placed in front of windows and doors of your home, do not be alarmed.
- When going to the airport distract his attention when the aircraft lands or he will jump up and down making unearthly sounds, which after careful listening, will turn out to be the word 'Flossie'.
- Ensure that he gets his Scope magazine every week, and don't be surprised if he pastes the centrespreads on the lounge wall.
- On Sundays he may drive the car to a dam, reverse it into the water up to about boot level and then spend the afternoon jumping off the boot into the water with shouts of wild abandon.

NB: Keep in mind that beneath his tanned and rugged exterior beats a heart of gold. Treasure it, as it is probably the only thing of value that he has left.

GOOD LUCK

Covid-19 Creativity

Sea Cadets resort to creativity during lockdown. By **Lt Cdr Glenn von Zeil**, *SA Naval Reserves.*

COVID-19 has challenged all of us to do things differently utilising whatever resources are available. With the national lockdown announced by President Ramaphosa late in March 2020 all the Sea Cadet units complied by ceasing training.

This did not prevent some creative Sea Cadet officers from perusing their passion of supporting the youth. The Officers from TS Rook & TS Woltemade took to the wifi waves and created practical tasks to keep those Sea Cadets who had access to smart phones, internet and data busy and focussed during the lockdown.

Examples of these tasks included: (From the photo's and videos posted, fun was had by all !)

- Getting to know Africa – linking names & map of Africa.
- Identifying ranks, safety signs, knots, flags, Morse code.
- Making your own knotting board.
- Building and floating a raft model.
- Building a replica of the quarterdeck.
- Building a tripod to hold 500 grams.
- 30 Second PR video to encourage friend to join Sea Cadets.
- Standing inspection in room at home.
- Polishing shoes / boots.

Bravo Zulu to these Officer Commanding and their Officers for their creativity and commitment during these challenging times. Thank you

to the families who supported the Sea Cadets.

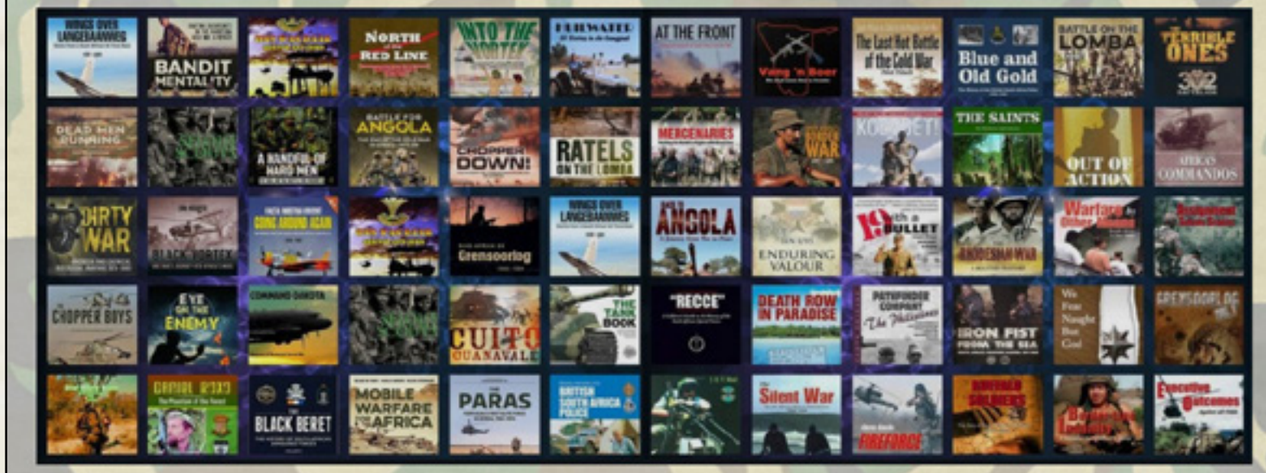
These initiatives resulted in a national competition which was open to all Sea Cadets, adjudicated by the National Training Officer for which prizes of data were awarded.

During the lockdown Lt Denise Gouws, an educator, worked with other Officers to create an online learning platform which will, once completed, be used to assist in feeing up unit contact time for practical application and fun evolutions.

Sea Cadets units will remain closed until February 2021 after the schools have hopefully settled back into a normal rhythm and the risk of the spread of COVID-19 drastically reduced.

For more visuals see the Facebook pages of TS Rook and TS Woltemade as well as the Sea Cadet website at www.seacadets.za.org

BUSH WAR BOOKS



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"

Germany's last-ditch militia

During 1944-1945, the Volkssturm, or People's Militia, was designed to promote "a violent burst of fanatic rage against the invaders" and thus salvage victory from the jaws of defeat.

On 18 October 1944 Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler stepped up to a microphone to make a national radio address announcing the formation of the Nazi Party-controlled *Volkssturm*, or People's Militia. The direct translation of the word is "People's Storm".

It was not set up by the German Army, the ground component of the combined German Wehrmacht armed forces, but by the Nazi Party on the orders of Adolf Hitler.

It was staffed by conscripting males between the ages of 16 and 60 years who were not already serving in some military unit.

The Volkssturm comprised one of the final components of the total war promulgated by Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels, part of a Nazi endeavour to overcome their enemies' military strength through force of will.

Plans to form a Landsturm national militia in eastern Germany as a last resort to boost fighting strength were first proposed in 1944 by General Heinz Guderian, chief of the General Staff.

The Army did not have enough men to resist the Soviet onslaught. So, additional categories of men were called into service, including those in non-essential jobs, those previously deemed unfit, over-age, or under-age, and those recovering from wounds.

The Volkssturm had existed, on paper, since around 1925, but it was only after Hitler ordered Martin Bormann to recruit six million men for this militia that the group became a physical reality. The intended strength of "six million" was never attained.

Joseph Goebbels and other propagandists depicted the Volkssturm as an outburst of enthusiasm and the will to resist.

While it had some marginal effect on morale, it was undermined by the recruits' visible lack of uniforms and weaponry.

Nazi themes of death, transcendence, and commemoration were given full play to encourage the fight.

Many German civilians realized that this was a desperate attempt to turn the course of the war. Sardonic old men would remark, "We old monkeys are the Führer's newest weapon" (in German this rhymes: "*Wir alten Affen sind des Führers neue Waffen*").

A popular joke about the Volkssturm went "Why is the Volkssturm Germany's most precious resource? Because its members have silver in their hair, gold in their mouths, and lead in their bones."

For these militia units to be effective, they needed not only strength in numbers, but also fanaticism.

During the early stages of Volkssturm planning, it became apparent that units lacking morale would lack combat effectiveness.

To generate fanaticism, Volkssturm units were placed under direct command of the local Nazi party officials, the *Gauleiter* and *Kreisleiter*.

The new Volkssturm was also to become a nationwide organization, with Heinrich Himmler, as Replacement Army commander, responsible for armament and training.

Though nominally under party control, Volkssturm units were placed under Wehrmacht command when engaged in action.

With the Nazi Party in charge of organizing the Volkssturm, each Gauleiter, or Nazi Party District Leader, was charged with the leadership, enrolment, and organization of the Volkssturm in their district.

The largest Volkssturm unit seems to have corresponded to the next smaller territorial subdivision of the Nazi Party organization - the Kreis.

The basic unit was a battalion of 642 men. Units were mostly composed of members of the Hitler Youth, invalids, the elderly, or men who had previously been considered unfit for military service.

On 12 February 1945, the Nazis conscripted German women and girls into the auxiliaries of the Volkssturm.

Correspondingly, girls as young as 14 years were trained in the use of small arms, panzerfaust, machine guns, and hand grenades from December 1944 through May 1945.

The idea of conscripting young girls into the Volkssturm did not sit well with everyone.

"Ivan (German nickname for the Russians) was not in the habit of taking prisoners," said a member of the Volkssturm that survived the war. "If a young girl was captured she would be gang raped before being killed."

Uniform and insignia

At that stage of the war the Wehrmacht was short of most things, including uniforms. The Volkssturm "uniform" was only a black armband with the German words *Deutscher*

Volkssturm Wehrmacht.

Some variants of the above-mentioned armband worn by Volkssturm members were simply red or yellow cloth-bands with "Deutscher Volkssturm Wehrmacht" printed in black on them.

On top of the identification armbands, there were black rank-patches, either with or without silver pips, worn on the collar of the Volkssturm members' uniform.

These were characteristically derived from the rank insignia of the various paramilitary organizations of the Nazi Party, which had control over them, and not of the regular Wehrmacht.

The German government tried to issue as many of its members as possible with military uniforms of all sorts, ranging from field-gray to camouflage types.

Most members of the Volkssturm, especially elderly members, had no uniform and were not supplied, so they generally wore either work-attire (including railway workers, policemen and firemen) or their civilian clothing and usually carried with them their own personal rucksacks, blankets and cooking-equipment, etc.

Training

Typically, members of the Volkssturm received only very basic military training. It included a brief indoctrination and training on the use of basic weapons such as the Karabiner 98k rifle and Panzerfaust.

Because of continuous fighting and weapon shortages, weapon training was often minimal. There was also a lack of instructors, meaning that weapons training was sometimes done by World War I veterans drafted into service themselves.

Often Volkssturm members were only able to familiarize themselves with their weapons when in actual combat.

There was no standardization of any kind and units were issued only what equipment was available. This was true of every form of equipment - Volkssturm members were required to bring their own uniforms and culinary equipment etc.

This resulted in the units looking very ragged and, instead of boosting civilian morale, it often reminded people of Germany's desperate state.

Armament was equally haphazard: though some Karabiner 98ks were on hand, members were also issued older Gewehr 98s and 19th-century Gewehr 71s and Steyr-Mannlicher M1888s, as well as Dreyse M1907 pistols.

The Germans had also developed cheap but reasonably effective Volkssturm weapons, such as MP 3008 machine pistols and Volkssturmgewehr rifles.

When units had completed their training and received armament, members took a customary oath to Hitler and were then dispatched into combat.

Unlike most English-speaking countries, Germany had universal military service for all young men for several generations, so many of the older members would have had at least basic military training from when they served in the German Army and many would have been veterans of World War I.

Impact of the Volkssturm

Volkssturm units were supposed to be used only in their own districts, but many were sent directly to the front lines.

Ultimately, it was their charge to confront the overwhelming power of the British, Canadian, Soviet, American, and French armies alongside Wehrmacht forces.

It was an apocalyptic goal which some of those assigned to the Volkssturm took to heart.

One of the most common weapons of the Volkssturm was the Panzerfaust, an inexpensive, single shot, recoilless German anti-tank weapon. Ernst Tiburzy, a Volkssturm battalion commander was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross when he destroyed five Russian T-34 tanks with Panzerfausts.

Unremittingly fanatical members of the Volkssturm refused to abandon the Nazi ethos unto the dying days of Nazi Germany, and in a number of instances took brutal "police actions" against German civilians deemed defeatists or cowards.

Take the case of Karl Weiglein, a 59 year old farmer called up to serve in the Volkssturm. He complained when the local bridge was blown up.

"The people who did this are idiots and ought to be hanged," he said.

But it was Karl that was hanged. His commander, the local school teacher, heard what he had said.

Karl was hanged from his own pear tree outside his own front door while his wife watched from the window.

The body was left hanging for three days as an example to anyone else who wanted to complain.

On some occasions, members of the Volkssturm showed tremendous courage and a determined will to resist, more so even than soldiers in the Wehrmacht. Four members of the Volkssturm were awarded the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross.

Not every Volkssturm unit was suicidal or apocalyptic in outlook as the war drew closer to its end. Many of them lost their enthusiasm for the fight when it became clear that the Allies had won, prompting them to lay down their weapons and surrender – they also feared being captured by Allied forces and tortured or executed as partisans.

Not eager to die what was thought to be a pointless death, many older members of the Volkssturm looked for places to hide from the approaching Soviet Army.

In the Battle for Berlin, Volkssturm units were used by the German high command as a last-ditch attempt to defend Berlin.

The Volkssturm had a strength of about 60,000 in the Berlin area formed into 92 battalions, of which about 30 battalions of Volkssturm I (those with some weapons) were sent to forward positions, while those of Volkssturm II (those without weapons) remained in the inner city.

Allied bombing had reduced Berlin to rubble; meanwhile the final stand in Berlin dwindled to fighting against highly trained, battle-hardened Soviet troops on the brink of final victory, who viewed resistance fighters like the Volkssturm as terrorists in much the same way the Wehrmacht once had viewed potential partisans during Operation Barbarossa.

Red Army soldiers called the Hitler Youth formations and members of the Volkssturm still fighting to the end in Berlin "totals" for being part of Germany's total mobilization effort.

Despite their efforts, the last four months of the war were an exercise in futility for the Volkssturm, and the Nazi leadership's insistence to continue the fight to the bitter end contributed to an additional 1.23 million (approximated) deaths, half of them German military personnel and the other half from the Volkssturm.

Two notable members of the Volkssturm were German philosopher Martin Heidegger and Gustav Anton von Wietersheim.

Von Wietersheim was a veteran of World War I where he won both the Iron Cross 1st and 2nd Class.

During World War II he was a general and commanded XIV Panzer Corps.

During the early part of the Battle of Stalingrad he suggested a partial withdrawal to the Don River, due to high casualties among his troops in the salient north of Stalingrad.

Hitler accused him of incompetence and defeatism and fired him on the spot. In 1945 von Wietersheim served in the Volkssturm as a mere private.

Both von Wietersheim and Heidegger survived the war.

A matter of survival - Shelters IV

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 more permanent shelters.

Normally in a survival situation you want to move as quickly as possible and reach safety or help. This, however, is not always possible.

You, or one of your party, may be injured and will need a few days or longer to recover before being able to move.

Weather can often be a determining factor. You may be forced to wait a few days, weeks or even months before the weather is suitable to travel.

In situations such as this you will need a more long-term shelter. Somewhere that you will be able to establish yourself easily until you can eventually attract rescue or equip yourself to undertake the journey with your own resources.

In a cold climate you will want to be warm and snug. In a warm one, on the other hand, you will want to take advantage or any available breezes. Your shelter will need to provide protection against the changing elements and night temperatures may differ from those during the day.

Caves

Caves are the most ready-made shelters you will find. Even a shallow cave (known as a rock shelter) makes an excellent temporary shelter and a larger cave can make an excellent home.

People still live in caves in many parts of the world, sometimes will all modern conveniences.

Caves situated above a valley will be dry even if water seeps through in some places from above.

They are weather-proof and require little construction except for the creation of a barrier to close off the entrance.

Caves can be cold, and they may already be inhabited by wild animals, so approach any such shelter with caution.

Plenty of dry plant matter and pine boughs on the ground will provide insulation. A good fire will usually make animal occupants leave. Always allow them an escape route.

Sometimes a cave will have its own fresh water supply, especially if it goes deep into a hillside, either from an underground stream or from water seeping through the rocks above.

If you are going to make a fire inside the cave, always ensure that there is enough ventilation for the smoke to escape.

WARNING

Check for the possibility of a rock fall inside or outside the cave. You might be desperate for shelter, but your situation will be a lot worse if you are trapped or injured by falling rocks.

Sod houses

Turf-built shelters are an alternative to log cabins when timber is scarce or there are no tools to cut it.

Cut sections of turf (45 x 15cm) and build with them like bricks, overlapping them to form a bond.

Slope the sides to give pitch to the roof - to support which you will have to find spars of wood or other strong material.

The greater the pitch, the better the rain will be repelled. The length of the spars will determine the size of the structure. Lay turves on the roof as well, or cover it with grass.

Unless you have a great deal of turf available keep the structure low - big enough to sit on the floor but not big enough to stand. One side could even be left open, facing your fire.

Cut the turf in a pattern to leave a permanent distress signal on the ground at the same time as collecting building material. In this way you really will be killing two birds with one stone.

For a small shelter you could also use turves to make a beehive or igloo-like structure.

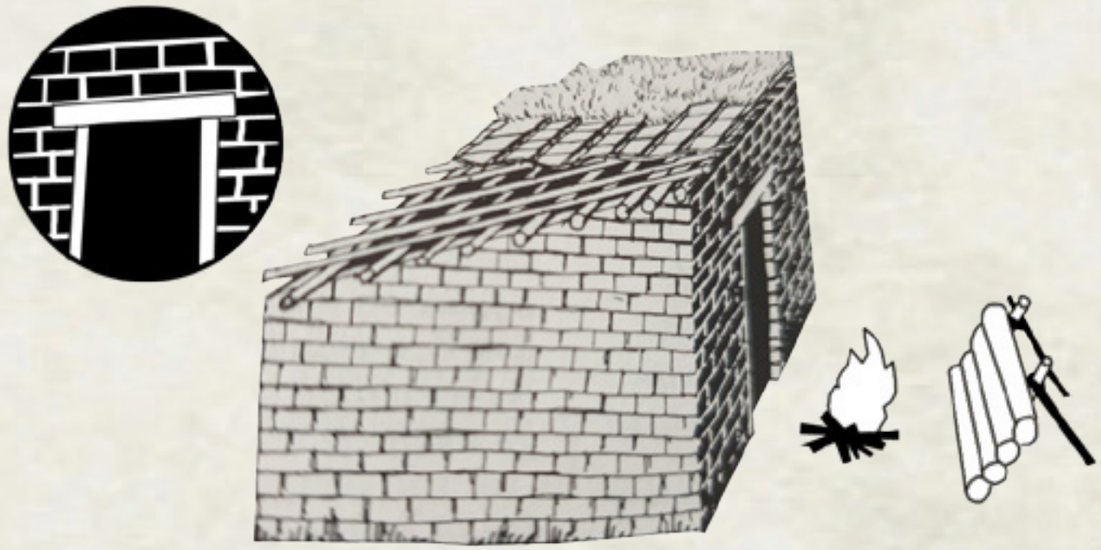
If time and resources are available a large hut can be built with turves.

Some sort of timber will be needed for a door frame (a) and for roof spars.

Build an internal hearth and chimney, but if you use turf for them be careful they do not catch fire. Plaster the inside of the hearth and chimney will clay.

The type and size of your long-term shelter should be determined by a number of factors.

1. How long you are planning to stay at the location?
2. What building materials are available to you?
3. What tools do you have available?
4. How much effort and time will it take to construct?



Site the open side or doorway away from the prevailing wind and, with a small turf-built house make your fire outside the entrance and build a reflector on the other side of it to throw heat back inside.

Even with an open side, a short return will make the corners far more stable. Bond the corners, as with conventional brickwork, for strength.

Rank Structure - Japan Self- 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 Japan Self-Defence Forces.

The Japan Self-Defence Forces (abbreviated JSDF), also known as the Self-Defence Forces (SDF) or Japanese Armed Forces, are the unified military forces of Japan that were established by the Self-Defence Forces Law in 1954, and are controlled by the Ministry of Defence.

The JSDF has the world's Fifth-largest military budget. In recent years, it has engaged in international peacekeeping operations with the United Nations.

The JSDF is ranked as the 5th most powerful military force on the planet as of 2020.

Under Article 9 of the 1947 constitution, which was written by Prime Minister Kijūrō Shidehara under the supervision of the (SCAP), Japan forever renounces war as an instrument for settling international disputes and declared that Japan will never again maintain "land, sea, or air forces or another war potential."

Later cabinets interpreted these provisions as not denying the nation the inherent right to self-defence and, with the encouragement of the United States, developed the JSDF step by step.

Ground Self-Defence Force

Non-commissioned Officers (NCO)

Jieikan kōhosei (Cadet)

Nitō rikushi (Private)

Ittō rikushi (Private First Class)

Rikushichō (Leading Private)

Santō rikusō (Sergeant)

Nitō rikusō (Sergeant First Class)

Ittō rikusō (Master Sergeant)

Rikusōchō (Sergeant Major)

Jun rikui (Warrant Officer)

Officers

Santō rikui (Second Lieutenant)

Nitō rikui (First Lieutenant)

Ittō rikui (Captain)

Santō rikusa (Major)

Nitō rikusa (Lieutenant Colonel)

Ittō rikusa (Colonel)

Rikushō-ho (Major General)

Rikushō (Lieutenant General)

Rikushō (General)

Maritime Self-Defence Force

Non-commissioned Officers (NCO)

Jieikan kōhosei (Cadet)

Nitō kaishi (Seaman Apprentice)

Ittō kaishi (Seaman)

Kaishichō (Leading Seaman)

Santō kaisō (Petty Officer Third Class)

Nitō kaisō
(Petty Officer
Second Class)

Ittō kaisō
(Petty Officer
First Class)

Kaisōchō
(Chief Petty
Officer)

Jun kaii
(Warrant
Officer)

Officers

Santō kaii
(Engisn)

Nitō kaii
(Lieutenant
Junior Grade)

Ittō kaii
(Lieutenant)

Santō kaisa
(Lieutenant
Commander)

Nitō kaisa
(Commander)

Ittō kaisa
(Captain)

Kaishō-ho
(Rear
Admiral)

Kaishō
(Vice
Admiral)

Kaishō
(Admiral)

Air Self-Defence Force

Non-commissioned Officers (NCO)

Jieikan
kōhosei
(Cadet)

Nitō kūshi
(Airman
Third Class)

Ittō kūshi
(Airman
Second Class)

Kūshichō
(Airman First
Class)

Santō kūsō
(Staff
Sergeant)

Nitō kūsō
(Technical
Sergeant)

Ittō kūsō
(Master
Sergeant)

Kūsōchō
(Senior
Master Sergeant)

Jun kūi
(Warrant
Officer)

Officers

Santō kūi
(Second
Lieutenant)

Nitō kūi
(First
Lieutenant)

Ittō kūi
(Captain)

Santō kūsa
(Major)

Nitō kūsa
(Lieutenant
Colonel)

Ittō kūsa
(Colonel)

Kūshō-ho
(Major
General)

Kūshō
(Lieutenant
General)

Kūshō
(General)

The Six Day War

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

When Israel decided to launch a pre-emptive strike they 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 strike would be against eight Egyptian airfields in Sinai, on the Suez Canal and around Cairo.

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. Moreover the change-over of watches within the Egyptian air command was taking place.

In another move that went against the norm, the Israelis chose not to make Arab radar stations their first priority.

To achieve surprise in the strikes against the airfields around Cairo the Israelis flew deep into the Mediterranean before they turned to attack the air fields from the rear.

And it wasn't just a quick 'hit-and-run' strike either. The Israelis kept successive waves of attacking aircraft over the major targets until resistance was totally broken. For 80 minutes the Israelis kept up a continuous attack on airfields housing the cutting edge of Egyptian air power.

At the end of the first day's operation about 300 Arab aircraft had been destroyed with the Israelis losing only ten of their own.

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

That the Israelis were able to keep waves of attacking aircraft over the target was due to careful calculation of flight times and an allowance of ten minutes time-over-target for each attacking wave before the next wave arrived to take over.

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. On the first day they annihilated the Jordanian Air Force and inflicted such heavy loses on the Syrian Air Force that it took virtually no active part in the war. The fact of the matter is that the Jordanian and Syrian Air Forces had been destroyed within the space of 25 minutes.

Most of the damage from the Israeli aircraft was inflicted by cannon fire against aircraft caught on the ground.

Some Israeli pilots actually lowered their undercarriage to reduce speed and increase the accuracy of their fire.

Yet the Israelis did not rely on cannon only. A variety of bombs had been developed to make runways unusable.

Some were set on long time delay fuses to discourage ground crews from trying to repair the runways. Installations and runways in Sinai were relatively lightly attacked because the Israelis planned on using them for themselves.

In the end the war lasted only six days and became known as the Six Day War. A total of 418 Arab aircraft were destroyed for the loss of 27 Israeli aircraft.

While the war lasted for six days it was, for all intents and purposes, over after three hours.

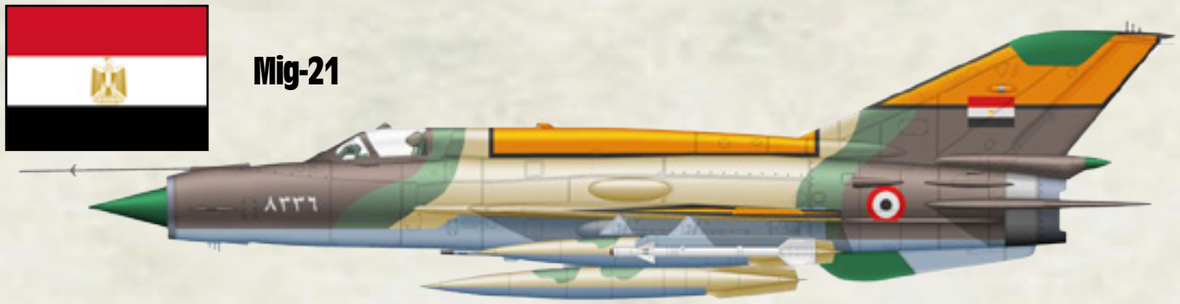
In that time the Israelis inflicted a huge defeat on the Arabs from which they could never hope to recover. Once the Israelis had secured air superiority the outcome of the war was never in doubt.

In the history of air warfare no operation stands comparison with the Israeli Air Force attack on 5 June 1967 with regard to the expertise in execution and significance for the outcome of a campaign.

It was a blow the Arab Forces could never hope to recover from and basically Israel's success meant their defeat.

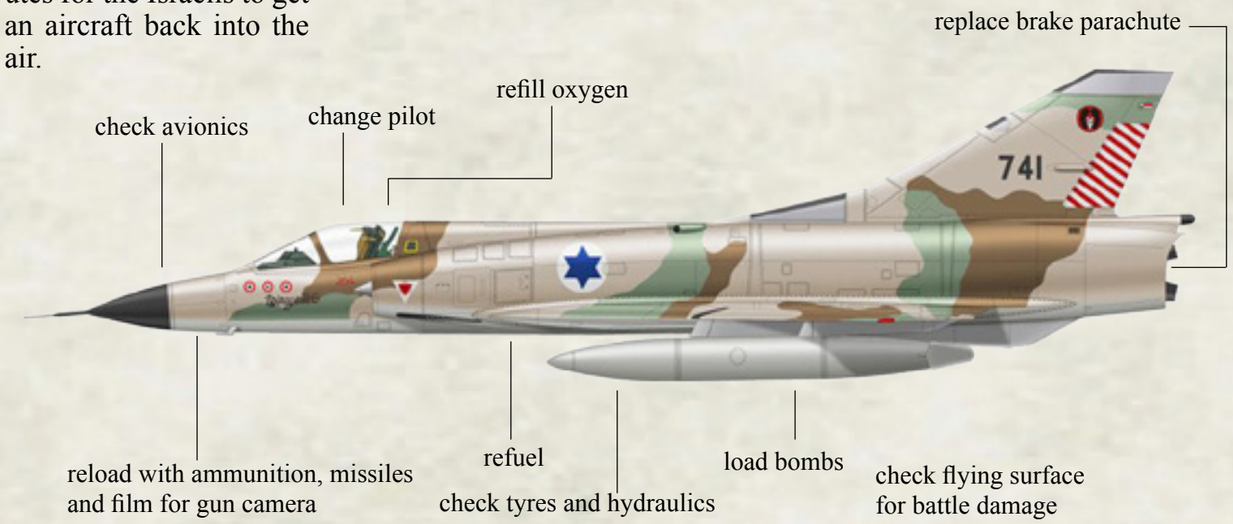
Dassault Mirage III

Mig-21



Turn-around procedure

It took a mere seven minutes for the Israelis to get an aircraft back into the air.



Israel
350 Aircraft

Dassault Mirage III

The Dassault Mirage III is a family of single-seat, single-engine, fighter aircraft developed and manufactured by French aircraft company Dassault Aviation. It was the first Western European combat aircraft to exceed Mach 2 in horizontal flight.

The Israeli Air Force (IAF) purchased three variants of the Mirage III:

- Weight: 7,050 kg
- Length: 15.03 metres
- Wingspan: 8.22 metres
- Height: 4.5 metres
- Crew: 1
- Armament: 2× 30 mm DEFA 552 cannon, 2× Matra 9× 68 mm SNEB rockets, 2× AIM-9 Sidewinder Air to Air missiles
- Powerplant: 1 × SNECMA Atar 09C after-burning turbojet engine
- Max speed: 2,350 km/h
- Rate of climb: 83 m/s
- Combat range: 1,200 km
- Avionics: Thomson-CSF Cyrano II radar; Marconi continuous-wave Doppler navigation radar

Dassault Super Mystère

The Dassault Super Mystère is a French fighter-bomber and was the first Western European supersonic aircraft to enter mass production.

- Weight: 6.930 kg
- Length: 14.13 metres
- Wingspan: 10.51 metres
- Height: 4.6 metres
- Crew: 1
- Armament: 2× 30 mm DEFA 552 cannon, 2× Matra 9× 68 mm SNEB rockets, 2× Rafael Shafrir AAMs
- Powerplant: 1 × SNECMA Atar 101G-2 after-burning turbojet engine
- Max speed: 1,195 km/h
- Rate of climb: 89 m/s
- Combat range: 870 km

Other aircraft used by the Israeli Air Force included:

- Sud Aviation Vautour
- Mystere IV
- Dassault Ouragan
- Fouga Magister trainer outfitted for attack missions
- Nord 2501IS military cargo plane.

Eygpt
450 Aircraft

Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21

The Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21 (NATO reporting name: Fishbed) is a supersonic jet fighter and interceptor aircraft, designed by the Mikoyan-Gurevich Design Bureau in the Soviet Union. Its nicknames include: Balalaika, because its plan-form resembles the stringed musical instrument of the same name.

- Weight: 8.725 kg
- Length: 14.7 metres
- Wingspan: 7.154 metres
- Height: 4.1 metres
- Crew: 1
- Armament: 1 × internal 23 mm Gryazev-Shipunov GSh-23L auto-cannon, 4 × S-24 57mm rockets, K-14 AAMs
- Powerplant: 1 × Tumansky R-25-300 afterburning turbojet
- Max speed: 2,175 km/h
- Combat range: 660 km

Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-19

The Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-19 (NATO reporting name: Farmer) is a Soviet second generation, single-seat, twin jet-engined fighter aircraft, the world's first mass-produced supersonic aircraft.

- Weight: 5,172 kg
- Length: 12.54 metres
- Wingspan: 9 metres
- Height: 3.88 metres
- Crew: 1
- Armament: 3× 30 mm Nudelman-Rikhter NR-30 auto-cannon, 2 × 32-round ORO-57K rocket pods
- Powerplant: 2 × Tumansky RD-9B after-burning turbojet engines
- Max speed: 1,452 km/h
- Rate of climb: 177.8 m/s
- Combat range: 1,390 km

Other aircraft used by the Egyptian Air Force included:

- MiG-17
- Su-7B
- Tu-16
- Il-28
- Il-18
- Il-14
- An-12

Besides the 450 aircraft of the Egyptian Air Force, Syria had 120 aircraft while Jordan had 40.

They used pretty much the same aircraft as the Egyptians with the exception of Jordan which also used the British designed Hawker Hunter.

Isoroku Yamamoto

Japanese Fleet Admiral of the Imperial Japanese Navy, Commander-in-chief of the Combined Fleet during World War II, and the architect of Pearl Harbour.

Isoroku Yamamoto held several important posts in the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN), and undertook many of its changes and reorganizations, especially its development of naval aviation.

He was the commander-in-chief during the early years of the Pacific War and oversaw major engagements including the attack on Pearl Harbour and the Battle of Midway.

He took part in three wars - the Russo-Japanese War, World War I, and World War II. He was a strong proponent of naval aviation.

He was one of the few Japanese to be awarded the German Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords. Yet he was strongly opposed to the 1940 Tripartite Pact with Nazi Germany and fascist Italy.

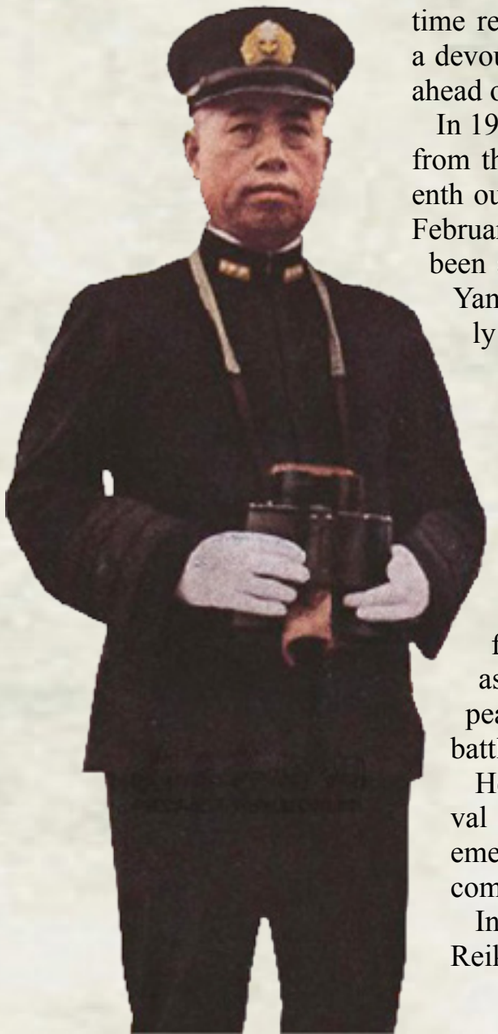
Early life

He was born Isoroku Takano in Nagaoka, Niigata on 4 April 1884. His father was Sadayoshi Takano, an intermediate-rank samurai of the Nagaoka Domain. "Isoroku" is an old Japanese term meaning "56"; the name referred to his father's age at Isoroku's birth.

In 1916, Isoroku was adopted into the Yamamoto family (another family of former Nagaoka samurai) and took the Yamamoto name. It was a common practice for samurai families lacking sons to adopt suitable young men in this fashion to carry on the family name, the rank and the income that comes with it.

He was a gifted scholar and was rewarded in 1901 with acceptance to the Imperial Japanese Naval Academy. On his entrance exam he scored the second highest marks in the entire country.

He did well during his first three years, but it was during his forth year, which was spent at sea, that he really began to shine.



His instructors quickly spotted his leadership potential. Despite only standing at 5'3" (1,6 metres) and weighing 120 pounds (54 kg), he was physically skilled, being an accomplished gymnast and trained in the martial art of kendo.

Unlike his fellow students he was not interested in drinking and socialising, but rather spent time reading his bible (he was a devout Christian) and getting ahead on his studies.

In 1904 Yamamoto graduated from the Naval Academy, seventh out of 200 students. From February that year Japan had been at war with Russia, and Yamamoto was immediately thrown into the fray.

Yamamoto served on the armoured cruiser *Nisshin* during the Russo-Japanese War. He was wounded at the Battle of Tsushima, losing two fingers (the index and middle fingers) on his left hand, as the cruiser was hit repeatedly by the Russian battle line.

He returned to the Naval Staff College in 1914, emerging as a lieutenant commander in 1916.

In 1918 Isoroku married Reiko Mihashi, with whom he had two sons and two daughters.

FAMOUS FIGURES IN MILITARY HISTORY

Pre-World War II

Yamamoto spent a few years in the United States when he received two postings as a naval attaché in Washington, D.C.

While in America he not only learned to speak fluent English, but also enrolled part-time at Harvard University (1919-1921) where he studied American customs and business practices.

He was promoted to captain in 1923. On 13 February 1924, at the rank of captain, he was part of the Japanese delegation visiting the US Naval War College. Later that year, he changed his specialty from gunnery to naval aviation. His first command was the cruiser *Isuzu* in 1928, followed by the aircraft carrier *Akagi*.

He participated in the second London Naval Conference of 1930 as a rear admiral and the 1934 London Naval Conference as a vice admiral, as the growing military influence on the government at the time deemed that a career military specialist needed to accompany the diplomats to the arms limitations talks.

Yamamoto opposed the invasion of Manchuria in 1931, the subsequent land war with China (1937), and the 1940 Tripartite Pact with Nazi Germany and fascist Italy. As Deputy Navy Minister, he apologized to United States Ambassador Joseph C. Grew for the bombing of the gunboat USS Panay in December 1937. These issues made him a target of assassination threats by pro-war militarists.

Throughout 1938, many young army and naval officers began to speak publicly against Yamamoto and certain other Japanese admirals such as Mitsumasa Yonai and Shigeyoshi Inoue for their strong opposition to a tripartite pact with Nazi Germany as they saw it as inimical to "Japan's natural interests".

Yamamoto received a steady stream of hate mail and death threats from Japanese nationalists. His reaction to the prospect of death by assassination was passive and accepting.

The admiral wrote: *"To die for Emperor and Nation is the highest hope of a military man. After a brave hard fight the blossoms are scattered on the fighting field. But if a person wants to take a life instead, still the fighting man will go to eternity for Emperor and country. One man's life or death is a matter of no importance. All that matters is the Empire. As Confucius said, "They may crush cinnabar, yet they do not take away its colour; one may burn a fragrant herb, yet it will not destroy the scent." They may destroy my body, yet they will not take away my will."*

The Japanese Army, annoyed at Yamamoto's unflinching opposition to a Rome-Berlin-Tokyo treaty, dispatched military police to "guard" Yamamoto, a ruse by the army to keep an eye on him.

He was later reassigned from the naval ministry to sea as the commander-in-chief of the Combined Fleet on 30 August 1939.

This was done as one of the last acts of the then-acting Navy Minister Mitsumasa Yonai, under Baron Hiranuma's short-lived administration. It was done partly to make it harder for assassins to target Yamamoto.

Yonai was certain that if Yamamoto remained ashore, he would be killed before the year [1939] ended.

On the brink of war

Yamamoto was promoted to admiral on 15 November 1940. This, in spite of the fact that when Hideki Tōjō was appointed prime minister on 8 October 1941, many political observers thought that Yamamoto's career was essentially over.

Tōjō had been Yamamoto's old opponent from the time when the latter served as Japan's deputy naval minister and Tōjō was the prime mover behind Japan's takeover of Manchuria. It was believed that Yamamoto would be appointed to command the Yokosuka Naval Base, "a nice safe demotion with a big house and no power at all".

After the new Japanese cabinet was announced, however, Yamamoto found himself left alone in his position despite his open conflicts with Tōjō and other members of the army's oligarchy who favoured war with the European powers and the United States.

Two of the main reasons for Yamamoto's political survival were his immense popularity within the fleet, where he commanded the respect of his men and officers, and his close relations with the imperial family. He also had the acceptance of Japan's naval hierarchy.

Consequently, Yamamoto stayed in his post. With Tōjō now in charge of Japan's highest political office, it became clear the army would lead the navy into a war about which Yamamoto had serious reservations. He wrote to an ultranationalist:

"Should hostilities once break out between Japan and the United States, it would not be enough that we take Guam and the Philippines, nor even Hawaii and San Francisco. To make victory certain, we would have to march into Washington and dictate the terms of peace in the White House. I wonder if our politicians [who speak so lightly of a Japanese-American war] have confidence as to the final outcome and are prepared to make the necessary sacrifices."

This quote was spread by the militarists, minus the last sentence, where it was interpreted in America as a boast that Japan would conquer the entire continental United States. The omitted sentence showed Yamamoto's counsel of caution towards a war that could cost Japan dearly.

Nevertheless, Yamamoto accepted the reality of impending war and planned for a quick victory by destroying the United States Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbour in a preventive strike while simultaneously thrusting into the oil and rubber resource-rich areas of Southeast Asia, especially the Dutch East Indies, Borneo, and Malaya. In naval matters, Yamamoto opposed the building of the super-battleships Yamato and Musashi as an unwise investment of resources.

Innovations

Yamamoto was responsible for a number of innovations in Japanese naval aviation. Although remembered for his association with aircraft carriers, Yamamoto did more to influence the development of land-based naval aviation, particularly the Mitsubishi G3M and G4M medium bombers.

His demand for great range and the ability to carry a torpedo was intended to conform to Japanese conceptions of bleeding the American fleet as it advanced across the Pacific. The planes did achieve long range, but long-range fighter escorts were not available. These planes were lightly constructed and when fully fuelled, they were especially vulnerable to enemy fire. This earned the G4M the sardonic nickname the "flying cigarette lighter".

The range of the G3M and G4M contributed to a demand for great range in a fighter aircraft. This partly drove the requirements for the A6M Zero which was as noteworthy for its range as for its manoeuvrability. Both qualities were again purchased at the expense of light construction and flammability that later contributed to the A6M's high casualty rates as the war progressed.

As Japan moved toward war during 1940, Yamamoto gradually moved toward strategic as well as tactical innovation, again with mixed results.

Prompted by talented young officers such as Lieutenant Commander Minoru Genda, Yamamoto approved the reorganization of Japanese carrier forces into the First Air Fleet, a consolidated striking force that gathered Japan's six largest carriers into one unit.

This innovation gave great striking capacity, but also concentrated the vulnerable carriers into a compact target. Yamamoto also oversaw the organization of a similar large land-based organization in the 11th Air Fleet, which would later use the G3M and G4M to neutralize American air forces in the Philippines and sink the British "Force Z".

In January 1941, Yamamoto went even further and proposed a radical revision of Japanese naval strategy. For two decades, in keeping with the doctrine of Captain Alfred T. Mahan, the Naval General Staff had planned in terms of Japanese light surface forces, submarines, and land-based air units whittling down the American Fleet as it advanced across the Pacific until the Japanese Navy engaged it in a climactic "decisive battle" in the northern Philippine Sea (between the Ryukyu Islands and the Marianas), with battleships meeting in the traditional exchange between battle lines.

Correctly pointing out this plan had never worked even in Japanese war games, and painfully aware of American strategic advantages in military production capacity, Yamamoto proposed instead to seek a decision with the Americans by first reducing their forces with a preventive strike, and following it with a "decisive battle" fought offensively, rather than defensively.

Yamamoto hoped, but probably did not believe, that if the Americans could be dealt terrific blows early in the war, they might be willing to negotiate an end to the conflict.

The Naval General Staff proved reluctant to go along and Yamamoto was eventually driven to capitalize on his popularity in the fleet by threatening to resign to get his way. Admiral Osami Nagano and the Naval General Staff eventually caved in to this pressure, but only insofar as approving the attack on Pearl Harbour.

The First Air Fleet commenced preparations for the Pearl Harbour raid, solving a number of technical problems along the way, including how to launch torpedoes in the shallow water of Pearl Harbour and how to craft armour-piercing bombs by machining down battleship gun projectiles.

PEARL HARBOUR BURNS: As a result of the attack on Pearl Harbour, America declared war on Japan on 8 December 1941.

Pearl Harbour

US President Franklin D. Roosevelt called it "a day that will live in infamy." The day in question was 7 December 1941.

On that fateful morning the First Air Fleet of six carriers attacked the United States, launching 353 aircraft against Pearl Harbour and other locations within Honolulu in two waves.

The attack was a complete success according to the parameters of the mission, which sought to sink at least four American battleships and prevent the U.S. from interfering in Japan's southward advance for at least six months. American aircraft carriers were also considered a choice target, but these were not in port at the time of the attack.

In the end, five American battleships were sunk, three were damaged, and eleven other cruisers, destroyers, and auxiliaries were sunk or seriously damaged, 188 American aircraft were destroyed and 159 others damaged, and 2,403 people were killed and 1,178 others wounded.

The Japanese lost 64 servicemen and only 29 aircraft, with 74 others damaged by anti-aircraft fire from the ground. The damaged aircraft were disproportionately dive and torpedo bombers, seriously impacting available firepower to exploit the first two waves' success, so the commander of the First Air Fleet, Naval Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo, withdrew.

Yamamoto later lamented Nagumo's failure to seize the initiative to seek out and destroy the U.S. carriers, absent from the harbour, or further bombard various strategically important facilities on Oahu. Nagumo had absolutely no idea where the American carriers might be, and remaining on station while his forces cast about looking for them ran the risk of his own forces being found first and attacked while his aircraft were absent searching.

In any case, insufficient daylight remained after recovering the aircraft from the first two waves for the carriers to launch and recover a third before dark, and Nagumo's escorting destroyers lacked the fuel capacity for him to loiter long. Much has been made of Yamamoto's hindsight, but, in keeping with Japanese military tradition not to criticize the commander on the spot, he did not punish Nagumo for his withdrawal.

On the strategic, moral, and political level, the attack was a disaster for Japan, rousing American passions for revenge due to what is now famously coined a "sneak attack". The US declared war on Japan the following day, 8 December 1941.

When asked by Prime Minister Fumimaro Konoe in mid-1941 about the outcome of a possible war with the United States, Yamamoto made a well-known and prophetic statement: If ordered to fight, he said, "I shall run wild considerably for the first six months or a year, but I have utterly no confidence for the second and third years."

His prediction would be vindicated, as Japan easily conquered territories and islands in Asia and the Pacific for the first six months of the war, before suffering a major defeat at the Battle of Midway on 4-7 June 1942, which ultimately tilted the balance of power in the Pacific towards the U.S.

Early success

With the US fleet largely neutralized at Pearl Harbour, Yamamoto's Combined Fleet turned to the task of executing the larger Japanese war plan devised by the Imperial Japanese Army (IJA) and Navy General Staff. The First Air Fleet made a circuit of the Pacific, striking American, Australian, Dutch and British installations from Wake Island to Australia to Ceylon in the Indian Ocean. The 11th Air Fleet caught the US 5th Air Force on the ground in the Philippines hours after Pearl Harbour, and then sank the British Force Z battleship HMS Prince of Wales and battlecruiser HMS Repulse underway at sea.

Under Yamamoto's able subordinates, Vice Admirals Jisaburō Ozawa, Nobutake Kondō, and Ibō Takahashi, the Japanese swept the inadequate remaining American, British, Dutch and Australian naval assets from the Dutch East Indies in a series of amphibious landings and surface naval battles culminating in the Battle of the Java Sea on 27 February 1942.

Along with the occupation of the Dutch East Indies came the fall of Singapore on 15 February 1942, and the eventual reduction of the remaining American-Filipino defensive positions in the Philippines on the Bataan peninsula, 9 April 1942, and Corregidor Island on 6 May 1942. The Japanese had secured their oil- and rubber-rich "southern resources area".

The tide turns

In early May 1942 the Japanese Navy clashed with a US carrier task force in the Battle of the Coral Sea. Although the Japanese sank the US carrier USS Lexington and damaged the USS Yorktown (CV-5), the Americans damaged the carrier Shōkaku so badly that she required dockyard repairs, and the Japanese lost the light carrier Shoho. Just as importantly, Japanese operational mishaps and US fighters and anti-aircraft fire devastated the dive bomber and torpedo plane formations of both Shōkaku's and Zuikaku's air groups.

These losses sidelined Zuikaku while she awaited replacement aircraft and aircrews, and saw to tactical integration and training. These two ships would be sorely missed a month later at Midway.

Battle of Midway

Yamamoto's plan for Midway Island was an extension of his efforts to knock the US Pacific Fleet out of action long enough for Japan to fortify its defensive perimeter in the Pacific island chains. Yamamoto felt it necessary to seek an early, offensive decisive battle.

The plan was to seize Midway and draw the US carriers west into a trap where the First Mobile Force would engage and destroy them. Afterwards, First Fleet (one light carrier, seven battleships, three cruisers and 13 destroyers), in conjunction with elements of Second Fleet, would mop up remaining US surface forces and complete the destruction of the US Pacific Fleet.

Yamamoto held all the cards. The Japanese had four carriers, two light carriers, 11 battleships, 16 cruisers and 46 destroyers likely to be in the area of the main battle the US could field only three carriers, eight cruisers, and 15 destroyers. The disparity appeared crushing.

Unbeknownst to Admiral Yamamoto, the US had learned of Japanese plans thanks to the code breaking of Japanese naval code D (known to the US as JN-25).

As a result, Admiral Chester Nimitz, the Pacific Fleet commander, was able to circumvent both of Yamamoto's security measures and place his outnumbered forces in a position to conduct an ambush.

Nimitz's carriers positioned themselves to ambush the *Kidō Butai* (striking force) when it struck Midway. A token cruiser and destroyer force was sent toward the Aleutians, but otherwise Nimitz ignored them.

On 4 June 1942, days before Yamamoto expected them to interfere in the Midway operation, US carrier-based aircraft destroyed the four carriers of the *Kidō Butai*, catching the Japanese carriers at an especially vulnerable moment.

Midway was a defeat for Japan and after that they suffered set back after setback.

LAST GREETINGS: Admiral Yamamoto, a few hours before his death, saluting Japanese naval pilots at Rabaul on 18 April 1943.

Death

To boost morale following the defeat at Guadalcanal, Yamamoto decided to make an inspection tour throughout the South Pacific. On 14 April 1943, the US naval intelligence effort, code-named "Magic", intercepted and decrypted a message containing specifics of Yamamoto's tour, including arrival and departure times and locations, as well as the number and types of aircraft that would transport and accompany him on the journey.

Yamamoto, the itinerary revealed, would be flying from Rabaul to Balalae Airfield, on an island near Bougainville in the Solomon Islands, on the morning of April 18, 1943.

On 17 April the mission to intercept Yamamoto's flight and shoot it down was authorised. A squadron of USAAF Lockheed P-38 Lightning aircraft were assigned the task as only they possessed sufficient range to intercept and engage. Select pilots from three units were informed that they were intercepting an "important high officer" with no specific name given.

On the morning of 18 April, despite urging by local commanders to cancel the trip for fear of ambush, Yamamoto's two Mitsubishi G4M bombers, used as fast transport aircraft without bombs, left Rabaul as scheduled for the 507 km trip. Sixteen P-38 Lightnings intercepted the flight over Bougainville and a dogfight ensued between them and the six escorting Mitsubishi A6M Zeroes. The plane carrying Yamamoto was shot down and crashed into the jungle.

The crash site and body of Yamamoto were found the next day in the jungle of the island of Bougainville by a Japanese search and rescue party, led by army engineer Lieutenant Hamasuna.

A post-mortem of the body disclosed that Yamamoto had received two 0.50-caliber bullet wounds, one to the back of his left shoulder and another to his left lower jaw that exited above his right eye. Yamamoto was 59 years old.

Yamamoto's staff cremated his remains at Buin and his ashes were returned to Tokyo aboard the battleship Musashi, Yamamoto's last flagship.

Yamamoto was given a full state funeral on 5 June, where he received, posthumously, the title of Marshal and was awarded the Order of the Chrysanthemum (1st Class). He was also awarded Nazi Germany's Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords.

Some of his ashes were buried in the public Tama Cemetery, Tokyo and the remainder at his ancestral burial grounds at the temple of Chuko-ji in Nagaoka City. He was succeeded as commander-in-chief of the Combined Fleet by Admiral Mineichi Koga.

Légion étrangère

French Foreign Legion

While they may be part of the French Army, the French Foreign Legion swear allegiance to the Legion

On 10 March 1831, King Louis Philippe of France created the French Foreign Legion.

It was made up from the foreign regiments of the Kingdom of France, including soldiers from the recently disbanded Swiss and German foreign regiments of the Bourbon monarchy.

The Royal Ordinance for the establishment of the new regiment specified that the foreigners recruited could only serve outside France.

The French expeditionary force that had occupied Algiers in 1830 was in need of reinforcements and the Legion was accordingly transferred by sea in detachments from Toulon to Algeria.

The Foreign Legion was primarily used, as part of the *Armée d'Afrique*, to protect and expand the French colonial empire during the 19th century,

but it also fought in almost all French wars including the Franco-Prussian War, World War I and World War II.

The Foreign Legion has remained an important part of the French Army and sea transport protected by the French Navy, surviving three Republics, the Second French Empire, two World Wars, the rise and fall of mass conscript armies, the dismantling of the French colonial empire, and the loss of the Foreign Legion's base, Algeria.

The Foreign Legion is a military service branch of the French Army and is unique in that it was, and continues to be, open to foreign recruits willing to serve in the French Armed Forces.

Commanded by French officers, the Legion is open to French citizens who make up about 25% of the recruits.

The Legion is the only part of the French military that does not swear allegiance to France, but to the Foreign Legion itself.

After serving three years in the Legion, foreigners may apply for French citizenship.

Any soldier who becomes injured during a battle for France can immediately apply to be a French citizen under a provision known as "*Français par le sang versé*" (French by spilled blood).

Members of the Legion come from 140 countries.

Since 1831, the Legion has suffered the loss of nearly 40,000 men on active service in France, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Madagascar, West Africa, Mexico, Italy, the Crimea, Spain, Indo-China, Norway, Loyada, Syria, Chad, Zaïre, Lebanon, Central Africa, Gabon, Kuwait, Rwanda, Djibouti, former Yugoslavia, Somalia, Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Afghanistan, Mali, Sahel and others.

The French Foreign Legion was primarily used to protect and expand the French colonial empire during the 19th century. The Foreign Legion was initially stationed only in Algeria, where it took part in the pacification

and development of the colony.

Subsequently, the Foreign Legion was deployed in a number of conflicts, including the First Carlist War in 1835, the Crimean War in 1854, the Second Italian War of Independence in 1859, the French intervention in Mexico in 1863, the Franco-Prussian War in 1870, the Tonkin Campaign and Sino-French War in 1883, supporting growth of the French colonial empire in Sub-Saharan Africa and pacifying Algeria, the Second Franco-Dahomean War in 1892, the Second Madagascar expedition in 1895, and the Mandingo Wars in 1894.

In World War I, the Foreign Legion fought in many critical battles on the Western Front. It played a smaller role in World War II than in World War I, though having a part in the Norwegian, Syrian and North African campaigns.

During the First Indochina War (1946–1954), the Foreign Legion saw its numbers swell. The FFL lost a large number of men in the catastrophic Battle of Dien Bien Phu.

During the Algerian War of Independence (1954–1962), the Foreign Legion came close to being disbanded after some officers, men, and the highly decorated 1st Foreign Parachute Regiment (1er REP) took part in the Generals' putsch. Operations during this period included the Suez Crisis, the Battle of Algiers and various offensives launched by General Maurice Challe including Operations Oranie and Jumelles.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Legion regiments had additional roles in sending units as a rapid deployment force to preserve French interests – in its former African colonies and in other nations as well; it also returned to its roots of being a unit always ready to be sent to conflict zones around the world. Some notable operations include: the Chadian–Libyan conflict in 1969–1972 (the first time that the Legion was sent in operations after the Algerian War), 1978–1979, and 1983–1987; Kolwezi in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo in May 1978. In 1981, the 1st Foreign Regiment and Foreign Legion regiments partook to the Multinational Force in Lebanon.

POLE PT: Foreign Legion recruits undergoing basic training at The Farm.

In 1990, Foreign Legion regiments were sent to the Persian Gulf and took part in Opération Daguet, part of Division Daguet. Following the Gulf War in the 1990s, the Foreign Legion helped with the evacuation of French citizens and foreigners in Rwanda, Gabon and Zaire. The Foreign Legion was also deployed in Cambodia, Somalia, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the mid- to late-1990s, the Foreign Legion was deployed in the Central African Republic, Congo-Brazzaville and in Kosovo.

The Foreign Legion also took part in operations in Rwanda in 1990–1994; and the Ivory Coast in 2002 to the present. In the 2000s, the Foreign Legion was deployed in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, Operation Licorne in Ivory Coast, the EUFOR Tchad/RCA in Chad, and Operation Serval in the Northern Mali conflict

Recruitment and selection

There is only one way of joining the French Foreign Legion. You have to go to mainland France and knock on the door of one of the Foreign Legion recruiting centres.

The entry requirements are pretty straightforward:

- You need to be a male between the ages of 17.5 and 39.5 years.
- You need a verified copy of your birth certificate.
- You must not be wanted by Interpol for criminal activities.
- You need to be physically fit to serve at all times and in all places around the world.
- You need to have a BMI between 20 and 30.
- You must meet the height and weight requirements for joining the French Foreign Legion.
- You must be able to write and read in your native language.

The entire recruiting and selection process takes between two and five weeks.

The process ends when you are officially accepted or rejected. During the whole period free accommodation, food and clothing are provided by the Legion.

If you meet the above requirements you will then have to pass certain tests that include IQ tests, personality tests, fitness tests, and medical tests.

They will also run a background security check.

Take into consideration that for every 100 people that apply to join the French Foreign Legion, only 10 to 15 are selected.

If you are selected you will have to sign an initial contract for five years. You will be enlisted as a single man, even if you are married.

KÉPI BLANC: After completing the *Marche Képi Blanc* recruits are presented with their white kepi.

Basic training

Basic training for the Foreign Legion is conducted in the 4th Foreign Regiment. This is an operational combat regiment which provides a training course of 15–17 weeks, before recruits are assigned to their operational units.

Initial training lasts for four to six weeks at *La Ferme* (The Farm).

This is followed by the three day *Marche Képi Blanc* (March White Kepi), a 50 kilometre march in full kit. During the first two days the recruits march 25 kilometres per day. On the third day a ceremony is held and they are presented with their *Képi Blanc*. Up until then the recruits are only allowed to wear their green berets.

Recruits then recite Le Code d'honneur du légionnaire (The Legionnaire's Code of Honour). It is made up of seven parts, which are:

1. Legionnaire, you are a volunteer serving France with honour and fidelity.
2. Each legionnaire is your brother in arms whatever his nationality, his race or his religion might be. You show him the same close solidarity that links the members of the same family.
3. Respect for traditions, devotion to your leaders, discipline and comradeship are your strengths, courage and loyalty your virtues.
4. Proud of your status as legionnaire, you display this in your always impeccable uniform, your always dignified but modest behaviour, and your clean living quarters.
5. An elite soldier, you train rigorously, you maintain your weapon as your most precious possession, and you take constant care of your physical form.
6. The mission is sacred, you carry it out until the end and, if necessary in the field, at the risk of your life.
7. In combat, you act without passion and without hate, you respect defeated enemies, and you never abandon your dead, your wound-

ed, or your arms.

The recruits then do three weeks of technical and practical training. This is followed by a week of mountain training in the French Pyrenees.

They then undergo another three weeks of technical and practical training.

This is followed by a week of examinations where they are expected to obtain the Elementary Technical Certificate (CTE).

The next challenge is the Raid Marche, a 120 kilometre final march that must be completed in three days.

Recruits then do light vehicle drivers education and obtain a military drivers licence.

Finally they return to Aubagne before being assigned to an operational regiment.

Education in the French language (reading, writing and pronunciation), is taught on a daily basis, throughout all of basic training.

PIONEERS ON PARADE: Foreign Legion pioneers with their distinctive leather aprons, axes, and beards.

Current units

Once recruits have successfully completed basic training they are then sent to a regiment or unit.

1er Régiment Étranger (1er RE)

1st Foreign Regiment. The oldest regiment of the French Foreign Legion. It has been stationed at *Quartier Viénot* in Aubagne, France, since it moved from Sidi-bel-Abbès (Algeria) in 1962.

1er Régiment Étranger de Cavalerie (1er REC)

1st Foreign Cavalry Regiment. The only cavalry regiment in the French Foreign Legion. It has been stationed at *Quartier Labouche* in Orange, France, since it moved from Mers-el-Kébir, Algeria in October 1967.

1er Régiment Étranger de Génie (1er REG)

1st Foreign Engineer Regiment. One of two combat engineer regiments in the French Foreign Legion. It has been stationed at *Quartier General Rollet* in Laudun-l'Ardoise, France, since 1984.

2e Régiment Étranger de Génie (2e REG)

2nd Foreign Engineer Regiment. The youngest regiment of the French Foreign Legion, "the mountain regiment". It has been stationed at *Quartier Maréchal Koenig* in Saint Christol, France, since 1999.

2e Régiment Étranger de Parachutistes (2e REP)

2nd Foreign Parachute Regiment. The only airborne regiment of the French Foreign Legion. It has been stationed at Camp Raffalli near the town of Calvi on the island of Corsica since June 1967.

2e Régiment Étranger d'Infanterie (2e REI)

2nd Foreign Infantry Regiment. The longest-serving and the largest regiment of the French Foreign Legion. It has been stationed at *Quartier Colonel de Chabrières* in Nimes, France, since November 1983.

3e Régiment Étranger d'Infanterie (3e REI)

3rd Foreign Infantry Regiment. The most decorated regiment of the French Foreign Legion. It has been stationed at *Quartier Commandant Forget* in Kourou, French Guiana (South America), since September 1973.

4e Régiment Étranger (4e RE)

4th Foreign Regiment. The training regiment of the French Foreign Legion. It has a responsibility of training French Foreign Legion personnel. The 4e RE has been stationed at *Quatier Capitaine Danjou* in Castelnaudary, France, since May 1986.

13e Demi-Brigade de Légion Étrangère (13e DBLE)

13th Demi-Brigade of the Foreign Legion. It is stationed near Abou Dabi, United Arab Emirates. From 1962 to the end of 2011, 13e DBLE was stationed at *Quartier général Monclarin* in Djibouti, Africa.

Détachement de Légion Étrangère de Mayotte, (DLEM)

Foreign Legion Detachment in Mayotte. The smallest independent operational unit of the French Foreign Legion. It has been stationed at *Quartier Cabaribère* of Dzaoudzi, Mayotte (Indian Ocean) since 1976.

Commandement de la Légion Etrangère (COMLE)

Foreign Legion Command. The headquarters of the French Foreign Legion. It has been stationed at *Quartier Viénot* in Aubagne, France, since 1984.

Groupement de Recrutement de la Légion Etrangère (GRLE)

Foreign Legion Recruiting Group. The recruiting unit of the French Foreign Legion. It has been stationed at *Fort de Nogent* of *Fontenay-sous-Bois*, Paris since 2007.

Foreign Legion traditions

The Legion has many unique traditions.

Bataille de Camerone et la main du capitaine Danjou. The Battle of Camerone is the most significant event in the French Foreign Legion's history. It occurred in Mexico on 30 April 1863.

The battle became a symbol of bravery and determination of fighting to the death. A Legion company, consisting of three officers and 62 legionnaires led by Captain Jean Danjou, faced around 2,000 Mexicans. Captain Danjou and his men had refused to surrender and were fighting until their ammunition ran out. At the end of the battle, only three legionnaires were combat-ready.

To commemorate this fundamental event, a celebration has been held by the Legion annually, since the early 1900's, called Camerone Day. During this event, the wooden hand of Captain Danjou (he lost his left hand in Algeria in the 1850's) is paraded in public, usually carrying by a selected officer or legionnaire. This honour is seen as the highlight of a legionnaires career.

Legio Patria Nostra (The Legion is our Fatherland) is the most frequent motto in the current Legion. The *Legio Patria Nostra* motto has an unknown origin. Initially, it was used by legionnaires within the 3rd Foreign Infantry Regiment. At a later date, it became the main motto of the whole Legion. Nowadays, the motto *Legio Patria Nostra* is the best known motto of the Foreign Legion.

Les Pionniers de la Légion étrangère. The Pioneers (or Sappers) are a traditional unit of the Foreign Legion. They wear large beards and the traditional Foreign Legion Pioneers uniform including leather aprons and axes. The sappers had been very common in the French Army during the Napoleonic Era, but disappeared between 1870-1940, excluding the pioneers of the Foreign Legion.

Some regiments of the Foreign Legion have its own group of pioneers (mostly one NCO and nine legionnaires). The 1er RE is the Legion's only regiment with its own traditional pioneer platoon, composed of at least three NCOs and 36 ordinary legionnaires.

The parades of the Foreign Legion are led by this unit.

Marche de la Légion Étrangère (March of the Foreign Legion), is the official march of the French Foreign Legion. The song is better known as *Le Boudin*, a reference to *boudin*, a type of blood sausage or black pudding. *Le boudin* colloquially meant the gear (rolled up in a blanket) that used to be carried atop the backpacks of Legionnaires.

Another popular marching song of the Foreign Legion is *Képi Blanc*.

Click on the underlined links below to listen to these songs.

Le Boudin
Kepi Blanc

Since 1831 the French Foreign Legion has fought in no fewer than 30 wars or conflicts, more than earning the title 'Forged in battle'.

BATTLEFIELD

Operation Deadstick

In the early hours of 6 June 1944 a mission that was vital to the success of Operation Tonga, the overall British airborne landings in Normandy, took place. So important was the mission that failure could have spelled doom for the Allied invasion of Europe.

On Tuesday 6 June 1944 the largest seaborne invasion force in history landed on an 80 km stretch of the Normandy coast in France. Operation Overlord, the long-awaited liberation of Europe had begun.

While the prime focus was on Operation Neptune, the beach landings at Normandy, numerous other operations were also underway. Many of them were just as vital to the overall success of Operation Overlord. One of these missions was Operation Deadstick.

In the early hours of 6 June British airborne forces were given the objective of capturing intact two road bridges in Normandy, one across the River Orne and the other across the Caen Canal. These bridges provided the only exit eastwards for the British forces from their landing point on Sword Beach.

According the intelligence reports, both bridges were heavily defended by the Germans as well as being wired for demolition. Once captured, the bridges had to be held against any counter-attack until the assault force was relieved by commandos and infantry advancing from the British landing zone.

If the Germans demolished either of the bridges the British 6th Airborne Division would be cut off from the rest of the Allied armies, with their back to two waterways.

If the Germans retained control over the bridges they could be used by their armoured divisions to attack the landing beaches of Normandy. For the British, failure was not an option.

Background

Responsibility for the operation fell to the members of 'D' Company, 2nd (Airborne) Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, part of the 6th Airlanding Brigade of the 6th Airborne Division. The assault group comprised a reinforced company of six infantry platoons and an attached platoon of Royal Engineers. They were under the command of Major John Howard with Captain Brian Priday as the second in command.

The 180 men under Howard's command would be transported to the objective by six Airspeed Horsa gliders, piloted by 12 NCOs from 'C' Squadron, Glider Pilot Regiment.

Howard was not told the exact details of the operation until 2 May, 1944. His orders were to seize the bridges over the River Orne and Caen Canal at Bénouville and Ranville intact and hold them until relieved.

The relief force would initially be a company from the 7th Parachute Battalion under Howard's command. When the remainder of the parachute battalion arrived, he would hand over to their commander Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Pine-Coffin.

TARGET IN SIGHT: The three Horsa gliders assigned to the Caen Canal bridge. The bridge is hidden by the trees in the distance.

The 3rd Infantry Division and the commandos of the 1st Commando Brigade were scheduled to land at Sword at 06h00 on the day then advance to the bridges where they were expected to arrive at 11h00.

On 5 June 1944, the company made final preparations for the mission. Each man was issued their personal weapons and ammunition as well as up to nine hand grenades and four Bren gun magazines.

Each platoon also had a 2-inch mortar and a radio. Just before the men boarded the gliders, codewords were issued. 'Ham' indicated the canal bridge was captured and 'Jam' the river bridge. Capture and destruction of the canal bridge would be signalled using the codeword 'Jack'; 'Lard' would be used if a similar fate befell the river bridge.

The Ranville bridge spans the River Orne and the Bénouville bridge crosses the Caen Canal to the west. They are 8.0 km from the coast and provided the only access to the city of Caen.

The main road between the two communes crosses the bridges and then continues east to the River Dives. At 190 58 metres long and 3.7 metres wide, the Caen Canal bridge opens to allow canal traffic to pass underneath. The controls were housed in a nearby cabin.

The canal is 8.2 metres deep by 46 metres wide, with earth and stone banks 1.8 metres high. Small tarmac tracks run on both banks along the canal's entire length.

Between the two bridges there is a strip of mostly marshy ground about 500 metres wide, broken up by ditches and small streams.

The Ranville bridge over the River Orne is 110 metres long, 6.1 metres wide and can be opened to allow river traffic to pass. The river is 49–73 metres wide and with an average depth of 2.7 metres. It has mud banks averaging about 1.1 metres high and a tidal rise and fall of 4.9–2.0 metres.

A number of small houses lie to the west of the river, connected by a track 2.4–3.0 metres wide, that runs along both banks.

The bridges were guarded by 50 men belonging to the German 736th Grenadier Regiment, 716th Infantry Division. They were commanded by Major Hans Schmidt and based at Ranville, 1.9 km east of the River Orne.

The unit was poorly equipped and manned by conscripts from Poland, the Soviet Union, and France under a German officer and senior non-commissioned officers. Schmidt had orders to blow up the two bridges if they were in danger of capture.

Far more of a threat was the 21st Panzer Division that had moved into the area just the month before. One of its regiments, the 125th Panzergrenadier, commanded by Colonel Hans von Luck, was billeted at Vimont just east of Caen.

There was also a battalion of the 192nd Panzergrenadier Regiment based at Cairon to the west of the bridges. Further afield were the 12th SS Panzer Division at Lisieux and the Panzer Lehr Division at Chartres, both less than a day's march from the area.

Defences were in place at both bridges. On the west bank of the Caen Canal bridge there were three machine-gun emplacements and on the east bank a machine-gun and an anti-tank gun.

To their north were another three machine-guns and a concrete pillbox. An anti-aircraft tower equipped with machine-guns stood to the south.

At the River Orne bridge, the eastern bank south of the bridge had a pillbox with anti-tank and anti-aircraft guns. To the north of the bridge were two machine-guns. Both bridges had sandbagged trench systems along the banks.

Capture of the bridges

At 22h56 on 5 June 1944, the six gliders towed by Halifax bombers took off from RAF Tarrant Rushton. They each carried the following loads:

- No. 1 - Major Howard and Lieutenant Den Brotheridge's platoon.
- No. 2 - Lieutenant David Wood's platoon.
- No. 3 - Lieutenant Smith's platoon.

Their target was the Caen Canal.

- No. 4 - Captain Priday and Lieutenant Hooper's platoon.
- No. 5 - Lieutenant Fox's platoon.
- No. 6 - Tod Sweeney's platoon.

Their target was the river bridge. Each glider also carried five Royal Engineers.

At 00h16 on 6 June, Glider Number One crashed into barbed wire surrounding the canal bridge defences. Operation Deadstick had begun.

While the Germans were not sure of the exact date, nor the exact location, they knew the invasion was imminent. Major Schmidt was also fully aware that the bridges were one of the most critical points in Normandy. It was vital that they not fall into enemy hands. Yet, surprisingly, when the gliders landed there were only two sentries on duty on the canal bridges.

The sound of a gunshot alerted the two sentries on the canal bridge. As Brotheridge's platoon attacked, one ran off shouting "paratroops" while the second fired a flare gun to alert nearby defenders. Brotheridge shot him while other members of his platoon cleared the trenches and pillbox with grenades.

Alerted by the flare, the German machine gunners opened fire at the men on the bridge, wounding Brotheridge as he threw a grenade. The grenade silenced one of the machine gun positions and another was taken out by Bren gun fire.

1st Platoon crossed the bridge to take up a defensive position on the west bank. The Royal Engineers from number one glider searched for explosive charges and cut the fuse wires when they found any.

Smith's platoon crossed the bridge next, exchanging fire with the German defenders, whereupon Smith was wounded by a grenade. Using grenades and sub-machine gun fire, the platoons cleared the trenches and bunkers. By 00h21 German resistance on the west bank of the canal bridge was over.

Brotheridge's platoon discovered that he had succumbed to his wounds, becoming the first Allied soldier killed by enemy action during the invasion.

On the east bank, Wood's platoon cleared the trenches and bunkers with little opposition. Wood was hit in the leg by machine-gun fire. All three platoon commanders at the canal bridge were now either dead or wounded.

Around the same time, pathfinders from the 22nd Independent Parachute Company landed in the area between the River Orne and the River Dives. Brigadier Nigel Poett, commanding the 5th Parachute Brigade, along with a small team accompanied the pathfinders. Disoriented after landing, Poett heard Brotheridge's Sten gun and set off for the bridges with the only man he could locate.

At the river bridge, Glider No. 5 landed only 300 metres away from the bridge at 00h20.

Glider No. 6 landed a minute later 700 metres away from the bridge. Glider No. 4, carrying Captain Priday, was reported missing.

When the Germans opened fire with an MG 34, the platoon responded with a 2-inch (51 mm) mortar and destroyed the gun with a direct hit. They then crossed the bridge without further opposition.

Sweeney left one of his sections on the west bank then moved the rest of the platoon across the bridge to take up defensive positions on the east bank.

From his newly established command post, in the trenches on the eastern bank of the canal near the bridge, Howard learned that the river bridge had also been taken. Captain Neilson of the engineers reported that although the bridges had been prepared for demolition, the explosives had not been attached.

Howard ordered his signalman to transmit the code words 'Ham' and 'Jam' then brought Fox's platoon across the canal bridge, positioning them at the Bénouville to Le Port crossroads as the company's forward platoon.

RELIEF ARRIVES: Led by a piper, elements of the 1st Commando Brigade cross the Caen Canal bridge.

7th Parachute Battalion arrives

At 00h50, aircraft carrying the rest of the 6th Airborne Division appeared overhead and the paratroopers descended onto drop zones marked out by the pathfinders.

Howard began blowing the morse code letter 'V' on his whistle, to help guide the 7th Parachute Battalion to the bridges. The first paratroops to arrive, at 00h52, were Brigadier Poett and the soldier he had picked up en route. Briefed by Howard on the situation, they heard tanks and lorries moving around in Bénouville and Le Port.

On the drop zone, only about 100 men of the 7th Parachute Battalion had made it to the rallying point but all their signal equipment, machine guns and mortars were missing.

Pine-Coffin, aware that his battalion was the only unit allocated defensive positions west of the bridges, decided they could not wait any longer and, at 01h10, left for the bridges.

The commander of the 716th Infantry Division, Generalleutnant Wilhelm Richter, was informed at 01h20 of the parachute landings and that the bridges had been captured intact. One of his first actions was to contact Generalmajor Edgar Feuchtinger of 21st Panzer Division. Richter ordered the division to attack the landing areas.

While Feuchtinger's tanks were delegated to support the 716th, it was also part of the German armoured reserve that could not move without orders from the German High Command. All German panzer formations could only be moved on the direct orders of Adolf Hitler, who was sleeping at the time and his staff refused to wake him.

When the 125th Panzergrenadier Regiment received news of the airborne landings at 01:30, Colonel von Luck ordered the regiment to their assembly areas north and east of Caen and to wait for further orders.

The closest large German unit to the canal bridge was the 2nd Battalion, 192nd Panzergrenadier Regiment based at Cairon.

General Feuchtinger ordered them to recapture the bridges, and then attack the parachute landing zones further west. At 02h00, the 2nd Battalion headed for the bridges from the west, supported by the 1st Panzerjager Company and part of the 989th Heavy Artillery Battalion coming from the north.

As the first Panzer IVs from the north reached the junction leading to the bridge, the leading vehicle was hit by a round from 'D' Company's only serviceable PIAT anti-tank weapon. The vehicle exploded, setting off its stowed ammunition, and the other tanks withdrew.

The first company of the 7th Parachute Battalion, commanded by Major Nigel Taylor, arrived at the bridges. Howard directed them to defensive positions west of the canal in Bénouville and Le Port.

When Pine-Coffin arrived at the bridges, he was briefed by Howard, and crossed into Bénouville and set up his headquarters beside the church. Pine-Coffin had about 200 men in his three companies. He positioned 'A' and 'C' Companies in Bénouville facing south towards Caen and 'B' Company in Le Port facing Ouistreham.

'D' Company was now pulled back into the area between the two bridges and held in reserve. A further sweep of the trenches and bunkers was conducted, and resulted in the capture of a number of Germans.

At 03h00, the 8th Heavy Company, 192nd Panzergrenadier Regiment with 75 mm SP guns, 20 mm AA guns, and mortars attacked 'A' and 'C' Companies, 7th Parachute Battalion, from the south.

The paratroops were forced

back and the Germans established their own positions in Bénouville, but were unable to break the British line. They dug in and waited for tank support before moving forward again. The Germans fired mortar bombs and machine guns at the paratroopers and attempted small assaults on their positions throughout the night.

Just before dawn, Howard summoned his platoon commanders to a meeting. With their senior officers dead or wounded, 1, 2 and 3 Platoons were now commanded by corporals. Howard's second in command, Captain Priday and 4 Platoon were missing. Only Lieutenants Fox and Sweeney of 5 and 6 Platoons respectively had a full complement of officers and NCOs.

The landings at Sword began at 07h00, preceded by a heavy naval bombardment. At the bridges, daylight allowed German snipers to identify targets and anyone moving in the open was in danger of being shot.

The men of 1 Platoon who had taken over the 75 mm anti-tank gun on the east bank of the canal used it to engage possible sniper positions in Bénouville, the Château de Bénouville and the surrounding area.

At 09h00, two German gunboats approached the canal bridge from Ouistreham. The lead boat fired its 20 mm gun and 2 Platoon returned fire with a PIAT, hitting the wheelhouse of the leading boat, which crashed into the canal bank. The second boat retreated to Ouistreham.

A lone German aircraft bombed the canal bridge at 10h00, dropping one bomb. The bomb struck the bridge but failed to detonate.

STARK REMINDER: The original Pegasus Bridge at the Memorial Pegasus in Benouville.

Linking up with Sword Beach

The German 2nd Battalion, 192nd Panzergrenadier Regiment continued to attack Bénouville and Le Port, assisted by their tanks, mortars and infantry.

The attack caused serious problems for the understrength 7th Parachute Battalion, until the leading tank was blown up with a Gammon bomb, effectively blocking the road. During the attack, 13 of the 17 tanks trying to get through to the bridge were destroyed.

The paratroopers were then reinforced by 1 Platoon from 'D' Company. The platoon moved forward into Bénouville and cleared the Germans in house to house fighting. 5 and 6 Platoons also moved into positions opposite the Gondrée Café, on the west bank of the canal.

By midday, most of the missing men from the 7th Parachute Battalion had arrived at the bridges and the three glider platoons were moved back to their original positions.

Just after midday, the 21st Panzer Division received permission to attack the landings. Luck ordered the 125th Panzergrenadier Regiment, east of the River Orne, towards the bridges. The column was quickly spotted, and engaged for the next two hours by Allied artillery and aircraft causing heavy losses.

At 13h30, the men at the bridges heard the sound of bagpipes, played by Bill Millin of the 1st Commando Brigade. As the commandos arrived, they crossed the bridges and joined the rest of 6th Airborne Division defending the eastern perimeter. Some of the tanks accompanying the commandos moved into Bénouville to reinforce its defences, while others crossed the bridges with the commandos.

At 15h00, a boat loaded with German infantry approached from Caen. It was engaged with the anti-tank gun manned by 1 Platoon, hit in the stern by the second round fired and then retreated back toward Caen.

At 21h15, the 2nd Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment of the 185th Infantry Brigade arrived from Sword and began taking over the bridges' defences.

At around midnight, Howard handed over command of the bridges to the Warwickshire Regiment and his company left to join the rest of their battalion at Ranville.

At 03:30, they finally located the battalion's positions and found Captain Priday and 4 Platoon had already joined the battalion. Bénouville was the farthest forward point of the British advance on 6 June 1944.

Aftermath

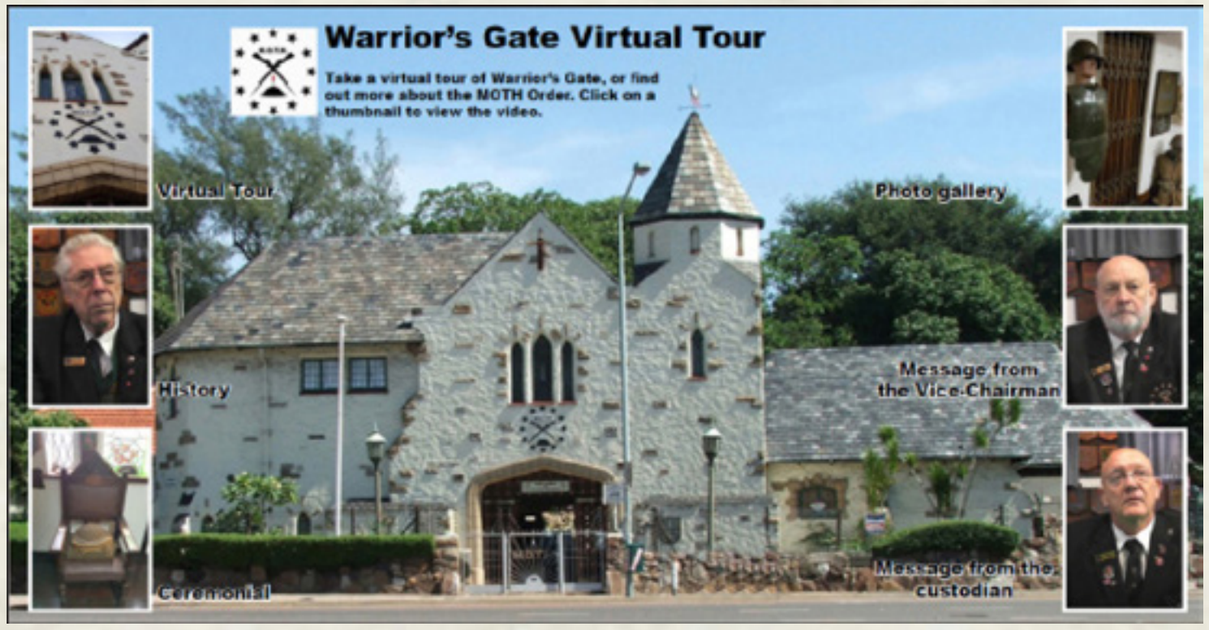
Of the 181 men (139 infantry, 30 engineers and 12 pilots) of 'D' Company involved in the capture of the bridges, two were killed and an additional fourteen wounded. The 7th Battalion's losses during the defence of the bridges amounted to 18 dead and 36 wounded.

The total German losses, in the area, during 6 June are unknown. Fourteen tanks were lost during the fighting; the first during the night, and the remaining 13 throughout the day. Other losses include one gunboat on the Caen canal.

Major Howard was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, presented in the field by General Bernard Montgomery. Both Smith and Sweeney were awarded the Military Cross; the Military Medal was awarded to Sergeant Thornton and Lance-Corporal Stacey; Lieutenant Brotheridge was posthumously mentioned in dispatches. In recognition of their feat of flying, eight of the glider pilots were awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.

The Caen Canal bridge was renamed Pegasus Bridge after the emblem of the British airborne forces, while the River Orne bridge became Horsa Bridge. The road across them is now the "Esplanade Major John Howard"

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.



BOMBER CREW

Tally ho and chocks away. **Captain Matt O'Brien** *is off to bomb Germany. That's of course if he can actually find it. Or start the aircraft.*

Chocks away! Bomber Crew is a strategic simulation game, where picking the right crew and keeping your bomber in tip top shape is the difference between completing your mission or losing it all!

Developed by Runner Duck and published by Curve Digital, Bomber Crew was released on 19 October 2017.

The concept of the game is simple. You are in control of a Lancaster Bomber during World War II.

You do not directly control anything in the aircraft, but instead control the actions of your crew members to operate the aircraft.

Is the game realistic? No. Are the graphics highly detailed? No. Is the game fun to play? Hell yes!

The object of the game is to carry out various missions. These can include bombing factories or ships, dropping supplies, or doing photo reconnaissance missions.

Not only do you have to complete the missions, you also have to ensure that all of your crew survive. If one of them is killed then they are gone for good, along with all of their experience and training.

Your crew consists of seven people - a Pilot, Flight engineer, Navigator, Radio and Radar Operator, Bombardier, and Two Gunners. By clicking on one of the crew members you take control of them.

You start a mission with a briefing where you will be told what the mission is for the day. Let's say that your mission for the day is to bomb a factory.

With your bomber standing on the runway you click on the pilot to take control of him. Tell him to take off and, once you are airborne, raise the wheels. This will help conserve fuel.

Your pilot then selects the altitude that you wish to fly at - low, medium or high. Each altitude has advantages and disadvantages.

The pilot can also perform certain functions such as emergency dive, emergency landing, corkscrew, avoid flak and give the command to bail out.

After a mission the pilot must land the plane (remember to lower your wheels first).

The navigator is a highly essential role as it is responsible for navigation and locating the position of the plane, targets and hazards.

The Flight Engineer is responsible for repairing certain systems in the bomber. He/She can repair various systems like electrical systems, hydraulic systems, oxygen tanks, and engines. They can also select the fuel mix of either lean or boost. Lean slows the plane down but uses less fuel. Boost speeds up the plane but uses far more fuel.

The Radio Operator is responsible for getting orders from the base, can radio for recon, and can call for friendly fighter planes as reinforcements.

The Bombardier (called Bomb Aimer within the game) is an essential crew member of your bomber . They are required to aim and drop bombs as well as taking recon-photos., making them required for any mission.

The Gunner is an important crew member of the Avro Lancaster made specifically for shooting down enemy fighters that are around the area. In one bomber crew, there are two gunners, one in the rear end, and another in the mid-upper turret.

After each successful mission you are awarded money and experience points. Each member of the crew also gains experience points and these allow the crew member to advance to a higher level.

At higher levels crew members can be trained in a second skill, including as a crew medic.

It's a good idea to train your bombardier as a gunner because he operates the nose gun when not at the bomb sights.

The money you are awarded after each mission can be used to buy upgrades. These include upgrades to your aircraft.

You can upgrade the fuselage, your engines, and your guns. For instance a gun turret with two guns can be upgraded to a turret with four guns. You can also install a belly gun turret.

Money can also be used to buy and upgrade equipment for the crew. For example your flight suit can be upgraded to offer better armour and thermal protection. Good thermal protection is vital if you are flying at high altitude. Otherwise you crew will quickly suffer the effect of hypothermia.

Headgear can be upgraded to offer better protection, as can flak vests. Oxygen masks are a must if you intend to fly at high altitude.

You can also upgrade boots and gloves for better thermal protection. It's a good idea to kit your pilot out with the best equipment. After all, if they are killed you're in serious trouble.

When a crew member is injured you have the option of using your crew medic to attend to them, or there is a bed that the crew member can lie on and slowly recover.

As you progress through the missions they become more difficult, as do the enemy fighters and flak.

Currently there are two DLC that you can purchase for the game.

The first is Bomber Crew USAAF (R58.00). This gives you access to the American B-17 bomber which has a crew of nine. It also open up a pile of new missions for you to fly.

The other DLC is Bomber Crew Secret Weapons (R42.00).

Bomber Crew is a fun game to play and it can be challenging.

Publisher - Curve Digital

Genre - Strategic survival sim

Score - 8/10

Price - R105 (on Steam)

Movie Review

The Monuments Men

Released: 2014
Running time: 1118 minutes
Director: George Clooney

The Monuments Men is a 2014 war film directed by George Clooney, and written and produced by Clooney and Grant Heslov.

In 1943, the Allies are making good progress driving back the Axis powers in Italy. Frank Stokes convinces President Roosevelt that victory will have little meaning if the artistic treasures of Western civilization are lost. Stokes is directed to assemble an Army unit nicknamed the "Monuments Men", comprising museum directors, curators, art historians, and an architect, to both guide Allied units and search for stolen art to return it to its rightful owners.

In July 1944, Claire Simone, a curator in occupied France, is forced to assist Nazi officer Viktor Stahl in overseeing the theft of art for either Adolf Hitler's Führermuseum or as personal property of senior commanders such as Hermann Göring. All seems lost when she discovers that Stahl is taking all of her gallery's contents to Germany as the Allies approach Paris. Simone runs to the railyard to confront him, but can only watch as he departs aboard the train carrying the cargo.

Stokes' unit finds its work frustrated by Allied officers in the field, who refuse to endanger their own troops for the sake of his mission. The unit splits up to cover more ground, with varying degrees of success. James Granger meets Simone, but she suspects the Americans want to confiscate the stolen art for their own country, and refuses to cooperate. British officer Donald Jeffries sneaks into occupied Bruges at night to save Michelangelo's Madonna of Bruges, but is killed in the attempt.

Richard Campbell and Preston Savitz learn that Van Eyck's Ghent Altarpiece was removed by the priests of Ghent Cathedral for safekeeping, but their truck was stopped and the panels taken. Eventually, they find and arrest Viktor Stahl, who is hiding as a farmer, when they identify the paintings in his house as masterpieces, at least one stolen from the Rothschild Collection.

Simone provides a comprehensive ledger she has compiled that provides valuable information on the stolen art and the rightful owners.

Even as the team learns that the artwork is being stored in various mines and castles, it also learns that it must now compete against the Soviet Union, which is seizing artwork from its occupation zone as war reparations. Meanwhile, Colonel Wegner is systematically destroying whole art caches. Eventually, the team has some success, as it discovers at least one mine hiding over 16,000 art pieces. In addition, the team captures the entire gold reserves of the Nazi German national treasury.

Finally, as the war ends in May 1945, the team finds a mine in Austria that appears to have been demolished, and the Soviets will be there in hours. Discovering that the entrances were actually blocked by the locals to prevent the Nazis from destroying the contents, the team evacuates as much artwork as possible before the Soviets arrive.

Afterwards, Stokes reports back to President Truman that the team has recovered vast quantities of artwork and various other culturally significant items. Truman then asks if, thirty years from then, anyone will remember that these men died for a piece of art. In the final scene, set in 1977, the elderly Stokes replies "Yeah", while he takes his grandson to see Michelangelo's Madonna. The cast includes George Clooney, Bill Murray, Matt Damon and John Goodman.

Click on the box cover to watch a trailer of the film.

Book Review

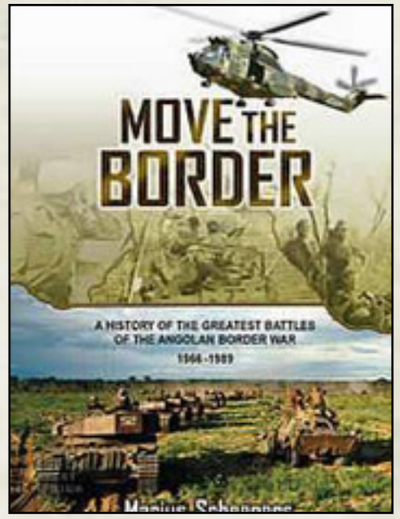
Move the Border

An account which strives to place the war which South Africa fought in Angola in a historically meaningful perspective. Although the conflict initially centered on the opposing agendas of the SADF and People's Liberation Army of Namibia of SWAPO, it was to escalate and take on an international Cold War character as Angolan, Cuban, and Soviet protagonists appeared on the stage of the unfolding drama.

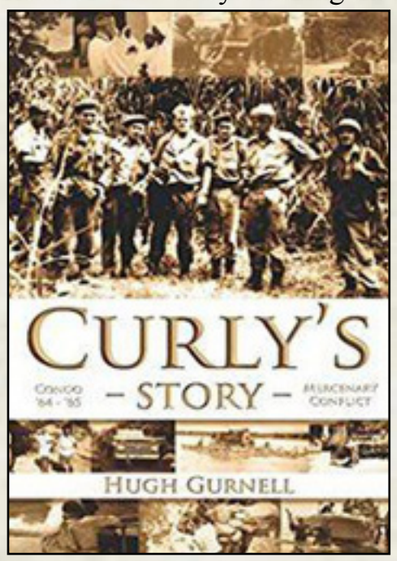
Apart from the political resolution which was subsequently achieved in South Africa, the war represented the last African liberation struggle for independence from colonial rule.

The aim of this book is to present a concise history of the Angolan Border War from 1966 to 1989. It supplements previous books which have covered periods of the war by breaking the entire duration of the conflict down into six distinctive phases and meticulously reconstructing twenty specific military operations in Angola which changed the course of the war. The perspective which the strategy affords should enable readers to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the individual phases of the war and the context which they provide for its final outcome. Two highly significant events of the war, the battles of Cuvelai (1983/84) and the battle at Indungo (1987), are subjected to particular scrutiny in the overall narrative. The battle at Indungo has been relatively neglected by writers and historians prior to the publication of this book.

The information included in some six chapters of this book forms part of a dissertation for the degree M SocSci at the University of Pretoria which the author completed under the supervision of the acclaimed historian, Professor Fransjohan Pretorius, at the end of 2019. The study carries the title: The Battle at Indungo, 31 October 1987: An SADF military venture against SWAPO in the Angolan Border War.



Softcover: 208 pages R255.00



Curly's Story
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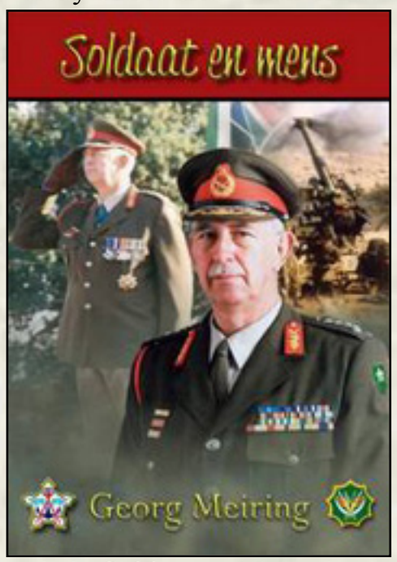

Soldaat en Mens
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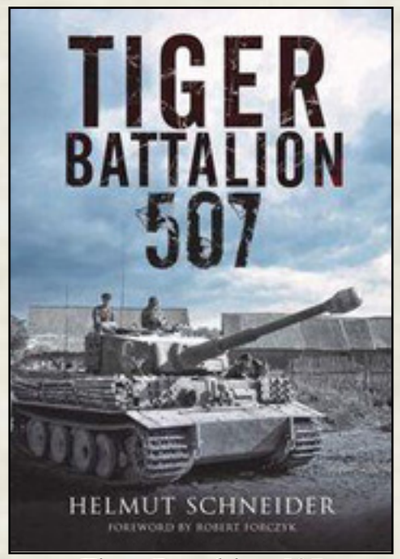


Tiger Battaltion 507
R600

All books are available from Bush War Books

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

1 October

- **1756** - Battle of Lobositz: Prussians defeat the Austrians.
- **1880**- John Philip Sousa becomes director of the Marine Corps Band.
- **1918** - British and Arab forces liberate Damascus from the Turks.
- **1936** - Francisco Franco named leader of Spanish Nationalists.
- **1938** - Hitler's troops occupied the Sudetenland portion of Czechoslovakia. In an effort to avoid war, the leaders of Britain and France had agreed to cede the German-speaking area to Hitler, who later broke the agreement and occupied all of Czechoslovakia.
- **1941** - The Royal New Zealand Navy is established.
- **1942** - Maiden flight of the Bell P-59 Airacomet, the first US jet fighter.
- **1943** - Allied forces liberate Naples.
- **1946** - Twelve Nazi leaders were sentenced to death at the International War Crimes Tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany.
- **1952** - The British colonial government in Kenya enact emergency measures to combat the growing threat from the Mau Mau.
- **1955** - The USS 'Forrestal' (CVA-59), the first supercarrier, is commissioned. It serves until 1993.
- **1957** - B-52 bombers begin full-time flying alert in case of USSR attack, which continues until the early 1990s.
- **1958** - Captain A.P. Barnard from 1 Locating Battery, South African Artillery was killed in a private motor vehicle accident between Johannesburg and Potchefstroom. He had been authorised to travel to Potchefstroom using his private transport to attend an official training course. He was 29.
- **1974** - Staff Sergeant Willem Jacobus Burger from D Squadron, 2 Special Service Battalion was accidentally shot dead by own forces in an ambush 7 miles East of Katima Mulilo at Hippo Island, Eastern Caprivi. He was 29.
- **1976** - France confirms that it is selling two new combat submarines to South Africa, to help SA to protect the oil route round the Cape in the face of Soviet naval escalation in the Indian Ocean.
- **1982** - Lance Corporal Edmond Jaime Leon Guillaume from the South African Medical Corps Headquarters Unit died after taking an overdose of pills while stationed in Grootfontein. He was 20.
- **1983** - Rifleman Quinton Clive Oosthuizen from 203 Battalion SWATF was killed in a military vehicle accident in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1983** - Rifleman Samuel Wilhelm van Rooyen from Infantry School was critically injured in a private motor vehicle accident near Cape Town on the 29 September 1983 and succumbed to his injuries in the Tygerberg Hospital on 1 October 1983. He was 18.
- **1987** - Transkei Defense Force topples Transkei Bantustan leader George Matanzima, but denies coup.
- **1992** - The USS 'Saratoga' (CV-60) accidentally fires missiles at a Turkish destroyer in the Aegean. Five people are killed.

2 October

- **1187** - Saladin captures Jerusalem, ending 88 years of Christian rule.
- **1851** - Marechel de France, Ferdinand Foch, is born.
- **1895** - Colonel Ruth Cheney Streeter, USMC, first director of the USMC Women's Reserve is born.
- **1912** - Captain Eric Charles Twelves Wilson, Somaliland Camel Corps, is born on this day. He was awarded a VC "Posthumously" but was later discovered to be a prisoner of war.
- **1935** - Mussolini's Italian troops invaded Abyssinia, beginning an occupation lasting until 1941.
- **1941** - Operation Typhoon: Germans initiate an offensive to take Moscow.
- **1942** - Rabaul: U.S. air raid damages Japanese light cruiser 'Yubari' and other shipping.
- **1943** - Japanese sub 'Ro-103' sinks USS 'Henley' (DD-391) off Finschhafen, New Guinea.
- **1944** - Polish "Warsaw Uprising" suppressed by the Nazis.
- **1984** - Rifleman M. Kamwanga from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 22.
- **1988** - Large Turkish force raids Kurdish areas of Iraq.
- **1990** - James Elvin Nicholas Cruise was killed instantly and two others injured when he opened a parcel bomb that had been delivered to the computer company in Durban where he worked. It was known that the company worked with Trade Unions and other anti-apartheid organisations.
- **1992** - Gunner Marlon Patrick Dammert from 14 Artillery Regiment was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Nietverdiend after one of the tyres burst, causing the driver to lose control. He was 20.
- 1993 - Captain Charles Sergei Keith Rudnick from 85 Combat Flying School was killed when his Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I (Falcon 5) crashed during an air show display at Lanseria. He was 34.
- **1995** - Muziwendoda Mdluli of the National Intelligence Agency is found shot dead in his car in Silverton, Pretoria. He was investigating the possible involvement of fellow-agents in the failed Comoros Islands coup.
-

3 October

- **1882** - German field marshal Gunther von Kluge is born on this day.
- **1899** – During the Second Anglo-Boer War the British War Office informs the White colonies that they can contribute volunteers, preferably infantry.
- **1904** - Indigenous races in German South-West Africa rise against German troops.
- **1904** - France and Spain sign a treaty to divide Morocco.
- **1910** - Adolph Gysbert (Sailor) Malan, SA fighter pilot during WWII and later national president of the Torch Commando, is born in Wellington.
- **1921** - The Unknown Soldier sails from France aboard USS 'Olympia'.
- **1928** - Accidental sinking of the French submarine 'Ondine', 42 die.
- **1952** - Britain explodes its first atom bomb on the Montebello Islands, Australia.
- **1955** - Soviet battleship 'Novorossiisk' (ex-Italian 'Giulio Cesare') mined in the Baltic, many die.
- **1977** - Rifleman Michiel Daniel Johannes Mentz from the 2nd Battalion Regiment Bloemspruit was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-line in Northern Owamboland. He was 31.
- **1977** - Signaler Michael David Bosch from the South African Corps of Signals was killed in a military vehicle accident near Pretoria. He was 18.
- **1977** - Rifleman Gary John Fisher from the Army Ordnance Corps died from an accidental gunshot wound to the head, apparently self-inflicted while he was stationed at Messina. He was 21.
- **1979** - Captain (Navigator) Johannes Jacobus Strydom from 24 Squadron SAAF, attached to 5 Squadron Rhodesian Air Force, was Killed in Action together with his

Sailor Malan

Rhodesian Air Force Pilot, Air Lieutenant Kevin Peinke when their Rhodesian Air Force Canberra was shot down by enemy Anti-Aircraft Fire while attacking enemy targets near Chimoio in Mocambique during Operation Miracle. He was 28.

- **1984** - Trooper I. Unkongo from 202 Battalion SWATF was killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 20.
- **1985** - 21st Space Shuttle Mission: 'Atlantis' makes the first all-military space flight.
- **1986** - Soviet Yankee-class sub sinks off North Carolina, three die.
- **1987** - Sub Lieutenant Gavin John Sholto Douglas from the Strikecraft SAS P.W. Botha was killed during the 1987 floods in Natal. He was 22.
- **1987** - Lieutenant Adriaan Hodgson Hind from "C" Squadron 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was Killed in Action during Ops Modular when his Ratel 90 was hit by a 100mm round fired from a Russian T-55 tank. He was 19.
- **1987** - General Magnus Malan acknowledges that South Africa has troops in Angola.
- **1989** - Panamanian Defense Force attempts a coup against Manuel Noriega.
- **1990** - After 45 years of Cold War division, East and West Germany were reunited as the Federal Republic of Germany.
- **1993** - At least twelve US army soldiers are killed in Mogadishu, the Somali capital, in a fifteen-hour battle with supporters of Somali warlord General Mohammed Farah Aidid. The incident becomes known as 'Black Hawk Down' after two US Black Hawk helicopters were shot down.

4 October

- **1836** - Pieter Arnoldus (Piet) Cronjé, politician, military leader and general during Second Anglo-Boer War, is born in Colesberg.
- **1903** - Ernst Kaltenbrunner, Nazi criminal, who was executed 1946, was born on this day.
- **1939** - Last Polish troops surrender to the Germans.
- **1940** - Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini meet at Brenner Pass in the Alps, where the Nazi leader seeks Italy's help in fighting the British.
- **1943** - The Island of Corsica became the first French territory in Europe freed from Nazi control as Free French troops liberated the city of Bastia.
- **1944** - Aircraft off USS 'Ranger' (CV-4) raid German bases in Norway, sink or damage eight ships.
- **1950** - The UN consents to a US-backed invasion of North Korea. A squadron of the SA Air Force formed part of the United Nations forces.
- **1977** - Lieutenant John Melville Purdon from 11 Squadron was Reported Missing after his Cessna 185A failed to return from a routine low level cross-country training flight. The aircraft wreck was later located at Rysmiersbult near Potchefstroom and his body was successfully recovered. He was 22.
- **1983** - Rifleman Jan Ignatius Rigaard from Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident approximately 50km from Murraysburg while travelling on the Richmond to Beaufort West road. He was 20.
- **1992** - The Mozambique government and RENAMO rebel leaders sign an historic peace accord, and a ceasefire to end the sixteen-year civil war in the southeast African state.
- **1993** - Russian tank-soldiers loyal to President Boris Yeltsin shelled the Russian White House, crushing a hard-line Communist rebellion. Yeltsin then fired Vice-president Alexander Rutskoi and jailed other opposition leaders.
- **2013** – Vietnamese general and politician Võ Nguyên Giáp died on this day at the age of 102.

5 October

- **1816** - Shawnee Indian Chief Tecumseh was defeated and killed during the War of 1812. Regarded as one of the greatest American Indians, he was a powerful orator who defended his people against white settlement. When the War of 1812 broke out, he joined the British as a brigadier general and was killed at the Battle of the Thames in Ontario.
- **1863** - Torpedoboat CSS 'David' damages USS 'New Ironsides' with a spar torpedo off Charleston.
- **1899** – During the Second Anglo-Boer War Western Australia offers military assistance to Britain.
- **1943** - US aircraft & ships raid Japanese positions on Wake Is, leading to the execution of American civilians held prisoner.
- **1966** - The South African Military History Society is formed.
- **1969** - Cuban defector flies an MiG-17 undetected to Homestead Air Force Base in America.
- **1971** - The Prime Minister, B.J. Vorster, announces at the National Party Congress incidences on the border of Zambia and the Caprivi Strip. He reminds the Congress of his previous warnings that South Africa will not tolerate the incursion of communist trained terrorists into South African territory and that they will be pursued to the land from where they came.
- **1973** - Trooper Daniel Petrus Boshoff from 1 Special Service Battalion was killed when his Eland 90 Armoured Car overturned during military training exercises at the General De Wet Training Range. He was 18.
- **1976** - Corporal Marius Pieter De Swardt from the 1st Battalion Regiment De La Rey was accidentally killed after being struck by a bullet during a shooting incident at Grootfontein. He was 26.
- **1977** - Rifleman Brian Alan Ross from the Rand Light Infantry was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion at a waterhole near Etale Base in Northern Owamboland. He was 21.
- **1986** - Former U.S. Marine Eugene Hasenfus was captured by Nicaraguan Sandinistas after a plane carrying arms for the Nicaraguan rebels (Contras) was shot down over Nicaragua.
- **1986** - The London Times reports Israel is stocking nuclear arms.

6 October

- **1935** - Italian troops capture Adua, Abyssinia.
- **1939** - Hitler announces he had no intention of making war on Britain and France.
- **1940** - During World War II in Europe, German troops invaded Romania to take seize strategic oil fields.
- **1943** - Himmler demands acceleration of the "Final Solution".
- **1944** - The 6th SA Armoured Division, having reached the watershed of Castiglione dei Pepoli in Italy, pushes forward to take Monte Vigese and Monte Sanco during World War II.
- **1944** - Soviet troops enter Hungary and Czechoslovakia.
- **1949** - "Tokyo Rose" (Iva Toguri d'Aquino) was sentenced in San Francisco to 10 years imprisonment and fined $10,000 for treason. She had broadcast music and Japanese propaganda to American troops in the Pacific during World War II. She was pardoned by President Gerald Ford in 1977.
- **1951** - Stalin announces Russia has the atom bomb.
- **1973** - The Egyptians and Syrians launch surprise attacks on Israel on Yom Kippur day, catching Israel almost totally by surprise.
- **1978** - Rifleman Anton Wicht Cloete from 11 Commando Regiment was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Etale Base. He was 18.

Boris Yeltsin

- **1981** - Egyptian President Anwar Sadat is shot to death by extremists while reviewing a military parade, eleven years and one day after his inauguration. At least eight other people are also killed in the attack.
- **1982** - Lance Corporal Petrus Johannes Jakobus De Wee from the South African Cape Corps accidentally drowned. His body was eventually located and recovered on 8 October 1982. He was 20.
- **1986** - Major Benjamin Terblanche from 51 Battalion was critically wounded by shrapnel in a friendly fire Mortar Bomb incident at Ruacana on 05 October 1986. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria but succumbed to his wounds on 06 October 1986. He was 30.
- **1994** – South African National Defence Force soldiers go on strike.

7 October

- **1854** - Gen. Christiaan Rudolph de Wet, chief commandant of the Free State forces during Second Anglo-Boer War, is born on the farm Leeuwkop, near Smithfield, Orange Free State.
- **1899** - Tension continues between the British and the Boers in South Africa, and the British Army is ordered to mobilise.
- **1899** - Sir Redvers Buller is appointed Commander-in-Chief in South Africa.
- **1916** - Gefreiter Adolf Hitler is wounded on the inner left thigh by a shell fragment during the Battle of the Somme.
- **1923** - Irma Grese, the 'Witch of Belsen', was born on this day.
- **1935** - League of Nations declares Italy the aggressor in Ethiopia.
- **1940** - During World War II in Europe, German troops invaded Romania to take seize strategic oil fields.
- **1943** - U.S. carriers and cruisers raid Wake Island.
- **1956** - Israeli foreign minister Golda Meir says the UN failure to resolve the Suez Crisis means they must take military action.
- **1971** - SWAPO claims it was not responsible for placing landmines in the Caprivi Strip and that the guerrillas were not operating from Zambia, but from inside Namibia.
- **1976** - Candidate Officer Charles Robert Dickens from the School of Armour was killed when his Eland 90 Armoured Car overturned while travelling on the road between the De Brug Training Area and Bloemfontein. He was 18.
- **1985** - Palestinian terrorists seized the Italian passenger ship Achille Lauro carrying about 440 persons, threatening to blow it up if Israel did not free 50 Palestinian prisoners. Leon Klinghoffer, an elderly wheelchair-bound American, was murdered.
- **1990** - Gulf War: Israel begins handing out gas masks to its citizens.
- **2001** - US invades Afghanistan.
- **2003** - At least one-fifth of South Africa's military is infected with the virus that causes AIDS, and Defence Minister Mosiuoa Lekota states that 'the South African National Defence Force is no longer accepting HIV positive people into their ranks'.

8 October

- **1890** - American fighter pilot Ace Eddie Rickenbacker was born in Columbus, Ohio on this day. He commanded the first U.S. aero unit to take part in World War I and was credited with 26 victories, becoming America's leading Ace. He was awarded the Medal of Honour.
- **1895** - Argentine soldier, putschist, president Juan Peron was born on this day.
- **1912** - Montenegro declares war on Turkey, initiating the First Balkan War.
- **1916** - The German 'U-53' sinks five ships off Nantucket.
- **1918** - During World War I in the Argonne Forest in France, U.S. Sergeant Alvin C. York single-handedly took out a German machine-gun battalion, killing over a dozen and capturing 132. He was later awarded the Medal of Honour and the French Croix de Guerre.
- **1967** - Ernesto "Che" Guevara, 39, professional revolutionary, is executed.
- **1980** - Rifleman Gert Johannes Alwyn Barnard from 4 SAI attached to 37 Battalion suffered severe heat exhaustion and was to be medically evacuated at night from Ruacana. He was loaded aboard a Kudu aircraft flown by Lieutenant Mel Pienaar after the aircraft had been refueled. Shortly after take-off, the aircraft suffered total engine failure and crashed. He was fatally injured and died 30 minutes later. He was 20.
- **1982** - Captain William Robert McIntosh from 4 Reconnaissance Regiment was accidentally killed when his parachute failed to open during a practice jump at Langebaan. He was 30.
- **1983** - Rifeman Klaas Hausiku from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 21.
- **1987** - Gunner Anthony Wayne de Villiers of 4 SAI attached "Q" Battery was accidentally killed during Ops Modular in Southern Angola. He was 20.
- 1987 - Trooper Frederick de Jager from 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was Killed in Action during Ops Modular. He was 19.
- **1988** - Rifleman Moleko Ivan Khumoeng from 21 Battalion was killed after being accidentally struck by a Buffel Troop Carrier while on duty at a night road block. He was 25.
- **1998** - Taliban forces from Afghanistan raid Iranian border posts.

9 October

- **1899** - Francis William Reitz, former president of the OFS and now Secretary of State in the ZAR, hands the ultimatum, which result in the outbreak of the Second Anglo-Boer War, to Sir William Conyngham Greene, the British Agent in Pretoria.
- **1899** - Sir George White, who arrived in Cape Town on 3 October and in Durban on 7 October, proceeds to Ladysmith, where he takes command over the British forces in Natal.
- **1914** - General Salomon Gerhardus (Manie) Maritz rebels against General Smuts' order to invade German South-West Africa, goes over to enemy side and hands over as prisoners to the Germans those of his men who remained loyal to the SA government.
- **1914** - Germans capture Antwerp, as Belgians & British withdraw.
- **1915** - Belgrade surrenders to Austro-German forces.
- **1942** - Guadalcanal: Marines encircle Japanese 4th Inf Regt.
- **1950** - United Nations (UN) forces, led by the First Cavalry Division, cross the 38th parallel in South Korea and begin attacking northward towards the North Korean capital of Pyongyang. A division of the SA Air Force participated in this war.
- **1962** - Algerian-Moroccan border fighting, 130 die.
- **1963** - French air force gets nuclear weapons.
- **1968** - Defence Minister PW Botha announces that a missile base for experimental tests and launchings is to be established on the Zululand coast about 150 miles north of Durban.
- **1974** - Oskar Schindler dies at the age of 66.
- **1978** - Sub-Lieutenant Christo Bosman from the South African Navy Minesweeper SAS Walvisbaai was Reported Missing approximately 7 nautical miles West of Walvis Bay while the vessel was carrying out minesweeping operations up the West Coast. It appears that his foot became entangled in a cable that was holding a marker buoy and

Irma Grese

he was dragged overboard. He has no known grave and remains unaccounted for. He was 24.

- **1978** - Gunner Andre Johan van der Bergh from 14 Artillery Regiment died in the Katima Mulilo Sickbay after contracting pneumonia. He was 20.
- **1982** - Applications for parole by the thirty-four mercenaries involved in the Seychelles attempted coup are refused. Most are due to be released in January 1983.
- **1985** - General Constand Viljoen, Chief of South Africa's Armed Forces admits on television that the military, without government authority, has flaunted the Nkomati Accord by supporting RENAMO.
- **1985** - The hijackers of the Achille Lauro cruise liner surrender after the ship arrives in Port Said, Egypt.
- **1987** - Two members of 53 Battalion, one of them an Ops Medic attached to the Unit, were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned North of Ogongo. They were: Rifleman John Ferreira (19). Rifleman Johannes Andries Le Roux (18).
- **1990** - Saddam Hussein threatens to hit Israel with a new missile.
- **1993** - Somali warlord General Mohammed Farah Aidid offers a cease-fire with US and UN forces in Somalia.

10 October

- **1896** - An attack by Rhodesian Colonial forces on the major stronghold during the Mashona Rebellion, Mashayombe's kraal, ends inconclusive. Though the kraal was destroyed and the rebels scattered, they came together again later.
- **1918** - British Gen. Sir Edmund Allenby enters Jerusalem, on foot.
- **1926** - Opening of SA War Memorial at Delville Wood.
- **1954** - Ho Chi Minh entered Hanoi, Vietnam, after the withdrawal of French troops, in accordance with armistice terms ending the seven-year struggle between Communist Vietnamese and the French.
- **1976** - Rifleman Richard Charles Palmer from the Natal Carbineers was accidentally killed after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds when a rifle grenade exploded prematurely after being fired. He was 25.
- **1976** - Corporal Jan Hendrik van Brandis from 2 SAI accidentally drowned during a river crossing while on patrol near Rundu. He was 19.
- **1980** - Lieutenant Steven Volkersz from 2 Squadron was reported missing when his Atlas MB326KM Impala Mk II was shot down by a shoulder-launched Soviet SA-7 Grail Surface-to-Air Missile some 20km South West of Mupa. He has no known grave. He was 23.
- **1980** - Rifleman Anthony Hayton from the Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident on the National Road approximately 20km from Durban. He was 18.
- **1985** - US jet fighters force an Egyptian airliner carrying hijackers of cruise ship Achille Lauro to land in Italy, where the hijackers are arrested.
- **1988** - Rifleman Maphakela George Molokomme from 116 Battalion was killed instantly at the 116 Battalion Training area at Messina after being struck by lightning while sheltering under a tree during a thunderstorm. He was 27.
- **1998** - Rebels use a missile to shoot down a jetliner carrying forty civilians in eastern Congo, claiming it was ferrying government troops to the besieged town of Kindu.
- **2012** - Basil L. Plumley, Command Sgt Maj, US Army, veteran of three wars and five combat jumps, hero of the Ia Drang Valley, dies at the age of 92.

11 October

1899 – The Anglo-Boer War, the war between the British Empire and the two Boer republics, the Transvaal and Orange Free State, breaks out.
1939 - Albert Einstein warned President Franklin D. Roosevelt that his theories could lead to Nazi Germany's development of an atomic bomb. Einstein suggested the U.S. develop its

own bomb. This resulted in the top secret "Manhattan Project."
1944 - Japan announces it will "fight to the last man, woman, child, weapon, and piece of equipment."
1945 - Chinese civil war begins: Chiang Kai-Shek vs. Mao Tse-Tung.
1971 - Lewis "Chesty" Puller, iconic US Marine with five awards of the Navy Cross, plus a DSC, dies on this day at the age of 73.
1982 - At the 1 SAI Mechanised Leadership Wing at Oshivello, soldiers were undergoing familiarisation training on foreign weapons used by insurgents. During one of these lectures, a soldier accidentally detonated a Soviet hand grenade killing five members. They were: Candidate Officer Casper Willem Johannes Geustyn (20). Candidate Officer Paul Stephanus Venter (19). Lance Corporal Alan Rodger Jones (18). Lance Corporal Jacobus Theodorus Meyer (19). Lance Corporal Edgar Sydney Wessels (19).
1983 - Private Werner Eugene Kriel from SAMS attached to No.1 Military Hospital was killed in a military vehicle accident at Potgietersrus. He was 20.
1988 - Former United States army analyst Thomas Dolce pleads guilty before a US court to supplying a wide range of defence secrets to South Africa between 1979 and 1983.
1989 - Lance Corporal Hermanus Swanepoel van der Merwe from 93 Ammunition Depot was critically injured in a military vehicle accident on 25 September 1989 16km outside Jan Kempdorp while carrying out Military Police duties. He died from his injuries at the Universitas Hospital in Bloemfontein on 11 October 1989. He was 20.
1991 - Lance Corporal David John Boyd from Group 36 was killed in a military vehicle accident at Ladybrand. He was 19

12 October

- **1851** - The Irish 69th Regiment is accepted into the New York State Militia.
- **1860** - British & French troops capture Peking.
- **1870** – American Civil War General Robert E Lee dies at the age of 63.
- **1899** - The first shots of the Second Anglo-Boer War are fired at Kraaipan, about 50 kilometres south of Mafeking, where General De la Rey attacks the armoured train, Mosquito. Lieutenant Nesbit and thirty-four soldiers surrender the next morning.
- **1914** - First Battle of Ypres begins.
- **1914** - Off Easter Island, Graf von Spee concentrates the largest German naval squadron ever seen outside the North or Baltic Seas; two armoured cruisers, seven protected cruisers, and three colliers.
- **1942** - US aircraft sink two Japanese destroyers near Guadalcanal.
- **1943** - Fifth Air Force begins a series of air raids on Rabaul.
- **1944** - German army withdraws from Athens.
- **1963** - Air Corporal Hermanus Pieter Bodenstein from the School of Technical Training died from head injuries sustained in a private motor vehicle accident 8km from Middelburg on the Hendrina Road. He was 25.
- **1972** - Race riot aboard the USS 'Kitty Hawk' (CV 63), results in 46 injured.
- **1975** - Trooper David Barand Le Roux from 1 SSB was Killed in Action when his Eland 90 Armoured Car detonated a landmine near Luiana in Southern Angola during Operation Karen 2 that was launched to clear SWAPO/PLAN bases in South-Eastern Angola prior to the launch of Operation Savannah. He was 20.
- **1984** - Unsuccessful IRA attempt to assassinate PM Margaret Thatcher. Five people are killed.

Constand Viljoen

- **2000** - Islamist suicide boat attack on the USS 'Cole' (DDG-67) at Aden. 17 people are killed and 40 wounded.

13 October

- **1307** - Simultaneous arrest of all Knights Templar in France - the original "Friday the Thirteenth".
- **1775** - The United States Navy was born after the Second Continental Congress authorized the acquisition of a fleet of ships.
- **1914** - Pro-German Boer insurrection in South Africa.
- **1918** - Gefreiter Adolf Hitler is temporarily blinded in a mustard gas attack near Ypres.
- **1943** - Italy declared war on its former Axis partner Germany after the downfall of Mussolini and collapse of his Fascist government.
- **1944** - Red Army liberates Riga from the Germans.
- **1973** - Rifleman Michael Wulfsohn from the Cape Town Highlanders was accidentally killed when he fell off the back of a moving Bedford Troop Carrier just north of Ondangwa. He was 19.
- **1982** - Private D.S. Bedenhann from the Technical Service Corps died from an R1 Rifle gunshot wound apparently self-inflicted while he was on weekend pass. It is believed he was suffering serious depression at the time of the incident and no foul play was suspected. He was 19.
- **1983** - Special Warrant Officer Immanuel Hendjala 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 36.
- **1983** - Private Johannes Mattheus Strauss from the Technical Service Corps was found dead. It is suspected that he may have taken his own life. No foul play was suspected as at the time of his death, nobody had been in the area where his body was found. He was 18.
- **1985** - Corporal Johan Schoeman from 5 SAI was Killed in Action after he was ambushed and stabbed to death by persons unknown while on foot patrol in Kwazakele Township during unrest in the area. He was 19.
- **1987** - First operational use of dolphins by the US Navy, in the Persian Gulf.
- **1988** - Rifleman John Rex from the 2nd Battalion South African Cape Corps died at the Rooiberg Training Area when he accidentally stepped on an unexploded 40mm "Snotneus" High Explosive Grenade. He was 20.
- **1988** - Special Constable Thomas Kastodiu 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** - Minister of Foreign Affairs Pik Botha warns Unita leader Jonas Savimbi in Angola that South Africa will withdraw support for Unita if he decides to resume the Angolan civil war.

14 October

- **1066** - The Norman Conquest began with the Battle of Hastings in which King Harold II of England, the last of the Saxon kings, was defeated and killed by William of Normandy's troops.
- **1882** - Irish revolutionary Eamon De Valera was born on this day.
- **1890** - Dwight D. Eisenhower, US Army Five-star general and Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe during World War II, was born on this day. He would go on to become President of America.
- **1899** - Start of the siege of Mafeking under Col. Robert Baden-Powell by the Boer forces.
- **1933** - Nazi Germany announced its withdrawal from the League of Nations and stated it would take no further part in the Geneva Disarmament Conference.
- **1941** – US Navy Admiral Husband Kimmel warns of possible surprise attack on Pearl Harbour.
- **1943** - Attempted mass escape from Sobibor Concentration Camp.
- **1943** - US Army Air Force bombs Schweinfurt.
- **1944** - German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, famous German commander of German forces in North Africa, suspected of complicity in the 20 July plot against Hitler, is visited at home by two of Hitler's staff and given the choice of public trial or suicide by poison. He chooses suicide and dies on this day.
- **1947** - U.S. Air Force Captain Chuck Yeager became the first man to break the sound barrier, flying in a rocket-powered research aircraft.
- **1970** - Commandant Johannes Frederick "Doons" van Heerden from 24 Squadron was killed when his Hawker Siddeley Buccaneer S-50 crashed on the weapons range West of Bloemfontein while carrying out a low level "retarded bomb" sortie. He was 34.
- **1977** - Lieutenant Phillipus Lodewyk Le Roux from the Delmas Commando was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 48.

15 October

- **1815** - Napoleon Bonaparte arrived on the Island of St. Helena beginning a British-imposed exile following his defeat at the Battle of Waterloo.
- **1899** - The siege of Kimberley starts.
- **1914** - Montenegro declares war on Bulgaria.
- **1917** - World War I spy Mata Hari was executed by a French firing squad at Vincennes Barracks, outside Paris.
- **1917** - USS 'Cassin' (DD-43) torpedoed by German 'U-61' off Ireland.
- **1942** - Japanese aircraft off 'Zuikaku' sink the USS 'Meredith' (DD 434) off San Cristobal.
- **1943** - British Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham is appointed First Sea Lord of the Admiralty and Chief of the Naval Staff.
- **1945** - Pierre Laval, the former premier of Vichy France, was executed for collaborating with Nazi Germany during World War II.
- **1946** - Nazi leader Hermann Goering committed suicide by swallowing poison in his Nuremberg prison cell just hours before his scheduled hanging for war crimes.
- **1978** - Corporal James Barnard Phillander from the South African Cape Corps was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1981** - Two members from 4 SAI were killed in an accidental hand grenade explosion in Northern Owamboland. They were: Rifleman Thomas Johannes Ferreira (20). Rifleman Martin Johannes Lodewyk Kruger van Niekerk (19).
- **1981** - Three members from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment were Reported Missing while carrying out an operation against the Harare-Beira railway line near Doeroi in Mocambique, some 300 miles from the South African border. It would appear that there was a premature detonation while they were laying their demolition charges that killed them instantly. The casualties were: Lieutenant Alan Gingles (28). Rifleman B. Michael (24). Rifleman F. Tombo (25).
- **1982** - Rifleman Piet Bhayana from 111 Battalion accidentally drowned during a river crossing while on patrol in the Kruger National Park. He was 21.
- **1982** - Corporal Servaas de Kock from 1 Parachute Battalion was accidentally killed while on weekend pass when his private vehicle was involved in a collision with an extra heavy articulate vehicle. He was 20.
- **1981** - Two US surveillance planes arrive over Egyptian airspace to demonstrate

Chuck Yeager

increased US support for Egyptian and Sudanese security against any hostile moves by Libya.

- **1987** - Thomas Sankara, head of the Military Council of the Revolution in Burkina Faso, is assassinated in a military coup and replaced by Captain Blaise Compaoré.
- **1989** - Lance Corporal Joseph Montslo Moletsane from 115 Battalion was accidentally killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned during a patrol in Mamelodi. He was 25.
- **1997** - Rebels, backed by foreign troops, enter Brazzaville in the Republic of Congo, ending President Pascal Lissouba's four-month struggle to remain in power.
- **2002** - The Sudanese government signs a temporary cease-fire with Sudan's main rebel group, the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), so that peace talks could resume. The agreement calls for both sides to avoid impeding international relief efforts for civilians affected by the nineteen-year-old civil war.

16 October

- **1853** - The Crimean War began after the Turkish Ottoman Empire declared war on Russia, Britain, France and portions of Italy allied with the Turks against Russia. It became the first war observed up close by newspaper reporters and photographers. One of the battles was immortalized in Tennyson's poem, *The Charge of the Light Brigade*. Amid poor sanitary conditions, disease killed many wounded French and British troops. British nurse Florence Nightingale then pioneered modern-style sanitation methods, saving many lives.
- **1899** - Boer Gen. P.A. Cronje shells Mafeking, causing only one casualty. After the bombardment, Silas Molemo, a spokesman for the Barolong tribe, visits magistrate Bell, informing him: "Never mind this, we will stick with you and see it through."
- **1900** - Republican forces under Gen. J.B.M. Hertzog attack Jagersfontein and release all prisoners in the gaol before they retire.
- **1916** - T. E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) arrives in Cairo with a British fact-finding mission whose purpose is to recommend ways of supporting the Arab revolt against the Ottoman Empire.
- **1916** - Oswald Boelcke, German air ace with 40 victories, is killed in action at the age of 25.
- **1926** - Chinese troop ship sinks in the Yangtze. 1,200 die.
- **1939** - First German air raid on the British Isles in WW II, against naval installations at Rosyth, as the RAF downs one attacker.
- **1940** - First black American promoted to general: Benjamin Oliver Davis, Sr.
- **1940** - Nazis establish the Warsaw Ghetto.
- **1946** - Ten former Nazi leaders were hanged by the Allies following their conviction for war crimes at Nuremberg, Germany.
- **1962** - Missile Crisis: JFK learns of Soviet missiles in Cuba.
- **1963** - Lieutenant Henry Andre' Botha from 17 Squadron was killed when his Alouette III Helicopter crashed near Dullstroom in heavy fog while on a flight from Pilgrimsrest to Pretoria. He was 20.
- **1964** - China detonated its first nuclear bomb at the Lop Nor test site in Sinkiang.
- **1969** - Two members from 24 Squadron were Reported Missing when their Hawker Siddeley Buccaneer S-51 disappeared over the sea 30km east of the Tugela River Mouth while carrying out night exercises. The crew were: Major Stephanus Sebastiaan Odendaal (31). Major Peter Webb (28).
- **1973** - Rifleman Raymond Fourie from 4 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident on the Ventersdorp to Randfontein Road. He was 19.
- **1981** - Rifleman Alfredo Samba from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 32.

- **1981** – Israeli general and former Minister of Defence Moshe Dayan died at the age of 66.
- **1982** - Rifleman Barend Jacobus Christoffel Strydom from 7 SAI accidentally drowned at Phalaborwa. He was 19.
- **1986** - Captain Fred Turner from 32 Battalion was killed in private motor vehicle accident at Paternoster. He was 25.
- **1986** - Two members from the Sasolburg Commando were killed in a military vehicle accident at Deneysville while returning from a military funeral. They were: Commandant Wallace Goosen (56). Captain Christiaan Johannes Cloete (34).
- **1987** - Three members from 4 Artillery Regiment were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Mariental while trying to avoid a head-on collision with a civilian delivery vehicle. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant George Michael Howard (20). Lance Bombardier Peter Mansfield (19). Gunner Sean Rene Biet (20).
- **1988** - Rifleman Nicolaas Johannes Wolmarans from the Bethal Commando was killed when he was struck down by a civilian vehicle while carrying out road block duty on the Delmas / Kriel Road. He was 32.
- **1988** - 2nd Lieutenant Riaan Frans Janse van Vuuren from Sector 20 Headquarters Unit SWATF was killed in a Private Motor Vehicle Accident while on leave. He was 19.
- **1990** - US forces in the Persian Gulf reach 200,000.
- **1992** - The Goldstone Commission reports the finding of a secret operational centre run by Military Intelligence and seizes plans to destabilise the ANC.
- **2005** - William Allan, last Australian combat veteran of WW I, dies at the age of 106.

17 October

- **1777** - During the American Revolutionary War, British General John Burgoyne and his entire army of 5,700 men surrendered to American General Horatio Gates after the Battle of Saratoga, the first big American victory.
- **1781** - British General Lord Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown.
- **1917** - First British air raid over Germany.
- **1933** - Albert Einstein arrives in the United States as a refugee from Nazi Germany.
- **1944** - The Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle in history, took place off the Philippine Islands, during World War II in the Pacific. The battle involved 216 U.S. warships and 64 Japanese ships and resulted in the destruction of the Japanese Navy including the Japanese Battleship Musashi, one of the largest ever built.
- **1948** - Thirty-one SA pilots participates in the air-lift to provide food and fuel to West Berlin. The operation continued for seven months.
- **1973** - Egyptian and Israeli forces clash in the Sinai desert in fierce fights.
- **1977** - West German commandos storm a hijacked Lufthansa jetliner in Mogadishu, Somalia, freeing all 86 hostages. Three Palestinian hijackers are killed.
- **1977** - Corporal Karel Christiaan Strydom from the Klein Karoo Commando was accidentally killed in a shooting incident at Nkurenkuru near Rundu. He was 33.
- **1977** - Sapper Johannes Hercules Viljoen from 2 Field Engineer Regiment was killed after being struck by a bullet resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle near Kwando. He was 19.
- **1981** - Lieutenant F.T.

Moshe Dayan

Edeling from 102 Battalion SWATF accidentally drowned at Epupa Falls during operations in Southern Angola. He was 23.

- **1982** - Corporal Adam Johannes Barends from the South African Cape Corps was killed in a private motor vehicle accident on the Grabouw to Botrivier road. He was 24.
- **1983** - Rifleman Tian van Jaarsveld from 8 SAI was a member of a patrol that was in the process of checking their kit just outside the base at Okalongo prior to heading out on a patrol. It was during this process that a RPG-7 anti-tank rocket carried by another soldier was accidentally discharged and he was critically wounded. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria where he sadly succumbed to his wounds later in the day. He was 19.
- **1983** - SA forces attack an apartment block in Maputo, Mozambique, close to President Samora Machel's suburban residence, injuring five people. The SA Defence Force says the building housed offices from which the ANC was planning a series of attacks in South Africa.
- **1984** - Special Constable Elifas Ipinge from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 28.
- **1985** - Attempted military coup in Guinea-Bissau.
- **1992** - In Angola's first multi-party election, the MPLA wins 53.74% of the vote for the 233-seat parliament, and Unita 34.10%. Unita accuses the MPLA of rigging the election results, withdraws its troops from the joint army and threatens to return to civil war.

18 October

- **1912** - Italo-Turkish War ends.
- **1941** - Russian spy Richard Sorge arrested in Tokyo.
- **1945** - The Nuremberg War Crimes Trial began with indictments against 24 former Nazi leaders including Hermann Göring and Albert Speer. The trial lasted 10 months, with delivery of the judgment completed on October 1, 1946. Twelve Nazis were sentenced to death by hanging, three to life imprisonment, four to lesser prison terms, and three were acquitted.
- **1946** - The Special Service Battalion of the Defence Force of the Union of South Africa is dissolved, and gymnasiums for the army, air force and navy established.
- **1968** - Lieutenant John Andrew Zimmerman from Central Flying School Dunnottar was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed near Devon while on a routine training flight. He was 21.
- **1978** – Rhodesian forces launch a raid against ZIPRA guerrillas in a wide area around Chimoio, Mozambique.
- **1980** - Sergeant Jonathan Sykes from the Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident on the National Road near Ladysmith. He was 30.
- **1984** - Rifleman Domingos Antonio from 32 Battalion was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned near Buffalo. He was 24.
- **1986** - Special Constable Simon Daniel 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 29.
- **2001** - Four Osama bin Laden followers convicted in the 1998 bombings of two US embassies in Africa are sentenced in New York to life without parole.

19 October

- **1812** - Napoleon begins his retreat from Moscow.
- **1915** - Russia and Italy declare war on Bulgaria.
- **1925** - The War of the Dog: A stray dog initiates a ten day border incident between Greece & Bulgaria.
- **1950** - UN forces enter Pyongyang, capital of North Korea.
- **1951** - British troops seize Suez canal zone in a swift dawn raid.
- **1952** - Airman Caspar Willem Petrus Nel from Air Force Station Congella suffered fractured vertebrae when he was dumped by a large wave while playing in the sea during March 1952. He was re-admitted to the Sanitarium Hospital in Durban on 15 Oct 1952 after complications had set in but he unfortunately died following surgery. He was 20.
- **1954** - Britain and Egypt sign Suez Canal agreement. British will withdraw troops over next twenty months.
- **1986** - President Samora Machel of Mozambique is killed in an air crash in eastern South Africa shortly after 21:00. Thirty-four people die in the disaster.
- **1987** - British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher criticises the ANC, calling it "a terrorist organisation".
- **1987** - US warships destroy Iranian oil platforms in Persian Gulf.

20 October

- **1899** - British forces dislodge the Boers at Talana Hill in Natal.
- **1944** - During World War II in the Pacific, General Douglas MacArthur set foot on Philippine soil for the first time since his escape in 1942, fulfilling his promise, "I shall return."
- **1944** - US First Army secures Aachen.
- **1952** - Emergency proclaimed in Kenya due to Mau Mau rebellion.
- **1977** - Three crew members of 15 Squadron "A" Flight and one passenger from the SAAF 250 Air Defence Artillery Group (250 ADAG) were killed when their Super Frelon Helicopter 303 crashed in the mountains on the farm "Leyden" at Sheepmoor near the border of Mocambique and Swaziland while flying in dense fog and mist. The casualties were: Commandant Gert Hermanus Jacobus Strydom van Rooyen (35). Captain Don Bezuidenhout (31). 2nd Lieutenant Dawid Petrus Burger (21). Sergeant Willem Adriaan Jacobus van der Merwe (33).
- **1979** - Rifleman Deon Botha from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was killed in a military vehicle accident at Mariental. He was 20.
- **1979** - Sapper Gerhardt Wagener from the South African Engineer Corps was killed after being accidentally run over by a military vehicle at Bossiespruit. He was 19.
- **1980** - Major John Kendrick Murphy from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment (former member of the Rhodesian SAS and Selous Scouts) was killed when his parachute failed during a practice training jump at Westonaria. He was 37.
- **1980** - Two members of 32 Battalion were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Buffalo. They were: Lance Corporal Alfred Jose Mindo (34). Rifleman Jaquin Francisco (24).
- **1981** - Corporal Peter Andrew Chapman from 8 SAI was Killed in Action when his Buffel Troop Carrier detonated a boosted landmine in Northern Owamboland. He was 20.
- **1983** - Rifleman Joao Augusto from 32 Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident at Linus Shashipapo. He was 19.
- **1983** - Private Johan Beyers Human from the South African Medical Corps was killed instantly when his private motor vehicle overturned near Bloemhof. He was attached to the Army Battle School at the time and was travelling from Lohatla to Pretoria on leave pass when the accident occurred. He was 20.

Samora Machel

- **1986** - Rifleman Christiaan Marthinus Arnoldus Adam Venter from Regiment Oos Rand was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Ellisras. He was 20.
- **1987** - Trooper Herman Ziemkendorf from 2 Special Service Battalion was killed when his Eland 90 armoured car overturned at Siftersnek near Zeerust during training exercises in the area. He was 19.
- **1989** - Lance Corporal Pieter Johannes Klue from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed in a private motor vehicle accident on the old Warmbaths Road near the Wonderboom Military Base. He was 19.

21 October

- **1805** - The Battle of Trafalgar took place between the British Royal Navy and the combined French and Spanish fleets. The victorious British ended the threat of Napoleon's invasion of England. British naval hero Admiral Horatio Nelson was mortally wounded aboard his ship Victory.
- **1899** - The Boer forces are defeated by the British at the Battle of Elandslaagte.
- **1914** - Battle of Warsaw: Germans defeat the Russians.
- **1942** - Eight American and British officers land from a submarine on an Algerian beach to take measure of Vichy French to the Operation Torch landings.
- **1952** - Jomo Kenyatta is arrested in Kenya when the British forces defeat the Mau-Mau.
- **1960** - HMS 'Dreadnought'is launched, Britain's 1st nuclear submarine.
- **1967** - The Egyptian navy sinks the Israeli destroyer Eilat off Sinai, killing forty people.
- **1982** - Corporal Donald Craig Clerk from 1 Special Service Battalion Died from a gunshot wound resulting from an accidental discharge of the fellow soldiers rifle while based at Oshakati. He was 20.
- **1983** - Four members of 5 Reconnaissance Regiment were Reported Missing after being captured during the night of 20/21 October 1983 while carrying out pseudo operations against enemy forces during Operation Slyk. It is presumed that they were subsequently executed by their captors. They have no known grave and remain unaccounted for. The four casualties were: Corporal D. Dula (27). Corporal R. Mhlinga (29). Rifleman Frans Mkoshi (26). Rifleman Manuel Shikondau (33).
- **1996** - The UN reports that over 200,000 Hutu refugees are fleeing into the hills to escape the conflict between the Zaire military and Tutsi .
- **2003** - Veteran French war journalist Jean Helene is shot dead in cold blood in Abidjan in the Ivory Coast by a police officer.

22 October

- **1847** - Gen. Jacobus Hercules (Koos) de la Rey, also known as 'The Lion of Western Transvaal' because of his brave leadership during the Anglo-Boer War, is born on the farm Doornfontein in the Winburg district, Orange Free State.
- **1859** - Spain declares war on the Moors in Morocco.
- **1944** - Japanese naval forces converge on Leyte.
- **1954** - West Germany joins NATO.
- **1962** - President John F. Kennedy appeared on television to inform Americans of the existence of Russian missiles in Cuba. The President demanded their removal and announced a naval quarantine" of Cuba. Six days later, the Russians announced they would remove the weapons. In return, the U.S. later removed missiles from Turkey.
- **1968** - SA signs treaty with Greece concerning the graves of members of the armed forces of the Commonwealth in Greek territory.
- **1986** - Corporal Pieter Johannes Jacobus Meisenheimer from the Army Gymnasium was killed when the Bedford Water Tanker he was driving, overturned at Heidelberg. He was 20.

23 October

- **1642** - Edgehill, first battle of the English Civil War.
- **1901** - General Redvers Buller is dismissed as officer in command of the British forces, probably because of his defeat in the Battle of Spioenkop in 1900.
- **1942** - The Second Battle of El Alamein, in which many SA soldiers took part, commences with a thousand-gun barrage. The opening attack by the British Eighth Army starts at 9:30pm. Montgomery eventually defeated Rommel. On 4 November 1942, the British finally broke through the German defences.
- **1942** - Guadalcanal: Battle of Edson's Ridge - Japanese assault broken.
- **1970** - Five members from Quartermaster General (QMG) in Voortrekkerhoogte were accidentally killed in a private station wagon vehicle when it was involved in a head-on collision with a truck between Sasolburg and Parys while they were travelling home to the Eastern Cape on a Weekend Pass. The casualties were: Rifleman Friederich David Warren Bloomberg (18). Rifleman John Merwyn Albert Payne (18). Rifleman Andrew John Hough (19). Rifleman Leonardus Hendrik Botha (19). Rifleman Roderick George Duncan (18).
- **1978** - Private Coenraad Hendrik Basson from 6 Ordnance Base Depot died in the Tygerberg Hospital from injuries received in a military vehicle accident at SAS Wingfield. He was 20
- **1981** - Corporal Werner Oberholzer from 2 Special Service Battalion was accidentally killed when his Eland Armoured Car overturned during a training exercise at Zeerust. He was 20.
- **1983** - Rifleman N. Riem from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion. He was 22.
- **1983** - Terrorists drove a truck loaded with TNT into the U.S. and French headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon, exploding it and killing 241 U.S. Marines and 58 French paratroopers.

24 October

- **1899** - The Battle of Rietfontein, near Dundee, Natal, takes place, with the British falling back to Ladysmith.
- **1943** - Japanese destroyer 'Mochizuki' is sunk by Marine aircraft southwest of Rabaul.
- **1945** - Vidkun Quisling, 58, Norwegian politician, executed, leaving us a new word for "traitor".
- **1973** - Yom Kippur War ends with Israeli troops 100 km from Cairo and 40 km from Damascus. Several other dates are given for this event, e.g. 22, 26 or 28 October, depending which phase of the peace process is considered most decisive.
- **1976** - Rifleman Ignatius Phillippus Coetzee, acting as the Patrol medic for an Infantry Patrol was Killed in Action near Eenhana. He was 18.
- **1983** - Corporal Pedro Giovanni Torre from 7 SAI was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Lataba Ranch near Phalaborwa. He was 20.
- **1986** - Sergeant Gerhardus Hendrik van der Westhuizen from the South African Corps of Military Police was killed when his military motorcycle was struck by a truck while overtaking about 8km from Lindley. He fell under the wheels of the truck. He was 35.
- **1994** - For the first time in 25 years, British troops were absent from the streets of Londonderry, Northern Ireland, following cease-fires by Irish Republican Army (IRA) and pro-British forces.
- **1998** - A gas explosion devastates the officers' club of the SA National Defence Force, a national monument, in Wynberg, Cape Town.

25 October

- **1854** - During the Crimean War, the Charge of the Light Brigade occurred as Lord Cardigan led the British cavalry against the Russians at Balaclava. Of 673 British

John F. Kennedy

cavalrymen taking part in the charge, 272 were killed. The Charge was later immortalized in the poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson.

- **1943** - Japanese open the Burma railroad ("The Bridge on the River Kwai").
- **1955** - Austria reassumed its sovereignty with the departure of the last Allied forces. The country had been occupied by the Nazis from 1938-45. After World War II, it was divided into four occupation zones by the U.S., Russia, Britain and France.
- **1956** - Egypt, Jordan and Syria form a united military command.
- **1975** - Rifleman Christian Lambert Kruger from Infantry School was accidentally killed when his private motor vehicle was involved in a head on collision with another motor vehicle near Kroonstad while traveling home on a weekend pass. He was 19.
- **1976** - Rifleman Jan Hendrik Malan from 11 Commando Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents near Eenhana in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1980** - Rifleman Paulo Almeido from 32 Battalion died from injuries accidentally sustained in a military vehicle accident at Buffalo.. He was 23.
- **1980** - Corporal Christopher Bruce Catto from 5 SAI was accidentally shot dead when he and his Section set up an ambush near Etale Base. He was 20.
- **1983** - Operation Just Cause: US and West Indian forces invade Greneda.

26 October

- **1922** - Lt Cdr Godfrey Chevalier makes first underway US carrier landing, on 'Langley' (CV-1).
- **1973** - Signaler Petrus Johannes Pienaar from 2 Signal Regiment collapsed and died from heat exhaustion during Basic Training. He was 18.
- **1977** - Two members of Regiment De Wet were killed when they accidentally detonated a Claymore Directional Fragmentation Anti-Personnel Mine near Elundu. The casualties were: Rifleman Antonie Michael Jacobz (27). Rifleman Lodewicus Johannes Oberholzer (22).
- **1983** - Airman Wernich Haupt from 250 Air Defence Artillery Group, South African Air Force suffered critical head injuries when he accidentally fell off the back of a moving Land Rover. He died from his injuries in 1 Military Hospital later the same day. He was 18.
- **1985** - Rifleman David Bowers from the South African Cape Corps was killed when struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle while at the Touwsrivier Training Area. He was 20.
- **1987** - Private Charles Matthew Dirkse from 5 Maintenance Unit died in Oshakati Hospital from heart failure resulting from a blood clot in the lung. He was 29.
- **1990** - Private Dirk Cornelius Pieterse from 31 Field Workshop Squadron died in 1 Military Hospital after being critically injured in a military vehicle accident 35km from Vryburg. He was 25.
- **1997** - Angola promises to withdraw its troops from Brazzaville, capital of the Republic of Congo, where they helped rebels oust elected President Pascal Lissouba.

27 October

- **1941** - Nazis establish a gypsy ghetto in Belgrade.
- **1942** - Battle of the Santa Cruz Is: USS 'Hornet' (CV-8) sinks.
- **1948** - Negev: Israel recaptures Nizzanim from the Egyptians.
- **1973** - UN peacekeeping forces arrive in Cairo to attempt to set up a lasting cease-fire between Israeli and Arab forces.
- **1977** - Rifleman Joao Victor from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces near Numuidi in Southern Angola during Operation Kropduif. He was 28.
- **1978** - Ugandan troops invade Tanzania, occupying the Kagera salient.

28 October

- **1918** - In the waning days of World War I, mutiny broke out in the German fleet at Kiel. Ships in port ran up the red flag of revolution. The uprising spread to Hamburg, Bremen and Lubeck, resulting in a general strike in Berlin which brought the government of Kaiser Wilhelm to a halt.
- **1933** - General Constand Laubscher Viljoen, former head of the SADF and leader of the Vryheidsfront, is born in Standerton, Eastern Transvaal.
- **1940** - Greece rejects an ultimatum, and Italy declares war and invades from Albania.
- **1940** - 'U-32' sinks RMS 'Empress of Britain', killing hundreds of children being evacuated to Canada; Goebbles claims the British did it.
- **1956** - Israeli troops invade Sinai Peninsula, later to be joined by British and French forces, following Egypt's seizure of the Suez Canal from European control.
- **1962** - The Cuban Missile Crisis ended with the announcement by Soviet Russia's leader Nikita Khrushchev that his Soviet government was halting construction of missile bases in Cuba and would remove the offensive missiles. President Kennedy immediately accepted the offer then lifted the U.S. naval blockade of Cuba.
- **1977** - Six members of 1 and 2 Reconnaissance Regiment were Killed in Action at Onalomono in Southern Angola while attacking Eheke during Operation Kropduif. The casualties were: Warrant Officer Class II Francois Carl van Zyl PMM MMM (34). Sergeant Michiel Labuschagne Kruger MMM (26). Sergeant Wentzel Christoffel Marx (29). Sergeant Neville Grant Clack (30). Corporal Antonie Badenhorst (25). Lance Corporal Gary William John Walker (20).
- **1977** - Sergeant Bernado Andre Mwonambunga from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in an enemy mortar bomb explosion during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN forces near Onalumona in Southern Angola during Operation Kropduif. He was 34.
- **1978** - Three young Ops Medics attached to 52 Battalion at Ogongo in Northern Owamboland died when they unselfishly put their lives on the line to ensure the safety of others. These three young heroes were posthumously awarded the Honoris Crux for their unselfish act of self-sacrifice in an attempt to save others in circumstances of extreme danger. They were: Private Burgert van Dyk van Papendorp HC (P) (19). Private Johannes Cornelius Jooste HC (P) (19). Private Frederick Johannes Smith HC (P) (18).
- **1986** - Major Daniel Kotze from the Financial Service Corps at Defence Headquarters died after suffering a fatal heart attack at his home. He was 46.
- **1987** - Rifleman Aaron Alfred Khumalo from 111 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with MK operatives after they had crossed into South Africa from Swaziland approximately 57km east of Vryheid. He was 25.
- **1991** - President Sese Seko Mobutu orders Belgium to withdraw all its troops from Zaire.
- **1992** - Lance Corporal Jacob Johannes le Roux from Group 36 was killed in a military vehicle accident at Thaba N'Chu. He was 18.
- **1997** - Forces loyal to Zambian president Frederick Chiluba quash a coup by disgruntled military officers, arresting nine men including the captain who said an angel told him to overthrow the government.

29 October

- **1618** - Sir Walter Raleigh, English admiral and explor-

Mobutu Sese Seko

er, is beheaded, allegedly for treason, at the age of 66.
- **1897** - Nazi propaganda minister Paul Joseph Goebbels was born in Rheydt, near Dusseldorf, Germany.
- **1914** - Russia declares war on Turkey.
- **1914** - Ottoman Empire enters the war with a naval at tack on Russian Black Sea ports.
- **1914** - Serbia declares war on the Ottoman Empire.
- **1941** - Germans massacre 10,000 Jews in Kaunas, Lithuania.
- **1942** - Nazis murder 16,000 Jews, Pinsk, USSR.
- **1956** - Israel invades the Sinai Peninsula and troops push on towards the Suez Canal, just 32 km away. Israeli paratroopers drop into the Sinai to open the Straits of Tiran.
- **1962** - Three members from Central Flying School Dunnottar were killed when an AT-6 Harvard that was executing a spin recovery in the General Flying area, was involved in a mid-air collision with another AT-6 Harvard. The casualties were: Air Mechanic Hendrik Jacobus Burger (18). Air Mechanic Jakobus Schabort Bischoff (22). Lieutenant Jan Jacob Christiaan van Zyl (23).
- **1968** - 2nd Lieutenant Charles Frederick Du Toit from 1 Squadron was killed when his Canadair C13L Sabre crashed into rising ground near Bandolierkop while on a routine low level navigation training flight from AFB Pietersburg. He was 21.
- **1975** - Four members from the SADF, one pilot and three passengers, were accidentally killed when their UNITA supplied Beechcraft Baron known as "Dinky Toy", crashed 6km north of Norton de Matos in Central Angola while carrying out aerial observations for Battle Group Foxbat in the Silva Porta area during Operation Savannah. The casualties were: Colonel Desmond Brian Harmse (46). Major Pieter Benjamin Uys (34). Major Nicholas Jacobus Visser (37). Corporal Neville Roland Beechey (19).
- **1977** - Rifleman Johannes Ferdinand Baum from the East Park Commando accidentally drowned in the Chobe River near Mpalela Island. He was 20.
- **1984** - Rifleman J. Paulus from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 23.
- **1987** - Private Erwin Benade from the Headquarters Unit, Logistics Base Grootfontein, died from a gunshot wound apparently self-inflicted. He was 21.

30 October

- **1270** - The Eighth Crusade begins, and accomplishes nothing.
- **1799** - William Balch becomes the US Navy's first commissioned Chaplain.
- **1899** - "Mournful Monday": the British lose 106 killed, 374 wounded and 1 284 captured in two battles.
- **1899** - General Christiaan de Wet and 300 Boers capture Nicholson's Nek and take 800 British soldiers prisoner.
- **1899** - In the Battle of Modderspruit, Commandant General Piet Joubert causes the British to fall back. He is urged to order a pursuit, but refuses on religious grounds, one of the fatal mistakes during the war.
- **1952** - Troops round up 500 Mau Mau suspects in Kenya.
- **1956** - Israel captures the Egyptian military post at El-Thamad.
- **1956** - France and Britain instruct Egypt and Israel to withdraw from the Suez Canal.
- **1961** - Congolese army begins an offensive against Katangan rebels.
- **1961** - Soviet Union tests a 58 megaton hydrogen bomb.
- **1963** - Morocco and Algeria sign a ceasefire.
- **1978** - Reports of fighting between Ugandan and Tanzanian troops in Uganda.
- **1979** - Rifleman Dirk Cornelius Odendaal from the SADF Dog Training Centre attached to 16 Maintenance Unit was killed at Grootfontein after being struck by a bullet resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while in the barracks. He was 18.
- **1992** - Heavy fighting breaks out in Luanda, Angola, between the government and Unita. The conflict rages for three days, claiming at least 1,000 lives.

31 October

- **1917** - Third Battle of Beersheba: Australian, New Zealand, & British mounted troops capture the city from the Turks.
- **1940** - The Battle of Britain concluded. Beginning on July 10, 1940, German bombers and fighters had attacked coastal targets, airfields, London and other cities, as a prelude to a Nazi invasion of England. British pilots in Spitfires and Hurricanes shot down over 1,700 German aircraft while losing 915 fighters. "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few," declared Prime Minister Winston Churchill.
- **1952** - The U.S. detonated its first hydrogen bomb at the Elugelab Atoll in the Eniwetok Proving Grounds in the Pacific Marshall Islands.
- **1956** - Following a twelve-hour ultimatum to Egypt and Israel, British and French forces bombard military airfields near Cairo in the Suez Canal Zone.
- **1968** - During the Vietnam War, President Lyndon Johnson ordered a halt of American bombing of North Vietnam.
- **1980** - Two members from the Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg were Reported Missing when their Civilian Piper Cherokee PA28-180, Registration ZS-VVK, disappeared while on a flight from Wonderboom Airport to Graskop. They were: Lance Corporal Gunther Jurgen Dreyer (19). Lance Corporal Andre' Coetzee (19).
- **1987** - A 101 Battalion Battle Group, supported by members of 5 Reconnaissance Regiment together with D Company, 1 Parachute Battalion, attacked SWAPO/PLAN positions at Nindango in Southern Angola. The Operation was known as Ops Firewood. The Battle Group suffered 15 casualties with approximately 67 wounded before contact was finally broken off at nightfall. The Battle Group casualties for this engagement were: Rifleman Hughes Norbert De Rose (21). Rifleman Wayne Valentine Ewels (21). Lance Corporal Raymond Mark Light (21). Corporal Nico Smith Olivier (19). Rifleman Dirk Willem van Rooyen (20). All from D Company, 1 Parachute Battalion. 2nd Lieutenant Dylan Chevalier Cobbold (20) from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment. Captain Andries Hercules Du Bruyn Rademeyer (27). 2nd Lieutenant Deon Botes (20). Sapper Erasmus Albertus Steyn (19). Rifleman W. Abraham. Rifleman P. Epafu. Rifleman V.Petrus. Rifleman T. Sheepo. Rifleman M. Uusshona. All from 101 Battalion Romeo Mike.
- **1992** - More than 300 people are killed in renewed fighting as Angola slides back into civil war.
- **2006** - The Star reports that poor management of SANDF equipment and the theft of weapons that ended up in rebels' hands are fuelling the conflict in Burundi where SA troops had been sent to keep the peace. It says sources confirmed that millions of rands worth of vehicles, guns, ammunition and bombs vanished from the SANDF army base in Burundi over the last four years. The South African department of defence indicated it would be able to comment only later this week "after conducting the proper research," report says.
- **2006** – Former South African Minister of Defence and President PW Botha dies at the age of 90.

PW Botha

Grenades

1. Mills Bomb No. 8
2. M84 stun grenade
3. M67 grenade
4. RGD-33 grenade
5. M26 grenade
6. M7A3 tear gas grenade
7. Mk3A2 offensive grenade
8. Model 24 Stielhandgranate
9. No. 82 grenade (Gammon bomb)
10. Mk 2 grenade
11. No. 74 Mk 2 sticky bomb
12. Type 97 grenade
13. Type 67 Chicom grenade
14. RGD-5 grenade
15. F1 grenade

Useful links

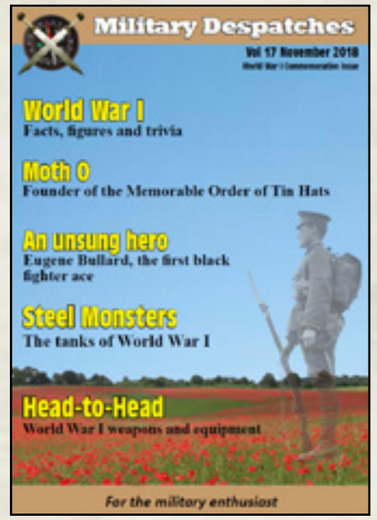
Every month we will be featuring a few useful links to military websites, newsletters and on-line magazines. Stuff that we think our readers will appreciate.

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

Military Despatches Website

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

Steve Jobs



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

Have you checked out the bookshelf on the website? Here you can open and read individual articles on screen with no need to download anything.

You will find articles on numerous different topics that have been published over the past two years as well as video clips and documentaries.

Hipe! media

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Online Magazines
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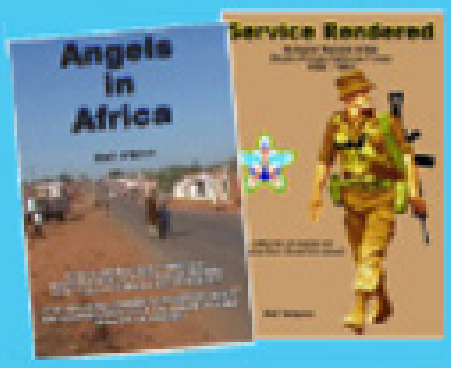

2D & 3D Animation
Produced in any video format.

Video Production
Scripting, storyboard, filming and editing done to any video format required. We also do aerial and underwater video and stills.

Still Photography

If you're thinking digital media then think Hipe Media.