



Military Despatches

Vol 51 September 2021

The indestructible commando

The incredible story of Jan Baalsrud

Fat Man and Little Boy

A few facts about the atomic bomb

The D'Boys

America's Delta Force

Roza Shanina

The unseen terror of East Prussia

For the military enthusiast



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Paratrooper Wings Quiz

Most military paratroopers are awarded their jump wings after they have qualified.

In this quiz we show you 15 different wings and you tell us where they are from.

Army Speak 101

The SADF had their own language. A mixture of English, Afrikaans, slang and techno-speak that few outside the military could hope to understand.

Most armies around the world also had their own slang terms. In this video we look at some of them.



Army Speak 101
Military slang from the SADF and around the world

New videos each week

We will be uploading new videos to our YouTube channel each week.

So remember to bookmark the channel and keep an eye out for new content.



Military Firearms Quiz

This quiz is all about military firearms. We show you 15 firearms, you tell us what they are.



Elite Military Units Quiz

Most military forces have an elite unit or regiment or a special forces component.

In this quiz we show you 15 and you tell us who they are and where they are from.



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Please remember to subscribe to our channel.

Feel free to leave a comment, and share this video.



Editor's Sitrep

August is done and dusted and I'm a year older. Bloody hell, I'm getting old.

It dawned on me the other day that Military Despatches now has just over 600,000 readers from 42 countries every month.

It's not like I send out this many e-mails every month. What happens is that I send the magazine to one person. They in turn send it to ten people who then send it to ten others, and it quickly snowballs.

At 114 pages this issue, September, is the largest ever. It is the eighth time we have gone over 100 pages.

Now I know that some readers will complain that "there's too much to read." The good news is that you don't have to read everything - just read what you find interesting.

When I originally started Military Despatches back in July 2017 it was my intention to produce a 48 page magazine each month.

The first four issues were all 52 pages, and from there things just sort of got out of hand. And it was never my intention to see how many pages I could do every

month. Quite the opposite in fact.

Many editors sit with the problem of "what do I put in the magazine this issue?" I have the problem of "what do I leave out of this issue?"

I was struck by a strong feeling of déjà vu when watching live footage of American troops evacuating from Kabul in Afghanistan. Where had I seen this before? Then I remembered - 1975, Saigon in South Vietnam.

American armed forces, along with those of a number of other countries, spent 20 years fighting in Afghanistan. A total of 2,443 American soldiers would be killed during this war.

Following the September 11 attacks in 2001, George W. Bush demanded that the Taliban, then de facto ruling Afghanistan, hand over Osama bin Laden. The Taliban's refusal to extradite him led to Operation Enduring Freedom.

Now, ten years after bin Laden was killed, the Taliban are back in control. Next month we will look at this event in more detail.

Until next time.

Matt

Hipe! media

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US troops evacuate Kabul in Afghanistan after the Taliban had taken control of the city and most of the country. We will have an article on this in the October issue.



Ten old weapons still in service

Weapons come and go rather quickly. Yet sometimes weapons are so well designed and effective they stay in service for decades.

As far as weapon systems are concerned, having the best available is often key to success on the battlefield.

But with technology advancing at a rapid pace, some weapons come and go rather quickly.

Some weapons did take time to evolve. For example gunsmith and inventor Marin le Bourgeois developed the first flintlock rifle for King Louis XIII of France in 1860. It remained the main weapon of European armies until about 1840, some 230 years.

Yet by 1860 the first military repeating rifle, the Spencer, was developed. It could fire up to 20 rounds per minute.

At the start of World War II in 1939 the biplane was still in service with many countries. Yet by 1945 the first jet-powered aircraft had seen combat.

The development of many military weapon systems are scrapped before they even go into production. This is because many of them are considered obsolete by the time development and testing is completed.

Yet some weapon systems have stood the test of time. We look at ten weapons that are still in use today, and three of them are more than 100 years old.



Bell UH-1 Iroquois (1959)

Developed by Bell Helicopter to meet a 1952 US Army requirement for a medical evacuation and utility helicopter, the Bell UH-1 Iroquois first flew in 1956. It went into operation with the US Army in 1959.

The UH-1 was the first turbine-powered helicopter produced for the United States military, and more than 16,000 have been built since 1960.

The Iroquois was originally designated HU-1. This earned it the nickname 'Huey', a nickname that is still in use.

The UH-1 first saw service in combat operations during the Vietnam War, with around 7,000 helicopters deployed.

Between 1956 and 1987 some 16,000 UH-1 helicopters were produced and it was used by 72 countries.

Today the UH-1 is still in

service with no fewer than 44 countries. Not bad for a helicopter that is 65 years old.

General characteristics

- Crew: 1–4
- Capacity: 1,760 kg including 14 troops, or 6 stretchers, or equivalent cargo
- Length: 17.40 metres with rotors
- Width: 2.62 metres (Fuselage)
- Height: 4.39 metres
- Empty weight: 2,365 kg
- Powerplant: 1 × Lycoming T53-L-11 turboshaft, 1,100 shp (820 kW)

Performance

- Maximum speed: 220 km/h
- Cruise speed: 205 km/h
- Range: 510 km
- Service ceiling: 5,910 metres dependent on factors such as weight, air temperature, etc

- Rate of climb: 8.9 m/s

Armament

various including:

- 7.62 mm machine guns
- 2.75 in (70 mm) rocket pods

M61 Vulcan (1959)

The M61 Vulcan is a hydraulically, electrically or pneumatically driven, six-barrel, air-cooled, electrically fired Gatling-style rotary cannon which fires 20 mm rounds at an extremely high rate (typically 6,000 rounds per minute).

The M61 and its derivatives have been the principal cannon armament of United States military fixed-wing aircraft for more than sixty years.

General characteristics

- Weight: M61A1 - 112 kg
- Length: 1.827 metres
- Cartridge: 20×102 mm



- Calibre: 20 mm
- Barrels: 6-barrel (progressive RH parabolic twist, 9 grooves)
- Action: Hydraulically operated, electrically fired, rotary cannon
- Rate of fire: 6,000 rounds per minute
- Muzzle velocity: 1,050 m/s
- Effective firing range: 609.6 metres
- Feed system: Belt or linkless feed system

M14 (1959)

The M14 rifle, officially the United States Rifle, Calibre 7.62 mm, M14, is an American select-fire battle rifle that fires 7.62×51mm NATO ammunition.

It became the standard-issue rifle for the U.S. military in 1959 replacing the M1 Garand rifle in the U.S. Army by 1958 and the U.S. Marine Corps by 1965 until being replaced by the M16 rifle beginning in 1968.

The M14 was used by U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps for basic and advanced individual training (AIT) from the mid-1960s to the early 1970s.

Many countries, including the USA, still use the M14 as a sniper rifle.

A 2009 study conducted by the U.S. Army claimed that half

of the engagements in Afghanistan occurred from beyond 300 metres. America's 5.56×45mm NATO service rifles were ineffective at these ranges; this prompted the reissue of thousands of M14s.

General characteristics

- Weight: 4.1 kg empty, 4.85 kg with loaded magazine
- Length: 1,126 mm
- Barrel length: 559 mm
- Cartridge: 7.62×51 mm NATO
- Action: Gas-operated, rotating bolt



- Rate of fire: 700–750 rounds/min
- Muzzle velocity: 850 m/s
- Effective firing range: 460 metres; 800 metres (with optics)
- Feed system: Stripper clips; 20-round detachable box magazine

KC-135 (1957)

The Boeing KC-135 Stratotanker is a military aerial refueling aircraft that was developed from the Boeing 367-80 prototype, alongside the Boeing 707 airliner. It is the predominant variant of the C-135 Stratolifter family of transport aircraft.

The KC-135 was the US Air Force's first jet-powered refueling tanker and replaced the KC-97 Stratofreighter.

The KC-135 was initially tasked with refuelling strategic bombers, but it was used extensively in the Vietnam War and later conflicts such as Operation Desert Storm to extend the range and endurance of US tactical fighters and bombers.

The KC-135 entered service with the United States Air Force (USAF) in 1957; it is one of six military fixed-wing aircraft with over 50 years of continuous service with its original operator.

The KC-135 is supplemented by the larger KC-10. Studies



have concluded that many of the aircraft could be flown until 2030, although maintenance costs have greatly increased.

The KC-135 is to be partially replaced by the Boeing KC-46 Pegasus.

General characteristics

- Crew: 3 (pilot, co-pilot and boom operator; some KC-135 missions require the addition of a navigator.)
- Capacity: up to 80 passengers (38,000 kg)
- Length: 41.53 metres
- Wingspan: 39.88 metres
- Height: 12.70 metres
- Wing area: 226.0 m²
- Empty weight: 44,630 kg
- Max take-off weight:

- 146,284 kg
- Fuel capacity: 90,718 kg
- Powerplant: 4 × CFM International F108-CF-100 turbofan engines, 21,600 lbf (96.2 kN) thrust each

Performance

- Maximum speed: 933 km/h
- Cruise speed: 852.8 km/h at 9,144 metres
- Range: 2,414.1 km) with 68,039 kg of transferable fuel
- Ferry range: 17,727 km
- Service ceiling: 15,000 metres
- Rate of climb: 25 m/s



M60 (1957)

The M60, officially the Machine Gun, Calibre 7.62 mm, M60, is a family of American general-purpose machine guns firing 7.62×51mm NATO cartridges from a disintegrating belt of M13 links.

There are several types of ammunition approved for use in the M60, including ball, tracer, and armour-piercing rounds. It was adopted in 1957 and issued to units beginning in 1959. It has served with every branch of the U.S. military and still serves with the armed forces of other countries.

Its manufacture and continued upgrade for military and



commercial purchase continues into the 21st century, although it has been replaced or supplemented in most roles by other designs, most notably the M240 machine gun in U.S. service.

General characteristics

- Weight: 10.5 kg
- Length: 1,105 mm
- Barrel length: 560 mm
- Cartridge: 7.62×51 mm

- NATO
- Action: Gas-operated, short-stroke gas piston, open bolt
- Rate of fire: 550–650 rounds/min
- Muzzle velocity: 853 m/s
- Effective firing range: 1,100 metres
- Feed system: Disintegrating belt with M13 Links

B-52 Stratofortress (1955)

The Boeing B-52 Stratofortress is an American long-range, subsonic, jet-powered strategic bomber.

The B-52 was designed and built by Boeing, which has continued to provide support and upgrades.

It has been operated by the United States Air Force (USAF) since the 1950s. The bomber is capable of carrying up to 32,000 kg of weapons, and has a typical combat range of more than 14,080 km without aerial refuelling.

A veteran of several wars, the B-52 has dropped only conventional munitions in combat. The B-52's official name Stratofortress is rarely used; informally, the aircraft has become commonly referred to as the BUFF (Big Ugly Fat Fucker/Fella).



General characteristics

- Crew: 5 (pilot, copilot, weapon systems officer, navigator, electronic warfare officer)
- Length: 48.5 metres
- Wingspan: 56.4 metres
- Height: 12.4 metres
- Gross weight: 120,000 kg
- Fuel capacity: 181,610 litres
- Powerplant: 8 × Pratt & Whitney TF33-P-3/103 turbofans, 17,000 lbf (76 kN) thrust each

Performance

- Maximum speed: 1,050 km/h
- Cruise speed: 819 km/h
- Combat range: 14,200 km
- Service ceiling: 15,000 metres

Armament

- Bombs: Approximately 31,500 kg mixed ordnance; bombs, mines, missiles, in various configurations.

M2 Browning (1933)

The M2 machine gun or Browning .50 calibre machine gun is a heavy machine gun designed toward the end of World War I by John Browning. Its design is similar to Browning’s earlier M1919 Browning machine gun, which was chambered for the .30-06 cartridge.

The M2 uses the much larger and much more powerful .50 BMG (12.7 mm) cartridge, which was developed alongside and takes its name from the gun itself (BMG standing for Browning machine gun). It has been referred to as “Ma Deuce”, in reference to its M2 nomenclature.

The Browning .50 calibre machine gun has been used extensively as a vehicle weapon and for aircraft armament by the United States from the 1930s to

M1919 Browning (1919)

The M1919 Browning is a .30 calibre medium machine gun that was widely used during the 20th century, especially during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

The M1919 saw service as a light infantry, coaxial, mounted, aircraft, and anti-aircraft machine gun by the U.S. and many other countries.

The emergence of general-purpose machine guns in the 1950s pushed the M1919 into secondary roles in many cases.

The United States Navy also converted many to 7.62mm NATO, and designated them Mk 21 Mod 0; they were commonly used on river craft in



the present day.

It was heavily used during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Falklands War, the Soviet–Afghan War, the Gulf War, the Iraq War, and the War in Afghanistan in the 2000s and 2010s. It is the primary heavy machine gun of NATO countries and has been used by many other countries as well.

General characteristics

- Weight: 38 kg; 58 kg with tripod and traverse and ele-

- vation mechanism
- Length: 1,654 mm
- Barrel length: 1,143 mm
- Cartridge: .50 BMG (12.7×99mm NATO)
- Action: Short recoil-operated
- Rate of fire: 450–600 rounds/min
- Muzzle velocity: 890 m/s
- Effective firing range: 1,800 metres
- Feed system: Belt-fed (M2 or M9 links)



the 1960s and 1970s in Vietnam. Many NATO countries also converted their examples to 7.62, and these remained in service well into the 1990s, as well as up to the present day in some countries.

General characteristics

- Weight: 14 kg
- Length: 964 mm
- Barrel length: 610 mm

- Cartridge: 30-06 Springfield (U.S.); 7.62×51mm NATO
- Action: Recoil-operated/short-recoil operation. Closed bolt.
- Rate of fire: 400–600 rounds/min
- Muzzle velocity: 850 m/s
- Effective firing range: 1,400 metres
- Feed system: 250-round belt

M1911 (1911)

The M1911, also known as the Colt 1911, or the Colt Government, is a single-action, semi-automatic, magazine-fed, recoil-operated pistol chambered for the .45 ACP cartridge.

The pistol’s formal designation as of 1940 was Automatic Pistol, Calibre .45, M1911 for the original model of 1911 or Automatic Pistol, Calibre .45, M1911A1 for the M1911A1, which was adopted in 1924. The designation changed to Pistol, Calibre .45, Automatic, M1911A1 in the Vietnam War era.

It remains in service with the



United States Armed Forces, as it has for the past 110 years.

General characteristics

- Weight: 1,100 grams
- Length: 216 mm
- Barrel length: 127 mm
- Cartridge: .45 ACP
- Action: Short recoil opera-

- tion
- Rate of fire: 85 rounds/min
- Muzzle velocity: 253 m/s
- Effective firing range: 50 m
- Feed system: 7-round or 8-round (.45 ACP) box magazine

M1903 Springfield (1903)

The M1903 Springfield, officially the United States Rifle, Calibre .30-06, Model 1903, is an American five-round magazine fed, bolt action service repeating rifle, used primarily during the first half of the 20th century.

It was officially adopted by the United States as the standard infantry rifle on June 19, 1903, and saw service in World War I, and was replaced by the faster-firing semi-automatic eight-round M1 Garand starting in 1936.

However, the M1903 remained in service as a standard issue infantry rifle during World War II, since the U.S. entered the war without sufficient M1



rifles to arm all troops.

It also remained in service as a sniper rifle during World War II, the Korean War, and even in the early stages of the Vietnam War. It remains popular as a civilian firearm, historical collector’s piece, a competitive shooting rifle, and as a military drill rifle. The M1903 remains in service with the US Coast Guard as a line throwing gun.

General characteristics

- Weight: 3.9 kg
- Length: 1,100 mm

- Barrel length: 610 mm
- Cartridge: .30-03; .30-06 Springfield
- Action: Bolt action
- Rate of fire: 15 to 30 rounds per minute
- Muzzle velocity: 850 m/s
- Effective firing range: 1,100 metres
- Feed system: 5-round stripper clip; 25-round Internal Box Magazine

TOP TEN

Other weapons that could have made the list

CH-47 Chinook

Service: 1961 - present
Years in service: 60 years



Lockheed C-130 Hercules

Service: 1954 - present
Years in service: 67 years

FN-FAL (R1)

Service: 1953 - present
Years in service: 68 years

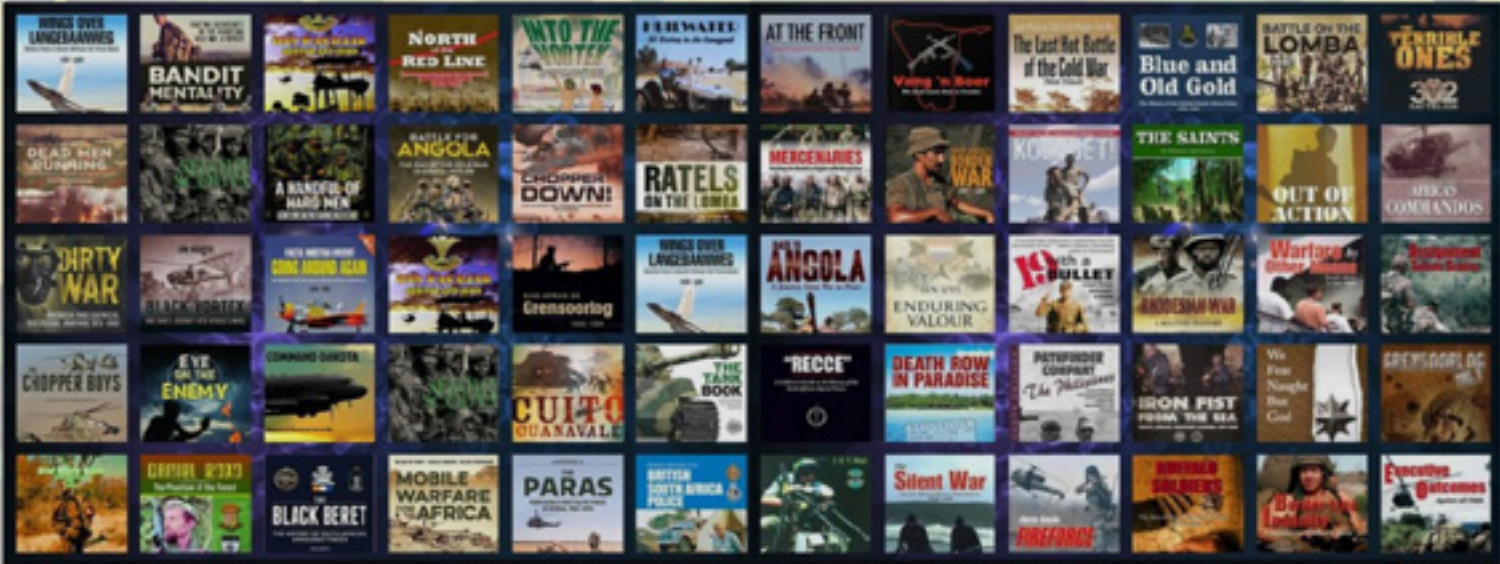


AK-47

Service: 1949 - present
Years in service: 72 years

Walther P38

Service: 1939 - present
Years in service: 82 years



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

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

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

Special Forces - Delta Force

Part twenty-nine of a series that looks at Special Forces around the world. This month we feature the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta, better known as Delta Force.

The 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta (1st SFOD-D), commonly referred to as Delta Force, Combat Applications Group (CAG), “The Unit”, or within JSOC as Task Force Green, is a special operations force of the United States Army, under operational control of the Joint Special Operations Command.

The unit is tasked with missions primarily involving counter-terrorism, hostage rescue, direct action, and special reconnaissance, often against high-value targets. Delta Force and its Navy and Air Force counterparts, DEVGRU and 24th Special Tactics Squadron, are the U.S. military’s tier one special mission units tasked with performing the most com-

plex, classified, and dangerous missions directed by the National Command Authority.

Most Delta Force operators are selected from the United States Army Special Operations Command’s elite Special Forces Groups and the 75th Ranger Regiment, as well as from other special operations and conventional forces from the army and sometimes different military

branches of the United States Armed Forces.

History

Delta Force was formed after numerous well-publicized terrorist incidents in the 1970s. These incidents led the U.S. government to develop a full-time counter-terrorism unit.

Key military and government

figures had already been briefed on this type of unit in the early 1960s. Charlie Beckwith, a Special Forces (Green Berets) officer and Vietnam War veteran, served as an exchange officer with the British Army’s 22nd Special Air Service Regiment during the Malayan Emergency.

On his return, Beckwith presented a detailed report high-

lighting the U.S. Army’s vulnerability in not having an SAS-type unit. U.S. Army Special Forces in that period focused on unconventional warfare, but Beckwith recognized the need for “not only teachers, but doers.”

He envisioned highly adaptable and completely autonomous small teams with a broad array of special skills for direct action and counter-terrorism missions. He briefed military and govern-



ment figures, who were resistant to creating a new unit outside of Special Forces or changing existing methods.

Finally, in the mid-1970s, as the threat of terrorism grew, The Pentagon and Army senior leadership appointed Beckwith to form the unit.

Beckwith estimated that it would take 24 months to get his new unit mission-ready. Beckwith's estimate came from a conversation he had earlier with Brigadier John Watts while in England in 1976.

Watts had made it clear to Beckwith that it would take eighteen months to build a squadron, but advised him to tell the Army leadership that it would take two years, and not to "let anyone talk (him) out of this."

To justify why it would take two years to build Delta, Beckwith and his staff drafted what they dubbed the "Robert Redford Paper." In it Delta outlined its necessities and historical precedents for a four-phase selection/assessment process.

Delta Force was then established on 19 November 1977, by Beckwith and Colonel Thomas Henry.

In the meantime, Colonel Bob "Black Gloves" Mountel of the 5th Special Forces Group was tasked with creating a unit "to breach the short-term gap" that existed until Delta was ready, dubbed Blue Light.

The initial members of the unit were screened from volunteers and put through a specialized selection process in early 1978, involving a series of land navigation problems in mountainous terrain while carrying increasing weight.

The purpose was to test candidates' endurance, stamina, willingness to endure, and mental resolve. The first training course lasted from April to September 1978. Delta Force was certified as fully mission capable in Fall 1979, right before the Iran hostage crisis.

On 4 November 1979, 53 American diplomats and citizens were taken captive and held in the U.S. embassy in Tehran, Iran. Delta Force was tasked to plan and execute Operation Eagle Claw and recover the hostages from the embassy by force on the nights of 24 and 25 April in 1980.

The operation was aborted due to helicopter failures. The review commission that examined the failure found 23 problems with the operation, among them unexpected weather encountered by the aircraft, command-and-control problems between the multi-service component commanders, a collision between a helicopter and a ground-refueling tanker aircraft, and mechanical problems that reduced the number of available helicopters from eight to five (one fewer than the minimum desired) before the mission contingent could leave the trans-loading/refuelling site.

After the failed operation, the U.S. government realized more changes needed to be made. The 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), also known as the "Night Stalkers", was created for special operations requiring air support.

The Navy's SEAL Team Six, an earlier incarnation of the current Naval Special Warfare Development Group, was created for maritime counter-terrorism



Delta Force insignia

operations. The Joint Special Operations Command was created for command and control of the various counter-terrorism units of the U.S. military.

Operations and clandestine operations

The majority of the operations assigned to Delta are classified and may never be known to the public. However, details of some operations have become public knowledge.

For service during Operation Urgent Fury, Delta was awarded the Joint Meritorious Unit Award. The unit was awarded the Valorous Unit Award for extraordinary heroism during the Modelo Prison Hostage Rescue Mission and the capture of Manuel Noriega in December 1989 during Operation Just Cause in Panama.

1st SFOD-D operators from C Squadron were also involved in Operation Gothic Serpent in Somalia. During Operation Iraqi

Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, the 1st SFOD-D was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for combat operations in Afghanistan from 4 October 2001 to 15 March 2002 and Iraq from 19 March 2003 to 13 December 2003.

On 26 October 2019, Delta operators and Army Rangers raided ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's compound, leading to his death.

Organization and structure

The unit is under the organization of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC), but is controlled by the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC). Command of 1st SFOD-D is a colonel's billet. Virtually all information about the unit is highly classified and details about specific missions or operations generally are not available publicly. The unit is headquartered at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Delta Force's structure is similar to the British 22 SAS Regiment, which inspired Delta's formation. In *Not a Good Day to Die: The Untold Story of Operation Anaconda*, Army Times staff writer Sean Naylor describes Delta as having, at the time, nearly 1000 soldiers, of which approximately 250 to 300 are trained to conduct direct action and hostage rescue operations. The rest are combat support and service support personnel who are among the very best in their fields.

Sean Naylor further details Delta Force's structure in his book *Relentless Strike: The Secret History of Joint Special Operations Command*. He de-

scribes a few formations in Delta, primarily the following operational squadrons:

- A Squadron (Assault)
- B Squadron (Assault)
- C Squadron (Assault)
- D Squadron (Assault)
- E Squadron (Aviation)
- G Squadron (advanced force operations (AFO), formerly known as Operational Support Troop (OST))
- Combat Support Squadron
- Signal Squadron

A, B, C and D Squadrons are sabre squadrons (assault). C Squadron was activated in 1990 and D Squadron in 2006. Combat Support Squadron was activated in 2005. E Squadron was activated in 1989 and is stationed separately in Fort Eustis, Virginia. Its cover name is Flight Concepts Division and its predecessor was called SeaSpray.

Within each squadron there are three troops: two assault troops for direct action, and a reconnaissance ("recce") and surveillance troop, for penetrating enemy lines unseen, watching enemy positions, and sniping.

Each squadron is commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel and troops are led by Majors. Each troop has four teams, each one led by a team leader, a Master Sergeant or Sergeant First Class and an assistant team leader which can also have the same rank.

Delta trains with other foreign units to improve tactics and increase relationships and exchanges with international special operations communities.

Recruitment

Since the 1990s, the Army has posted recruitment notices for the

1st SFOD-D. The Army, however, has never released an official fact sheet for the elite force.

The recruitment notices in Fort Bragg's newspaper, Paraglide, refer to Delta Force by name, and label it "...the U.S. Army's special operations unit organized for the conduct of missions requiring rapid response with surgical application of a wide variety of unique special operations skills..."

The notice states that applicants must be male, in the grade of E-4 through E-8, have at least two and a half years of service remaining in their enlistment, be 21 years or older, and score high enough on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery to attend a briefing to be considered for admission.

Candidates must be airborne qualified or volunteer for airborne training. Officer candidates need to be O-3 or O-4. All candidates must be eligible for a security clearance level of "secret" and have not been convicted by court-martial or have disciplinary action noted in their official military personnel file under the provisions of Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

On 29 June 2006 during a session of the Committee on Armed Services, General Wayne Downing testified before the U.S. House of Representatives that "The Delta Force is probably 70% Rangers who have come out of either a Ranger (to) Special Forces track or directly from a (the) Ranger Regiment to Delta".

Selection process

Selection is held twice a year

(March to April, and September to October) at Camp Dawson, West Virginia, and lasts four weeks. Eric Haney's book *Inside Delta Force* described the selection course and its inception in detail. Haney wrote that the selection course began with standard tests including push-ups, sit-ups, and a 3.2 km run, an inverted crawl and a 100-meter swim fully dressed.

The candidates are then put through a series of land navigation courses to include a 29 km all-night land navigation course while carrying a 18 kg rucksack. The rucksack's weight and the distance of the courses are increased and the time standards to complete the task are shortened with every march.

The physical testing ended with a 64 km march with a 20 kg rucksack over rough terrain that had to be completed in an unknown amount of time; this is also colloquially known as "The Long Walk".

Haney wrote that only the senior officer and NCO in charge of selection are allowed to see the set time limits, but all assessment and selection tasks and conditions were set by Delta training cadre.

The mental portion of the testing began with numerous psychological exams. The men then went in front of a board of Delta instructors, unit psychologists, and the Delta commander, who each ask the candidate a barrage of questions and then dissect every response and mannerism of the candidate to exhaust the candidate mentally.

The unit commander then approaches the candidate and tells him if he has been selected. If



SCUD HUNTERS: A Delta Force team deep behind enemy lines during Operation Desert Storm. They were hunting down mobile Iraqi SCUD missile launchers.

an individual is selected for Delta, he undergoes an intense six-month Operator Training Course (OTC), to learn counter-terrorism and counter-intelligence techniques, in which the individual maintains little contact with friends and family for the duration. Training includes firearm accuracy and various other weapons training.

In an interview, former Delta operator Paul Howe talked about the high attrition rate of the Delta selection course. He said that out of his two classes of 120 applicants each, 12 to 14 completed the selection.

The Central Intelligence Agency's highly secretive Special Activities Centre (SAC) and more specifically its Special Operations Group (SOG), often works with – and recruits – former operators from Delta Force.

Training

According to Eric Haney, the

unit's Operator Training Course is approximately six months long. While the course is constantly changing, the skills taught broadly to include the following:

Marksmanship

- The trainees shoot without aiming at stationary targets at close range until they gain almost complete accuracy, then progress to moving targets.
- Once these shooting skills are perfected, trainees move to a shooting house and clear rooms of "enemy" targets – first one only, then two at a time, three, and finally four. When all can demonstrate sufficient skill, "hostages" are added to the mix.

Demolitions and Breaching

- Trainees learn how to pick many different locks, including those on cars and safes.
- Advanced demolition, and bomb-making using common materials.

Combined skills

Weapons used by Delta Force



M4A1 Assault Rifle



HK416 Carbine



Heckler & Koch MP5



Glock 22



Benelli M4 Super 90



**MK 12 SPR
Special Purpose Rifle**

- The FBI, FAA, and other agencies were used to advise the training of this portion of OTC.
- The new Delta operators use demolition and marksmanship at the shoot house and other training facilities to train for hostage and counter-terrorist operations with assault and sniper troops working together. They practice terrorist or hostage situations in buildings, aircraft, and other settings.
- All trainees learn how to set sniper positions around a building containing hostages. They learn the proper ways to set up a TOC and communicate in an organized manner. Although Delta has specialized sniper troops, all members go through this training.
- The students then go back to the shoot house and the "hostages" are replaced with other students and Delta Force members. Live ammunition is known to have been used in these exercises, to test the students, and build trust between one another.

Tradecraft

- During the first OTCs and Delta creation, CIA personnel were used to teach this portion.
- Students learn different espionage-related skills, such as dead drops, brief encounters, pickups, load and unload signals, danger and safe signals, surveillance and counter-surveillance.

Executive Protection

- During the first OTCs and creation of Delta, the U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Security Service and

- the United States Secret Service advised Delta.
- Students take an advanced driving course to use a vehicle or many vehicles as defensive and offensive weapons.
 - They then learn techniques for VIP and diplomatic protection developed by the Secret Service and DSS.

Culmination Exercise

- A final test requires the students to apply and dynamically adapt all of the skills that they have learned.

Uniform

The Department of Defence tightly controls information about Delta Force and refuses to comment publicly on the highly secretive unit and its activities; usually unless the unit is part of a major operation or a unit member has been killed.

Delta operators are granted an enormous amount of flexibility and autonomy during military operations overseas.

Civilian hair styles and facial hair are allowed to enable the members to blend in and avoid recognition as military person-

nel. Their Navy counterpart DEVGRU is also granted the same amount of autonomy and flexibility.

The term 'operator'

The origin of the term "operator" in American special operations comes from the U.S. Army Special Forces (aka the Green Berets).

The Army Special Forces was established in 1952, ten years before the Navy SEALs and 25 years before Delta. Every other modern U.S. special operations unit in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines was established after 1977.

In *Veritas: Journal of Army Special Operations History*, Charles H. Briscoe states that the Army "Special Forces did not misappropriate the appellation. Unbeknownst to most members of the Army Special Operations Force (ARSOF) community, that moniker was adopted by the Special Forces in the mid-1950s."

He goes on to state that all qualified enlisted and officers in Special Forces had to "voluntarily subscribe to the provisions of the 'Code of the Special Forces

Operator' and pledge themselves to its tenets by witnessed signature." This pre-dates every other special operations unit that currently uses the term/title operator.

Inside the United States Special Operations community, an operator is a Delta Force member who has completed selection and has graduated OTC (Operator Training Course).

Operator was used by Delta Force to distinguish between operators, combat support and service support assigned to the unit. Other special operations forces use specific names for their jobs, such as Army Rangers and Air Force Pararescuemen.

The Navy uses the acronym SEAL for both their special warfare teams and their individual members, also known as special operators.

In 2006 the Navy created "Special Warfare Operator" (SO) as a rating specific to Naval Special Warfare enlisted personnel, grades E-4 to E-9.

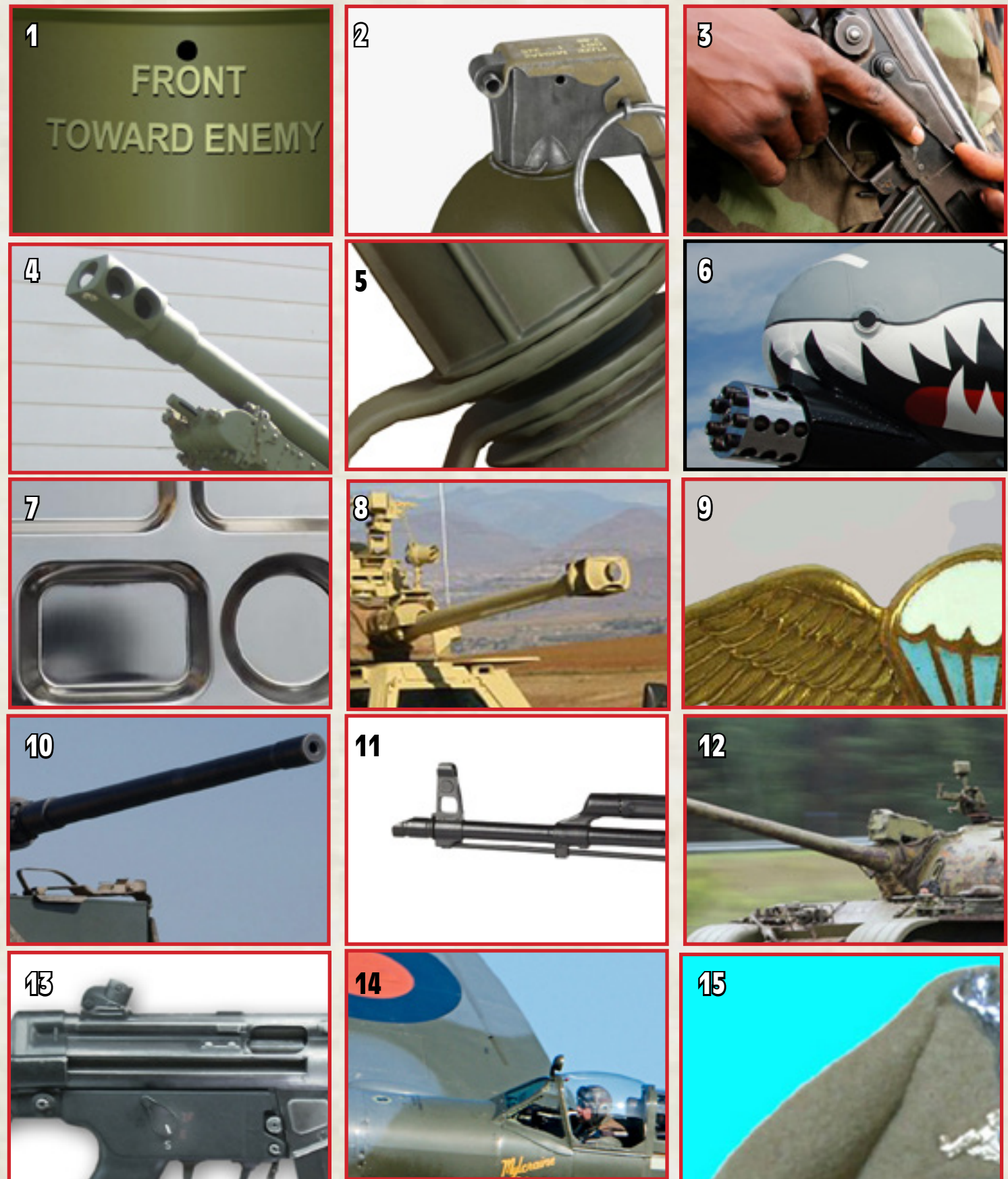
Operator has become a colloquial term for almost all special operations forces in the U.S. military, as well as around the world.



Up close and personal

Quiz

This month we're taking a closer look at various military items. And we do mean a closer look. We show you 15 objects, you tell us what they are. You'll find the answers on page 55.



The indestructible commando

Most readers will be unfamiliar with the name Jan Sigurd Baalsrud. Yet this soldier of the Norwegian Company Linge would go on to earn the title "the indestructible commando". And it was a title well earned.

Jan Baalsrud was born in Kristiania (now Oslo), Norway and moved with his family to Kolbotn in the early 1930s. He graduated as a cartographic instrument-maker in 1939.

During the German invasion of Norway in 1940, Baalsrud fought in Vestfold. He later escaped to Sweden, which was neutral, but he was convicted of espionage and expelled from the country.

In 1941, Baalsrud reached

Great Britain after having travelled through the Soviet Union, Africa and the US. He joined the Norwegian Company Linge.

This was a British Special Operations Executive (SOE) group formed in March 1941 originally for the purpose of performing commando raids during the occupation of Norway by Nazi Germany. Organized under the leadership of Captain Martin Linge, it soon became a pool of talent for a variety of special operations in Norway.

In March 1943 Baalsrud swims desperately through the icy waters of Toftefjord Bay, near the heart of the Arctic Circle. The air around him is ringing with gunfire and screams. Death is everywhere.

The great pillar of smoke rising from the

Brattholm, the vessel that he and his eleven companions were sailing on just minutes before, blots out the sun above.

The others on his small team scream and swear in Norwegian as German troops and Gestapo agents pull them from the freezing depths, and clap restraints on them.

The grim fate that awaits these men in the hands of the brutal Gestapo makes drowning look like a viable option.

Baalsrud and one other member of his team managed to reach the shores of Toftefjord Bay. It is only willpower and the fear of torture and death at the hands of the Gestapo that keeps them going.

They had only been on dry land for a few minutes when a bullet tears through the head of Baalsrud's only companion, killing him instantly.

Baalsrud does not have time to mourn. All he can do is attempt to keep moving. His wet and freezing uniform by now feels as heavy as a suit or armour, without offering the benefit of protection. Adding to his problems is the fact that he lost a boot during the swim to shore.

He can hear the Germans coming towards him. He looks up and sees an advancing group of German soldiers and he knows he has to keep moving.

The ten captured men from his team were being taken to the Gestapo headquarters in Trom-

so. There they would be interrogated, tortured, and executed. Baalsrud would do anything to avoid a similar fate.

He hides behind a nearby rock to gather his thoughts with what little time he has left. He had lost his rifle and all he has is his side-arm - a Colt 1911 pistol. He is up against German troops armed with rifles, submachine guns, and superior numbers.

The Germans are getting closer and it's decision time for Baalsrud. If he fights he will probably die. If he waits he will definitely die - whether they capture him or hypothermia kills him. In the end his choice is obvious.

He gets to his feet, aims his pistol, and squeezes the trigger. Nothing happens. His pistol is jammed.

He removes the magazine, clears it, and throws away the first two rounds. He takes aim once again and fires off two rounds.

For the first time that night Baalsrud gets lucky. The first round hits a German in the head, killing him. His second round wounds another German soldier, sending the group scrambling back in sudden panic.

This was not in the script. They have every advantage and the last thing they expect is their prey to start fighting back.

Yet Baalsrud has no intention of becoming another dead hero. He wants to survive this nightmare and return to his family and to a Norway free of Hitler's iron grip.

He sets off for the nearby hills. He has one boot, a uniform so wet and cold that it's killing him a little more each

moment, and a Colt 1911 with four rounds. The odds are not in his favour.

This is the story of Jan Baalsrud's incredible survival, against all odds. The risks he took, the people who help him, and the horrors he endured in his quest to get back home. But why was he there in the first place?

As mentioned earlier, Baalsrud was part of a twelve-man known as Company Linge.

It was made up of men that had managed to escape German-occupied Norway to Britain. They were trained by the British in Scotland to carry out covert missions behind enemy lines.

On this particular occasion they were part of Operation Martin. Their objectives were twofold: Recruit people in occupied Norway to join the resistance, and blowing up a German airfield tower in Bardufoss. But one little mistake doomed the mission.

Part of the plan was to rendezvous with a local member of the resistance to let them know why they were there. They knew the name of the contact, but had no idea what he looked like.

They accidentally contacted a local shopkeeper that just happened to have the exact same name as their contact.

The shopkeeper feared that this was a test of loyalty by the Gestapo, and if he failed to inform the authorities he would be arrested and probably executed if he failed to report the incident. So he did what he thought was the sensible thing to do - he contacted the local Gestapo office.

Delighted at the unexpected surprise that had turned up on their doorstep, German forces descended on the area.

Out gunned and out numbered, Company Linge were forced back to the Brattholm in the hopes of escaping through Toftefjord Bay.

That's when the German frigate Raumboot R56 made its appearance and began to attack. Company Linge had nowhere to run.

They were boxed in and capture or death seemed certain. They did the only thing they could - the eight tons of explosives that would have been used to destroy the control tower in Bardufoss, all eight tons of it, were detonated with a timed delay.

The plan was for the explosion to create chaos, so Company Linge could escape on a smaller, faster boat. But that didn't work.

The Raumboot opened fire and the commando's small boat was quickly sunk. And the rest you already know.

Baalsrud was left near-dead from the cold, running through the Norwegian hills from a numerically superior force. Even a miracle wouldn't save him, he would need several.

Thankfully for him, someone up there must have been keeping an eye over him.

During his frantic initial escape from the Germans he came across the modest cottage of the Idrupsen family. As can be expected, they were terrified to see him. Having a delirious, freezing man with a gun pitch up on your doorstep can be a bit unsettling.



He told them that he was an Allied soldier, the last of his team, on the run from Gestapo. He told them he needed somewhere to shelter, but that the risk was great: If ever the Nazis discovered that they had harboured a fugitive like him, they'd kill the entire family. But, even knowing this risk, they took him in.

Receiving this help, as he did from many kind Norwegians during his horrifying three month ordeal, wasn't easy for Baalsrud. He'd already seen the other men of Company Linge suffer horrifying fates, and the thought of the same happening to these innocent civilians tormented him.

In order to survive the almost crushing guilt of laying this risk on people, he developed a method. He would never tell any single host who he'd stayed with before, or where he was headed. That way, even if worse came to worst and the Nazis captured one family, they couldn't use that one family to get them all.

Baalsrud essentially hopped from home to home, traversing the brutal Norwegian winter between each one. People from all walks of life took him in and protected him – from midwives to retired old men.

A father still grieving from the loss of his own son, rowed Jan across the turbulent waters in the middle of the night. Another man hid Jan from his neighbour, a man suspected of being on the Nazi payroll. A kindly fisherman even gave him a pair of skis.

In this regard, Baalsrud was extraordinarily lucky, and the



IN MEMORIAM: Every year, on 25 July, an annual remembrance march in Baalsrud's honour takes place in Troms, where participants follow his escape route for nine days.

people he met were exceptionally kind – each one knowing that they faced the possibility of torture and death from the Gestapo if ever they were ever found out.

But the journey, already stretching on for over a month, was starting to take a physical toll on him – a fact which really shouldn't surprise anyone. His feet got the worst of it, exposed to such incredibly cold temperatures that they were frozen solid and suffering from frostbite that threatened to go gangrenous.

Even walking had become a prolonged state of agony for Baalsrud, and he still had plenty of walking to do. And that wasn't even the end of it. Jan was suffering from malnutrition, and worst of all, snow blindness.

It seemed that with every passing day, even as he got closer to his goal – crossing the Norwegian border through Finland and entering the safe zone of neutral Sweden – his odds of survival diminished.

Skis made the journey easier, for a time. On one occasion, he

even skied right past a group of German soldiers who seemingly had no idea who he was. But he was soon caught in a blizzard so severe it froze his eyelids shut. He wandered, blind and freezing, until hallucinations began to take over.

By the time he was rescued by the Gronvoll family, he didn't even know which way was up anymore. He was kept safe inside the Gronvoll family barn for a few days while he was recuperating from the blizzard. He was then hidden in the bed of a small fishing boat, and ferried on to the small Norwegian town of Revdal.

There, he was kept in a freezing and isolated hut that he nicknamed the Hotel Savoy – a reference to the up-market Savoy Hotel in London.

Here he had to take an even more horrific measure to ensure his continued survival. His frostbitten toes had started to go gangrenous and unless he wanted the infection to spread and become potentially life-threatening, he needed to take drastic action.



He had no surgical tools, no painkillers, no medical expertise, just a military pocket knife. And using that pocket knife, he carved off his big toe on one foot, as well as the infected part of another toe.

Sadly for Baalsrud, these wouldn't be the last parts he needed to shed in order to survive. He'd become less of a person now and more of a barely-living package that his support network needed to get back to safety.

The next part of the journey involved taking him to a mountain plateau, where Norwegian resistance members would collect him and deliver him to the Finnish border.

But thanks to another unexpected blizzard and German patrols in a nearby town, there was a slight delay in that collection. By which we mean he was trapped up there for 27 days.

He barely survived, facing up against the twin threats of starvation and infection. While up on that plateau, Baalsrud was almost certain that he was going to die, but he wouldn't give

up.

Using his trusty pocket knife once again, he amputated the rest of his toes. A move that doctors said was the only reason they were able to save his whole foot in the end. Eventually the Norwegian rescuers did come and liberate Baalsrud from his frozen hell.

They took him to the Finnish border, where he was placed into the care of the Sami, the indigenous people of the region.

They were there with Baalsrud for the final stretch across Finland, pulling him along on a sled behind their reindeer, narrowly avoiding pursuing German forces.

In the end, after months of pain and suffering, Baalsrud had finally reached the safe haven of neutral Sweden. When he was finally rescued, he weighed only 36 kilograms.

He spent months recovering in a Swedish hospital before finally being flown back to the UK. Think that's where the story ends? Nope.

Jan Baalsrud may have been down, but he wasn't out. During his extended recovery process, he helped train other soldiers for Norwegian deployment.

When he was finally able to walk again, he even requested to be sent back to Norway to assist in the ongoing war effort against the Nazis.

When the war finally ended in 1945, Baalsrud was still in active duty, getting payback against the Germans for what they had done to his beloved Norway, and his fellow soldiers from Company Linge.

In the end, he was able to return to his family in Oslo, whom

he'd left to fight five years earlier.

And the Gestapo officers who'd killed Company Linge were forced to dig up their bodies from a mass grave with their bare hands, and wash them before they were placed in coffins and given a proper burial. The Norwegian government then had them executed. Their leader, Kurt Stage, was also tried and executed for war crimes in Slovenia in 1947.

Baalsrud was appointed honorary Member of the Order of the British Empire by the British. He was awarded the St. Olav's medal with Oak Branch by Norway. He was a Second Lieutenant (*Fenrik*).

After the war, Baalsrud contributed to the local scout and football associations. In addition, he was chairman of the Norwegian Disabled Veterans Union from 1957 to 1964.

In 1962, he moved to Tenerife, Canary Islands, where he lived for most of the remainder of his life. He returned to Norway during his final years.

He lived there until his death on 30 December 1988, aged 71. His ashes are buried in Manndalen, in a grave shared with Aslak Aslaksen Fossvoll (1900–1943), one of the local men who helped him escape to Sweden.

An annual remembrance march in Baalsrud's honour takes place on 25 July in Troms, where the participants follow his escape route for nine days.

A street in Kolbotn, Norway is named Jan Baalsruds Plass (Jan Baalsrud's Place) in his honour.

If you want to change the world

In 2014 former US Navy SEAL Admiral William H. McRaven gave a speech to the graduating class at the University of Texas. It was a speech that everyone should hear.

William Harry McRaven is a retired United States Navy four-star admiral who served as the ninth commander of the United States Special Operations Command (SOCOM) from August 8, 2011 to August 28, 2014.

McRaven previously served from June 13, 2008, to August 2011 as commander of Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC)[1] and from June 2006 to March 2008 as commander of Special Operations Command Europe (SOCEUR).

In addition to his duties as COMSOCEUR, he was designated as the first director of the NATO Special Operations Forces Coordination Centre (NSCC), where he was charged with enhancing the capabilities and inter-operability of all NATO Special Operations Forces.

McRaven retired from the U.S. Navy on August 28, 2014, after more than 37 years of service.

In 2014 McRaven was asked to give the Commencement Address to the 2014 graduating class at the University of Texas. McRaven was a former graduate from the University.

His address was probably one of the best motivational speeches I have every heard.

What starts here changes the world. I have a few suggestions that may help you on your way to a better world, and while

these lessons were learned during my time in the military, I can assure you that it matters not whether you ever served a day in uniform.

It matters not your gender, your ethnic or religious background, your orientation or your social status.

Our struggles in this world are similar and the lessons to overcome those struggles and to move forward, changing ourselves and changing the world around us, will apply equally to all.

So here are the ten lessons I learned from basic SEAL training that hopefully will be of value to you as you move forward in life.

Every morning in SEAL training my instructors, who at the time were all Vietnam veterans, would show up in my barracks room, and the first thing they'd do is inspect my bed.

If you did it right the corners would be square, the covers would be pulled tight, the pillows centred just under the headboard and the extra blanket folded neatly at the foot of the rack.

It was a simple task, mundane at best, but every morning we were required to make our bed to perfection. It seemed a little ridiculous at the time, particularly light of the fact that we were aspiring to be real warriors, tough battle-hardened SEALs.

But the wisdom of this sim-

ple act has been proven to me many times over. If you make your bed every morning you will have accomplished the first task of the day. It will give you a small sense of pride and it will encourage you to do another task and another and another, and by the end of the day that one task completed will have turned into many tasks completed.

Making your bed will also reinforce the fact that the little things in life matter. If you can't do the little things right you'll never be able to do the big things right. And if by chance you have a miserable day, you will come home to a bed that is made. That you made. And a made bed gives you encouragement that tomorrow will be better.

So if you want to change the world, start off by making your bed.

1. Start the day with a task completed

During SEAL training the students are all broken down into boat crews. Each crew is seven students, three on each side of a small rubber boat and one coxswain to help guide the dinghy.

Every day your boat crew forms up on the beach and is instructed to get through the surf zone and paddle several miles down the coast.

In winter the surf off San Die-



Admiral William H McRaven

go can get to be eight to ten feet high and it is exceedingly difficult to paddle hook through the plunging surf unless everyone digs in. Every paddle must be synchronized to the stroke count of the coxswain. Everyone must exert equal effort or the boat will turn against the wave and be unceremoniously dumped back on the beach.

For the boat to make it to its destination everyone must paddle. You can't change the world alone. You will need some help and to truly get from your starting point to your destination takes friends, colleagues, the good will of strangers, and a strong coxswain to guide you.

If you want to change the world, find someone to help you paddle.

2. Find someone to help you through life

Over a few weeks of difficult training my SEAL class, which started with 150 men, was down to just 42. There were now six

boat crews of seven men each.

I was in the boat with the tall guys. But the best boat crew we had was made up of little guys. The Munchkin crew we called them. No one was over five foot five.

The Munchkin boat crew had one American-Indian, one African-American, one Polish-American, one Greek-American, one Italian-American, and two tough kids from the Midwest. They out paddled, out ran, and out swam all the other boat crews.

The big men and the other boat crews would always make good-natured fun of the tiny little flippers the Munchkins put on their tiny little feet prior to every swim.

But somehow these little guys from every corner of the nation in the world always had the last laugh, swimming faster than everyone and reaching the shore long before the rest of us.

SEAL training was a great equalizer. Nothing mattered but your will to succeed. Not your colour. Not your ethnic background. Not your education. Not your social status.

If you want to change the world, measure a person by the size of their heart, not by the size of their flippers.

3. Respect everyone

Several times a week the instructors would line up the class and do a uniform inspection. It was exceptionally thorough.

Your hat had to be perfectly starched, your uniform immaculately pressed, your belt buckle shiny and void of any smudges.

But it seemed that no matter how much effort you put into starching your hat or pressing your uniform or polishing your belt buckle, it just wasn't good enough. The instructors would find something wrong.

For failing uniform inspection the student had to run fully clothed into the surf zone. Then, wet from head to toe, roll around on the beach until every part of your body was covered with sand. The effect was known as 'sugar cookie'.

You stayed in the uniform the rest of the day, cold, wet and sandy. There were many a student who just couldn't accept the fact that all their efforts were in vain, that no matter how hard they tried to get the uniform right, it went unappreciated. Those students didn't make it through training.

Those students didn't understand the purpose of the drill. You were never going to succeed. You were never going to have a perfect uniform. The instructors weren't going to allow it.

Sometimes no matter how well you prepare, or how well you perform, you still end up as a sugar cookie. It's just the way life is sometimes.

If you want to change the world, get over being a sugar cookie and keep moving forward.

4. Life is not always fair, move forward

Every day during training you were challenged with multiple physical events – long runs, long swims, obstacle courses, hours of callisthenics – some-

thing to test your mettle.

Every event had standards. Times you had to meet. If you failed to meet those times – those standards – your name was posted on a list and at the end of the day those on the list were invited to a circus.

A circus was two hours of additional callisthenics designed to wear you down. To break your spirit. To force you to quit. No one wanted a circus.

A circus meant that for that day you didn't measure up. A circus meant more fatigue and more fatigue meant that the following day would be more difficult and more circuses were likely.

But at some time during SEAL training everyone, everyone made the circus list. But an interesting thing happened to those who were constantly on the list.

Over time those students who did two hours of extra callisthenics got stronger and stronger. The pain of the circuses built inner strength and physical resiliency.

Life is filled with circuses. You will fail. You will likely fail often. It will be painful. It will be discouraging. At times it will test you to your very core.

But if you want to change the world, don't be afraid of the circuses.

5. Don't be afraid to fail often

At least twice a week the trainees were required to run the obstacle course. The obstacle course contained 25 obstacles, including the 10 foot wall, a 30 foot cargo net, a barbed

wire crawl to name a few. But the most challenging obstacle was the slide for life.

It had a three level 30 foot tower at one end and a one level tower at the other. In between was a 200 foot long rope. You had to climb the three tiered tower and once at the top you grabbed the rope, swung underneath the rope and pulled yourself hand over hand until you got to the other end.

The record for the obstacle course had stood for years when my class began in 1977. The record seemed unbeatable. Until one day a student decided to go down the slide for life head first.

Instead of swinging his body underneath the rope and inching his way down, he bravely mounted the top of the rope and thrust himself forward.

It was a dangerous move. Seemingly foolish and fraught with risk. Failure could be an injury and being dropped from the course. Without hesitation the student slid down the rope perilously fast. Instead of several minutes it only took him half that time and by the end of the course he had broken the record.

If you want to change the world sometimes you have to slide down the obstacles head first.

6. Take risks

During the land warfare phase of training the students are flown out to San Clement Island which lies off the coast of San Diego. The waters off San Clement are a breeding ground for the great white sharks.

To pass SEAL training there are a series of long swims that must be completed. One is the night swim.

Before the swim the instructors joyfully brief the students on all the species of sharks that inhabit the waters off San Clement. They assure you however that no student has ever been eaten by a shark. At least not that they can remember.

But you are also taught that if a shark begins to circle your position, stand your ground. Do not swim away. Do not act afraid. And if the shark, hungry for a midnight snack, darts towards you then summon up all your strength and punch him in the snout and he will turn and swim away.

There are a lot of sharks in the world. If you hope to complete the swim you will have to deal with them.

So if you want to change the world, don't back down from the sharks.

7. Face down the bullies

As Navy SEALs one of our jobs is to conduct underwater attacks against the enemy's shipping. We practice this technique extensively during training.

The ship attack mission is where a pair of SEAL divers is dropped off outside an enemy harbour and then swims well over two miles underwater, using nothing but a depth gauge and compass to get to the target.

During the entire swim, even well below the surface, there is some light that comes through. It is comforting to know that there is open water above you.

But as you approach the ship which is tied to a pier the light begins to fade.

The steel structure of the ship blocks the moonlight. It blocks the surrounding street lamps. It blocks all ambient light.

To be successful in your mission you have to swim under the ship and find the keel, the centreline, and the deepest part of the ship. This is your objective.

But the keel is also the darkest part of the show, where you cannot see your hand in front of your face. Where the noise from the ship's machinery is deafening and where it gets to be easily disoriented and you can fail.

Every SEAL knows that under the keel, at that darkest moment of the mission, is a time when you need to be calm. When you must be calm. When you must be composed. When all your tactical skills, your physical power and your inner strength must be brought to bear.

If you want to change the world, you must be your very best in the darkest moments.

8. Step up when times are toughest

The ninth week of training is referred to as 'Hell Week'. It is six days of no sleep, constant physical and mental harassment, and one special day at the mud flats.

The mud flats are an area between San Diego and Tijuana where the water runs off and creates the Tijuana sloughs. A swampy patch of terrain where the mud will engulf you.

It is on Wednesday of Hell

Week that you paddle down in the mud flats and spend the next 15 hours trying to survive this freezing cold, the howling wind and the incessant pressure to quit from your instructors.

As the sun began to set that Wednesday evening my training class, having committed some egregious infraction of the rules, was ordered into the mud. The mud consumed each man till there was nothing visible but our heads.

The instructors told us we could leave the mud if only five men would quit. Only five men, just five men and we could get out of the oppressive cold. Looking around the mud flat it was apparent that some students were about to give up.

It was still over eight hours till the sun came up. Eight more hours of bone-chilling cold. The chattering teeth and the shivering moans of the trainees were so loud it was hard to hear anything.

And then one voice began to echo through the night, one voice raised in song. The song was terribly out of tune, but sung with great enthusiasm. One voice became two and two became three and before long everyone in the class was singing.

The instructors threatened us with more time in the mud. If we kept up the singing, but the singing persisted and somehow the mud seemed a little warmer and the wind a little tamer and the dawn not so far away.

If I have learned anything in my time traveling the world it is the power of hope. The power of one person. The Washington, a Lincoln, King, Mande-

la, and even a young girl from Pakistan – Malala. One person can change the world by giving people hope.

So if you want to change the world start singing when you're up to your neck in mud.

9. Lift up the downtrodden

Finally, in SEAL training there is a bell. A brass bell that hangs in the centre of the compound for all the students to see. All you have to do to quit is ring the bell.

Ring the bell and you no longer have to wake up at 5 o'clock. Ring the bell and you no longer have to be in the freezing cold swims. Ring the bell and you no longer have to do the runs, the obstacle course, the PT, and you no longer have to endure the hardships of training. All you have to do is ring the bell to get out.

If you want to change the world don't ever, ever ring the bell.

10. Never give up

Life is a struggle and the potential for failure is ever present, but those who live in fear of failure, or hardship, or embarrassment will never achieve their potential. Without pushing your limits, without occasionally sliding down the rope head first, without daring greatly, you will never know what is truly possible in your life.

From 2015 to 2018 Admiral William H. McRaven served as the Chancellor of The University of Texas.

Fighter aircraft with the most kills

Since World War I the aircraft has played a vital role in nearly every war since then. Yet which aircraft achieved the most kills in aerial combat?

On December 17, 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright made four brief flights at Kitty Hawk with their first powered aircraft.

A mere eight years later, in 1911, powered aircraft were first used in war by the Italians against the Turks near Tripoli, but it was not until the Great War of 1914–18 that their use became widespread.

Since then the aircraft has played a major role in almost every war. Yet which aircraft claimed the most kills in aerial combat?

It is interesting to note that a fairly modern aircraft such

as the F-16 Fighting Falcon, which has been involved in a number of conflicts, has less than 100 kills.

Compare this to the Focke-Wulf Fw 190 which was credited with 20,000 kills.

You have to take into account the actual number of aircraft involved during World War II. The Soviets alone lost more than 21,000 aircraft during the war.

Something else of interest is the fact that the top 121 aces of World War II were all pilots of the German Luftwaffe. A total of 108 Luftwaffe pilots scored more than 100 kills, 52 of them

had over 200 kills and two of them, Erich Hartmann and Gerhard Barkhorn, had over 300 kills.

‘Bubi’ Hartmann was the top ace of all time with a total of 352 kills. So it’s hardly surprising that World War II aircraft achieved such high kill rates.

In this article we take a brief look at aircraft that claimed 50 kills or more.

These are aircraft ranging from World War I to the present day. We have used photographs of models produced by Revell, Tamiya, Airfix, and Italeri.



F-15 Eagle

Air Superiority Fighter

Manufacturer: McDonnell Douglas

Origin: United States

First flight: 27 July 1972



104 Kills

- The F-15 Eagle has an unmatched air-to-air kill ratio of 104 to 0.
- In the 1982 Lebanon War, Israeli F-16s shot down 41 Syrian aircraft. (23 MiG-21s and 17 MiG-23s).
-



F-16 Fighting Falcon

Multi-role/Air Superiority

Manufacturer: General Dynamics

Origin: United States

First flight: 2 February 1974



76 Kills

- Israeli Air Force F-16s were credited with 44 air-to-air kills during the 1982 Lebanon War.
- The Pakistan Air Force F-16s shot down at least eight intruders during the Soviet-Afghan War.



Lavochkin La-5

Fighter

Manufacturer: Lavochkin

Origin: Soviet Union

First flight: March 1942



128 Kills

- Able to challenge the German Bf 109G-2 and the Fw 190A-4 on more or less equal terms.
- 5th Guards Fighter Aviation Regiment claimed 127 enemy aircraft shot down while losing 52 La-5s.



Bell P-39 Airacobra

Fighter

Manufacturer: Bell Aircraft

Origin: United States

First flight: 6 April 1938



149 Kills

- The P-39 was used by the Soviet Air Force and enabled Soviet pilots to collect the highest number of kills.
- Alexander Pokryshkin scored 47 of his 59 victories in P-39s, making him the highest scoring P-39 fighter pilot.



Hawker Tempest

Fighter

Manufacturer: Hawker Aircraft Limited

Origin: United Kingdom

First flight: 2 September 1942



239 Kills

- In air-to-air combat, the Tempest units achieved an estimated air combat success ratio of 8:1.
- The highest-scoring Tempest ace, David C. Fairbanks of the RCAF, destroyed 11 or 12 German aircraft.



F-14 Tomcat

Multi-role/Air Superiority

Manufacturer: Grumman

Origin: United States

First flight: 21 December 1980



160 Kills

- Iran claimed there F-14s shot down at least 160 Iraqi aircraft during the 1980s Iran-Iraq War.
- All-time top scoring F-14 ace, Major Jalil Zandi, is credited with shooting down 11 Iraqi aircraft.



MiG-21

Fighter/Interceptor

Manufacturer: Russian Aircraft Corporation

Origin: Soviet Union

First flight: 15 June 1955



240 Kills

- Nguyễn Văn Cốc of the VPAF, who scored nine kills in MiG-21s, is regarded as the most successful.
- 12 other VPAF pilots were credited with five or more aerial victories while flying the MiG-21.



SPAD S.XIII

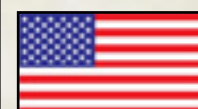
Fighter

Manufacturer: SPAD
Origin: France
First flight: 4 April 1917



252 Kills

- French biplane fighter aircraft of World War I. One of the most capable and most produced fighters.
- French ace, Rene Fonck (75 victories), Georges Guynemer (54 victories) and Charles Nungesser (45 victories) all flew the SPAD S.XIII.



F-4 Phantom II

Interceptor/Fighter-Bomber

Manufacturer: McDonnell Douglas
Origin: United States
First flight: 27 May 1958



306 Kills

- During the Vietnam War USN F-4s claimed 40 air-to-air victories at a loss of seven Phantoms.
- One USN pilot and one RIO became aces by achieving five aerial kills against the VPAF.



Yakovlev Yak-3

Fighter

Manufacturer: Plant No.292 (Saratov)
Origin: Soviet Union
First flight: 28 February 1943



273 Kills

- One of the smallest and lightest combat fighters fielded by any combatant during the war.
- World War II French ace Marcel Albert considered it a superior aircraft to the P-51D Mustang and Supermarine Spitfire.



Brewster F2A Buffalo

Fighter

Manufacturer: Brewster Aeronautical Corporation
Origin: United States
First flight: 2 December 1937



477 Kills

- The Buffalo won a competition against the Grumman F4F Wildcat in 1939 to become the U.S. Navy's first monoplane fighter aircraft.
- The Finnish Air Force produced 36 Buffalo aces.



Messerschmitt Me 262

Fighter/Fighter-Bomber

Manufacturer: Messerschmitt

Origin: German Luftwaffe

First flight: 18 July 1942



735 Kills

- The fighter version was nicknamed Schwalbe (Swallow) and the fighter-bomber version Sturmvolgel (Storm Bird).
- It was the world's first operational jet-powered fighter aircraft.



North American F-86 Sabre

Fighter

Manufacturer: North American Aviation

Origin: United States

First flight: 1 October 1947



900 Kills

- The United States' first swept-wing fighter that could counter the swept-wing Soviet MiG-15 in high-speed dogfights in the skies of the Korean War.
- By the end of the Korean War, F-86 Sabres shot down 792 MiGs for a loss of only 78 Sabres. A kill ratio of 10:1.



Ilyushin Il-2 Shturmovik

Fighter-Bomber

Manufacturer: Ilyushin

Origin: Soviet Union

First flight: 2 October 1939



760 Kills

- The Il-2 was never given an official name and 'shturmovik' is the generic Russian word meaning ground attack aircraft.
- To Il-2 pilots, the aircraft was simply the diminutive "Ilyusha".



MiG-15

Fighter

Manufacturer: Mikoyan-Gurevich

Origin: Soviet Union

First flight: 30 December 1947



1,097 Kills

- The MiG-15 was one of the first successful jet fighters to incorporate swept wings to achieve high transonic speeds.
- The MiG-15 is believed to have been one of the most produced jet aircraft with more than 13,000 manufactured.



Fiat G.50 Freccia

Fighter

Manufacturer: Fiat

Origin: Italy

First flight: 26 February 1937



1,100 Kills

- Used extensively on various fronts by Italy, including in Northern Europe, North Africa, the Balkans, and the Italian mainland.
- Finnish ace Oiva Tuominen scored 15 of his 33 victories while flying the G.50.



Sopwith Camel

Fighter

Manufacturer: Sopwith Aviation Company

Origin: United Kingdom

First flight: 22 December 1916



1,294 Kills

- The Camel was powered by a single rotary engine and was armed with twin synchronized Vickers machine guns.
- Agility in combat made the Camel one of the best-remembered Allied aircraft of World War I.



Hawker Hurricane

Fighter

Manufacturer: Hawker Aircraft

Origin: United Kingdom

First flight: 6 November 1935



1,200 Kills

- The Hurricane inflicted 60 percent of the losses sustained by the Luftwaffe in the Battle of Britain.
- It fought in all the major theatres of the World War II.



Grumman F4F Wildcat

Carrier-based Fighter

Manufacturer: Grumman

Origin: United States

First flight: 2 September 1937



1,327 Kills

- With a top speed of 512 km/h, the Wildcat was outperformed by the faster (533 km/h), more manoeuvrable, and longer-ranged Mitsubishi A6M Zero.
- By the end of World War II it had achieved an overall kill-to-loss ratio of 6.9:1.



Mitsubishi A6M "Zero"

Carrier-based Fighter

Manufacturer: Mitsubishi Heavy Industries

Origin: Japan

First flight: 1 April 1939



1,500 Kills

- The Zero is considered to have been the most capable carrier-based fighter in the world when it was introduced early in World War II
- The Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service (IJNAS) also frequently used it as a land-based fighter.



Vought F4U Corsair

Carrier-based Fighter-Bomber

Manufacturer: Chance Vought

Origin: United States

First flight: 29 May 1940



2,155 Kills

- It became one of the most capable carrier-based fighter-bombers of World War II.
- The Corsair served almost exclusively as a fighter-bomber throughout the Korean War and during the French colonial wars in Indochina and Algeria.



Curtiss P-40 Warhawk

Fighter

Manufacturer: Curtiss-Wright

Origin: United States

First flight: 14 October 1938



1,944 Kills

- The Warhawk was used by most Allied powers during World War II, and remained in front-line service until the end of the war.
- The P-40's lack of a two-speed supercharger made it inferior to Luftwaffe fighters such as the Messerschmitt Bf 109 or the Focke-Wulf Fw 190 in high-altitude combat.



Republic P-47 Thunderbolt

Fighter-Bomber

Manufacturer: Republic Aviation

Origin: United States

First flight: 6 May 1941



3,752 Kills

- When fully loaded, the P-47 weighed up to eight tons, making it one of the heaviest fighters of the war.
- The P-47 was noted for its firepower, as well as its ability to resist battle damage and remain airworthy.



Lockheed P-38 Lightning

Fighter/Fighter-Bomber

Manufacturer: Lockheed Corporation

Origin: United States

First flight: 27 January 1939



3,785 Kills

- The P-38 was utilized in various aerial combat roles including as a highly effective fighter-bomber, a night fighter, and as a long-range escort fighter when equipped with drop tanks.
- Unusual for a fighter of this time, the exhaust was muffled by the turbo-superchargers, making the P-38's operation relatively quiet.



Grumman F6F Hellcat

Carrier-based Fighter

Manufacturer: Grumman

Origin: United States

First flight: 26 June 1942



5,229 Kills

- The Hellcat was a well-designed carrier fighter, which was able to outperform the A6M Zero and help secure air superiority over the Pacific theatre.
- The F6F series was designed to take damage and get the pilot safely back to base.



Supermarine Spitfire

Fighter/Interceptor

Manufacturer: Supermarine

Origin: United Kingdom

First flight: 5 March 1936



4,000 Kills

- During the Battle of Britain, Spitfires were generally tasked with engaging Luftwaffe fighters - mainly Messerschmitt Bf 109E-series aircraft, which were a close match for them.
- The Spitfire served in several roles, including interceptor, photo-reconnaissance, fighter-bomber, and trainer



North American P-51 Mustang

Fighter

Manufacturer: North American Aviation

Origin: United States

First flight: 26 October 1940



5,994 Kills

- Mustangs were used by the USAAF's Eighth Air Force to escort bombers in raids over Germany.
- Despite the advent of jet fighters, the Mustang remained in service with some air forces until the early 1980s.



Focke-Wulf Fw 190

Fighter

Manufacturer: Focke-Wulf
Origin: German Luftwaffe
First flight: 1 June 1939



20,000 Kills

- It was regarded as one of the best fighter planes of World War II.
- The majority of its kills were achieved over the Eastern Front. Later it would be used to protect Germany against Allied daylight bombing.



Messerschmitt Bf 109

Fighter

Manufacturer: Messerschmitt AG
Origin: German Luftwaffe
First flight: 29 May 1935



+ 20,000 Kills

- It was called the Me 109 by Allied aircrew and some German aces.
- 13 Luftwaffe pilots scored more than 200 kills with the Bf 109, while two scored more than 300. The Soviets lost more than 21,200 aircraft.

Commemorative Founding Sunday

Sea Cadets celebrate Commemorative Founding Sunday. By Cdr Glenn von Zeil.

After a request by the Executive Officer, Cdr (SCC) Paul Jacobs requesting Commanding Officers to celebrate commemorative Sea Cadet Sunday, 13 June, several units and Sea Cadets took up the challenge.

On the 8 June 1905 a group of youngsters, made up of the Woodstock Boys Naval Brigade, paraded on Woodstock beach. This parade saw the opening of a new training base by Rear Admiral Sir John Durnford, Commander-in-Chief Royal Naval Station, Cape. It was the first time Sea Cadets wore a uniform.

Years later this group was re-named as TS Woltemade. This was three years before Colonel Baden-Powell held the camp on Brownsea Island, England, which led to the formation of the Boy Scout movement.

Due to the COVID-19 protocols Sea Cadets encouraged to rather participate in uniform in the religious services in their local communities.

This also ensured that the communities were exposed to Sea Cadets in uniform and the positive contribution they make in the community whilst celebrating the founding of the youth organisation.

It is envisaged that units will implement either a religious service or continue to visit services in their communities to celebrate the founding of the organisation on the Sunday closest to the 13 June.

Editor's Note: Glenn von Zeil has written a number of articles for Military Despatches on behalf of the Sea Cadets. Some of our more observant readers may have noticed that in this article his title is given as Commander Glenn von Zeil. He was recently promoted to this rank. Bravo Zulu Glenn, a promotion well deserved.



Hiroshima and Nagasaki - a few facts

On 6 August 1945 the Americans dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Three days later, on 9 August, they dropped a second bomb on Nagasaki. Here are a few facts that you may, or may not, have known about the bombings.

Situated on the main Japanese island of Honshu, Hiroshima was founded in 1598 as a castle town on the Ōta River delta.

Following the Meiji Restoration in 1868, Hiroshima rapidly transformed into a major urban center and industrial hub. In 1889, Hiroshima officially gained city status.

During World War II, the Second General Army and Chūgoku Regional Army was headquartered in Hiroshima, and the Army Marine Headquarters was located at Ujina port. The city also had large depots of military supplies, and was a key centre for shipping.

The bombing of Tokyo and other cities in Japan during World War II caused widespread destruction and hundreds of thousands of civilian

deaths. There were no such air raids on Hiroshima.

However, a real threat existed and was recognized. To protect against potential fire-bombings in Hiroshima, school children aged 11–14 years were mobilized to demolish houses and create firebreaks.

On Monday 6 August 1945 a lone American Boeing B-29 Superfortress, the Enola Gay, flown by Colonel Paul Tibbets, released a single bomb above the city. It was no ordinary bomb.

Given the code name 'Little Boy', it weighed 4,400 kg and was filled with 64 kg of Highly enriched uranium-235. It was the first of only two atomic bombs ever used in combat.

After falling for 44.4 seconds, the time and barometric triggers started the firing mechanism.

The detonation happened at an altitude of 600 metres above the city.

The destruction was sudden and swift.

The atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima released the energy equivalent to 15,000 tons of TNT.

Almost all of that energy was released in the initial thirty seconds after detonation: 35% in the form of heat and light, 50% in a pressure shock wave, and 5% in nuclear radiation.

The shock waves levelled almost all structures within a 1,6 km radius from the bombs' detonation. People within 500 metres were instantly incinerated.

According to figures published in 1945, 66,000 people were killed as a direct result of the Hiroshima blast, and

69,000 were injured to varying degrees. Fewer than 10% of the casualties were military.

Many people suffocated.

The immense explosions extended out nearly two kilometres, swiftly consuming oxygen in the blast areas, leaving little of the precious element left for living things to breathe.

The ensuing firestorms that engulfed many more miles of each city ate up even more oxygen. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, suffocated.

Tibbets and Enola Gay.

Colonel Paul Warfield Tibbets Jr. was the pilot of the Boeing B-29 Superfortress that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

Before that he already had a distinguished career. He flew the lead plane in the first American daylight heavy bomber mission against Occupied Europe on 17 August 1942, and the first American raid of more than 100 bombers in Europe on 9 October 1942.

Tibbets was chosen to fly Major General Mark W. Clark and Lieutenant General Dwight D. Eisenhower to Gibraltar.

The B-29, serial number 4486292, that had been selected to fly the mission to Hiroshima was formally named Enola Gay by Tibbets on 5 August 1945. He had named it after his mother.

The regularly assigned aircraft commander, Robert A. Lewis, was unhappy to be displaced by Tibbets for this important mission, and became furious when he arrived at the airfield on the morning of 6

August to see the aircraft he considered his painted with the now-famous nose art. Lewis would fly the mission as Tibbets's co-pilot.

In a 1975 interview, Tibbets said he had no regrets about dropping the bomb.

"I'm proud that I was able to start with nothing, plan it and have it work as perfectly as it did ... I sleep clearly every night. I knew when I got the assignment it was going to be an emotional thing. We had feelings, but we had to put them in the background. We knew it was going to kill people right and left. But my one driving interest was to do the best job I could so that we could end the killing as quickly as possible."

Tibbets retired from the United States Air Force (USAF) on 31 August 1966 with the rank of Brigadier General. He died on 1 November 2007 at the age of 92.

Waterways evaporated.

The Hiroshima fireball was 366 metres in diameter, with a surface temperature of 6,000 Celsius. The intense heat evaporated large volumes of water in the city.

Radioactive 'black rain' fell.

Water vapour rose into the sky and cooled, precipitating around soot and other debris.

Radioactive rain started falling roughly thirty minutes after detonation and lasted for a few hours.

The downpour extended over a large area roughly 11 x 19 kilometres. "The possibility exists that the black rain included the most fallout, two-thirds of

the nuclear radiation energy.

Ginkgo trees in the area survived, and are still growing today.

The Ginkgo biloba is also known as the Maidenhair tree. They first appeared over 290 million years ago and is considered a living fossil.

Few plants survived the bombing of Hiroshima. The ginkgo trees, however, is incredibly resilient to disease and damage.

Six ginkgo trees were growing within a 1,5 km radius of where the bomb detonated and they all survived with mild charring. They quickly recovered and you can still visit them today.

The Hiroshima Peace Flame will burn until all nuclear weapons are destroyed.

To serve as a reminder of the horrors of nuclear war and as a memorial to all the bombing victims.

The Peace Flame was built on the remains of Hiroshima's commercial and residential district and lit in 1964.

Burning at Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park, the flame will remain lit until all nuclear weapons are destroyed.

Hiroshima's official flower.

It was decided that the first flower to bloom after the bombing would become the official flower of Hiroshima.

Some thought that it would take up to 30 years for any flowers to bloom. Yet within a year the first Oleander blossoms were seen. The Oleander would therefore become the official flower of Hiroshima.



The Japanese detected the bomber.

Shortly before midnight on 5 August 1945, Japanese radar detected a group of American planes.

An alert was sounded in Hiroshima and air-raid sirens were sounded when the group of aircraft ahead of the Enola Gay flew over the city.

When nothing came of it the all-clear siren was sounded. An hour before the bomb was dropped the sirens were sounded again and shortly afterwards the all-clear was once more given.

An hour later, at 08h15 the Enola Gay dropped 'Little Boy'.

Before the atomic bombs were dropped, the US Army Air Force dropped pamphlets over Japan.

It's sometimes argued that this constituted a warning to the Japanese people but, in truth, these pamphlets didn't specifically warn of an impending nuclear attack on either Hiroshima or Nagasaki.

Instead, they only promised "prompt and utter destruction" and urged civilians to flee.

Haunting shadows were imprinted into the ground when the atomic bomb hit Hiroshima.

The bomb blast in Hiroshima was of such intensity that it permanently burned the shadows of people and objects into the ground. These became known as "Hiroshima shadows".

Today, some shadows are displayed at the Hiroshima Peace

Memorial Museum.

There were five Japanese cities selected as targets for the two atomic bombs, and Nagasaki was not one of them.

The list included Kokura, Hiroshima, Yokohama, Niigata and Kyoto.

It's said that Kyoto was ultimately spared because US Secretary of War Henry Stimson was fond of the ancient Japanese capital, having spent his honeymoon there decades earlier. Nagasaki took its place instead.

Bockscar

Most people with an interest in military history know that the Enola Gay, piloted by Paul Tibbets, was the first aircraft to drop an atomic bomb in combat.

Fewer people, however, know the name of the aircraft, and pilot, that dropped the second atomic bomb on Nagasaki.

The aircraft in question was another B-29. It was named Bockscar, sometimes referred to as Bock's Car, and it was flown by Major Charles W. Sweeney.

He retired from the US Air Force in 1979 with the rank of Major General. He passed away in 2004 at the age of 84.

The bombs used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were very different.

The "Little Boy" bomb dropped on Hiroshima was made of highly enriched uranium-235, while the "Fat Man" bomb dropped on Nagasaki was made of plutonium. The Nagasaki bomb was regarded as the more complex design and was also more powerful.

Nagasaki was not the original target.

On 9 August 1945 Bockscar set off to rendezvous with two other B-29s, The Great Artiste and The Big Stink. They would provide observation and instrumentation support.

After reaching the rendezvous point above Yakushima Island, Sweeney found The Great Artiste waiting, but Big Stink was nowhere to be seen.

After circling the rendezvous point for half an hour Bockscar and The Great Artiste climbed to an altitude of just over 9,000

metres and set off towards the target - the city of Kokura.

The target was covered by clouds and even though they made three bombing runs the bombardier was unable to drop.

By the time of the third bomb run, Japanese anti-aircraft fire was getting close, and Japanese fighter planes could be seen climbing to intercept Bockscar.

Major Sweeney then took the decision to proceed to the secondary target - Nagasaki.

More powerful bomb - less damage.

As the two aircraft approached Nagasaki, the heart of the city's downtown was covered by dense cloud, and Sweeney and the plane's weapons specialist, Commander Ashworth, initially decided to bomb Nagasaki using radar.

However, a small opening in the clouds allowed Bockscar's bombardier to verify the target as Nagasaki. As the crew had been ordered to drop the bomb visually if possible, Sweeney decided to proceed with a visual bomb run.

Bockscar then dropped Fat Man, with a blast yield equivalent to 21 kilotons of TNT. It exploded 43 seconds later at 469 meters above the ground, at least 2.5 kilometers north-west of the planned aim point.

The failure to drop Fat Man at the precise bomb aim point caused the atomic blast to be confined to the Urakami Valley.

As a consequence, a major portion of the city was protected by the intervening hills, and only 60% of Nagasaki was destroyed.

The codename for at least one of the bombs was taken from the film noir movie The Maltese Falcon.

The codename for at least one of the bombs was taken from the film noir movie The Maltese Falcon

The bombs' codenames, Little Boy and Fat Man were chosen by their creator Robert Serber, who apparently drew inspiration from John Huston's 1941 film The Maltese Falcon.

In the movie, Fat Man is a nickname for Sydney Greenstreet's character, Kasper Gutman, while the name Little Boy is said to derive from the epithet that Humphrey Bogart's character, Spade, uses for another character called Wilmer.

This has since been discredited, however – Spade only ever calls Wilmer "boy", never "little boy".

The most destructive World War II bombing attack on Japan was neither Hiroshima nor Nagasaki.

Operation Meetinghouse, the US firebombing of Tokyo on 9 March 1945, is considered the deadliest bombing raid in history.

An attack using incendiary bombs carried out by 334 B-29 bombers, Meetinghouse killed more than 100,000 people. Several times that number were also injured.

Tsutomu Yamaguchi survived both blasts.

Tsutomu Yamaguchi was a Japanese marine engineer and a survivor of both the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings during World War II. A resident

of Nagasaki, Yamaguchi was in Hiroshima on business for his employer Mitsubishi Heavy Industries when the city was bombed at 8:15 AM, on 6 August 1945.

He returned to Nagasaki the following day and, despite his wounds, he returned to work on 9 August, the day of the second atomic bombing.

That morning, while he was being berated by his supervisor as "crazy" after describing how one bomb had destroyed the city, the Nagasaki bomb detonated.

He died of stomach cancer on 4 January 2010 at the age of 93.

The dropping of the atomic bombs was not the main reason why Japan surrendered.

Recent scholarship, based on the minutes of meetings held between Japanese government officials in the lead up to surrender, suggest that the Soviet Union's unexpected entry into the war with Japan played a more decisive role.

On 8 August 1945, two days after the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, the Soviet Union officially declared war on Japan, pouring more than one million Soviet soldiers into Japanese-occupied Manchuria, north-eastern China, to take on the 700,000-strong Japanese army.

Emperor Hirohito began to plead with his War Council to reconsider surrender. The recalcitrant members began to waver.

Oleander blossoms



Rank Structure - Norwegian Armed 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 Norwegian Armed Forces.

The Norwegian Armed Forces (*Forsvaret*, “The Defence”) is the military organisation responsible for the defence of Norway. It consists of four branches, the Norwegian Army, the Royal Norwegian Navy, which includes the Coast Guard, the Royal Norwegian Air Force, and the Home Guard, as well as several joint departments. The military force in peace time is around 23,250 personnel including military and civilian

staff, and around 63,250 in total with the current military personnel, conscripts and the Norwegian Home Guard in full mobilization. Among European NATO members, the military expenditure of US\$7.2 billion is the highest per capita. As of June 2021 Norway still has soldiers and diplomats in Afghanistan, and Norway staffs a military hospital at Kabul Airport.



Norwegian Army

Non-commissioned Officers (NCO)



Menig
(Private)



Ledende menig
(Leading Private)



Visekorporal
(Vice Corporal)



Visekorporal 1. klasse
(Vice Corporal 1st Class)



Korporal
(Corporal)



Korporal 1. klasse
(Corporal 1st Class)



Sersjant
(Sergeant)



Sersjant 1. klasse
(Sergeant 1st Class)



Oversersjant
(Senior Sergeant)



Stabssersjant
(Staff Sergeant)



Kommandersersjant
(Command Sergeant)



Sersjantmajor
(Sergeant Major)



Sjefssersjant
(Chief Sergeant)

Officers



Fenrik
(2nd Lieutenant)



Løytnant
(Lieutenant)



Kaptein
(Captain)



Major
(Major)



Oberstløytnant
(Lieutenant Colonel)



Oberst
(Colonel)



Brigader
(Brigadier)



Generalmajor
(Major General)



Generalløytnant
(Lieutenant General)



General
(General)

Royal Norwegian Navy
Non-commissioned Officers (NCO)



Menig (Seaman) Ledende menig (Leading Seaman) Visekorporal (Vice Corporal) Senior visekonstabel (Senior Constable) Konstabel (Constable)



Ledende konstabel (Leading Constable) Kvartermester (Quartermaster) Senior kvartermester (Senior Quartermaster) Skvadronmester (Squadron Master)



Flotiljemester (Flotilla Master) Orlogsmester (War Master) Flaggmester (Flag Master) Sjefsmester (Command Master Chief Petty Officer)

Officers



Fenrik (Ensign) Løytnant (Lieutenant) Kapteinløytnant (Captain-Lieutenant) Orlogskaptein (War Captain) Kommandørkaptein (Commander-Captain)



Kommandør (Commander) Flaggkommandør (Flag Commander) Kontreadmiral (Rear Admiral) Viseadmiral (Vice Admiral) Admiral (Admiral)

Royal Norwegian Air Force
Non-commissioned Officers (NCO)



Flysoldat (Airman) Ledende flysoldat (Leading Airman) Visespesialist (Junior Specialist) Spesialist (Specialist) Ledende spesialist (Leading Specialist)



Seniorspesialist (Senior Specialist) Sersjant (Sergeant) Vingsersjant (Wing Sergeant) Oversersjant (Senior Sergeant)



Stabssersjant
(Staff Sergeant)



Kommandersersjant
(Command Sergeant)



Sersjantmajor
(Sergeant Major)



Sjefssersjant
(Command
Sergeant Major)

Officers



Fenrik
(2nd Lieutenant)



Løytnant
(Lieutenant)



Kaptein
(Captain)



Major
(Major)



Oberstløytnant
(Lieutenant Colonel)



Oberst
(Colonel)



Brigader
(Brigadier)



Generalmajor
(Major General)



Generalløytnant
(Lieutenant General)



General
(General)

Quiz Answers

1. Claymore mine.

2. M26 hand grenade.

3. AK-47.

4. 25-Pounder field gun.

5. Water bottle.

6. A10 Thunderbolt (Warthog).

7. Varkpan.

8. Ratel 90.

9. SA Basic Parachute Wings.

10. M2 Browning HMG

11. AKM.

12. T55 Tank.

13. Heckler & Koch MP5.

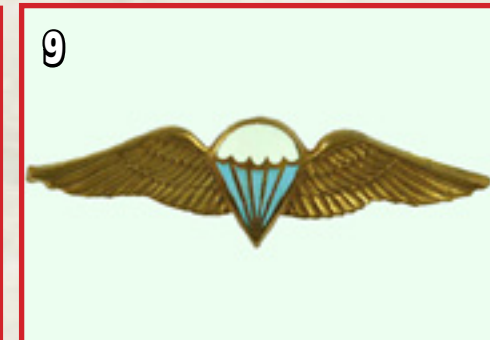
14. Super Marine Spitfire Mk.1.

15. SA Signals Corps beret.



Up close and personal

So, how many of those did you get right? Here are the full size images which should give you a better idea of what you were looking at. You'll find the answers on the opposite page. Trust you enjoyed this.



Best modern-day Main Battle Tanks

This month what are regarded as the 10 best modern-day Main Day Battle Tanks go Head-to-Head.

Since World War I, the tank has played a significant role in battle. In this month's Head-To-Head we take a look at what are regarded as the ten best modern-day Main Battle Tanks.

Our analysis is based on the combined score of protection,, firepower, accuracy, and mobility.

None of the main battle tanks listed here have seen combat against each other during military operations yet. And even though some things, such as

arm-or composition, are kept in high secrecy, we know a lot about these machines.

Data on their protection, firing range, accuracy, capabilities of their fire control systems, and so on are widely available. So we know capabilities of each of these tanks. This analysis is based on specifications and available data.

All of the tanks mentioned here are incredibly powerful and devastating. However crew training of the tank is also an important factor, as perfor-

mance of the actual main battle tanks depends on the crew performance.

This list do not contains main battle tanks that are currently under development, at the prototype stage or tanks that never reach production.

The only exception here is the Russian T 14 Armata main battle tank which was produced in small numbers for testing and evaluation, but is not yet produced in quantity.

Currently the Top 10 best tanks in the world are:

10. T-90

The T-90 is a third-generation Russian main battle tank that entered service in 1993. The tank is a modern variation of the T-72B and incorporates many features found on the T-80U.

Originally called the T-72BU, but later renamed to T-90, it is an advanced tank in service with Russian Ground Forces and the Naval Infantry.

The T-72BU was officially accepted into service on 5 October 1992 by the Russian Ministry of Defence and simultaneously renamed as the T-90 for marketing and propaganda purposes aimed at distancing the new type from existing T-72 variants.

An early variant of the export-oriented T-90S allegedly saw combat action during the 1999 Chechen invasion of Dag-



estan.

- Manufacturer: Uralvagon-zavod
- Mass: 46 tonnes
- Length: 9.63 metres
- Width: 3.78 metres
- Height: 2.22 metres
- Crew: Three
- Armour: Steel-composite-reactive blend
- Main armament: 2A46M

- 125 mm smooth-bore gun (43 rounds)
- Secondary armament: 12.7mm Kord Heavy machine gun; 7.62mm PKMT
- Engine: V-84MS 12-cylinder diesel
- Operational range: 550 km (without fuel drums)
- Maximum speed: 60 km/h



9. T-84 Oplot

The T-84 is a Ukrainian main battle tank and a development of the Soviet T-80 main battle tank.

The T-84 was first built in 1994 and entered service in the Ukrainian Armed Forces in 1999.

T-84 Oplot-M is an upgraded version of the "T-84 Oplot" mounting more advanced armor, new electronic counter-measure systems, and others. One visible feature is the new PNK-6 panoramic tank sight.

In September 2011, the Malyshev Plant announced plans to produce the first batch of five Oplot-M tanks for the Thai Army.

- Manufacturer: Malyshev Factory

8. Leclerc 2

The Leclerc is in service with the French Army and the United Arab Emirates Army.

In production since 1991, the Leclerc entered French service in 1992, replacing the AMX 30 as the country's main armoured platform.

During the Iron Spear exercise in October 2019, Leclerc tanks crewed by the Lynx 6 Tactical Inter-Service Sub-Group (S-GTIA) participated in an inter-alliance exercise and surpassed the American M1A2 Abrams, German, Spanish and Norwegian Leopard 2s, Italian Ariete C1 and Polish P91.

The Leclerc has mostly seen deployment on low-intensity conflicts, including 15 Leclerc stationed in Kosovo and others



- Mass: 46 tonnes
- Length: 7.086 metres
- Width: 3.775 metres
- Height: 2.215 metres
- Crew: Three
- Armour: Steel, composite, ERA
- Main armament: 125 mm smooth-bore KBA-3 cannon (43 rounds)
- Secondary armament: 7.62 mm KT-7.62 Coaxial machine gun; 12.7 mm KT-12.7 anti-aircraft machine gun
- Engine: KMDB 6TD-2 6-cylinder diesel 16.3 litre 1,200 hp
- Operational range: 540 km
- Maximum speed: 65-70 km/h



- in Lebanon (UNIFIL) within UN peace-keeping operations.
- Manufacturer: Nexter
- Mass: 56.3 tonnes
- Length: 9.87 metres
- Width: 3.60 metres
- Height: 2.53 metres
- Crew: Three
- Armour: Modular composite armour
- Main armament: GIAT

- CN120-26/52 120mm tank gun (40 rounds)
- Secondary armament: 12.7 mm coaxial M2HB machine gun
- Engine: V8X SACM (Wärtsilä) 8-cylinder diesel engine 1,500 hp
- Operational range: 550 km
- Maximum speed: 71 km/h on the road

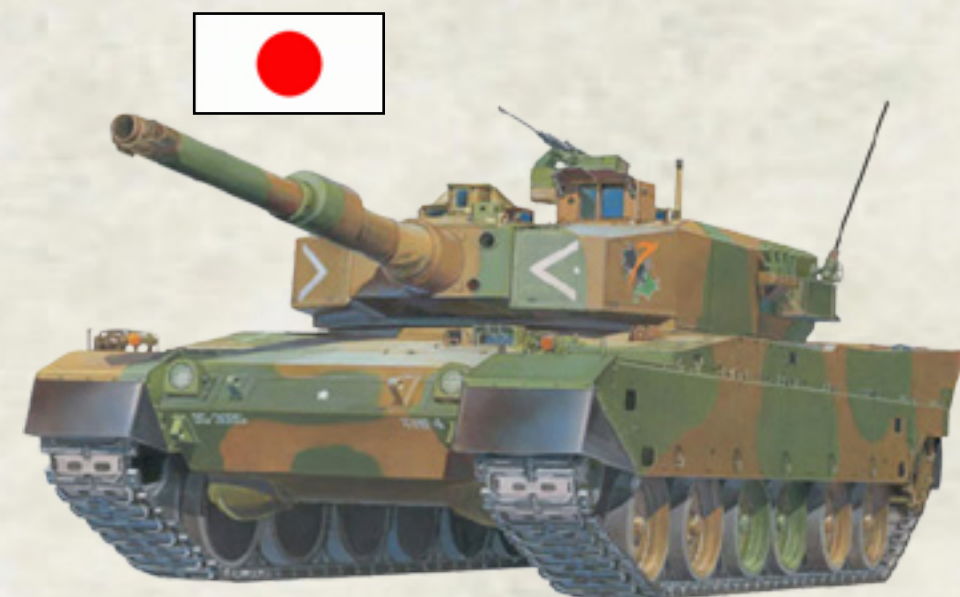
HEAD TO HEAD

7. Type 90

The Type 90 tank is a main battle tank (MBT) of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) and entered service in 1990. It is to be superseded by the Type 10 tank.

Since its introduction there have been several upgrades to the fire-control system, including the addition of a Yttrium-Aluminium-Garnet laser range-finder with a range of 300 to 5,000 metres.

- Manufacturer: Mitsubishi Heavy Industries
- Mass: 50.2 tonnes
- Length: 9.76 metres
- Width: 3.43 metres
- Height: 2.34 metres
- Crew: Three
- Armour: Modular ceramic/



- steel composite armour
- Main armament: Rheinmetall 120 mm smooth-bore gun with automatic loader
- Secondary armament: M2HB 12.7 mm machine gun; Type 74 7.62 mm machine gun
- Engine: Mitsubishi 10ZG 10-cylinder, two-stroke cycle, 1,500 hp
- Operational range: 350 km
- Maximum speed: 70 km/h

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6. Merkava Mk.4

The Merkava is the main battle tank used by the Israel Defence Forces. The tank began development in 1970, and entered official service in 1979.

The Mk.4 is the latest version. It was first used extensively in the 1982 Lebanon War.

Following the Second Intifada the Israel Defence Forces modified some of their Merkavas to satisfy the needs of urban warfare.

- Manufacturer: MANTAK
- Mass: 65 tonnes
- Length: 9.04 metres
- Width: 3.72 metres
- Height: 2.66 metres
- Crew: Four (up to six passengers)
- Armour: Classified compos-



- ite/sloped armour
- Main armament: 120 mm MG253 smooth-bore gun
- Secondary armament: 1 × 12.7 mm MG; 3 × 7.62 mm MG; 1 × Mk 19 grenade launcher; 1 × 60 mm internal mortar
- Engine: 1,500 hp turbo-charged diesel engine
- Operational range: 500 km
- Maximum speed: 64 km/h on road

Merkava Mk 4M Windbreaker, fitted with Trophy active protection system, during Operation Protective Edge



5. T-14 Armata

The T-14 Armata is a next-generation Russian main battle tank based on the Armata Universal Combat Platform - the first series-produced next-generation tank.

The Russian Army initially planned to acquire 2,300 T-14s between 2015 and 2020. Production and fiscal shortfalls delayed this to 2025, and then to the cancellation of the main production run.

The test batch of 100 was delivered and deployed to the 2nd Guards Tamanskaya Motor Rifle Division in 2019. Tanks will be transferred only after the completion of all state tests.

- Manufacturer: Ural-vagonzavod



- Mass: 55 tonnes
- Length: 8.7 metres
- Width: 3.5 metres
- Height: 3.3 metres
- Crew: Three
- Armour: 44S-sv-Sh Steel
- Main armament: 2A82-1M 125 mm smooth-bore cannon (45 rounds)
- Secondary armament: 12.7 mm Kord machine gun; 7.62 mm PKTM machine gun
- Engine: Diesel, 2,000 hp
- Operational range: 500 km
- Maximum speed: 80-90 km/h (estimated)

4. Challenger 2

The FV4034 Challenger 2 (MOD designation “CR2”) is a third generation British main battle tank in service with the armies of the United Kingdom and Oman.

The Challenger 2 had been used in peacekeeping missions and exercises before, but its first combat use came in March 2003 during the invasion of Iraq. 7th Armoured Brigade, part of 1st Armoured Division, was in action with 120 Challenger 2s around Basra.

The type saw extensive use during the siege of Basra, providing fire support to the British forces and knocking out Iraqi tanks, mainly T-54/55s.

- Manufacturer: BAE Systems Land & Armaments



- Mass: 64 tonnes
- Length: 8.3 metres
- Width: 3.5 metres
- Height: 4.49 metres
- Crew: Four
- Armour: Chobham/Dorchester Level 2 (classified)
- Main armament: L30A1 120 mm rifled gun (47 rounds)
- Secondary armament: 7.62 mm L94A1 chain gun EX-34 (chain gun), 7.62 mm L37A2 Operator/Loader’s hatch machine gun
- Engine: Perkins CV12-6A V12 diesel 26.1 litre 1,200 bhp
- Operational range: 550 km
- Maximum speed: 59 km/h on road

3. Abrams M1A2 SEPv2

The M1 Abrams is a third-generation American main battle tank conceived for modern armoured ground warfare and now one of the heaviest tanks in service.

The export version is used by the armies of Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Australia, and Iraq. The Abrams was first used in combat in the Persian Gulf War and has seen combat in both the War in Afghanistan and Iraq War under U.S. service, while Iraqi Abrams tanks have seen action in the war against ISIL and have seen use by Saudi Arabia during the Yemeni Civil War.

- Manufacturer: General Dynamics Land Systems
- Mass: 71.2 tonnes



- Length: 7.93 metres
- Width: 3.66 metres
- Height: 2.44 metres
- Crew: Four
- Armour: Composite armour
- Main armament: 120 mm L/44 M256A1 smooth-bore gun (42 rounds)
- Secondary armament: 1 × 12.7 mm M2HB heavy machine gun; 2 × 7.62 mm M240 machine guns
- Engine: Honeywell AGT1500C multi-fuel turbine engine 1,500 shp
- Operational range: 426 km
- Maximum speed: 67 km/h on road



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2. K2 Black Panther

The K2 Black Panther is a next generation South Korean main battle tank that will replace most of the remaining M48 Patton tanks and complement the K1 series of main battle tanks currently fielded by the South Korean military.

The K2 is capable of fording 4 metre-deep rivers, is equipped with a posture control function that can tilt the chassis or lower its overall height by 40 cm and deploys a laser warning system that can turn the turret towards the source of hostile fire almost instantaneously.

- Manufacturer: Hyundai Rotem
- Mass: 55 tonnes
- Length: 7.5 metres
- Width: 3.6 metres



- Height: 2.4 metres
- Crew: Three
- Armour: POSCO MIL-12560H armour steel and other classified plate
- Main armament: Hyundai WIA CN08 120 mm smooth-bore gun (40 rounds)
- Secondary armament: 1× 12.7×99mm K6 heavy machine gun; 1× 7.62×51mm NATO coaxial machine gun
- Engine: Lot 1: MTU MT-883 Ka-501 4-cycle, 12-cylinder water-cooled diesel 1,500 hp
- Operational range: 450 km
- Maximum speed: 70 km/h on road



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1. Leopard 2A7+

The Leopard 2 is a main battle tank developed in the 1970s for the West German Army. The tank first entered service in 1979 and succeeded the earlier Leopard 1 as the main battle tank of the German Army.

The Leopard 2 was used in Kosovo with the German Army, and has seen action in Afghanistan with the Dutch, Danish and Canadian contributions to the International Security Assistance Force, as well as seeing action in Syria with the Turkish Armed Forces.

The Leopard 2A7+ is designed to operate both in low intensity and high intensity conflicts. It offers 360° protection against RPGs and mine protection increases the survivability



of the tank in urban operations.

- Manufacturer: Krauss-Maffei Wegmann
- Mass: 62.3 tonnes
- Length: 9.97 metres (gun forward)
- Width: 3.75 metres
- Height: 3.0 metres
- Crew: Four
- Armour: 3rd generation composite
- Main armament: 1× 120 mm Rheinmetall L/44 or

L/55 smooth-bore gun (42 rounds)

- Secondary armament: 2× 7.62 mm MG3A1 or 2× 7.62 mm FN MAG
- Engine: MTU MB 873 Ka-501 liquid-cooled V12 twin-turbo diesel engine 1,500 hp
- Operational range: 400 km
- Maximum speed: 70 km/h on road



Roza Shanina

Described by a Canadian newspaper in 1944 as “the unseen terror of East Prussia”, she became the first servicewoman of the 3rd Belorussian Front to receive the Order of Glory. A Soviet sniper, she was credited with 59 confirmed kills. Her name was Roza Shanina.

On Sunday 22 June 1941 Nazi Germany launched Operation Barbarossa (Red Beard), its invasion of the Soviet Union. The invasion took Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin by surprise.

After all, the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact had been signed in Moscow on 23 August 1939 by German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop and Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov.

It was officially known as the Treaty of Non-Aggression between Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Its clauses provided a written guarantee of peace by each party towards the other and a commitment that declared that neither government would ally itself to or aid an enemy of the other. Stalin refused to believe that Hitler had broken the pact.

It wasn't long before Russia was fighting for its very existence. Every Soviet citizen was expected to do their duty in protecting the Motherland. And this included women.

Around a million women fought in various branches of the Soviet military. Some nursed and supported, as in other countries, but others drove tanks, operated machine guns, and flew fighter planes. 2,484 of them became snipers. Of those, only around 500 would survive

the war.

Some female snipers would go on to become legends. This included women such as Nina Lobkovskaya and Lyudmila Pavlichenko.

Lobkovskaya would be credited with 89 confirmed kills and not only did she survive the war, in March this year she celebrated her 96th birthday.

Lyudmila Pavlichenko was credited with 309 confirmed kills, making her the most successful female sniper in recorded history.

Pavlichenko was nicknamed “Lady Death” for her incredible ability with a sniper rifle. She survived the war and passed away in October 1974 at the

age of 58.

Another Soviet sniper that achieved great success was Roza Shanina.

Early life

Roza Georgiyevna Shanina was born on 3 April 1924 in the Russian village of Edma in Arkhangelsk Oblast to Anna Alexeyevna Shanina, a kolkhoz milkmaid, and Georgiy (Yegor) Mikhailovich Shanin, a logger who had been disabled by a wound received during World War I.



Roza was reportedly named after the Marxist revolutionary Rosa Luxemburg and had six siblings: one sister Yuliya and five brothers. The Shanins also raised three orphans.

Roza was above average height, with light brown hair and blue eyes, and spoke in a Northern Russian dialect.

After finishing four classes of elementary school in Yedma, Shanina continued her education in the village of Bereznik. As there was no school transport at the time, when she was in grades five through seven Roza had to walk 13 kilometres to Bereznik to attend middle school. On Saturdays, Shanina again went to Bereznik to take care of her ill aunt Agnia Borisova.

At the age of fourteen, Shanina, against her parents' wishes, walked 200 kilometres across the taiga to the rail station and travelled to Arkhangelsk to study at the college there.

Shanina left home with little money and almost no possessions; and before moving to the college dormitory she lived with her elder brother Fyodor.

In 1938, Shanina became a member of the Soviet youth movement Komsomol. Two years later, Soviet secondary education institutes introduced tuition fees, and the scholarship fund was cut.

Shanina received little financial support from home and on 11 September 1941, she took a job at a kindergarten, with which she was offered a free apartment.

She studied in the evenings and worked in the kindergarten during the daytime. Shanina graduated from college in the 1941–42 academic year, when the Soviet Union was in the grip of World War II.

Tour of duty

Following the German invasion of the Soviet Union, Arkhangelsk was bombed by the Luftwaffe, and Shanina and other townspeople were involved in fire-fighting and mounted voluntary vigils on rooftops to protect the kindergarten.

Shanina's two elder brothers had volunteered for the military. In December 1941, a death notification was received for her 19 year-old brother Mikhail, who had died during the siege of Leningrad.

In response, Shanina went to the military commissariat to ask for permission to serve. Two more of Shanina's brothers died in the war.

At that time the Soviet Union had begun deploying female snipers because they had flexible limbs, and it was believed that they were patient, careful and cunning.

In February 1942, Soviet women between the ages of 16 and 45 became eligible for the military draft, but Shanina was not drafted that month, as the local military commissariat wanted to spare her from the draft.

She first learned to shoot at a shooting range. On 22 June 1943, while still living in the

dormitory, Shanina was accepted into the Vseobuch program for universal military training.

After Shanina's several applications, the military commissariat finally allowed her to enroll in the Central Women's Sniper Training School, where she met Aleksandra “Sasha” Yekimova and Kaleriya “Kalya” Petrova, who became her closest friends, with Shanina calling them “the vagrant three”.

Honed to a fine point, Shanina scored highly in training and graduated from the academy with honours.

She was asked to stay as an instructor there, but refused due to a call of duty. In 1941–1945 a total of 2,484 Soviet female snipers were deployed for the war and their combined tally of kills is estimated to be at least 11,280.

After the momentous victory in the Battle of Stalingrad, the Soviets mounted nationwide counter-offensives and Shanina on 2 April 1944 joined the 184th Rifle Division, where a separate female sniper platoon had been formed. Shanina was appointed a commander of that platoon.

For her actions in the battle for the village of Kozyi Gory (Smolensk Oblast), Shanina was awarded her first military decoration, the Order of Glory 3rd Class, on 18 April 1944. She became the first servicewoman of the 3rd Belorussian Front to receive that order.

According to the report of Major Degtyarev (the commander of the 1138th Rifle Reg-



iment), she received the award for the corresponding commendation list, between 6 and 11 April Shanina killed 13 enemy soldiers while subjected to artillery and machine gun fire.

By May 1944, her sniper tally increased to 17 confirmed enemy kills, and Shanina was praised as a precise and brave soldier. The same year, on 9 June, Shanina's portrait was featured on the front page of the Soviet newspaper *Unichtozhim Vraga*.

When Operation Bagration commenced in the Vitebsk region on 22 June 1944, it was decided that female snipers would be withdrawn. They voluntarily continued to support the advancing infantry anyway, and despite the Soviet policy of sparing snipers, Shanina asked to be sent to the front line. Although her request was refused, she went anyway.

Shanina was later sanctioned for going to the front line without permission, but did not face a court martial. She wanted to be attached to a battalion or a reconnaissance company, turning to the commander of the 5th Army, Nikolai Krylov. Shanina also wrote twice to Joseph Stalin with the same request.

From 26 to 28 June 1944,

Shanina participated in the elimination of the encircled German troops near Vitebsk during the Vitebsk–Orsha Offensive.

As the Soviet army advanced further westward, from 8 to 13 July of the same year, Shanina and her sisters-in-arms took part in the battle for Vilnius, which had been under German occupation since 24 June 1941.

The Germans were finally driven out from Vilnius on 13 July 1944. During the Soviet summer offensives of that year Shanina managed to capture three Germans.

From her time at the military academy, Shanina became known for her ability to score doublets (two target hits made in quick succession).

During one period she crawled through a muddy communications trench each day at dawn to a specially camouflaged pit which overlooked German-controlled territory.

Shanina successfully used counter-sniper tactics against a German cuckoo sniper hidden in a tree, by waiting until dusk when the space between the tree branches would be backlit by sunlight and the sniper's nest became visible. On one occasion, Shanina also made use of selective fire from a submachine gun.

East Prussia

In August 1944, advancing Soviet troops had reached the Soviet border with East Prussia and by 31 August of that year Shanina's battle count reached 42 kills.

The following month the Šešupė River was crossed. Shanina's 184th Rifle Division became the first Soviet unit to enter East Prussia. At that time, two Canadian newspapers, the *Ottawa Citizen* and *Leader-Post*, reported that according to an official dispatch from the Šešupė River front, Shanina killed five Germans in one day as she crouched in a sniper hideout.

Later in September, her sniper tally had reached 46 kills, of which 15 were made on German soil and seven during an offensive. On 17 September, *Unichtozhim Vraga* credited Shanina with 51 hits.

In the third quarter of 1944, Shanina was given a short furlough and visited Arkhangelsk. She returned to the front on 17 October for one day, and later received an honourable certificate from the Central Committee of Komsomol.

On 16 September 1944, Shanina was awarded her second military distinction, the Order of Glory 2nd Class for intrepidity and bravery displayed in various battles against the Germans in that year.

On 26 October 1944 Shanina became eligible for the Order of Glory 1st Class for her actions in a battle near Schlossberg (now Dobrovolsk), but ultimately received the Medal for Courage instead. She was among the first female snipers to receive the Medal for Courage.

Shanina was awarded the medal on 27 December for the

gallant posture displayed during a German counter-offensive on 26 October. There Shanina fought together with Captain Igor Aseyev, a Hero of the Soviet Union, and witnessed his death on 26 October.

Shanina, who served as an assistant platoon commander, was ordered to commit the female snipers to combat. Schlossberg was finally retaken from Germans by the troops of the 3rd Belorussian Front on 16 January 1945 during the Insterburg–Königsberg Operation.

On 12 December 1944, an enemy sniper shot Shanina in her right shoulder. She wrote in her diary that she had not felt the pain, "the shoulder was just scalded with something hot."

Although the injury, which Shanina described as "two small holes", seemed minor to her, she needed an operation and was incapacitated for several days. She reported in her diary that the previous day she had a prophetic dream in which she was wounded in exactly the same place.

On 8 January 1945, Nikolai Krylov formally allowed Shanina to participate in front-line combat, albeit with great reluctance: previously Shanina was denied that permission by the commander of the 184th Rifle Division and the military council of the 5th Army as well.

Five days later, the Soviets launched the East Prussian Offensive, which prompted heavy fighting in East Prussia. By 15 January, travelling with divisional logistics, Shanina

reached the East Prussian town of Eydtkuhnen (now Chernyshevskoye), where she used white military camouflage.

Several days later, she experienced friendly fire from a Katyusha rocket launcher and wrote in her diary, "Now I understand why the Germans are so afraid of Katyushas. What a fire!"

At the border of East Prussia, Shanina killed 26 enemy soldiers. The last unit she served in was the 144th Rifle Division. According to the online Book of Memory of Arkhangelsk Oblast, Shanina served in the 205th Special Motorized Rifle Battalion of that division. Shanina had hoped to go to university after the war, or if that was not possible, to raise orphans.

In the course of her tour of duty Shanina was mentioned in despatches several times. Her final sniper tally reached fifty-nine confirmed kills, including twelve kills during the Battle of Vilnius, with sixty-two enemies knocked out of action.

Domestically, her achievements were acknowledged particularly by the war correspondent Ilya Ehrenburg and in the newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda*, which said that Shanina was one of the best snipers in her unit and that even veteran soldiers were inferior to her in shooting accuracy.

Shanina's exploits were also reported in the Western press, particularly in Canadian newspapers, where she was called "the unseen terror of East Prussia". She paid no special atten-

tion to the achieved renown, and once wrote that she had been overrated.

On 16 January 1945, Shanina wrote in her combat diary: "What I've actually done? No more than I have to as a Soviet person, having stood up to defend the motherland."

She also wrote, "The essence of my happiness is fighting for the happiness of others. It's strange, why is it that in grammar, the word "happiness" can only be singular? That is counter to its meaning, after all. ... If it turns necessary to die for the common happiness, then I'm braced to."

Death

In the face of the East Prussian Offensive, the Germans tried to strengthen the localities they controlled against great odds. In a diary entry dated 16 January 1945, Shanina wrote that despite her wish to be in a safer place, some unknown force was drawing her to the front line.

In the same entry, she wrote that she had no fear and that she had even agreed to go "to a melee combat." The next day, Shanina wrote in a letter that she might be on the verge of being killed because her battalion had lost 72 out of 78 people.

Her last diary entry reports that German fire had become so intense that the Soviet troops, including herself, had sheltered inside self-propelled guns.

On 27 January, Shanina was severely wounded and was later found by two soldiers disem-



FINAL RESTING PLACE: The grave of Rosa Shanina stands near the settlement of Westhlau. She was only 20 years old when she died.

bowelled, with her chest torn open by a shell fragment.

Despite attempts to save her, Shanina died the following day near the Richau estate (later a Soviet settlement of Telmanovka), three kilometres northwest of the East Prussian village of Ilmsdorf.

Nurse Yekaterina Radkina remembered Shanina telling her that she regretted having done so little. By the day of Shanina's death, the Soviets had overtaken several major East Prussian localities, including Tilsit, Insterburg and Pillau, and approached Königsberg.

Recalling the moment Shanina's mother received notification of her daughter's death, her brother Marat wrote: "I clearly remembered mother's eyes.

They weren't teary anymore. ... 'That's all, that's all' - she repeated".

Shanina was buried under a spreading pear tree on the shore of the Alle River - now called the Lava - and was later reinterred in the settlement of Wehlau.

Diary

Shanina started writing a combat diary; although diaries were strictly prohibited in the Soviet military.

After Shanina's death, the diary, consisting of three thick notebooks, was kept by the war correspondent Pyotr Molchanov for twenty years in Kiev.

Several of Shanina's letters and some data from her sniper log have also been published.

Female snipers of the Soviet Union

Nearly 2,500 female snipers were used by the Soviet Union during World War II. Many of them were to become Hero's of the Soviet Union and they were feared by the Germans. Here are just some of them.



Lyudmila Pavlichenko

Lyudmila Mikhailovna Pavlichenko was a Soviet sniper in the Red Army during World War II, who was credited with 309 confirmed kills, making her the most successful female sniper in recorded history.

Pavlichenko was nicknamed "Lady Death" for her incredible ability with a sniper rifle.



Natalya Kovshova

Natalya Kovshova was a Soviet female sniper who fought in World War II.

She was posthumously awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union, the Soviet Union's highest award for bravery, on 14 February 1943.



Mariya Polivanova

Mariya Semyonovna Polivanova was a Soviet sniper during World War II.

Polivanova worked as a team with Natalya Kovshova, often acting as her spotter. Together they were credited with more than 300 kills.

Awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union, the Soviet Union.



Marie Lastovecká

Marie Ljalková-Lastovecká was a Czechoslovak sniper, military medic and member of the Czechoslovak Army in exile fighting alongside Soviet Army during World War II.

Credited with 30 confirmed kills.



Tatyana Baramzina

Tatyana Nikolayevna Baramzina was a Soviet sniper and telephone operator in World War II who was posthumously awarded the title of the Hero of the Soviet Union on 24 March 1945 for her attempts to defend wounded Red Army soldiers.



Nina Lobkovskaya

Nina Alexeyevna Lobkovskaya served as a sniper for the Red Army and attained the rank of Lieutenant in a separate sniper unit of the 3rd Shock Army during World War II.

She reached 89 confirmed kills.

Ratel IFV

Each month "Forged in Battle" looks at weapons, equipment or units that have been tried and tested on the battlefield. This month we look at the South African Ratel IFV.

Up until the late 1960s the South African Army had used the British Alvis Saracen Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC). There were, however, a few problems with this.

First of all the Saracen was becoming very dated. Secondly, and more importantly, South Africa were beginning to feel the squeeze of the international arms embargo. It was becoming more and more difficult to get hold of spare parts for the Saracens. It became clear that South Africa would need to find an alternative.

The decision was made that South Africa would have to both design and manufacture

their own vehicles. The Ratel was the end result.

It was named after the Ratel (Afrikaans word for honey badger), a small carnivore that has few natural predators due to its thick skin and ferocious defensive abilities.

Unlike the Saracen, the Ratel was not an APC but rather an IFV (Infantry Fighting Vehicle). It was intended to provide infantry battalions with mechanised capabilities.

Contrary to some views the Ratel was a totally new requirement and not a replacement for the Saracen. In fact, the Saracens were retained in their original roles for some years after the Ratel entered

service and even underwent an upgrade (Project Fellies) before they were eventually retired.

Enter the Ratel

The Ratel was engineered largely from a prototype from a local subsidiary of Büssing and it was built on a modified 6x6 MAN military truck chassis.

Three more prototypes were developed and tested by the SADF (South African Defence Force) between 1971 and 1975. A production contract for the vehicle was then awarded to Sandock-Austral.

Mass production of a base

Ratel-20 chassis peaked in 1976, and the vehicle entered combat deployment in 1977.

Other variants, including the improved Mark II and Mark III versions of the basic Ratel were phased in throughout the 1980s. Mark I vehicles were upgraded to Mark II and III during refits. Over a thousand Ratels were eventually manufactured.

Characteristics

From the outset it was important that the Ratel be designed with the Southern African environment in mind. It also had to make use of the combat experience of the SADF. The main requirements were that the vehicle had to be well armoured, well armed, and offer mobility.

The Ratel made history by being the first wheeled IFV. Prior to that IFVs were tracked vehicles.

The six run-flat tires gave the

Ratel long-distance speed, mobility, and ease of maintenance that tracked vehicles lack. The fact that it was wheeled gave it another major advantage. Unlike the United States Army's M2/M3 Bradley or Warsaw Pact's BMP designs, the Ratel did not need to be transported long distances on trains or trailer trucks. It can simply be driven to the destination.

Another plus factor was that the Ratel had an operational radius of 1,000 kilometres, far superior to other IFVs. The M2/M3 Bradley, for example, has an operational radius of 450 kilometres.

While the vehicle's high profile makes it a bigger target it enables the crews to see the surrounding area more easily when maneuvering in tall bush, something common to the terrain in Southern Africa.

The Ratel offered good ground clearance and cross-country performance. When it came to mobility the Ratel ticked all the right boxes.

The Ratel was relatively

lightly armoured when compared to some other IFVs. This was in order to preserve mobility, weapon space, and range.

The vehicle was well protected against bullets and artillery shell splinters, but vulnerable to anti-tank guns, automatic cannon, rocket-propelled grenades and guided missiles. Yet the SADF's experiences in Angola showed that the Ratel was far more likely to be faced with small-arms fire than to run into main battle tanks.

Something else of paramount importance was protection against land mines. The bottom of the hull was angled and reinforced so as to deflect mine blasts out to the sides. The wheels, if damaged, were also far easier to repair or replace than tracks.

The Ratel-20's primary armament consisted of a locally produced Denel Land Systems GI-2 20 millimetre auto-cannon mounted in a non-powered turret at the front of the vehicle.



Ratel-20

Weight

18,500 kg

Length

7.212 metres

Width

2.516 metres

Height

2.915 metres

Crew

3 crew + 7 infantry

Armour

20 mm

Main Armament

20 mm auto-cannon

Secondary Armament

1 x 7.62 mm coaxial MG
1 x 7.62 Anti-aircraft MG
2 x 2 smoke grenade
dischargers

Engine

D 3256 BTXF 6-cylinder in-line turbo charged diesel
282 hp (210 kW)

Power/weight

15.24 hp/tonne

Suspension

Wheeled 6 x 6, 350 mm clearance

Operational Range

1,000 kilometres

Speed

115 km/h (road)
65 km/h (off road)



FULL SPEED: A Ratel-20 on an exercise at De Brug training area near Bloemfontein.

This was supplemented by a coaxial 7.32 x 51 mm machine gun and another 7.32 x 51 mm pintle-mounted machine gun situated by the commander's roof hatch. There was an additional pintle-mounted dual machine gun at the rear of the Ratel's upper deck. This was accessed from a roof hatch and provided cover for the Ratel's rear quarter. It was removed on later models.

The 20 mm cannon was belt fed and had a high rate of fire. Ammunition was selected for specific engagements and would typically consist of a combination of HE (high explosive) and APTC (armour piercing tungsten carbide) rounds. The APTC was capable of destroying a T-34 tanks as evidenced during Operation Protea.

The Ratel also had four rifle ports on each side of the vehicle, allowing the infantrymen to fire from within the vehicle.

The Ratel had multiple doors and hatches. The two main doors were located on the side of the vehicle, but a small rear

door and roof hatches allowed the crew to exit the vehicle from many directions at once, or to dismount under cover during an ambush.

Due to its large operational range the Ratel was ideal for long missions over rugged terrain with little logistical support.

They were loaded with all sorts of equipment and supplies. Spare wheels were lashed on the roof of the hull, while food was stored in every available space. The average number of 7.62 mm machine gun rounds carried was at least 6,000. All Ratels featured tactical radio communication which enabled reliable command and control. Spare whip aerials for the radio were carried somewhere on the hull as they had a tendency to break when driving through the bush.

The Ratel was equipped with two drinking water tanks and each vehicle carried a cooking stove, tool kit, tow bar, cable and spare parts. One in every four vehicles carried a field shower kit.



TANK KILLER: A Ratel-90, armed with its 90 mm gun.

In May 1978 the Ratel-20s, operating as part of Combat Group Juliet, played a major role in the assault on Chetiquera during Operation Reindeer.

Ratel variants

As the South African Border War escalated cross-border operations became more frequent, and more complex.

An alliance had developed between the South Africans and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), who were engaged in a more conventional war against the People's Armed Forces of Liberation of Angola (FAPLA).

FAPLA was aided by the Cubans and the Soviets. This meant that during cross-border operations the SADF was frequently coming up against conventional Soviet armour.

Ratel-60

The Ratel-60 was fitted with a turret that carried a short 60 mm M2 breech loading mortar. Its purpose was recon-

naissance, fire support and anti-ambushing. In the direct role the 60 mm mortar was effective up to 300 metres, or 1,700 metres in the indirect role. It could fire HE (high explosive), canister, smoke and illuminating rounds. It would usually operate from the rear to supply indirect fire.

Ratel-90

The Ratel-90 was based on the Ratel-20 but mounted low-velocity 90 mm gun, a license-made copy of the 1950s-vintage French GIAT F1, is very accurate out to 2 km range.

It is generally considered to be inadequate for facing modern main battle tanks, but it is quite capable against armoured personnel carriers or other lighter AFVs, unarmoured vehicles, exposed infantry, and buildings or entrenchments. The 90 mm gun cannot be fired from a moving Ratel because the fire-control system is decidedly primitive and not stabilised; the turret and gun are manually traversed.

On the rare occasions when SADF Ratels encountered enemy armour, such as the Soviet-made tanks encountered in Operations Modular, Hooper, and Packer in 1988, they achieved successes through manoeuvrability and only at very short ranges.

61 Mechanised Infantry Battalion Group found that each enemy T-55 and T-62 required multiple shots from the 90 mm guns to disable it, and that the SADF vehicles had to attack in groups, fire from point-blank range, and hit the tanks in the engine vents, turret rim, or similar weak points in order to have an effect, the 90 mm shells being otherwise ineffective against the Soviet tanks' armour.

End of an era

A number of other countries have since produced vehicles similar to the Ratel, including the Chinese WZ-523. The Belgian Simba, for example, is all but a direct copy of the Ratel. A number of South American countries have produced vehicles very similar in looks and design.

Besides South Africa, a number of other African countries use the Ratel. They include Cameroon, Djibouti, Ghana, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, Yemen and Zambia.

When the Ratel is finally retired from service South Africa will be saying goodbye to a vehicle that served them well for 40 years.

Without doubt the Ratel IFV was a vehicle that was forged in battle.

The Ratel Family



Ratel-20

The original Ratel. It was armed with a Denel Land Systems GI-2 20 millimetre autocannon, two 7.32 x 51 mm machine guns, and four smoke dischargers. It carried a crew of three and a squad of seven infantry troops.

Ratel-60

Armed with a short 60 mm M2 mortar the Ratel-60 was used to provide indirect fire support. It carried a crew of three and a squad of seven infantry troops.



Ratel-81

An 81 mm mortar was installed in the crew compartment for use as a fire support platform.



Ratel-90

Armed with a 90 mm gun was used to engaged targets such as APCs, light IFVs, unarmoured vehicles, buildings and entrenchments. It carried a crew of three and six infantry troops.



Ratel Command

Armed with a 12,7 mm machine gun, the Ratel Command operated as a mobile command post. It had a two-seater turret and carried nine personnel.



Ratel ZT3

Armed with a launcher containing three ZT3 Ingwe (leopard) laser-guided missiles, the Ratel ZT3 was used to engage enemy armour and main battle tanks. Additional missiles were stored within the hull.



Other variants

- Ratel-120: 120 mm mortar platform. Prototype only.
- Ratel EAOS: Enhanced Artillery Observation System. Used for artillery support.
- Ratel Maintenance: Setup as a mobile workshop.
- Ratel Logistic: Eight wheeled logistic vehicle. Only two prototypes were built.



Springbok



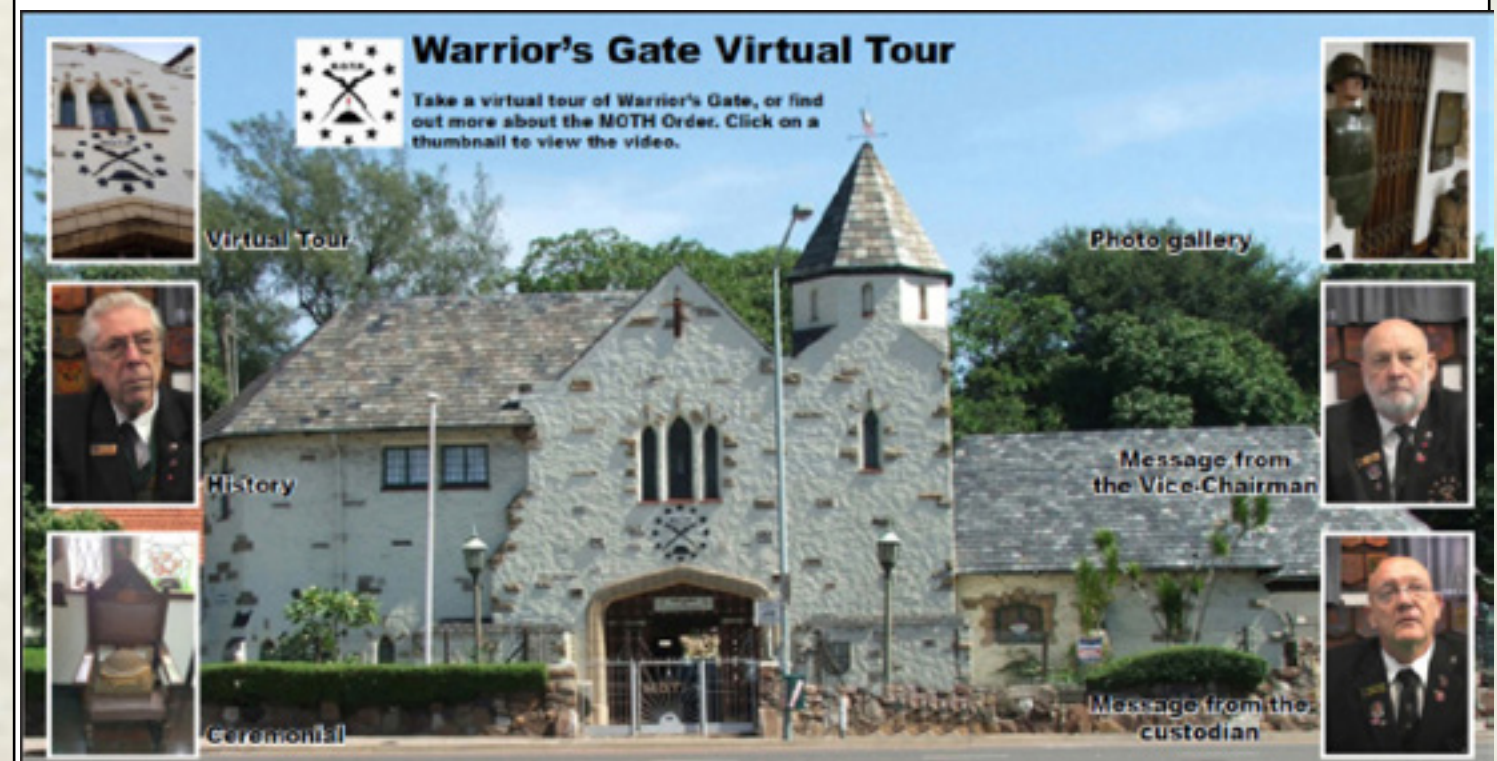
The SA Legion is a national organisation, part of a world-wide family that addresses the needs of ex-service personnel and their dependents by way of housing, pensions, employment and general welfare. It is apolitical, non-sectarian, non-racial, non-sexist and non-partisan.

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

Memorable Order of Tin Hats



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.



These ten battles claimed more than 11 million casualties, with all but one of them being fought in the 20th century. Some of these battles individually resulted in more casualties than some entire wars.

Instead of focusing on a specific battle this month, we're going to look at what were possibly the ten bloodiest battles.

The casualty figures given included killed, wounded and missing in action. They are not exact figures but give an estimation of the number of casualties.

Take into account that during the Vietnam War the official figure of Americans killed is 58,318. In the battles listed below the number killed in a single day often exceeded this.

10. Battle of Shanghai

(August 13 – November 26, 1937)

The Battle of Shanghai was the first of the twenty-two major engagements fought between the National Revolutionary Army (NRA) of the Republic of China (ROC) and the Imperial Japanese Army (IJA) of the Empire of Japan during the Second Sino-Japanese War. It was one of the largest and bloodiest battles of the entire war.

The Chinese soldiers had to rely primarily on small-caliber weapons in their defense of Shanghai, against an overwhelming Japanese onslaught of air, naval, and armored striking power.

In the end, Shanghai fell, and China lost a significant portion of its best troops, while also failing to elicit any international intervention.

The Japanese, indoctrinated with notions of martial superiority, were not expecting the fierce resistance shown by the Chinese, and it shook the Japanese Army.

Casualties: 388,000

9. Siege of Changchun

(May 23 – October 19, 1948)

The Siege of Changchun was a siege operation launched by the People's Liberation Army

during the Chinese Civil War against the city of Changchun, defended by the Nationalist forces.

The Siege of Changchun was part of the Liaoshen Campaign, and the fall of Changchun marked the end of its first stage.

The PLA had the city surrounded and the nationalists stood no chance. The communists decided to allow nationalist soldiers to leave the city at any time, but refused to allow civilians to do so.

Civilians were blockaded within Changchun and deliberately starved as way of pressuring enemy generals to surrender.

It is estimated that 80% of the civilian population were killed.

Casualties: 431,000 (including 330,000 civilians)

8. Battle of Wuhan

(June 11 – October 27, 1938)

When one hears the word 'Wuhan' these days our immediate thoughts turn to the COVID-19 pandemic that has gripped the world for almost two years.

It is believed that the COVID virus originated in the city of Wuhan. Yet the history of this city goes back way before that.

The Battle of Wuhan was another battle of the Second Sino-Japanese War. The Chinese were defending the city of Wu-



WUHAN: A victory for the Japanese. But a costly one that shook their confidence.

han from a Japanese attempt to capture it.

Over one million Chinese soldiers were defending against a force of 350 thousand Japanese. Bombings, artillery strikes, and chemical weapons attacks weakened the Chinese defenses enough for the Japanese to capture Wuhan after four months of fighting.

While it was a victory for the Japanese, it had cost them dear.

Casualties: 540,000

7. Battle of Berlin

(April 16 – May 2, 1945)

The Battle of Berlin, designated as the Berlin Strategic Offensive Operation by the Soviet Union, and also known as the Fall of Berlin, was one of the last major offensives of the European theatre of World War II.

After the Vistula–Oder Offensive of January–February

1945, the Red Army had temporarily halted on a line 60 km east of Berlin.

On 9 March, Germany established its defence plan for the city with Operation Clausewitz. The first defensive preparations at the outskirts of Berlin were made on 20 March, under the newly appointed commander of Army Group Vistula, General Gotthard Heinrici.

The Soviets had completely encircled Berlin at the beginning of the battle.

On 23 April General Helmuth Weidling assumed command of the forces within Berlin. The garrison consisted of several depleted and disorganised Wehrmacht and Waffen-SS divisions, along with poorly trained Volkssturm and Hitler Youth members.

Over the course of the next week, the Red Army gradually took the entire city.

Before the battle ended Adolf Hitler had committed suicide.

On May 7, 1945 the Germans signed an unconditional surrender.

Casualties: 681,000

6. First Battle of Kiev

(August 23 – September 26, 1941)

The First Battle of Kiev resulted in a very large encirclement of Soviet troops in the vicinity of Kiev during World War II. This encirclement is considered the largest encirclement in the history of warfare (by number of troops).

The battle was an unprecedented defeat for the Red Army, with 452,700 soldiers, 2,642 guns and mortars and 64 tanks being trapped.

The Southwestern Front suffered 700,544 casualties, including 616,304 killed, captured or missing during the battle.

The 5th, 37th, 26th, 21st and the 38th armies, consisting of 43 divisions, were almost annihilated and the 40th Army suffered many losses.

Much of the Southwestern Front of the Red Army (Mikhail Kirponos) was encircled but small groups of Red Army troops managed to escape the pocket, days after the German panzers met east of the city, including the headquarters of Marshal Semyon Budyonny, Marshal Semyon Timoshenko and Commissar Nikita Khrushchev.

The battle took place just over two months after the Germans had launched Operation Barbarossa.

It gave the German confi-

7 Deadliest Wars

1. World War II

1939 to 1945

Location. Worldwide
Between 40,000,000 and 72,000,000 deaths

2. Taiping Rebellion

1851 to 1864

Location. China
Between 20,000,000 and 100,000,000 deaths

3. World War I

1914 to 1918

Location. Worldwide
Between 15,000,000 and 65,000,000 deaths

4. Mongol Conquests

Location. Asia, Eastern Europe, Middle East
Between 30,000,000 and 60,000,000 deaths

5. An Lushan Rebellion

755 to 763

Location. China
Between 13,000,000 and 36,000,000 deaths

6. Qing dynasty conquest of the Ming Dynasty

1616 to 1662

Location. China
25,000,000 deaths

7. Conquests of Timur-e-Lang

1369 to 1405

Location. Middle East, India, Central Asia, Russia
Between 15,000,000 and 20,000,000 deaths

dence and seemed to back up Hitler's statement, "We have only to kick in the door, and the whole rotten structure will come crashing down."

Casualties: 829,000

5. Battle of Verdun

(February 21 – December 18, 1916)

The Battle of Verdun was the largest and longest battle of the First World War on the Western Front between the German and French armies.

The German 5th Army attacked the defences of the Fortified Region of Verdun and those of the French Second Army on the right bank of the Meuse.

The German strategy in 1916 was to inflict mass casualties on the French, a goal achieved against the Russians from 1914 to 1915, to weaken the French Army to the point of collapse.

Fighting in such a small area devastated the land, resulting in miserable conditions for troops on both sides.

Rain and the constant artillery bombardments turned the clayey soil into a wasteland of mud full of debris and human remains; shell craters filled with water and soldiers risked drowning in them. Forests were reduced to tangled piles of wood by artillery-fire and eventually obliterated.

The effect of the battle on many soldiers was profound and accounts of men breaking down with insanity and shell shock were common.

Although the French took heavy casualties, they held out. At times they even counter-attacked.

In August and December, French counter-offensives recaptured much of the ground lost on the east bank and recovered Fort Douaumont and Fort Vaux.

Casualties: 976,000

4. Battle of the Somme

(July 1 – November 18, 1916)

The Battle of the Somme, also known as the Somme Offensive, was a battle of the First World War fought by the armies of the British and French against the German Empire.

It took place on both sides of the upper reaches of the River Somme in France.

The battle was intended to hasten a victory for the Allies and was the largest battle of the First World War on the Western Front.

The Allies suffered more than 60,000 casualties on the first day of the battle.

Casualties: 1,000,000

3. Battle of Baghdad

(January 29 – February 10, 1258)

The Siege of Baghdad entailed the investment, capture, and sack of Baghdad, the capital of the Abbasid Caliphate, by Ilkhanate Mongol forces and allied troops.

The Mongols were under the command of Hulagu Khan (or Hulegu Khan), brother of the khagan Möngke Khan, who had intended to further extend his rule into Mesopotamia but not to directly overthrow the Caliphate.

Möngke, however, had in-



STALINGRAD: Regarded as one of the single largest and deadliest battles ever, it saw high losses on both sides.

structed Hulagu to attack Baghdad if the Caliph Al-Musta'sim refused Mongol demands for his continued submission to the khagan and the payment of tribute in the form of military support for Mongol forces in Iran.

Due to their reputation as efficient and brutal warriors their opponents would often submit to them without a battle.

But when Baghdad refused to surrender, the Mongols decided to make an example of them. The city fell after just 12 days. The Mongols then proceeded to destroy as much of the city and massacre as many locals as possible.

Casualties: 1,000,000

2. Battle of Stalingrad

(August 23, 1942 –

February 2, 1943)

The Battle of Stalingrad is often regarded as one of the single largest and bloodiest battles in the history of warfare.

It was marked by fierce close quarters combat, snipers, house to house combat, and assaults on civilians by air raids.

It was a costly defeat for the Germans and some say that Hitler lost the war the minute the Russians were able to declare victory at Stalingrad.

The Germans did have a chance to break out from Stalingrad, but Hitler ordered that they stand their ground and "Fight to the last man and bullet."

Almost 91,000 Germans were taken prisoner. Only about 5,000 of them ever saw Germa-

ny again.

Casualties: 1,857,000

1. Siege of Leningrad

(September 8, 1941 – January 27, 1944)

The Siege of Leningrad began on September 8, 1941, when the last road to the city was severed. Although the Soviets managed to open a narrow land corridor to the city on January 18, 1943, the siege was only lifted on January 27, 1944, 872 days after it began.

It was one of the longest and most destructive sieges in history, and possibly the costliest in terms of casualties

Casualties: 4,016,000



Armed to the teeth, Matt O'Brien is part of an elite team in Nowheraki, Middle East. His enemies are not scared of him, but his own team members are.

Last month I reviewed Door Kickers, a 2D top-down game where you take control of a SWAT team.

This month it's more of the same as I review Door Kickers 2: Task Force North.

It's not often that a sequel to a hit game is as good as the original. And that's the case with Door Kickers 2. It's not as good as the original game - it's better.

This time you no longer take control of a SWAT team and the action moves from Nowhere City. Now you find yourself in control of an elite military squad in the fictional country of Nowheraki, Middle East.

Released for PC on Steam in November 2020, Door Kickers 2 is still in early access. What is early access? Well this means that the game is not 100% ready for release as a full game. The developers are still adding things to the game and ironing out any small bugs before a full release.

There are a few notable changes from the original Door Kickers. First of all is the different classes of your squad members.

In Door Kickers you had Pointmen, Assaulters, Shield, Breachers and Stealth. In Door Kickers 2 you have four different classes. They are, Assault, Support, Marksman and Grenadier.

Each class has its pros and cons.

The weapons and equipment are also different to the original game, as is the equipment.

The assault class uses rifles and currently has access to five different rifles in the game. They can also use submachine guns for CQB (Close Quarter Battle) work.

The support class uses light machine guns and there are currently three available. Expect high magazine sizes, a high rate of fire, and low accuracy.

The marksman class uses long-range rifles for potentially powerful shots with high accuracy depending on the rifle. There are currently five Marksman rifles.

The Grenadier class uses a rifle with an under-barrel grenade launcher attached. This works well for breaching doors, windows, and dealing with large groups of enemies.

All classes have a primary weapon and most can also carry a secondary weapon such as a pistol or revolver.

There are two slots for smaller equipment and one slot for larger equipment.

Small equipment includes such things as flashbang grenades and a lockpick. New to the game are the addition of fragmentation grenades.

In the original game you could carry a breaching charge. This was perfect for taking down any door. In Door Kickers 2 there is a slap charge which does the same thing.

New to the game is the wall breach charge. This will not only take down any door, but can also be used to blow a hole through a wall.

Currently there are five different mission types. These are Clear Hostiles, Stop Execution, Abduction, Hostage Rescue, and Extract the VIP.

- Clear hostiles is straight forward. Take out any enemies that are on the map.
- Stop Execution is probably the most difficult type of mission. The enemy has a hostage and as soon as the mission starts a timer begins to count down. When the timer reaches zero, they execute the hostage. The problem is that as soon as they hear shots fired, they will go ahead and execute the hostage anyway. Successfully completing this mission usually takes good planning and you need to be quick about it. Another solution is to use silenced weapons and stealth.
- Abduction sees you having to capture an HVT (High Value Target). Take out any



enemy troops that are protecting him, but don't so much as harm a hair on his head.

- Hostage rescue is also straight forward. Take out the bad guys without harming any hostages. Not always that easy.
- Extract the VIP and escort them to safety. So be careful where you aim and where you throw grenades.

Two new phases are being introduced to the game; insertion and extraction.

You also have some cool new equipment such as a drone that you can use to get intelligence. You also have night vision equipment which gives you an advantage in the dark.

You also need to take into account that your enemy will no longer be armed just with hand guns or shotguns. Now they have rifles, machine guns, and even RPG rocket launchers.

There are a few campaigns that you can play and I'm sure

that more will be added as the game develops. They will also be adding new weapons and equipment.

You can also play single scenarios or randomly generate your own missions.

Successful completion of missions will earn you stars which can be used to purchase better weapons and equipment.

Each troop that takes part in a mission will also earn experience points. This allows them to be promoted through the ranks.

It also increases certain abilities such as marksmanship, assault shooting accuracy, and field skills.

Besides single player campaigns and missions there is also co-op where you can join a friend to take on missions. I believe that they will also be adding co-op multi-player as well.

I really enjoy Door Kickers and I will continue to play it. I also have it as a game on my smart phone. That said, I think that Door Kickers 2: Task Force

North is another game that I will be playing often.

Just remember that you will need Windows 10 to play the game and 1GB of hard drive space.



Publisher - Killhouse Games

Genre - Real Time Strategy

Score - 8/10

Price - R130.00 (on Steam)



Movie Review

Tora, tora, tora

Released: 1970

Running time: 144 minutes

Directed by: Richard Fleischer,
Toshio Masuda and Kinji Fukasaku

Released in 1970 and based up the 1969 book of the same name, Tora, Tora, Tora dramatizes the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour in 1941.

In August 1939, a trade embargo imposed by the United States is depriving a belligerent Japan of raw materials. Influential army figures and politicians push through an alliance with Germany and Italy in September 1940 and make preparations for war.

The newly appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Fleet Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto (Sō Yamamura) reluctantly orders the planning of a pre-emptive strike on the U.S. Pacific Fleet anchored at Pearl Harbor, believing that Japan's best hope of achieving control of the Pacific Ocean is to annihilate the fleet at the outset of hostilities. Air Staff Officer Minoru Genda (Tatsuya Mihashi) is chosen to mastermind the operation while his old Naval Academy classmate Mitsuo Fuchida (Takahiro Tamura) is selected to lead the attack.

In Washington, U.S. military intelligence has managed to break the Japanese Purple Code, allowing the U.S. to intercept secret Japanese radio transmissions indicating increased Japanese naval activity.

At Pearl Harbour itself, Admiral Kimmel (Martin Balsam) and General Short do their best to enhance defences by increasing na-

val and aerial patrols around Hawaii to provide early warning of any enemy presence. Short recommends parking all aircraft at the base on the runways to avoid sabotage by enemy agents.

Several months pass with diplomatic tensions continuing to escalate. As the Japanese ambassador continues negotiations to stall for time, the Japanese fleet sorties into the Pacific and soon is in position to begin the assault.

On 2 December 1941 the Japanese invasion fleet receives the coded message "Niitakayama Nobore" (Climb Mount Niitaka). It is the signal for the attack to go ahead.

At dawn on 7 December the Japanese fleet launches its aircraft. Their approach to Hawaii is detected by two radar operators but their concerns are dismissed by the duty officer receiving their alert.

The Japanese thus achieve complete surprise and a joyous commander Fuchida sends the code "Tora! Tora! Tora!" (Tiger, tiger, tiger) to indicate that surprise has been achieved.

The damage to the naval base is catastrophic with the U.S. suffering severe casualties. Seven battleships are either sunk or heavily damaged. General Short's anti-sabotage precautions prove a disastrous mistake that allows the Japanese aerial forces to destroy the U.S. aircraft on the ground with ease.

In Washington, the Secretary of State Cordell Hull is stunned on learning of the attack and urgently requests confirmation before receiving the Japanese ambassador. The message that was transmitted to the Japanese embassy in 14 parts – a declaration of war – was meant to be delivered to the U.S. at 1:00 pm in Washington, 30 minutes before the attack. However, it was not decoded and transcribed in time, with the result that the attack took place while the two nations were technically still at peace.

Although 50 years old, this is still an excellent movie. In my opinion, far better than the 2001 movie, 'Pearl Harbor'.



Click on the poster to watch a trailer of the film.

Point of the Dagger

Peet Coetzee received recognition for two of his previous books, *Special Force Jam Stealer* and *Ons Vergeet Nie*, in a review by *Die Volksblad*, describing his books as the most gripping and richly illustrated war memoirs of all border war literature books.

Coetzee offers the necessary homage in the form of interesting short stories about the achievements of the Chief Scouts of South Africa.

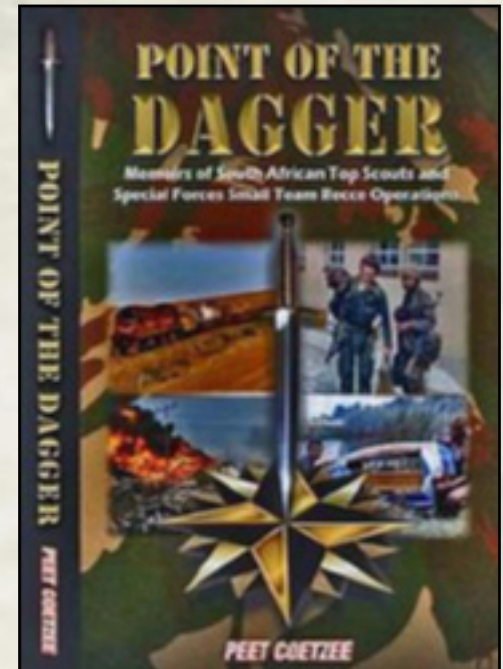
Dating back in history to heroes like De la Rey, Danie Theron and Hendri Slegtkamp and the adventurous accounts of Major P.J. Pretorius, who was busy with his own personal war against the Germans in German East Africa, long before the

First World War commenced.

Later to be appointed as the Chief Scout of General Jannie Smuts, Pretorius is also seen as being comparable to the present-day Recce Operator

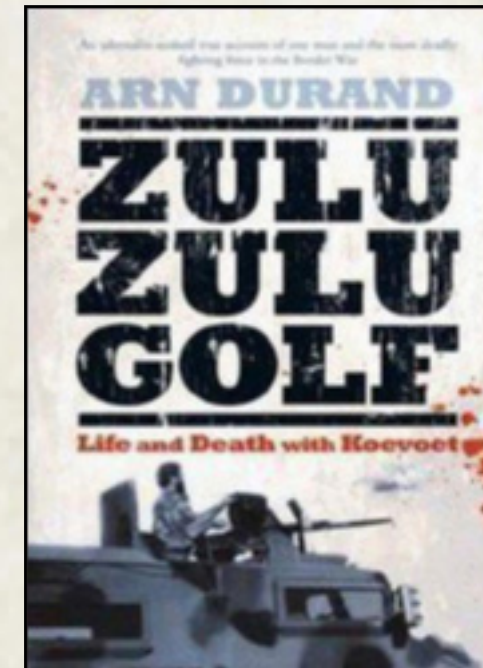
The creator or "father" of the highly successful Small Team concept was Captain Chris Schulenburg G.C.V., S.C.R. who served in the elite forces of the Rhodesian SAS, Selous Scouts and in the South African Special Forces.

The Recce Small Team operations conducted under the leadership of Colonel André Diedericks HCS, HC, SM, MMM and Major Jack Greeff HC, PMM, MMM who with their team mates successfully applied the Small Team con-

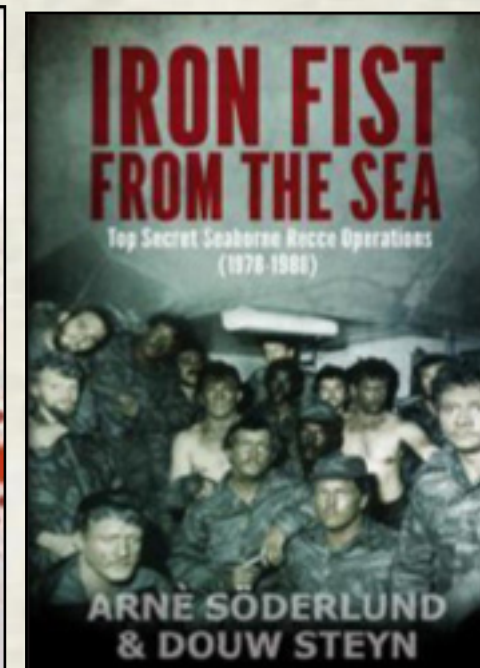


cept in many operations they conducted, as told in this book.

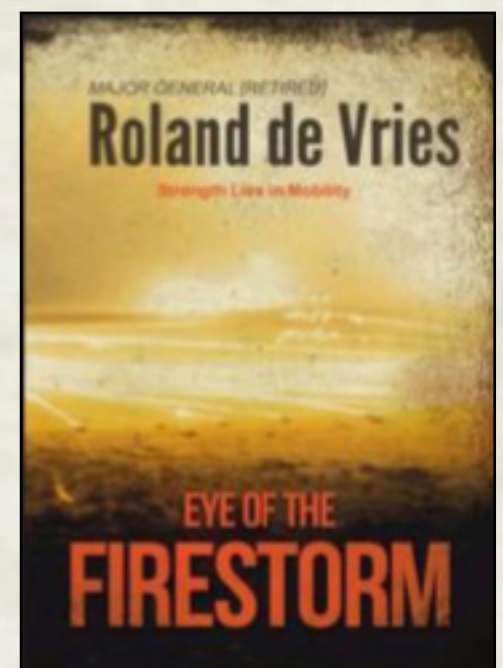
Paperback - 258 pages
Cost - R280



Zulu Zulu Golf
R450



Iron Fist from the Sea
R300



Eye of the Firestorm
R520

All books are available from [Bush War Books](#)

This month in military history

Some of the significant military events that happened in September. Highlighted in blue are the names of those members of the South African Defence Force (SADF) that lost their lives during the month of September.

1 September

- **1862** - Following his brilliant victory at the Second Battle of Bull Run two days earlier, Confederate General Robert E. Lee strikes retreating Union forces at Chantilly, Virginia, and drives them away in the middle of an intense thunderstorm. Casualties and losses: US 1,300 - CSA 800.
- **1870** - The Battle of Sedan was fought between the French and the Prussian forces in Sedan, France resulting in German victory. The French Emperor, Napoleon III was captured in the battle resulting in the end of the Second French Empire.
- **1878** - British Major General John Frederick Charles Fuller was born on this day. He was an advocate of tank warfare and became one of the founders of modern armoured warfare. He was also a strong Nazi sympathiser.
- **1900** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War Two Australians of the Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen, Lieutenant Wyllly and Private Bisdee, display exceptional bravery during an ambush by Boers in assisting a wounded officer and allowing five other wounded to escape. They were later awarded the Victoria Cross for extraordinary bravery.
- **1900** - Britain annexes the ZAR (Transvaal Republic).
- **1900** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War Commandant Piet Fourie, joined by Nieuwoudt and Kritzing, take Ladybrand, OFS, in a street by street fight, but fail to capture the British garrison, who retreats to a position at the foot of Platberg.
- **1939** - Germany invades Poland, starting World War II.
- **1950** - Korean War: 13 North Korean divisions open assault on UN lines.
- **1963** - The new Air Force Memorial on Bays Hill, south of Pretoria, is inaugurated by State President C.R. Swart and attended by about 8 000 people, including dignitaries of other countries. The monument is a memorial to almost 3,000 members of the SAAF who died in action through the years in war and peace.
- **1967** - Ilse Koch, Nazi war criminal (commonly known as "The Bitch of Buchenwald") hangs herself in prison at 60.
- **1969** - Colonel Muammar Gaddafi seizes power in Libya after a coup d'état, deposing King Idris and exiling him to Egypt.
- **1979** - Lieutenant Chris Jansen from 1 Satellite Radar Station at Mariepskop was killed in a private motor vehicle accident at Pilgrims Rest. He was 22.
- **1981** - A bloodless coup under General André Kolingba ousts President David Dacko of the Central African Republic.
- **1981** - Albert Speer, German architect and Nazi leader (Reich Minister for Armaments and War Production), dies of a stroke at 76
- **1982** - The United States Air Force Space Command is founded.
- **1983** - Warrant Officer Class II Johannes Petrus Lodewickus van Bosch from the South African Engineer Corps, attached to Sector 20 Headquarters was killed in a military vehicle accident between Rundu and Bagani when his military vehicle was involved in a head-on collision with another military vehicle. He was 39.
- **1983** - Seaman A.R. Roux from the South African Marines was critically wounded after being accidentally shot by another Leading Seaman while his platoon was on patrol in the Caprivi. He was casevaced by helicopter to Katima Mulilo but unfortunately succumbed to his

wounds while still aboard the helicopter and was certified dead on arrival. He was 18.

- **1983** - Korean Air Lines Flight 007 was shot down by a Russian fighter jet while on route from New York to Seoul, killing all 269 persons on board. The Boeing 747 reportedly strayed 160 kilometres off course over secret Soviet Russian military installations on the Kamchatka Peninsula and Sakhalin Island. It crashed in the Sea of Japan.
- **1986** - Rifleman Simon Robert Hood from 32 Battalion was killed when he accidentally fell off the back of a moving Buffel Troop Carrier near Rundu. He was 24.
- **1988** - Lance Corporal Petrus Jacobus Herbst from Walvis Bay Command was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident between Otjiwarongo & Okahandja. He was 20.
- **1995** - Chief warlord Charles Taylor and other key militia leaders are installed in a new ruling council in Liberia.
- **2003** - A new UN force with a wider mandate takes over from the French-led force in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Abraham Lincoln reluctantly restores Union General George B. McClellan to full command after General John Pope's disaster at the Second Battle of Bull Run, Virginia, on August 29 and 30.
- **1864** - During the American Civil War, Atlanta was captured by Sherman's Army. "Atlanta is ours, and fairly won," General William T. Sherman telegraphed President Lincoln.
- **1870** - Napoleon III surrendered to the Prussians during the Battle of Sedan, resulting in the fall of the Second French Empire.
- **1878** - Werner Eduard Fritz von Blomberg was born on this day. He was a German Generalfeldmarschall, Minister of War, and Commander-in-Chief of the German Armed Forces until January 1938.
- **1898** - In the Anglo-Egyptian War Lord [Sir Herbert] Kitchener's force of 25,000 decisively defeats the Dervishes at the Battle of Omdurman, Sudan, taking Khartoum. 10,000 Sudanese fall in battle.
- **1898** - The machine gun is used for the first time in battle.
- **1939** - Nazi Germany captured the Free City of Danzig, Poland.. A concentration camp was set up at Stutthof, where several prominent

2 September

- **31 B.C.** - Roman legions under Augustus Caesar defeated Mark Anthony's naval force at Actium.
- **1862** - Civil War: President

Danzing Jews were deported.

- **1944** - Future President George Herbert Walker Bush is serving as a torpedo bomber pilot in the Pacific theater of World War II when his squadron is attacked by Japanese anti-aircraft guns. Bush was forced to bail out of the plane over the ocean. After floating on a raft for four hours, a submarine crew fished a safe but exhausted Bush out of the water.
- **1945** - Japan officially signs the act of unconditional surrender to the Allied nations on board the American battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay.
- **1958** - United States Air Force C-130A-II is shot down by fighters over Yerevan, Armenia when it strays into Soviet airspace while conducting a SIGINT mission. All the crew were lost.
- **1962** - Soviet Russia agreed to send arms to Cuba, lead-



Albert Speer

- ing to the October Missile Crisis after the shipments were discovered by the U.S.
- **1964** - Alvin York, American World War I soldier who led a famed attack on a German machine gun nest (Medal of Honour), dies at 76.
 - **1977** - Rifleman Matthys Christiaan Henn from 4 SAI was critically injured in a military vehicle accident between Middelburg and Greefswald on 31 August 1977 and succumbed to his injuries in 1 Military Hospital on 02 September 1977. He was 18.
 - **1978** - Rifleman Arau Chilimba from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment attached to D Squadron Rhodesian Special Air Service, was killed instantly in Mocambique when he accidentally walked into the helicopter tail rotor after being inserted into the designated drop zone inside enemy territory. He was 24.
 - **1982** - Two members from 5 Maintenance Unit were grievously burned in an accidental petrol explosion at Ondangwa on 30 August 1982. Both members were evacuated to the 1 Military Hospital Burn Unit where they succumbed to their injuries on 02 September 1982. The casualties were: Private Gordon Gray Crossland (18). Private Hendrik Lambertus Groenewald (20).
 - **1984** - Able Seaman Crispin John Canner from SAS Unity died from a gunshot wound after being accidentally shot by a fellow sailor while carrying out guard duty at the Slangkop Radio Station. He was 24.
 - **1989** - Lance Corporal Hendrik Jacobus Bekker from the Eastern Transvaal Command Provost Unit, South African Corps of Military Police, was accidentally killed after being struck by a moving train while on leave in Nelspruit. He was 18.
 - **1999** - Major Kenneth Arthur Newman from 22 Squadron was killed when his Alouette III Helicopter, Serial No. 616 suffered engine failure and crashed in dense bush at Sea View, Port Elizabeth. He was 50.
 - **2002** - The Sudanese government suspends peace talks with the country's main rebel group, the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, or SPLA, after rebels seize the strategic town of Torit.
 - **1969** - The Nigerian Central Government forces began Operation OAU in order to seize the remaining Biafran cities. Though the Biafran forces were not very strong they managed to keep control over Umuahia and later recaptured Owerri and Aba cities.
 - **1972** - U.S fighter-bombers attacked, Phuc Yen, one of the largest air bases in North Vietnam, and shot down a MiG aircraft. In all, 47 MiG aircraft were shot down since the North Vietnamese attack began.

3 September

- **1777** - The Flag of the United States is flown in battle for the first time. The British Army and their Hessian allies defeated an American militia at the Battle of Cooch's Bridge.
- **1783** - The American Revolution ends with the signing of the Treaty of Paris by the United States and the Kingdom of Great Britain. America is officially free from Britain.
- **1800** - Two rebels of the Graaff-Reinet Rebellion five years previously, Martinus Prinsloo and Adriaan van Jaarsveld, are sentenced to death and sixteen rebels receive life-long penalties. They had rebelled against the Company and had proclaimed the territory a free republic.
- **1916** - The Allies turn back the Germans in WW I's Battle of Verdun.
- **1939** - Great Britain and France declared war on Nazi Germany after its invasion of Poland two days earlier.
- **1939** - The United Kingdom and France begin a naval blockade of Germany that lasts until the end of the war. This also marks the beginning of the Battle of the Atlantic.
- **1941** - First use of Zyklon-B gas in Auschwitz (on Russian prisoners of war).
- **1942** - In possibly the first Jewish ghetto uprising, residents of the Łachwa Ghetto in occupied Poland,

- informed of the upcoming "liquidation" of the ghetto, unsuccessfully fought against their Nazi captors.
- **1943** - Italy signed an armistice with the Allies during World War II in Europe as the British Eighth Army, commanded by General Bernard Montgomery, invaded the Italian mainland from Sicily.
 - **1950** - A US Military Assistance Advisory Group arrived in Saigon to look into the French request for American military aid and assistance in the training of the South Vietnamese troops.
 - **1974** - Joint routine exercises are held between the British Royal Navy and the South African Navy, under the Simonstown Agreement, and again from 14 October 1974.
 - **1978** - Four Crew Members and 44 Passengers from Air Rhodesia Viscount "Hunyani" Flight RH825 were killed when the aircraft was shot down by ZIPRA insurgents using a Soviet SAM-7 Grail shoulder-launched Surface-to-Air Missile approximately five minutes after take-off from Kariba Airport. Almost immediately a distress signal was received to the effect that the aircraft engines had failed. The aircraft crashed near the northern border with Zambia in the Urungwe Tribal Trust Land, 40km South-East of Kariba Dam. Eighteen

- people survived the initial crash but 10 survivors were executed by the ZIPRA Terrorists who returned to the accident scene to loot the aircraft contents. The remaining eight passengers managed to escape. The four crew members were posthumously awarded the Rhodesian Meritorious Conduct Medal (MCM) for brave and gallant conduct.
- **1980** - General Constand Viljoen is appointed as Chief of the South African Defence Force (SADF) and Lieutenant-General Jan Geldenhuys as Chief of the Army, with effect from 7 October 1980.
 - **1981** - Rifleman Cornelius Jacobus Vermaak from Special Forces Headquarters died in the Edenvale Hospital from injuries sustained in a Military Vehicle Accident in Edenvale. He was 19.
 - **1985** - Two members from 6 SAI were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Grahamstown. The casualties were: Rifleman Orlando De Portugal Gonçalves (19). Rifleman Shaun Patrick Atkins (21).
 - **1986** - South Africa's government re-imposes order prohibiting journalists from reporting actions of security forces.
 - **1987** - One member from 42 Squadron and one member from 4 Field Regiment

- were Killed in Action when a 42 Squadron Atlas AM3-C Bosbok, Serial No 934 was shot down by a Soviet SA-8 Gecko Surface-to-Air Missile South of Lomba river in Southern Angola during Ops Modular. The casualties were: Lieutenant Richard William Glynn (21). Commandant Johann Christiaan Du Randt (32).
- **2001** - Sierra Leone's president Ahmed Tejan Kabbah shakes hands with his rebel counterpart General Issa Sesay, and declares the West African nation's war over.

4 September

- **1862** - Union General Lee invades North with 50,000 Confederate troops.
- **1886** - The last major U.S.-Indian war came to an end as Geronimo was captured. He died of natural causes in 1909 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.
- **1900** - Danie Theron, an Afrikaner patriot believing in the just and divine right of the Boer to stand against British interference, died during the Second Anglo-Boer War in an inferno of



Constand Viljoen

- lyddite and shrapnel.
- **1916** - British forces take Dar-es-Salaam in Tanganyika.
 - **1918** - United States troops land at Archangel, in northern Russia and stay 10 months. The landing was part of an Allied intervention in the civil war raging in that country after revolution in 1917 led to the abdication of Czar Nicholas II in favour of a provisional government; the seizure of power by Vladimir Lenin and his radical socialist Bolshevik Party; and, finally, Russia's withdrawal from participation alongside the Allies in World War I.
 - **1939** - The House of Assembly defeats Prime Minister Hertzog's motion of neutrality and adopts Smuts' amendment in favour of joining the war. Hertzog resigns premiership the next day and he and his followers side with Dr Malan's National Party. Smuts becomes premier and retains the name United Party for his followers.
 - **1940** - The American destroyer Greer becomes the first U.S. vessel fired on in the war when a German submarine aims a few torpedoes at it, sparking heightened tensions between Germany and the United States. It was a case of mistaken identity. Roosevelt unofficially declared war on anyone who further attacked American vessels in the North Atlantic: "If German or Italian vessels of war enter these waters, they do so at their own peril."
 - **1944** - Two days after the start of the Allied mission to liberate Belgium, the British forces liberated Antwerp from the Germans. In February 1945, Belgium was entirely freed from German occupation, after five months of joint operation by the USA, Canada, Britain and Poland.
 - **1945** - The Wake Island Japanese garrison's 2,200 Japanese soldiers finally lay down their arms and surrender to a detachment of U.S. Marines days after their government had already formally capitulated. Wake Island was one of the islands bombed as part of a wider bombing raid that coincided with the attack on Pearl Harbor and they had held since 23 December of 1941.
 - **1967** - The U.S. 1st Marine Division launches Operation SWIFT, a search and destroy operation in Quang Nam and Quang Tin Provinces in I Corps Tactical Zone (the region south of the Demilitarized Zone). A fierce four-day battle ensued in the Que Son Valley, 25 miles south of Da Nang. During the course of the battle, 114 men of the U.S. 5th Marine Regiment were killed while the North Vietnamese forces suffered 376 casualties.
 - **1969** - Radio Hanoi announces the death of Ho Chi Minh, proclaiming that the

National Liberation Front will halt military operations in the South for three days, September 8-11, in mourning for Ho. He had been the spiritual leader of the communists in Vietnam since the earliest days of the struggle against the French and, later, the United States and its ally in Saigon.

- **1975** - Representatives of Egypt and Israel sign interim peace agreement in Geneva.
- **1980** - Rifleman A.F. Chipa from 32 Battalion accidentally drowned near Buffalo. He was 27.
- **1980** - Private Frederick Jacobus Janse van Vuuren from the Air Force School of Technical Training was killed in a Private Motor Vehicle Accident, at Nelspoort. He was 21.
- **1981** - Four members from 1 Special Service Battalion were killed when their Eland armoured car overturned during a training exercise at Ottosdal. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant Derek Charl De Villiers (20). Trooper Mark Rodney Harty (20). Trooper Willem Frederick Raubenheimer (19). Trooper Johannes Martin Schoeman (18).
- **1982** - Private Johannes Albertus O'Neill from 5 Maintenance Unit was grievously burned at Ondangwa on 30 August 1982 when he lit a cigarette while standing near petrol drums and the petrol fumes ignited causing an explosion. He succumbed

- to his injuries in 1 Military Hospital on 04 September 1982. He was 18.
- **1984** - Private Auguste Jansen from the Natal Command Workshop, Technical Service Corps was admitted to Addington Hospital on 01 September 1984 suffering from severe head injuries after being assaulted by persons unknown. He succumbed to his injuries on 04 September 1984. He was 19.
- **1990** - Rifleman Anton Malan from Infantry School was accidentally killed when a 40mm multiple grenade launcher barrel exploded during a firing training exercise at Oudtshoorn. He was 22.

5 September

- **1781** - In the Battle of the Chesapeake the British Navy is repelled by the French Navy, leading to the British surrender at Yorktown.
- **1876** - German field marshal and World War II war criminal Wilhelm Ritter von Leeb was born on this day. Units under Leeb's command committed atrocities against the civilian population and closely cooperated with the SS Einsatzgruppen, the mobile killing squads primarily tasked with the murder of the Jewish population as part of the Holocaust. He was found guilty and sentenced to three years.
- **1877** - Crazy Horse, the last great Sioux war chief, dies on this day at the age of 37.
- **1901** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War Lieutenant Hannam and members of the Bushveld Carbineers, fighting on British side, fire on wagons with women and children who offer no resistance, killing two children and wounding a girl.
- **1914** - The Battle of the Marne. Thirty miles north-east of Paris, the French 6th Army under General Michel-Joseph Maunoury begins attacking the right flank of German forces advancing on the French capital. By the next day, the counterattack was total. More than two million soldiers fought in the Battle of the Marne, and 100,000 of them were killed or wounded.
- **1939** - President Franklin Roosevelt declares US neutrality at start of WW II in Europe.
- **1965** - Air Mechanic Henry Cecil Oosthuizen from the Air Force Gymnasium was killed in a private motor vehicle accident in Krugersdorp. He was 19.
- **1969** - In Vietnam Lt. William Calley is charged with six specifications of premeditated murder in the death of 109 Vietnamese civilians at My Lai in March 1968.
- **1970** - Operation Jefferson Glen was launched on September 5th 1970 in the Hue Province to protect the critical installations. The United

States 101st Airborne Division and the South Vietnamese 1st Infantry Division combined forces in what was to become the last major operation in which the U.S. ground forces participated. It was also meant to strengthen the combat capability of the South Vietnamese army so they could enable them to fight the Viet Cong in the North. This parachute regiment left South Vietnam from March 1972.

- **1972** - Eleven members of the Israeli Olympic Team were killed during an attack on the Olympic Village in Munich by members of the Black September faction of the Palestinian Liberation Army. Israeli jets then bombed Palestinian positions in Lebanon and Syria in retaliation on September 8, 1972.
- **1978** - Rifleman Michael Horn Du Plessis from 2 SAI was grievously burned and suffered smoke inhalation



Ho Chi Minh

while assisting to extinguish a veld fire in Windhoek. He succumbed to his injuries later in the day. He was 19.

- **1980** - Lance Corporal Ernesto Sophia from 32 Battalion was accidentally killed by friendly fire in Southern Angola during Operation Vastrap. He was 31.
- **1982** - Private Robert Peter van Spronsen from 5 Maintenance Unit was grievously burned at Ondangwa on 30 August 1982 when a cigarette was lit while standing near petrol drums and the petrol fumes ignited, causing an explosion. He succumbed to his injuries in 1 Military Hospital on 05 September 1982. He was 19.
- **1982** - Douglas Bader, the World War II RAF fighter pilot, dies on this day at the age of 72. Bader lost both his legs in an accident before the war, but he recovered, retook flight training, passed his check flights and then requested reactivation as a pilot.
- **1983** - Sergeant Ernestus Jacobus van Staden from 8 SAI was critically injured in a private motor vehicle accident near Bloemfontein. He succumbed to his injuries in the Universitas Hospital in Bloemfontein shortly after admission. He was 24.
- **1983** - The trial of Commodore Dieter Gerhardt on charges of spying for the Soviet Union began in the Cape Town High Court. Gerhardt was arrested in

1982, sentenced in 1983 to life imprisonment for passing military secrets.

- **1986** - Sapper Gary Edward Schentke from 1 Construction Regiment was accidentally killed when a road grader drove over him during construction work at the new 102 Battalion Base at Homba in the Kaokoveld. He was 19.
- **1993** - Seven Nigerian UN peacekeepers are killed in an ambush by Somalis in Mogadishu.

6 September

- **1228** - The Holy Roman Emperor, Frederick II landed in Acre, Palestine to mark the beginning of the Sixth Crusade. Frederick II was a successor to the Roman rulers of the antiquity and was crowned emperor by Pope Honorius II in 1220.
- **1776** - during the American Revolutionary War, Ezra Lee, an American colonial soldier, commanding the 'Turtle' submarine attempted to time bomb to the hull of British Admiral Richard Howe's flagship 'Eagle' in New York Harbor. It was the first use of a submarine in warfare.
- **1861** - Forces under Union General Ulysses S. Grant bloodlessly capture Paducah, Kentucky, which gives the Union control of the mouth of the Tennessee River.
- **1900** - During the Second Anglo-Boer war the British,

under General French, occupy Carolina. On the same day forces under General Buller occupy Lydenburg.

- **1932** - The Battle of Boqueron started between the Bolivian and the Paraguayan armies. The battle was a major encounter in the Chaco War. The Bolivians had taken over the Boqueron outpost in 1932. The battle raged on for more than three weeks and finally resulted in the Bolivians surrendering.
- **1939** - South Africa declares war on Germany.
- **1944** - Soviet forces captured the city of Tartu manned by 69,000 German troops on their way to re-establishing their rule in Estonia.
- **1949** - Allied military authorities relinquish control of former Nazi Germany assets back to German control.
- **1965** - The US Marines and South Vietnamese forces launched Operation Piranha, as part of a major event during the course of the Vietnam War on the Batangan Peninsula. The operation included a raid on the Vietnam Army 1st regiment, by the Allied forces which resulted in several Vietnamese casualties.
- **1975** - Rifleman Leon Johannes de Wit Scheepers from 2 SAI was part of a group of patrols that were clearing all the islands down-river from Calueque Dam. During this process, he accidentally fell into the Cunene River and drowned

before he could be rescued. He was 18.

- **1976** - Soviet air force pilot Lt. Viktor Belenko lands a MiG-25 jet fighter at Hakodate in Japan and requests political asylum in the United States.
- **1977** - Corporal Thomas John Lewis Jones from 1 Kavango Battalion SWATF was killed when the Bedford truck in which he was travelling on the Rundu / Bagani Road, left the road and collided with a tree some 60 km west of Ondangwa. He was 21.
- **1977** - Commandant Johannes Petrus Human from Sector 70 Headquarters SWATF was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 49.
- **1978** - 2nd Lieutenant Andre Leon Opperman from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action in Southern Angola. He was 19.
- **1979** - During an external operation in Mocambique, code-named Ops Uric, a SAAF Puma helicopter carrying 3 SAAF Crew Members and 14 South African Nationals, all members serving in the Rhodesian Armed Forces, was shot down near Mapai in Mocambique. The SAAF casualties were: Captain Paul Denzil Velleman (25). Lieutenant Nigel David Osborne (22). Sergeant Dirk Wilhelmus Marthinus Retief (29).
- **1980** - Rifleman Alfred Gordon Smith from the Kimber-

ley Regiment was killed in a military vehicle accident at Sishen. He was 58.

- **1985** - Private Pierre Botha from 61 Base Workshops died in an accidental shooting incident at the Base. He was 20.
- **1986** - Lance Corporal Frederick Johannes Klaasen from Air Force Base Waterkloof was killed in a private motor vehicle accident in Paul Kruger Street, Pretoria. He was 20.
- **1987** - Lance Corporal Melvin Ashley Beneke from 1 Parachute Battalion Pathfinders was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces at the Lomba River in Southern Angola during Ops Modular. He was 19.
- **1988** - Sergeant N. Kibanguka from 32 Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 35.
- **1993** - Seven Nigerian United Nations peacekeepers are killed in an ambush by Somalis in Mogadishu.
- **1996** - Army troops drive Hutu rebels from their hillside positions outside Burundi's capital after three days of fighting.

7 September

- **1939** - The German Consulate in Cape Town packs up after South Africa's official declaration of war on Germany the previous day.

Douglas Bader



- **1940** - The German Luftwaffe began its Blitz bombing campaign against London during World War II.
- **1942** - Australian and American forces inflict a significant defeat upon the Japanese at the Battle of Milne Bay.
- **1977** - Rifleman J.M. Maquinda from 32 Battalion died from a gunshot wound, accidentally self-inflicted while on operations in Southern Angola. He was 30.
- **1978** - Major Lukas Gerhardus Grundling from 1 Parachute Battalion accidentally drowned at Wepener during a parachute jump with full kit. He was 29.
- **1986** - Private Shaun Anthony Sprowson from 16 Maintenance Unit was killed when his SAMAC Horse and Trailer overturned on the Rundu to Bagani Road. He was 20.
- **1987** - An intricate prisoner exchange takes place in Maputo, involving 133 Angolan soldiers, anti-apartheid activists, Klaas de Jonge, a

Dutch anthropologist, Pierre Andre Albertini, a French university lecturer and Major Wynand du Toit, a South African officer captured in Angola two years before that.

- **1988** - Constable Hermanus Cornelius Johannes Du Plessis from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 27.
- **1992** - Rifleman Johannes Lodewyk Bouwer Lourens from 4 SAI was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at White River. He was 18.
- **1994** - The U.S. Army closed its headquarters in Berlin, ending the American military presence in the once-divided city after nearly half a century.

8 September

- **1886** - Siegfried Sassoon was born on this day. Decorated for bravery on the Western Front, he became one of the leading poets of the First World War.
- **1900** - General Buller, with 12,000 men and forty-eight guns, attack General Botha's position at Paardeplaats, near Lydenburg and Botha, with his force of 2,000 men, evacuates his position.
- **1914** - General Louis Botha announces the South African government's decision to carry the war into German

South West Africa.

- **1941** - The German Army began its blockade of Leningrad, lasting until January 1944, resulting in the deaths of almost one million Russian civilians.
- **1943** - The United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) carried out a bombing raid against the Italian town of Frascati. The raids targeted the German General Headquarters for the Mediterranean zone (O.B.S.) and the Italian headquarters near the town.
- **1943** - General Dwight Eisenhower publicly declared the surrender of Italy to Allies in the year 1943. The Italian government agreed to suspend all conflicts with the Allies.
- **1944** - London was attacked with a V2 ('Vergeltungswaffen', or 'retaliatory weapon') rocket for the first time on this day in 1944. The attack created a crater of 10 m, took three lives and injured 22 people.
- **1945** - United States troops arrive to partition the southern part of Korea in response to Soviet troops occupying the northern part of the peninsula a month earlier.
- **1951** - Jürgen Stroop, SS General during World War II and commander of Nazi forces during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, executed by hanging for crimes against humanity at age 56.
- **1967** - It is officially disclosed that South African

police are in Rhodesia actively helping in the fight against Nationalist guerrillas. This follows an attempt by several hundred guerrillas to invade South and South West Africa, from Zambia, at the urging of the Liberation Committee of the OAU in Kampala in July 1967.

- **1975** - USAF Tech Sergeant Leonard Matlovich, a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, appears in his Air Force uniform on the cover of Time magazine with the headline "I Am a Homosexual". He is later given a general discharge.
- **1977** - Candidate Officer Leon Loubser Jones from 4 Squadron was killed when his AT-6 Harvard flew into rising ground while he was carrying out a low level flight near Pretoria. He was 20.

9 September

- **1943** - The invasion of Salerno began during World War II in Europe as Allied forces under General Mark Clark made amphibious landings along the western coast of Italy near Naples. Initial gains by the Allies met strong resistance from German forces.
- **1948** - Following the withdrawal of Soviet forces from North Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was proclaimed with Pyongyang as its capital.
- **1971** - 2nd Lieutenant Peter Schalk van der Merwe from

4 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 19.

- **1976** - Rifleman Christiaan Hendrik Pauley from the 1st Battalion Botha Regiment died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained in a shooting incident. He was 17.
- **1976** - Longtime leader of Communist China, Chairman Mao Zedong, died. As a Chinese revolutionary soldier and statesman, he had proclaimed the People's Republic of China in 1949 in Beijing.
- **1984** - Major Erasmus Johannes Louw from 8 SAI was killed instantly when a fellow Officer accidentally shot him in the back of the head with a 1 000ft rocket parachute flare during a training exercise at Riemvasmaak outside Upington. He was 29.
- **1990** - Rifleman Derio Arndse from the 2nd Battalion South African Cape Corps was critically injured in a military vehicle accident on 07 September 1990 and succumbed to his injuries in hospital on 09 September 1990. He was 26.

10 September

- **1802** - Frans Bresler, landdroos of Graaff-Reinet, confers with Lieutenant-Governor Francis Dundas in Algoa Bay on the withdrawal of British troops from the eastern frontier of SA.
- **1813** - At the Battle of Lake

Erie U.S. Naval Captain Oliver Hazard Perry defeats a British flotilla.

- **1900** - Representatives of the ZAR and the Free State governments meet in Nelspruit and decide to allow President Kruger to go to Europe (initially for a period of six months), to prevent the possibility of his falling into British hands and to plead the Republican cause in Europe.
- **1901** - The youngest Boer commandant, 19 year old Commandant Piet van der Merwe and twenty-three burghers are killed in action at Driefontein, Cape Colony, when attacked by about 700 troops under Colonel Crabbe. Only three burghers escape.
- **1914** - The SA parliament decides with 91 votes against twelve to enter into WW1.
- **1919** - Following the defeat of Germany in World War I, the victorious Allies signed the Treaty of Saint-Germain ceding parts of pre-war German-Austria to Italy and Czechoslovakia. Austria was also forbidden to unite with Germany.
- **1943** - Hitler's troops occupied Rome and took over the protection of Vatican City.
- **1967** - Speaking at a special news conference the Rhodesian Prime Minister, Ian Smith, welcomes the partic-

ipation of the South African Police in Rhodesian anti-terrorist operations.

- **1974** - The South African Minister of Defence states that South Africa will provide bases and communication facilities to the maritime forces of Western nations interested in the defence of the Cape route.
- **1979** - Rifleman Albertus Gottlieb from 101 Battalion SWATF was killed in a military vehicle accident in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1985** - Major Johan Petrus Uys from the Bothaville Commando was killed in a military vehicle accident at the intersection of the Bothaville and Wesselsbron Road. He was 51.
- **1987** - Special Sergeant Simeon Shikulo from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 28.

Ian Smith



- **2004** - Mercenary leader Simon Mann is sentenced to seven years in jail by a Zimbabwean court on weapons charges. This was for planning a coup d'état in Equatorial Guinea.

11 September

- **1813** - British troops arrive in Mount Vernon and prepare to march to and invade Washington D.C.
- **1814** - The climax of the Battle of Plattsburgh, a major United States victory in the war which ended Britain's final invasion of the northern states.
- **1840** - British bombard Beirut to force Mehmet Ali, pasha of Egypt, to submit.
- **1900** - Martial law is declared in the Transvaal.
- **1919** - U.S. Marines invade Honduras.
- **1941** - Franklin D. Roosevelt orders any Axis ship found in American waters be shot on sight.
- **1944** - The first Allied troops of the U.S. Army cross the western border of Germany.
- **1956** - Billy Bishop VC, CB, DSO & Bar, MC, DFC, ED, Canadian World War I flying ace, dies aged 62.
- **1965** - The 1st Cavalry Division of the United States Army arrives in Vietnam.
- **1974** - Warrant Officer Class II Olaf Volmer Jensen from 2 SAI Died of Wounds at the hospital at Walvis Bay after sustaining multiple shrapnel wounds in an accidental hand grenade explosion. He

was 44.

- **1977** - Rifleman Rodriques Pedro from 32 Battalion was accidentally killed in an anti-personnel landmine explosion while assisting to lay a minefield during an operation in Southern Angola. He was 32.
- **1977** - Corporal Albertus Petrus van Zyl from the Tygerberg Commando was Killed in Action when his Buffel Troop Carrier detonated a landmine near Oshigambo. He was 31.
- **1983** - 2nd Lieutenant Deon De Villiers from 3 Medical Battalion Group was killed in a military vehicle accident in Bloemfontein. He was 26.
- **2001** - Thousands are killed after terrorists crashed hijacked airliners into the World Trade Centre in New York and the Pentagon in Washington. The effect was felt world wide, also in SA, where i.e. flights to the USA were suspended, security measures at airports tightened, and the economy affected adversely.

12 September

- **1861** - The First Battle of Lexington was fought during the American Civil War between the Union Army and the pro-Confederate Missouri State Guard. The battle was fought from September 12 to September 20, 1861 and is also known as the Siege of Lexington. The

pro-Confederate Missouri State Guard emerged victorious in the battle.

- **1918** - American Expeditionary Forces under the command of General Pershing launched the U. S's major offensive in Europe as an independent army. The attack occurred at the Saint-Mihiel salient in France. This was a strategic location that was occupied by the Germans who blocked rail traffic between Paris and eastern sections of the front. The American offensive forced the German army decided to abandon the salient.
- **1931** - Andries J. Bester (81), Boer commandant during Second Anglo-Boer War, dies in Paul Roux, OFS.
- **1940** - Italian forces begin an offensive into Egypt from Libya.
- **1942** - RMS Laconia, a British troopship, was carrying civilians, Polish soldiers and Italian POWs to Britain via West African coast when a German U-boat U-156 torpedoed the ship. Operating partly under the dictates of the old prize rules, the U-boat commander immediately commenced rescue operations, broadcasting their humanitarian intent to all Allied forces in the area, and was joined by all U-boats in the vicinity. American bombers deliberately bombed U-156 and the rescue mission proved disastrous to both the survivors and the Germans. This event

forced the German navy to forbid such acts of kindness to get an upper edge in the war.

- **1943** - Former Italian Dictator Benito Mussolini was rescued by German paratroopers on orders from Adolf Hitler. Mussolini was being held prisoner by Italian authorities following the collapse of his Fascist regime.
- **1944** - U.S. Army troops enter Germany for the first time.
- **1960** - The Central African Republics, Ghana and Guinea threaten to withdraw their troops from a security force unless the United Nations gives up its control of Leopoldville radio and the Congo's airports.
- **1966** - Minister of Defence P.W. Botha announces in Cape Town that the posts of Secretary for Defence and Commandant-General of the Defence Force are to be combined under one head.
- **1968** - Warrant Officer Class I Pieter Francois Pienaar for the South African Corps of Signals was killed when his military vehicle overturned 11 miles from Colesburg on the Naauwpoort Road.. He was 37.
- **1969** - Rifleman Cornelius Gregorius Labuschagne from 4 SAI was accidentally killed after he suffocated as a result of gas at the Klerksdorp Provincial Hospital. He was 18.
- **1971** - Rifleman Trevor

Cowie from 6 SAI was killed in a private vehicle accident while returning to the unit after a weekend pass. The accident occurred at Howsens Poort, South of Grahamstown. He was 18.

- **1974** - Military officers depose Emperor Haile Selassie from the Ethiopian throne he had occupied for more than fifty years.
- **1978** - Candidate Officer Lancelot Emberger from Central Flying School, Dunnottar was killed when his AT-6 Harvard failed to recover from a spin and crashed near Delmas. He was 22.
- **1979** - Rifleman Johannes Conga HC from "C" Company, 31 Battalion (201 Battalion) was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Zambia. During this action, he deliberately drew enemy fire upon himself in order to save the life of his Officer, Lieutenant Coetzee. Rifleman Conga was posthumously awarded the Honoris Crux Decoration for his unselfish act of self-sacrifice. He was 25.
- **1980** - Corporal Jose Francisco from 32 Battalion was critically wounded by cannon fire from an Alouette Gunship during a contact with a numerically superior enemy force in Southern Angola. He was evacuated to Grootfontein Hospital

where he unfortunately succumbed to his wounds later in the day. He was 29.

- **1980** - Lieutenant Vincent Peter Lautenslager from 8 Squadron was Reported Missing on 12 September 1980 when his Atlas MB326K Impala Mk II flew into the ground near Xangongo while providing close air support to Army Ground Forces in Southern Angola. The subsequent Board of Enquiry found no evidence of hostile enemy action. He has no known grave. He was 23.
- **1980** - The Turkish army under the leadership of General Evren carried out a coup. Before the coup, the country was in a chaos and was without an elected president. The coup was generally welcomed by the public because it brought order to the nation.
- **1982** - Sergeant William Paul Courtney from 4 Reconnaissance Regiment died as a result of injuries sustained in a private motorcycle accident in Central Durban. He was 24.

Benito Mussolini



- **1982** - Corporal Christiaan Benjamin Ehlers from the Air Force Gymnasium was killed in a private motorcycle accident. He was 22.
- **1983** - Rifleman Michael Anthony Costello from 7 SAI was accidentally killed during a fire and movement exercise. He was 20.
- **1983** - Rifleman Johannes August van der Westhuizen from the South African Cape Corps was killed after being struck by a bullet from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while at Bagani. He was 19.
- **1984** - Rifleman Pieter Taljaard from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned. He was 19.
- **1985** - Major Johannes Andries van der Vyver from 32 Battalion was decapitated by aircraft propeller and died instantly. He was 31.
- **1985** - Private Ricky Grant Whitaker from 5 Maintenance Unit died after being accidentally blasted in the face with a fire extinguisher at Ondangwa. He was 18.
- **1987** - Rifleman Fanie de Bruin from the South African Cape Corps was killed when his Buffel vehicle overturned during a contact and subsequent hot pursuit operation against SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 21.
- **1987** - Lance Corporal Stephen Lesley Roman from the South African Cape

Corps was killed in a motor vehicle accident in Mamelodi, North of Pretoria. He was 21.

- **1990** - Lieutenant Edward Diggle from 42 Squadron was killed when his Aeromacchi AM-3C Bosbok crashed at Potchefstroom. He was 20.

- **1990** - A treaty was signed by East and West Germany and the Allies of World War II allowing for the restoration of sovereignty to a reunified Germany.

13 September

- **1759** - James Wolfe, British Army officer who defeated the French in Canada and captured Quebec, dies in battle at the age of 32.
- **1847** - During the American-Mexican War, U.S. forces under General Winfield Scott capture Mexico City effectively ending the war.
- **1851** - American Army physician Walter Reed (1851-1902) was born in Gloucester County, Virginia. Best known for his Yellow Fever research, he served as an army surgeon for more than 20 years. The U.S. Army's general hospital in Washington, D.C., is named in his honour.
- **1860** - Army General John J. Pershing (1860-1948) was born in Laclede, Missouri. He commanded the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) during World War I and oversaw the Meuse-Ar-

gonne operation that helped bring about the Armistice of November 11, 1918.

- **1862** - Union soldiers find a copy of Robert E. Lee's battle plans in a field outside Frederick, Maryland. It is the prelude to the Battle of Antietam.
- **1882** - During the Egyptian Rebellion, British forces under Wolseley rout the Egyptians at Tel-el-Kebir and proceed to occupy Egypt and the Sudan.
- **1889** - Lieutenant-Colonel R.G. Kekewich arrives in Kimberley to assess the military situation and to advise the new General Officer Commanding British Troops in South Africa, Lieutenant-General F.W.E.F. Forestier-Walker, on the defence of the town.
- **1900** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War Lord Roberts issues a proclamation calling on the Republican forces still in the field to surrender.
- **1914** - General Jan C.G. Kemp resigns as officer in the SA army because of the war policy of the Botha government and joins the Rebellion force.
- **1940** - Italy invades Egypt.
- **1946** - Amon Göth, Austrian SS commandant of the Płaszów concentration camp, is executed by hanging at the age of 37.
- **1951** - During the Korean War the 32 day Battle of Heart Break Ridge begins.
- **1964** - Egypt and Saudi Ara-

bia announce agreement of peaceful settlement of two-year-old Yemeni civil war.

- **1970** - Six members from 5 SAI and one member from 3 SAI were killed while being transported in a Gladiator Troop Carrier back to Ladysmith Army Camp. The casualties were: Rifleman Hilton Dudley Coker (19). Rifleman John Grinyer (20). Rifleman Peter Alfons Ernst Leonhardt (19). Rifleman Kevin Eric Mack (18). Rifleman Richard Neville Marriott (17). Rifleman Gregory George Olyott (18). Rifleman Mark Felice Valero (18).
- **1976** - Rifleman Christiaan Frederik Ehlers from 11 Commando Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents approximately 9km from Eenhana. He was 19.
- **1977** - Lance Corporal Paul Onre Dossena from the Natal Mounted Rifles was Killed in Action when his Bosvark vehicle detonated a boosted a Yugoslavian TMA-3 Cheese Mine while travelling to Nkongo. He was 19.
- **1985** - Chief Petty Officer Colin George Clement from Naval Base Simonstown collapsed after apparently suffering a heart attack while he was at the Catering School. He died later in 2 Military Hospital. He was 42.
- **1985** - Rifleman M.H.

Mutirua from 102 Battalion SWATF accidentally drowned during a river crossing while his patrol was carrying out a follow-up Operation against SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 22.

- **1987** - Six members of 32 Battalion were Killed in Action in a single incident during Ops Modular in Southern Angola. The Casualties were: Captain Alfred Desmond McCallum (28). 2nd Lieutenant José Raimundo Alves (20). Lance Corporal Matthys Michael De Klerk (20). Trooper Marthinus Johannes Kuyler (20). Lance Corporal Joao Rodrigues Mananza (33). Lance Corporal Waite Tchipango (31).
- **1988** - Gunner Andre Meiring from 4 Artillery Regiment was killed in a military vehicle accident at the Army Battle School at Lohatla. He was 19.
- **1990** - Private Warren Ralph Beech from 1 Military Town Management Fire Department was accidentally killed when he fell from a fire tower at Voortrekkerhoogte during fire practice drills when his harness safety shackle failed. He was 19.
- **1991** - Rifleman Amos van Wyk from the South African Cape Corps died in Grey's Hospital after being critically injured when the Samil 20

vehicle he was driving overturned near Richmond. He was 17.

14 September

- **1795** - British troops march from Simonstown and General J.H. Craig enters Cape Town. Sluysken formally surrenders on 16 September.
- **1812** - Napoleon and his troops first entered Moscow as the retreating Russians set the city on fire. Napoleon found it was impossible to stay through the winter in the ruined city. He then began a retreat from Moscow which became one of the great disasters of military history. Fewer than 20,000 of the original 500,000 men with him survived the Russian campaign.
- **1852** - Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington and British Prime Minister (1828-30) dies at 83.
- **1886** - Erich Hoepner, World War II German general and early proponent of mecha-



John J. Pershing

nisation and armoured warfare, was born on this day.

- **1901** - Andrey Andreyevich Vlasov, World War II Russian Red Army general, was born on this day.
- **1914** - The first ships with South African soldiers on board leave for the ports of German South West Africa to invade the territory.
- **1942** - A plan designed to fight Italian forces, Operation 'Agreement' is executed in Libya.
- **1980** - Rifleman Robert Edward Buchholtz from 4 SAI was killed in a private motor vehicle accident in East London while on a weekend pass. He was 20.
- **1985** - Sergeant Peter Henry Anthony from 8 SAI was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned near Etale Base. He was 25.
- **1985** - T/Leading Marine Simon Games Auld from 1 Marine Brigade was killed in a private motor vehicle accident in Port Elizabeth. He was 19.
- **1988** - Sapper Andre' Stephan Lategan from 5 Military Works Unit was accidentally killed on the Dwaalboom Road near Thabazimbi while loading a road grader. He went under the trailer to insert the retaining pin but the pin snapped causing both the trailer and grader to fall on him, killing him instantly. He was 21.
- **1992** - Seaman Goodman Mthunzi Maphumulo from Naval Station SAS Jalsena

accidentally drowned during a military training exercise at the Midmar Dam while he was undergoing Basic Military Training. He was 22.

- **1993** - Lance Corporal Pieter Joachim Smith died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while at Broederstroom. He was 22.
- **2002** - The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a Christian fundamentalist rebel group trying to overthrow the Ugandan government since 1987, stages a series of attacks in which four people are killed and forty-one abducted.
- **2003** - President Kumba Yalla of Guinea-Bissau is toppled in a military coup.
- **2004** - The South African Air Force's newest addition, the Gripen fighter jet, takes its first flight around Cape Town, causing an ear-piercing sonic boom.

15 September

- **1776** - British forces under General William Howe captured New York during the American Revolution.
- **1882** - British forces occupy Cairo.
- **1901** - Fifteen members of the notorious special British unit called the Bushveld Carbineers send a petition to Colonel Hall of the Royal Artillery, requesting a full and impartial inquiry into the alleged atrocities perpetrated by members of their unit.
- **1914** - Boer leader General

Koos de la Rey, en route to Potchefstroom with general Beyers, is shot dead when his chauffeur-driven car fails to stop at a roadblock near Langlaagte, Johannesburg. (The roadblock had been erected to forestall William Foster of the Foster Gang, who shot dead a policeman during the day.)

- **1916** - Tanks were first used in combat, during the Allied offensive at the Battle of the Somme, in World War I.
- **1940** - The height of the Battle of Britain occurred as massive German air raids took place against London, Southampton, Bristol, Cardiff, Liverpool and Manchester. The British claimed 185 German planes were shot down.
- **1942** - U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS Wasp is torpedoed at Guadalcanal.
- **1950** - UN forces land at Inchon in South Korea during the Korean War.
- **1962** - The Soviet ship Poltava heads toward Cuba, one of the events that sets into motion the Cuban Missile Crisis.
- **1967** - Egyptian commander in Six-Day War with Israel, Field Marshal Abdel Hakim Amer, commits suicide.
- **1978** - France returns the deposit paid by South Africa for two corvettes and two submarines.
- **1982** - Warrant Officer Class II Pieter Ryno Johannes Swart from the Maritime Operations Centre died after

suffering a fatal heart attack during a fitness walk. He was 52.

- **1984** - Rifleman Otto Bismarck Harms was accidentally killed at the Germiston railway station when he was struck by a moving train. He was 19.
- **1985** - Corporal Bruce Andrew Fidler HC (Posthumous) was an Ops Medic from 7 Medical Battalion Group operating with Special Forces that were providing operational support to Paratroopers and other SADF and UNITA Forces in Southern Angola during Operation Magneto. He was Reported Missing on 14 September 1985 when two vehicles were ambushed by approximately 40 enemy troops. Most of the UNITA soldiers were killed and the two Artillery Officers and Medical Orderly (Bruce) who were in the second vehicle were wounded. The two Officers successfully evaded but Bruce was captured. He was brutally tortured and interrogated by the enemy before being executed but he never once revealed the Order of Battle for an upcoming operation in support of UNITA, or the SADF Artillery positions or the location of the SAMS Surgical Team thereby enabling them to successfully evade capture and reach South African lines. His remains were repatriated back to South Africa in June 1992

and cremated on 15 September 1992. He was posthumously awarded the Honoris Crux for bravery and selfless devotion above and beyond the call of duty in the face of brutal torture. He was 21.

- **1988** - Lance Corporal Brian Collin Deyes from Air Force Headquarters was killed instantly when his private motor vehicle was involved in an accident in Potgieter Street and overturned. He was 20.
- **1997** - An Egyptian military court convicts seventy-two Islamic militants of subversion and sentences four of them to death.

16 September

- **1776** - The Battle of Harlem Heights is fought during the American Revolutionary War.
- **1891** - German admiral and politician Karl Dönitz was born on this day.
- **1910** - SS Colonel Erich Kempka, who served as Adolf Hitler's primary chauffeur from 1934 to April 1945, was born on this day.
- **1914** - The Siege of Przemyśl (present-day Poland) begins during World War I.
- **1940** - Italian troops conquer Sidi Barrani.
- **1943** - The German Tenth Army reports that it can no longer contain the Allied

bridgehead around Salerno.

- **1945** - The surrender of the Japanese troops in Hong Kong is accepted by Royal Navy Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt.
- **1955** - The military coup to unseat President Juan Perón of Argentina is launched at midnight.
- **1955** - A Soviet Navy Zulu-class submarine becomes the first to launch a ballistic missile.
- **1970** - King Hussein of Jordan declares military rule following the hijacking of four civilian airliners by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). This results in the formation of the Black September Palestinian paramilitary unit.
- **1975** - The first prototype of the Mikoyan MiG-31 interceptor makes its maiden flight.
- **1978** - Rifleman Gregory James Engledoe from the South African Cape Corps was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He



Juan Peron

- was 18.
 - **1982** - Rifleman Gabriel Johannes Schwartz from Infantry School was killed in a military vehicle accident at Otjiwarongo. He was 21.
 - **1982** - Beginning of a two day massacre in Palestinian refugee camps in West Beirut as Christian militiamen (the Phalangists) entered Sabra and Shatila and began shooting hundreds of Palestinians, including elderly men, women and children.
 - **1983** - Three members from 102 Battalion SWATF were Killed in Action during a contact with a large group of SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-line. The casualties were: Rifleman K Kavari (19). Rifleman J Tinda. (18). Rifleman K Kavari (18).
 - **1985** - Lance Corporal Glen Stuart Ruthven from 3 Medical Battalion Group was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Maitland. He was 28.
 - **1985** - Gunner Alec Ridgard from 10 Artillery Brigade was critically injured in a private motorcycle accident on 14 June 1985 at Westonaria. He was admitted to the H.F. Verwoerd Hospital in Pretoria where he succumbed to his injuries on 16 September 1985. He was 19.
 - **1987** - Rifleman Pieter Andreas Visagie from 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 23.
 - **1988** - Rifleman Sean Cochrane Ellis from 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident between Ogongo and Okalongo. He was 21.
 - **1991** - Two members from the SADF Dog Training Centre died from the effects of smoke inhalation at Bourkes Luck while assisting to extinguish a raging veld fire. The casualties were: Lance Corporal Adrian Marcel Juskiewicz (18). Lance Corporal Michael Swanepoel (19).
 - **1999** - Lieutenant Sibusiso Madubela of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) went on a murder rampage at 1 South African Infantry Battalion. He opened fire with an R4 Automatic Assault Rifle, killing seven serving SANDF members including one female civilian worker in the employ of the SANDF and wounding another twelve were wounded, one critically. His murder spree came to an abrupt end when he was intercepted and shot dead.
 - **2007** - Mercenaries working for Blackwater Worldwide shoot and kill 17 Iraqis in Nisour Square, Baghdad.
 - **2014** - The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant launches its Kobani offensive against Syrian-Kurdish forces.
- 17 September**
- **1862** - The bloodiest day in U.S. military history oc-

- curred as General Robert E. Lee and the Confederate armies were stopped at Antietam in Maryland by General George B. McClellan and numerically superior Union forces. By nightfall 26,000 men were dead, wounded, or missing.
- **1894** - Battle of the Yalu River, the largest naval engagement of the First Sino-Japanese War.
- **1901** - Commandant-General Louis Botha and General Cheere Emmett join forces to invade Natal.
- **1901** - A Boer column defeats a British force at the Battle of Blood River Poort.
- **1901** - Boers capture a squadron of the 17th Lancers at the Battle of Elands River.
- **1916** - Manfred von Richthofen ("The Red Baron"), a flying ace of the German *Luftstreitkräfte*, wins his first aerial combat near Cambrai, France.
- **1939** - Soviet Russians invaded Eastern Poland, meeting little resistance and taking over 200,000 Poles prisoner. This was done in accordance with the Nazi-Soviet Pact in which the Nazis and Soviets had predetermined how they would divide up Poland.
- **1939** - German submarine U-29 sinks the British aircraft carrier HMS Courageous.
- **1940** - Following Nazi Germany's defeat in the Battle of Britain, Hitler postpones Operation Sea Lion indefinitely.

- nitely.
 - **1941** - Soviet forces enter Tehran marking the end of the Anglo-Soviet invasion of Iran.
 - **1944** - Allied Airborne troops parachute into the Netherlands as the "Market" half of Operation Market Garden.
 - **1944** - German forces are attacked by the Allies in the Battle of San Marino.
 - **1962** - Warrant Officer Class 1 Johannes Jacobus Squier Heunis from 91 Ammunition Depot collapsed and died after suffering a fatal heart attack while in Pretoria. He was 45.
 - **1963** - Adolph Gysbert (Sailor) Malan, SA fighter pilot during WWII and later national president of the Torch Commando, dies in Kimberley.
 - **1965** - The Battle of Chawinda is fought between Pakistan and India.
 - **1980** - Rifleman Adriaan Christoffel Ackerman from 7 SAI was accidentally shot dead by a fellow member while stationed at Nkongo Base. He was 20.
 - **1981** - Rifleman Gerhardus Johan Myburgh from 1 SAI died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while at Omuthiya. He was 19.
 - **1981** - Trooper Diederick Arnoldus Steyn from 2 Special Service Battalion was critically injured in a military vehicle accident on 7 September 1981 and succumbed to his injuries on 1
- Military Hospital on 17 September 1981. He was 19.**
- **1982** - Corporal Luther Johannes Botha from the Northern Transvaal Provost Unit was killed in private motor cycle accident in Hillbrow, Johannesburg. He was 23.
 - **1984** - Corporal C Paulo from 32 Battalion was accidentally smothered and suffocated during a training exercise. He was 28.
 - **1987** - Sergeant Rudolf Morris from the South African Cape Corps died from a stab wound received during an altercation with a fellow soldier while at the Touwsriver Training Area. He was 29.
 - **1991** - Rifleman Louis Johann Swart from the Dog Training Centre died from the effects of smoke inhalation while assisting to extinguish a veld fire at Bourkes Luck. He was 19.
- 18 September**
- **1759** - During the Seven Years' War, the British capture Quebec City.
 - **1898** - War is barely averted when a British expedition to establish a route through Africa reaches an obscure Sudanese fort and finds the French already there.
 - **1900** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War Brigadier-General Stephenson occu-

- pies Nelspruit without opposition and Lord Roberts transfers his headquarters there.
- **1914** - A body of Active Citizen Force (A.C.F.) troops of the Union of SA, nearly 1 800 strong, lands at Lüderitz Bay (Angra Pequena) in South West Africa and advance some distance into the desert.
- **1931** - The Mukden Incident gives Japan a pretext to invade and occupy Manchuria.
- **1939** - Lord Haw-Haw (William Joyce) begins transmitting pro-Nazi/anti-Allied propaganda.
- **1940** - The British liner SS City of Benares is sunk by German submarine U-48; those killed include 77 child refugees.
- **1943** - The Jews of Minsk are massacred at Sobibór.
- **1943** - Adolf Hitler orders the deportation of Danish Jews.

Sailor Malan


- **1944** - The British submarine HMS Tradewind torpedoes the Japanese ship Jun'yō Maru, 5,600 killed.
- **1945** - General Douglas MacArthur moves his command headquarters to Tokyo.
- **1947** - The U.S. Air Force was established as a separate military service.
- **1948** - Operation Polo is terminated after the Indian Army accepts the surrender of the army of Osman Ali Khan, Asaf Jah VII, Nizam of Hyderabad.
- **1961** - Dag Hammarskjöld, United Nations (UN) Secretary General, dies when his plane crashes under mysterious circumstances near Ndola in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia).
- **1964** - North Vietnamese Army begins infiltration of South Vietnam.
- **1969** - Rifleman Collin Arthur Williams from 4 SAI died from lung complications after participating in an unauthorised gas exercise held at the training grounds in Doornkop. He was 18.
- **1970** - Private Abraham Jacobus Goosen from 1 Air Depot was accidentally killed in a crane accident at Voortrekkerhoogte. He was 17.
- **1971** - Egypt and Israel exchange rocket fire across Suez Canal.
- **1973** - Rifleman Terence Arthur Langley from 3 SAI died from a gunshot wound, accidentally self-inflicted while he was stationed at
- **1979** - Corporal Andries Petrus Hanneman from Northern Transvaal Command was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Potgietersrus. He was 19.
- **1981** - Rifleman Petrus Jacobus van Staden from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed in a private motor cycle accident on the Bloemfontein to Winburg Road. He was 18.
- **1981** - Corporal Johannes Jacobus van Staden from the Transvaal Scottish died in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 23.
- **1986** - Airman Hendrik Frensch van Zyl from the Air Force Base Hoedspruit Fire Section was found murdered by persons unknown at Linbro Park, Johannesburg near the Alexandra Township with a knife wound to the neck. He was 20.
- **1988** - 2nd Lieutenant Petrus Gerhardus Lourens Koen from 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was critically injured on 16 September 1988 when his Ratel overturned while traveling between Ogongo and Okalongo in Northern Owamboland. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria where he succumbed to his injuries on 18 September 1988. He was 19.
- **1997** - Muslim extremists fire on a bus outside a museum in Cairo, killing ten people, mostly German tourists.
- **1998** - End of pro-democracy uprisings in Myanmar

Rundu. He was 18.

after a bloody military coup by the State Law and Order Restoration Council. Thousands, mostly monks and civilians (primarily students), are killed by the Tatmadaw.

- **1991** - Yugoslavia begins a naval blockade of seven Adriatic port cities.
- **1997** - Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is adopted.
- **2015** - Two security personnel, 17 worshippers in a mosque, and 13 militants are killed following a Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan attack on a Pakistan Air Force base on the outskirts of Peshawar.
- **2016** - Seventeen Indian Army security personnel killed in the Indian Administered Kashmir by anti-government militants.

19 September

- **1676** - Jamestown is burned to the ground by the forces of Nathaniel Bacon during Bacon's Rebellion.
- **1863** - The first day of the Battle of Chickamauga, in northwestern Georgia, the bloodiest two-day battle of the conflict, and the only significant Confederate victory in the war's Western Theater.
- **1870** - Having invaded the Papal States a week earlier, the Italian Army lays siege to Rome, entering the city the next day, after which the Pope described himself as a Prisoner in the Vatican.
- **1916** - During the East African Campaign of World War I, colonial armed forces of

the Belgian Congo (Force Publique) under the command of General Charles Tombeur captured the town of Tabora after heavy fighting.

- **1918** - Two infantry battalions of Cape Corps capture Square Hill in Palestine.
- **1939** - The Battle of Kępa Oksywska concludes, with Polish losses reaching roughly 14% of all the forces engaged.
- **1944** - Armistice between Finland and Soviet Union is signed, marking the end of the Continuation War.
- **1957** - First American underground nuclear bomb test (part of Operation Plumbob).
- **1978** - Rifleman John James Hearn Cloete from the Rand Light Infantry was accidentally killed in a mortar bomb explosion at the Swartland Training Area near Rundu. He was 23.
- **1983** - Special Constable U. Ndiaombe from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 31.
- **1984** - Rifleman David Schalk van der Merwe from 1 SAI died from a gunshot wound sustained as a result of an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while at the De Brug Training Area. He was 18.
- **1994** - U.S. troops invaded

Haiti, with the stated goal of restoring democracy.

- **2003** - UN Security Council agrees to send 15,000 peace-keeping troops to Liberia.
- **2006** - The Thai military stages a coup in Bangkok. The Constitution is revoked and martial law is declared.

20 September

- **1834** - The troopship Charlotte is wrecked in Algoa Bay and ninety-seven people drown.
- **1857** - The Indian Rebellion of 1857 ends with the recapture of Delhi by troops loyal to the East India Company.
- **1915** - A new battalion consisting of Cape Coloured men, called the Cape Corps, is established with the view of being dispatched to East Africa in 1916.
- **1941** - The Holocaust in Lithuania: Four hundred three Jews (128 men, 176 women and 99 children) were murdered by *Einsatzkommando* 3 and the local police in Nemenčinė.
- **1942** - The Holocaust in Ukraine: In the course of two days a German *einsatzgruppen* murders at least 3,000 Jews in Letychiv.
- **1965** - Following the Battle of Burki, the Indian Army captures Dograi in course of the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965.
- **1967** - Israeli tank shelling sinks three Egyptian troop-

carrying boats in the Suez Canal. Israel claims the ships violated the Egyptian-Israeli agreement banning small craft navigation in the waterway.

- **1979** - Emperor Bokassa I is overthrown in a bloodless coup in the Central African Republic.
- **1979** - Rifleman S. Shanggweni from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 24.
- **1981** - Two members from 4 SAI were Killed in Action in Southern Angola when their Buffel troop carrier with 11 troops on board, detonated a landmine. The casualties were: Rifleman Roderick James Leonard MacIntosh (18). Rifleman Edward Daniel van Rooyen (19).
- **1987** - Rifleman (Gunner) William George Beukman from 4 SAI was killed in action. He was 19.

Douglas MacArthur



- **1993** - Erich 'Bubi' Hartmann, World War II Luftwaffe fighter pilot, dies on this day at the age of 71. Hartmann was the leading fighter ace of World War II with 352 credited kills.
- **2011** - The United States military ends its "Don't ask, don't tell" policy, allowing gay men and women to serve openly for the first time.

21 September

- **1780** - During the American Revolutionary War, Benedict Arnold gives the British the plans to West Point.
- **1896** - British force under Horatio Kitchener takes Dongola in the Sudan.
- **1899** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War, Hong Kong offers military assistance to Great Britain.
- **1942** - The Holocaust in Ukraine: On the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, Nazis send over 1,000 Jews of Pidhaitsi to Belzec extermination camp.
- **1942** - The Holocaust in Poland: At the end of Yom Kippur, Germans order Jews to permanently evacuate Konstantynów and move to the ghetto in Biała Podlaska, established to assemble Jews from seven nearby towns, including Janów Podlaski, Rossosz and Terespol.
- **1942** - The Boeing B-29 Superfortress makes its maiden flight.
- **1953** - Lieutenant No Kum-sok, a North Korean pilot, defects to South Korea and

is associated with Operation Moolah.

- **1960** - United Nations deploys 4 000 troops to Katanga to prevent the massacre of Baluba tribesmen by provincial troops and police in Congo.
- **1964** - The North American XB-70 Valkyrie, the world's first Mach 3 bomber, makes its maiden flight from Palm-dale, California.
- **1966** - Able Seaman Phillipus Johannes Havenga from SAS Simonsberg was killed in a diving training accident in False Bay. He was 20.
- **1971** - Candidate Officer Hendrik Oswald Meyer Odendaal from Flying Training School Langebaanweg was killed when his Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I crashed in the Kouebokke Mountains near Citrusdal while carrying out a solo night Navigation exercise. He was 20.
- **1978** - Rifleman Johanne Cornelius Du Plessis from 11 Commando Regiment was critically wounded in a shooting incident at Etale Base. He later succumbed to his wounds in 1 Military Hospital. He was 21.
- **1978** - Sergeant Hendrik Gerhardus van der Merwe from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment attached to "D" Squadron Rhodesian Special Air Service was Killed in Action when he was hit in the throat by enemy rifle fire while participating in an attack on a ZANLA Base

in the Chimoio area of Mocimboa do Castelo during Operation Snoopy. He was 23.

- **1982** - Rifleman Dumba Catumbele from 201 Battalion SWATF was killed in an accidental explosion in an ammunition bunker at Omega. He was 23.
- **1988** - Rifleman Douw Cornet from 7 SAI attached to 202 Battalion SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Mashari. He was 19.
- **1989** - Rifleman Rivers Ammon Sibuyi from the Kruger National Park Commando was killed after being attacked by a lion while on foot patrol in the Northern section of the Kruger National Park. He was 31.
- **1990** - Charles Taylor, leader of a Liberian rebel faction, announces a unilateral cease-fire set to take effect the next day.
- **2004** - Major Catherine Labuschagne (25) makes history when she becomes the first woman fighter pilot in the world to fly a Gripen fighter jet during the opening of the African Aerospace and Defence Air Show at the Waterkloof Air Force base.
- **2013** - Al-Shabaab Islamic militants attack the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi, Kenya, killing at least 67 people.

22 September

- **1776** - During the American Revolution, Nathan Hale was executed without a trial

after he was caught spying on British troops on Long Island, his last words, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

- **1828** - Shaka, Zulu chief and founder of the Zulu empire, is murdered by his two half-brothers Dingane and Mhlangana. Dingane assumes the throne.
- **1882** - Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, who served as Chief of the Armed Forces High Command (Oberkommando der Wehrmacht or OKW) in Nazi Germany during World War II, was born on this day.
- **1900** - As result of a military notice on this date, the first two refugee camps are established at Pretoria and Bloemfontein, initially with the aim to protect the families of burghers who had surrendered voluntarily. As the families of combatant burghers were also driven into these and other camps, they ceased to be 'refugee' camps and became 'concentration' camps.
- **1900** - The British, under Colonel Settle, enter Schweizer-Reneke, in western Transvaal.
- **1914** - German submarine SM U-9 torpedoes and sinks the British cruisers HMS Aboukir, Hogue and Cressy on the Broad Fourteens off the Dutch coast with the loss of over 1,400 men.
- **1939** - Joint victory parade of Wehrmacht and Red Army in Brest-Litovsk at

the end of the Invasion of Poland.

- **1965** - The Indo-Pakistani War of 1965 (also known as the Second Kashmir War) between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, ends after the UN calls for a ceasefire.
- **1979** - Rifleman William Ledgeton Saunders from 3 SAI was shot dead by another soldier while on guard duty in a bunker at Eenhana. He was 18.
- **1980** - Iraq invades Iran.
- **1985** - Rifleman Hymie Diamond from 5 SAI was killed in a private motor vehicle accident, at Vryheid. He was 19.
- **1989** - Two members from 85 Combat Flying School were killed when their Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I crashed near Sabie during a routine training flight. The casualties were: Lieutenant Werner Bredenkamp (20). Lieutenant Deon Joubert (20).
- **1991** - 2nd Lieutenant Nathaniel Roesch from the Dog Training Centre died from the effects of smoke inhalation while assisting to extinguish a veld fire at Bourkes Luck. He was 19.
- **1998** - Eight members of the SANDF, six from 1 Parachute Battalion and two from 7 Medical Battalion Group, were killed in action by Lesotho Army Forces during Ops Bolesas.

23 September

- **1869** - General Christiaan Frederik Beyers, Boer general, is born in Stellenbosch.
- **1890** - Field Marshal Friedrich von Paulus (1890-1957) was born on this day. Von Paulus led the German 6th Army at Stalingrad.
- **1942** - The Matanikau action on Guadalcanal begins when U.S. Marines attack Japanese units along the Matanikau River.
- **1950** - During the Battle of Hill 282 in Koera, the first US friendly-fire incident on British military personnel since World War II occurs.
- **1979** - The world press speculates that a bright flash detected by an American satellite between SA and the Antarctic was caused by a South African nuclear bomb explosion.
- **1983** - Lieutenant Frans Willem Conradie from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K (Koevoet) was killed in a motor vehicle accident. He was 30.
- **1986** - A force of about

Catherine Labuschagne



fifty armed dissidents infiltrate the Togolese capital of Lome in an attempt to topple President Gnassingbe Eyadema's government. They are defeated by the military.

- **1990** - Lieutenant Sean James McGuinness from 42 Squadron was grievously burned when his Aermacchi AM-3C Bosbok crashed at Potchefstroom on 12 September 1990. He succumbed to his injuries in 1 Military Hospital on 23 September 1990. He was 23.

24 September

- **1645** - Battle of Rowton Heath, Parliamentary victory over a Royalist army commanded in person by King Charles.
- **1780** - Benedict Arnold flees to British Army lines when the arrest of British Major John André exposes Arnold's plot to surrender West Point.
- **1877** - Battle of Shiroyama, decisive victory of the Imperial Japanese Army over the Satsuma Rebellion.
- **1884** - German weapons designer and engineer Hugo Schmeisser was born on this day. One of the most popular German weapons during World War II was the MP-40 submachine gun. It was often erroneously called "Schmeisser" by the Allies, although Hugo Schmeisser was not involved in the design or production of the weapon.

- **1960** - USS Enterprise, the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, is launched.
- **1964** - South African ordnance workshops have produced the first Belgian F.N. rifle, which is now ready to go into production.
- **1978** - Hasso von Manteuffel, the German general who commanded the 5th Panzer Army during World War II, died on this day at the age of 81.
- **1979** - Civilian rule is established in Ghana after the first military coup under Jerry Rawlings on 4 June, 1979.
- **1982** - Rifleman Don Andries Spence from Bravo Company, 1 Parachute Battalion was killed after being struck by a bullet from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle after a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 20.
- **1987** - Armed forces seize control of Transkei, ousting Prime Minister George Matanzima.
- **1997** - Following the slaying of hundreds of civilians in a series of incidents believed linked to upcoming elections and the long though sporadically fought civil war, the military wing of Algeria's principle Islamic opposition group calls for a truce and orders its guerrillas to 'stop combat operations'.

25 September

- **1900** - The British under Generals R. Pole-Carew and I.S.M. Hamilton occupy the deserted Komatipoort on the ZAR eastern border with Portuguese East Africa (Mozambique). Burnt out railway cars form a train almost twelve kilometres long on the Selati line.
- **1901** - The attack on Fort Itala, occupied by the British, takes place with the British force retreating after fierce fighting and with heavy losses on both sides.
- **1901** - Captain R.D.C. Miers of the South African Constabulary is shot and killed under a flag of truce by Field-cornet Salmon van As, who is tried and executed nine months later.
- **1915** - World War I: The Second Battle of Champagne begins.
- **1944** - Surviving elements of the British 1st Airborne Division withdraw from Arnhem in the Netherlands, thus ending the Battle of Arnhem and Operation Market Garden.
- **1955** - The Royal Jordanian Air Force is founded.
- **1964** - The Mozambican War of Independence against Portugal begins.
- **1964** - Corporal Johannes David Kriel, an Air Photographer attached to 22 Flight (Later 22 Squadron) was Reported Missing when the helicopter he was flying in suffered engine failure and

crashed into Table Bay. He has no known grave and remains unaccounted for. He was 25.

- **1981** - Rifleman Frederick Hikab from the South African Cape Corps, attached to Sector 30 Headquarters SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in the Etosha Game Reserve. He was 22.
- **1985** - Rifleman Anton Botha from Infantry School was critically injured in a private motor vehicle accident between Mossel Bay and Oudtshoorn on 23 Sep 1985. He was transferred to the Tygerberg Hospital where he unfortunately succumbed to his injuries on 25 September 1985. He was 24.
- **1987** - Private Adriaan Jacobus Naude from 1 Maintenance Unit was accidentally electrocuted while offloading military supplies at the Modder River Station, South of Kimberley. He was 18.
- **1987** - Lance Corporal Herman Adolf Oosthuizen from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment attached to Fort Doppies was killed in a military vehicle accident while engaged in anti-insurgency operations in South Eastern Angola. He was 26.
- **1991** - Klaus Barbie, German SS captain, known as the "Butcher of Lyon", dies on this day.
- **1993** - Three US soldiers are killed in Somalia when their helicopter is shot down.

26 September

- **1895** - Jürgen Stroop, the SS commander that led the suppression of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in 1943, was born on this day.
- **1899** - The ZAR government formally requests military assistance from the Orange Free State in accordance with the 1897 Political Defence Agreement.
- **1901** - Fort Prospect, about fifteen kilometres east of Itala, is defended by about 80 men under Captain Rowley of the Dorsetshire Regiment when attacked by a burgher force under Cheere Emmett. A party of Zulu policemen under Sergeant Gumbi, outside the British lines at the time of the first attack, fights their way through to share in the defence, and the attack is repelled with their help.
- **1917** - World War I: The Battle of Polygon Wood begins.
- **1918** - The last major battle of World War I, the Battle of the Argonne, began as a combined force of French and Americans attacked the Germans along a 64 kilometre front.
- **1941** - During World War II, the Western Desert Force was upgraded with the addition of two complete corps: the XIII and XXX. General Sir Alan Cunningham was given overall command of

the newly created Eighth Army. Troops included South African, Australian, New Zealand, Indian, Free French, and Polish soldiers.

- **1941** - The Military Police Corps is created as a permanent branch of the United States Army.
- **1950** - Personnel of the SA Air Force's No 2 (Flying Cheetah) Squadron leave Durban to assist the United Nations in the Korean War.
- **1950** - United Nations troops recapture Seoul from North Korean forces.
- **1959** - Lieutenant General Sir Leslie James Morshead, who led the Australian and British troops at the Siege of Tobruk (1941) and at the Second Battle of El Alamein, dies on this day at the age of 70.
- **1978** - Private Jacob Daniel Otto van As from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident at Grootfontein. He was 18.
- **1981** - Captain Noel John



Klaus Barbie

- Malcolm from 104 Volunteer Air Squadron was killed when his Piper PA-28 crashed while carrying out an officially authorised SAAF tasking. He was 60.
- **1982** - Private William Henry Ludick from the Army Catering Corps was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Kuruman. He was 20.
 - **1983** - Soviet nuclear false alarm incident: Military officer Stanislav Petrov identifies a report of an incoming nuclear missile as a computer error and not an American first strike.
 - **1985** - Special Warrant Officer Jacob Stephanus from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 39.
 - **1987** - Rifleman Rudolf Johannes Badenhorst from Regiment de la Rey was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 20.
 - **1988** - Gunner Ignatius Wilhelmus Ferreira from 4 Artillery Regiment was killed 9km from Kathu on the Kuruman road when he was hit by a civilian vehicle while assisting to dig out a field gun that was stuck in the sand. The vehicle failed to stop at the accident scene. He was 21.
- queror and his army set sail from the mouth of the River Somme, beginning the Norman conquest of England.
- **1777** - Lancaster, Pennsylvania becomes the capital of the United States, for one day after the Second Continental Congress evacuates Philadelphia to avoid invading British forces.
 - **1862** - General Louis Botha, soldier, statesman and first prime minister of the Union of South Africa, is born near Greytown, Natal.
 - **1899** - The ZAR calls up the South African Republican Burgher Force.
 - **1900** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War the policy of concentration camps is officially sanctioned by Lord Roberts.
 - **1940** - The Tripartite Pact is signed in Berlin by Germany, Japan and Italy.
 - **1942** - Last day of the September Matanikau action on Guadalcanal as United States Marine Corps troops barely escape after being surrounded by Japanese forces near the Matanikau River.
 - **1944** - The Kassel Mission results in the largest loss by a USAAF group on any mission in World War II.
 - **1981** - Rifleman America Jose from 32 Battalion was shot dead by a fellow soldier during an argument at Buffalo. He was 26.
 - **1982** - Private Renier Nicolaas Johannes Grobler from 3 Satellite Radar Station at Mafeking was killed in a pri-

27 September

- **1066** - William the Con-

- vate motor vehicle accident near Ottoshoop while doing a compulsory 30 day camp. He was 22.
- **1982** - Staff Sergeant Willem Petrus Burger from South African Army Headquarters died at 1 Military Hospital after suffering a fatal heart attack. He was 62.
 - **1984** - Two members from 2 Special Service Battalion were accidentally killed when their SAMIL 20 overturned at Groot Marico after the front tyre burst, causing the driver to lose control of the vehicle. The casualties were: Trooper Jams Andries Solomon Theodorus Randall (20). Trooper Frans Hendrik Jansen van Vuuren (19).
 - **1985** - Rifleman Coenraad Johannes Jacobus Bel from 4 SAI was killed in a private motor vehicle accident while on weekend pass. He was 22.
 - **1987** - A British newspaper reports heavy fighting between Angolan government forces and Unita, in which SA is allegedly taking part.
 - **1990** - Corporal Freek Johannes Palmer from the Cape Regiment Died of Wounds after being shot by an unknown gunman using a home-made weapon while he was on foot patrol in Kwamashu. He succumbed to his wounds in Addington Hospital later in the day. He was 26.
 - **1992** - A Nigerian military-transport plane crashes shortly after taking off from Lagos September 27, killing all 163

- people on board.
- **1993** - The UN Security Council bans sales of arms and fuel to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) because the rebel movement failed to stop fighting the government and renegotiates a 1991 peace settlement to end the country's civil war.
 - **1993** - General James 'Jimmy' Doolittle, commander of the Doolittle Raid, a bold long-range retaliatory air raid on the Japanese main islands, on April 18, 1942, four months after the attack on Pearl Harbour, dies at the age of 96.
 - **1996** - In Afghanistan, the Taliban capture the capital city Kabul after driving out President Burhanuddin Rabbani and executing former leader Mohammad Najibullah.
- ## 28 September
- 1781 - American forces backed by a French fleet begin the siege of Yorktown, Virginia, during the American Revolutionary War.
 - **1918** - The Fifth Battle of Ypres begins.
 - **1939** - Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union agree on a division of Poland after their invasion during World War II.
 - **1939** - Warsaw surrenders to Nazi Germany during World War II.
 - **1944** - Soviet Army troops liberate Klooga concentration camp in Klooga, Estonia.
 - **1961** - A military coup in Damascus effectively ends the United Arab Republic, the union between Egypt and Syria.
 - **1984** - Corporal Petrus Johannes Du Plessis from 1 Special Service Battalion died after being grievously burned in an accidental petrol stove explosion at Oshakati while the armoured vehicles were in a laager. He was 22.
 - **1988** - Rifleman Rionell Prins from 53 Battalion was accidentally killed after being struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle during operations in Southern Angola. He was 20.
 - **1991** - Strategic Air Command (SAC) stands down from alert all ICBMs scheduled for deactivation under START I, as well as its strategic bomber force.
 - **1995** - Bob Denard and a group of mercenaries take the islands of the Comoros in a coup.
 - **2012** - Somali and African Union forces launch a coordinated assault on the Somali port city of Kismayo to take back the city from al-Shabaab militants.

29 September

- **1865** - The Battle of Naauwpoort, near Clarens in the eastern OFS, takes place

Jimmy Doolittle

- during the second Basotho War.
- **1900** - The position of Commander-In-Chief at the War Office in London is offered to Lord Roberts.
 - **1900** - Major His Highness Prince Christian Victor Albert Ludwig Ernst Anton, heir of Norway, grandson of Queen Victoria and ADC to Lord Roberts, dies of enteric fever in Pretoria.
 - **1911** - Italy declares war on the Ottoman Empire.
 - **1918** - Bulgaria signs the Armistice of Salonica. The Hindenburg Line is broken by an Allied attack. Germany's Supreme Army Command tells the Kaiser and the Chancellor to open negotiations for an armistice.
 - **1935** - Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia, warns the League of Nations that he is going to mobilise his forces because of threats of invasion by Italy.
 - **1936** - Spanish insurgents continue their march to the capital of Spain Madrid and large numbers of clergy have



now joined the rebels in protests against the leftist controlled government. Many of the priests were butchered by Government forces. This civil war is being fought by two extreme parties who are trying to gain control of the country.

- **1938** - Just two weeks after the Munich agreement was signed and the British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain announced to the world "Peace In Our Time" Hitler is pushing the bounds of the agreement on the German occupation of Czechoslovakia and taking additional areas under Nazi control. Many suspect he had no intention of slowing his occupation of other countries and a second world war is inevitable.
- **1939** - The Active Citizen Force units of SA are authorised to accept volunteers for the duration of the war.
- **1941** - Holocaust in Kiev, Soviet Union: German *Einsatzgruppe C* begins the Babi Yar massacre, according to the *Einsatzgruppen* operational situation report.
- **1942** - East Africa. South African troops are landed at Tulearon (Toliara) on the south west coast of Madagascar, to support the East African force based at Tananarive (Antananarivo).
- **1977** - Four members from 4 SAI were killed in a friendly fire incident near Okalongo when a soldier who formed part of an ambush position,

opened fire. The casualties in this unfortunate incident were: Sergeant Jan Pieter Albertus Furstenburg (24). Corporal Leslie Muller (19). Rifleman Jan Joachim Jacobus de Vos (18). Rifleman Cornelius Johannes Lourens (19).

- **1979** - Ex-president Macias Nguema of Equatorial Guinea is executed following his overthrow on 3 August. No Equatoguinean soldier participates in the execution, because Macias Nguema was and is still believed to have magical powers. The job is done by hired Moroccan troops.
- **1981** - Two helicopter crewmen from 19 Squadron and four members of the SADF including a Medical Doctor were Killed in Action when their Aerospatiale SA330L Puma crashed at Oshakati. The casualties were: Lieutenant Desmond O'Connor (21). Sergeant Daniel Francis Lamprecht (27). Lieutenant (Dr) Cecil George Bartie (27). Candidate Officer James van Zyl (21). Private Hendrik Jacobus Badenhorst (19). Rifleman Richard Anthony Herbst (20).
- **1990** - Rifleman Barry Hart from 6 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident on Beit Bridge Road while traveling towards Vhembe Base. He was 23.
- **1990** - The YF-22, which would later become the F-22 Raptor, flies for the first time.

30 September

- **1832** - Lord Frederick Sleight Roberts, British officer in command during Anglo-Boer War 2, is born in Cawnpore, UK.
- **1901** - The Battle of Moedwil takes place, with the Boer forces under General De la Rey and Kemp retreating after fierce fighting.
- **1901** - Cornelis Broeksma, an attorney from Holland, is executed as a traitor by firing squad at the Johannesburg Fort. Information about appalling conditions in concentration camps and the number of deaths that he had collected got into the hands of the British. His information made its way in code via Amsterdam to London.
- **1915** - Radoje Ljutovac becomes the first soldier in history to shoot down an enemy aircraft with ground-to-air fire.
- **1931** - The War Museum at the 'Vrouemonument' (Women's Memorial) in Bloemfontein is officially inaugurated by General Hertzog.
- **1966** - Nazi war criminals Albert Speer and Baldur von Schirach were released from Spandau prison after serving 20 years. The prison, originally built for 600 inmates, was left with only one prisoner, former Deputy Führer Rudolf Hess.
- **1949** - The Berlin Airlift, which delivers 2 million tons of food and fuel to West Berliners while circumvent-

ing a Soviet blockade, and in which the SAA took part, comes to an end.

- **1954** - The U.S. Navy submarine USS Nautilus is commissioned as the world's first nuclear reactor powered vessel.
- **1971** - It is officially announced that the British and South African naval units will engage in a month of joint manoeuvres in South African waters from 4 October to 3 November 1971.
- **1975** - The Hughes (later McDonnell Douglas, now Boeing) AH-64 Apache makes its first flight. Eight years later, the first production model rolled out of the

assembly line.

- **1980** - Iran continued bombing oil installations in Baghdad in retaliation for Iraq aircraft bombing it's oil refineries in the Persian Gulf. This is the 9th day of the war between these major oil producing nations with both claiming victory during each skirmish.
- **1983** - Rifleman Joshua Daniel Joubert Steyn from 4 SAI, attached to 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was accidentally killed in a shooting Incident at Omuthiya. He was 20.
- **1988** - Sapper Robert Renison from the Army Battle School died from a gunshot

wound, accidentally self-inflicted after he shot himself in the chest while playing with his firearm in the Duty Room at Lohathla. He was 18.

- **1988** - Rifleman Lefu Andries Chauzane from 54 Battalion was accidentally killed near the entrance to 5 Maintenance Unit in Owamboland. He was 18.
- **2004** - The AIM-54 Phoenix, the primary missile for the F-14 Tomcat, is retired from service. Almost two years later, the Tomcat is retired.



F-14 Tomcat



SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

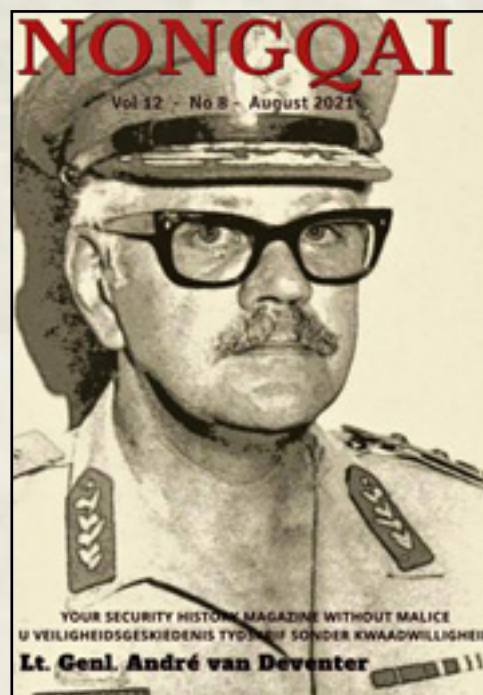
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Every month we will be featuring a few useful links to military websites, newsletters and on-line magazines. Stuff that we think our readers will appreciate.

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.



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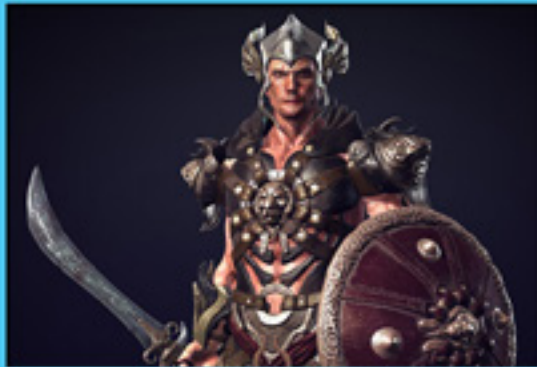
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