



Military Despatches

Vol 44 February 2021

Sorry, it's not true

10 common misconceptions about World War II

Military Manifestations

Some of the most haunted battlefields

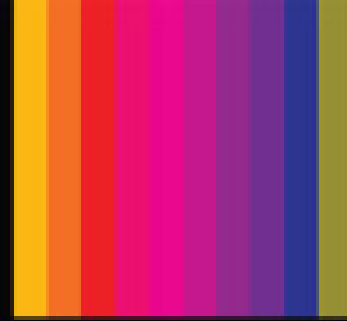
Hunting bin Laden

Why did it take 12 years to finally get him

Operation Ivory Coast

A daring Special Forces raid during the Vietnam War

For the military enthusiast

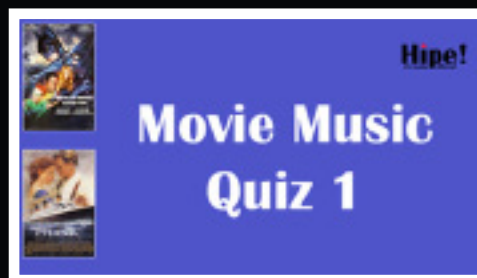


Click on any video below to view



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

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



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



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



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



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

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

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A clean bill of health

TS Birkenhead assists Hawston community preparing Paddavei Park run course.



Editor's Sitrep

It's 04h55 on 1 February and I am sitting here writing this editorial for the magazine. I still have to do the front cover before I can e-mail it to everyone.

Once again I ask myself why am I doing this. I should be fast asleep in bed, not worrying about getting a magazine out on time.

Then again, it's probably because I enjoy it and I trust that there are at least one or two people out there that enjoy it as well.

January was a bit of a busy month. I had one or two other projects that I had to get done and that took up a good chunk of my time.

As many of you know I do a show on Zone Radio every Sunday morning from 9.00 to 12.00. I really enjoy doing it.

For the last week of January, however, I was asked to do the Drive Zone, the main show on Zone Radio.

This meant that from Monday to Friday I was on air from 15.00 to 18.00. This meant having to leave home at 14.00 and only getting back between 18.30 and 19.00.

This gave me far less time to work on the magazine. So it was a bit of a tight squeeze to get everything done on time.

To add to my frustration my computer monitor decided to call it a day. Not only was it a cost I was not planning on, it also meant that I sat for 14 hours unable to work. Poor me, poor me, pour me another drink.

Still, the magazine is done and it will at least go out on the first day of the month.

Yet there is no rest for the wicked. I will take today off and then tomorrow start on the three new magazines for next month. And yes, I did say three.

Besides Military Despatches I also do an online magazine for Zone Radio each month. Then every third month I do 'Jimmy's Own', the official magazine for the SA Signals Association. And March will see another issue of Jimmy's Own. And a very special issue I might add.

Until next time.

Matt

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Military Despatches is published on-line every month. The articles used in **Military Despatches** are copyrighted and may not be used without prior permission from the editor.

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Members of the United States Special Forces - the Green Berets - on deployment in Afghanistan. This month's Special Forces feature looks at this elite unit.



10 misconceptions about World War II

Ten things about World War II that most people believe. But how many of them are misconceptions?

History is sometimes defined as a continuous, systematic narrative of past events as relating to a particular people, country, period, person, etc., usually written as a chronological account.

It is through history that we know so much about past events and people. This is also true when it comes to military history.

Yet often the narrative of past events may not accurately relate what really happened. Even eyewitness accounts will sometimes differ. Oral history that was passed down from generation to generation often becomes distorted over time. And sometimes the narrative can be downright lies.

It was Winston Churchill that said, "History is written by the victors." Now it stands to reason that if you're the one writing the history of something,

you're going to make yourself look good and your opposition look bad.

Often what we take to be history was actually propaganda. Winston Churchill also said, "In wartime, truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies."

Joseph Goebbels. Nazi politician and Reich Minister of Propaganda of Nazi Germany from 1933 to 1945, also had some interesting things to say about it.

"If you tell a lie long enough, it becomes the truth." "The bigger the lie, the more it will be believed." "The truth is the greatest enemy of the State." These were all quotes from Herr Goebbels.

Yet there are some things we know without doubt that are true. Take the following facts from World War II.

- According to most Americans, World War II was the "good war" and most American troops were volunteers.
- France meekly surrendered to Germany in 1940 because the French were cowards.
- US President Franklin D. Roosevelt knew that the attack on Pearl Harbour was going to take place. He allowed it to happen as a pretext for war.

- The German SS in World War II, with their blonde hair and blue eyes, were the cream of Aryan manhood.
- German war crimes during World War II were committed only by the SS.
- The US Navy developed technology to make ships invisible, in the "Philadelphia Experiment".
- Adolf Hitler's real name was actually Adolf Schicklgruber.

All very interesting, but with one slight flaw - none of the above is true. They are all misconceptions that many people believe to be true.

For example, during World War II nearly 70% of American troops were drafted into service. Yet during the Vietnam War, the so-called "bad war", two-thirds of American troops were volunteers.

As for the thing about the Ger-



Joseph Goebbels



Winston Churchill



BLITZKRIEG: It was not a revolution, but rather an evolution.

man SS being the cream of Aryan manhood. More than 60% of them were not even German.

Let's take a slightly more in depth look at some other misconceptions about World War II.

German Blitzkrieg

The word *blitzkrieg* (lightning war) is a word synonymous with World War II. Especially the early German victories at the start of the war.

The Battle of France was won in six weeks, something the Germans could not achieve during the entire First World War from 1914 to 1918. Yet there was never any blitzkrieg strategy.

According to Karl-Heinz Frieser in "The war in the West, 1939-1940: an unplanned Blitzkrieg", he states: "the 1940 campaign in the West may be considered the Blitzkrieg par excellence. In reality, however, it was not at all planned as such. Hitler was counting, instead on

a years-long struggle, as in the First World War."

Frieser goes on to say that the so-called *Blitzkrieg-Denken* (Blitzkrieg concept) developed only after the campaign in the West.

The word Blitzkrieg was rarely used by the Germans before the war. There are very few times it is even mentioned in pre-war literature and even then it isn't clearly defined.

Even after the war Heinz Guderian, considered the father of the Panzer Army, mentioned the word only once in his memoirs. "After the initial success of rapid blows at the beginning of the Second World War, our opponents spoke about Blitzkrieg." Another famous panzer general, Erich von Manstein, never used the word once in his memoirs.

Yet not only does the notion of a German Blitzkrieg concept or doctrine survive in popular consciousness and popular literature, it persists with many

professional historians too..

Many people believe that blitzkrieg was something completely new or at least revolutionary. Many are also under the illusion that what happened between 1939 and 1941 was a complete new form of warfare. They are wrong on both accounts. One needs to look at the bigger picture.

In his article "Blitzkrieg: Revolution or Evolution", Weichong Org states, "To the Germans however, blitzkrieg was never a revolution, but the incremental development of concepts and doctrines that originated from the campaigns of Frederick the Great, Blücher, Moltke the Elder, and those of the First World War."

A closer look at Prussian and German military history shows a number of themes that run through it. First is the focus on short wars won by decisive battles. Second is the concept of surprise, mobility and operational manoeuvre. There is a strong emphasis on outflanking the enemy. Third is an aggressive stance, even in defence.

If you take the above into account, then blitzkrieg was an evolution rather than a revolution. You also have to consider that when the Third Reich went to war, its army's latest general field manual had been published in 1933. It had been written before rearmament had gained momentum and before the first panzer division was established.

So the whole concept of "blitzkrieg" was as traditional

as it gets. It was nothing more than good old fashioned Prussian *bewegungskrieg* (manoeuvre warfare). It was merely organised and merged with new technologies such as the panzer, aircraft and, probably most importantly, the radio.

Operation Sealion

If the Germans had won the Battle of Britain, they would have been able to launch *Unternehmen Seelöwe* (Operation Sealion), the amphibious invasion of Britain, and the British would have been faced with no choice but to surrender. A misconception if ever there was one.

Let's start off by looking at the Battle of Britain. Some people still think that it was a close call. On 15 September the Germans launched *Adlertag*, which was the first day of *Unternehmen Adlerangriff* ("Operation Eagle Attack"), which was the codename of a military operation by Nazi Germany's *Luftwaffe* (German air force) to destroy the British Royal Air Force (RAF).

By 16 September the German believed they had driven RAF Fighter Command down to 177 effective fighters. The true number was actually 300% higher. The RAF could still put 216 Spitfires and 356 Hurricanes into the air.

In the "Cambridge History of the Second World War. Volume 1, John Ferris and Evan Mawdsley wrote in their article "The war in the West, 1939-1940. The Battle of Britain?"



ENGLAND IS THAT WAY: Barges are packed with supplies in preparation for Operation Sea Lion.

– "These assumptions shaped the Luftwaffe's turn from attacking airfields and C3I (Command, Communications and Intelligence) to London. While this was an error, it is less significant than is often claimed. Those early attacks inflicted little damage. Had the Germans continued them, they would still have lost, just less quickly or badly."

Yet even if the Germans had won the Battle of Britain it would have made little difference to the success of Operation Sealion.

When the Allies landed in Normandy on D-Day in 1944, it took the Americans and British years to prepare. These forces included two of the leading naval powers at that time. They had experience in amphibious landings and had gained a naval and air superiority, close to supremacy, in the Normandy region. And D-Day was still no walk in the park.

So even if the Germans had gained air superiority they would have had no chance of gaining naval superiority.

In Summer 1940 the Germans had three cruisers and four destroyers operational. In stark contrast the British Home Fleet had five capital ships, one aircraft carrier, eleven cruisers and eight destroyers. There were also another seven capital ships, two aircraft carriers, seven cruisers and 30 destroyers in the Mediterranean Fleet.

In short, the Germans lacked ships, had untested amphibious vehicles, no experience in amphibious landings, and no amphibious logistics.

Considering that the US and the British, that had plenty of experience in all of those areas, still battled on D-Day, it is highly unlikely that Operation Sealion would have succeeded unless the Royal Navy had somehow disappeared.



MECHANISED MIGHT: The Germans actually had more horses than they did vehicles.

The Holocaust's death toll

As much as some people may try and deny that it ever happened, the Holocaust was a reality. It is unequivocally clear that approximately six million Jews perished at the hands of the Nazis.

Yet that figure is not, as many people believe, the total death toll of the Holocaust. It doesn't take into account the further five millions civilians coming from many diverse groups including communists, Roma, Serbs, Polish intelligentsia, homosexuals, priests, the disabled, and more.

In fact anyone that the Nazis considered *untersmenschen* (subhuman) were fair game to them.

After the invasion of Poland in September 1939, the secret Action T4 euthanasia programme – the systematic murder of German, Austrian, and Polish hospital patients with mental or physical disabilities – was initiated by the SS in order

to eliminate *Lebensunwertes Leben* (life unworthy of life), a Nazi designation for people who had no right to life.

In 1941, the experience gained in the secretive killing of these hospital patients led to the creation of extermination camps for the implementation of the Final Solution.

The Nazis distinguished between extermination and concentration camps. Concentration or prison camps has been set up in Germany prior to World War II for people defined as 'undesirable'.

These included camps such as Bergen-Belsen, Oranienburg, Ravensbrück, and Sachsenhausen. From March 1936, all Nazi concentration camps were managed by the *SS-Totenkopfverbände* (the Skull Units, SS-TV). From 1941 they operated the extermination camps as well.

The prime function of the *vernichtungslager* (extermination

camps) or *Todeslager* (death camps) was genocide. While tens of thousands died at camps such as Bergen-Belsen, Oranienburg, Ravensbrück, Sachsenhausen, Mauthausen, Dachau, and Buchenwald, these were not considered by the Nazis to be extermination camps.

A total of eight camps were built with the specific purpose of genocide. They were Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka, Belżec, Chełmno, Sobibór, Majdanek, Maly Trostinets, and Sajmište.

World War II started in 1939

Come on, we all know that World War II started on 1 September 1939 when Germany invaded Poland. Some Americans probably believe that it only started on 7 December 1941 when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbour.

Yet many historians are of the opinion that World War II started earlier than September 1939.

Some believe it started with the Soviet-Japanese fighting in Mongolia in May 1939. Others suggest even earlier starting points such as the beginning of the Second Sino-Japanese War in 1937, the Italian invasion of Abyssinia in 1935, or even the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1931.

However, as Churchill said, a war's victors are always the ones who later write its history. And so it stands to reason that the world powers on the winning side of World War II ultimately pegged the start of the war as the moment when they

got involved.

German Army Mechanisation

The German Army was highly mechanised. Just look at any photographs or film footage of the German's rolling into Russia and you will see panzers, assault guns and halftracks as far as the eye can see. Yet this is another misconception.

Most of the photographs and footage was for propaganda purposes in which the Germans, quite understandably, showed off their best troops and equipment. To illustrate this, let's look at the composition of the German Army in June 1941, just prior to the invasion of the Soviet Union.

The number of divisions was as follows.

- 21 Panzer divisions.
- 13 Motorised infantry divisions.
- 3 Motorised brigades.
- 95 Infantry divisions suited for all operations.
- 62 Infantry divisions in states of lower combat effectiveness.

Still not convinced? Let's look at the number of vehicles for Operation Barbarossa.

The German Army assembled 600,000 motor vehicles and 625,000 horses. So there was more horse power than horsepower.

So the Germans were nowhere near as mechanised as people believe. Once again this was a misconception promoted by the Nazi propaganda machine.



HITTING THE BEACHES: Despite what some may believe, America did not win World War II on their own.

The US won the war

The United States were the reason that the Allies won World War II. Well, that's what a lot of Americans will tell you.

They beat the Germans, beat the Japanese, led the D-Day invasion, and dropped the big one - the atomic bomb.

There are many reasons why this notion is false, but let's go straight to the most obvious one.

When World War II ended, the Cold War began. There was no way that the United States and its Western Allies were going to write a history of the war that attributed the lion's share of their victory to their former ally who was now their enemy.

More than any other single country, the Soviet Union was responsible for the defeat of the Nazis. The ratio of total military losses on the Eastern Front versus the Western Front was

a staggering nine to one. More than 80% of German military deaths occurred in the east.

This came at a high cost to the Soviet Union. They lost around 10 million military personnel, and let's not forget the 13 million or so civilians. The US, on the other hand, lost about 400,000 troops.

As for the Americans leading D-Day, this is another misconception.

True, the operation's ultimate commander, Dwight D. Eisenhower, was American. But its architect, service chiefs, air commander, and naval commander were all British.

The commander of the naval forces was Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay. The commander of the air forces was Air Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory. The commander of the land forces was General Sir Bernard Law Montgomery. All were British.



SINNER OR SAINT? Considered by many to be one of the greatest statesmen, Churchill did have his flaws.

A total of 52,889 American sailors took part in D-Day compared to 112,824 British sailors.

As for the men landed on the beaches, 57,500 American troops landed at Utah and Omaha, while 75,215 British and Commonwealth troops landed at Gold, Juno, and Sword.

As for D-Day's vehicles, both Britain's warships and landing craft outnumbered America's more than four to one, and British planes accounted for two-thirds of the aircraft. In fact, one-third of the supplies used by American troops during D-Day came from Britain.

So, while the USA played an invaluable role in winning World War II, they didn't win it all on their own.

The US was neutral

Until Japan launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941, the United States was neutral and stayed out of World War II. Don't believe that for one minute.

Let's look at a law that was passed in America, as well as a quote from US President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In March 1941 Roosevelt announced an act to promote the defence of the United States. It is commonly referred to as the Lend Lease Act. This act allowed the United States to support with equipment any country whose defence the President deems vital to the defence of the United States.

After various incidents between US warships and German U-Boats, Roosevelt announced during his Fireside Chat to the Nation on 11 September 1941, "That means, very simply, very clearly, that our patrolling vessels and planes will protect all merchant ships - not only American ships but ships of any flag - engaged in commerce in our defensive waters." And it should be noted that its defensive waters were not just the US coastline.

The US ultimately sent the

modern equivalent of \$659 billion worth of supplies to overseas allies fighting the war.

Furthermore, it was America's economic sanctions against Japan in 1941 that directly precipitated Pearl Harbour. In fact in late 1941 more than 52% of Americans believed there would be a war with Japan.

Churchill, revered war hero

There is no doubt that Sir Winston Leonard Spencer-Churchill was a great statesman who led Britain through World War II. But was he a universally revered wartime hero?

If Churchill was the beloved wartime leader some historians say, why would he and his Conservative Party suffer the single largest defeat in British history in the 1945 elections. And this was before the treaty with Japan, bringing World War II to an end, was even signed.

During World War I he was the First Lord of the Admiralty. He oversaw the Gallipoli Campaign and, after it proved a disaster, he resigned from government and served in the Royal Scots Fusiliers on the Western Front.

As British Prime Minister during World War II, his wartime response to the 1943 Bengal famine, which claimed an estimated three million lives, has caused controversy, and he sanctioned the 1945 bombing of Dresden, which caused tens of thousands of civilian deaths and continues to be debated.

Churchill was a fervent anti-communist. He never quite

trusted Soviet leader Joseph Stalin and he publicly warned of an “iron curtain” of Soviet influence in Europe and promoted European unity.

He became irrationally hawkish as the war was finally about to end. One of his plans was the appropriately named Operation Unthinkable in mid-1945.

This mission, obviously never executed, would have immediately sent American, British, and, craziest of all, re-armed German forces into a full-scale invasion of the Soviet Union.

Widely considered one of the 20th century’s most significant figures, Churchill remains popular in the UK and Western world, where he is seen as a victorious wartime leader who played an important role in defending liberal democracy from the spread of fascism.

Yet others considered him to be an imperialist and racist. So not everyone revered him as a hero.

Operation Barbarossa failed because it was delayed

Operation Barbarossa, the German invasion of the Soviet Union could have succeeded if it had not been delayed. The answer is no, nein and het.

Barbarossa failed due to many different factors. But the main cause was the assumption by the Germans that the Soviet Union would collapse after a few weeks.

While the early gains in territory were significant and the Soviets suffered huge losses in men and equipment, it was not



RULERS OF THE SKY: The Germans had more fighter aces than any other country.

a decisive blow. The Soviets had both territory and troops to spare. Another factor is that the Germans suffered substantial losses as well.

It is important to note that looking at the number of German losses can be misleading. Barbarossa was started with roughly three million men, but they were not all combat troops. A large number of them were construction troops and others in non-combat roles.

Yet a large number of the German losses were experienced combat units that had fought in Poland, France, Norway, Greece and other places. So the loss of these troops in 1941 decreased the combat effectiveness of the Germans far more than the actual loss figures may suggest.

Take a look at the figures given by the German High Command. On 20 June 1941, before the invasion of the Soviet Un-

ion, the Germans had 136 divisions available that were suited for all operations. On 30 March 1942 they had eight divisions.

The invasion was originally set for 15 May 1941, though it was delayed for over a month in allowing for further preparations and possibly better weather.

It was finally launched on 22 June 1941, more than a month later than had been planned. Many believe that if it had been launched on time the Germans would have not been caught out by the early onset of the Russian winter. In reality it would have made little difference. In short the German Army was stopped by the Red Army, and not the Russian winter.

German air aces were better

The records reflect that the Germans had more air aces than any other country. In fact the top 120 aces of the war were all

German.

Erich ‘Bubi’ Hartmann was the top ace of the war with a remarkable 352 kills. But were the German aces really better than anyone else?

The reason why the Germans had more aerial victories than anyone else was explained by Gunther Rall, the third highest ace of the war with 275 kills.

German pilots flew until they died, whereas Allied pilots normally returned home after they had flown a certain amount of sorties.

Secondly, to shoot something down you need to have an enemy. While German may have been short of many things, they were not short of enemies.

Thirdly, when a German

plane did show up they were normally heavily outnumbered. So there would be plenty of Allied planes going after a single fighter. The chances of a new Allied pilot getting a kill were pretty slim to say the least.

German pilots gained plenty of early war experience. Many of them had cut their teeth in the Spanish Civil War and the Battles of France and Britain. So those that did survive until the middle and end of the war had far more experience than the average Allied pilot.

So the notion that German aces were better is a misconception. Under the same circumstances Allied pilots would have probably achieved a similar number of kills.

In conclusion

There are many misconceptions about World War II. Probably hundreds of them.

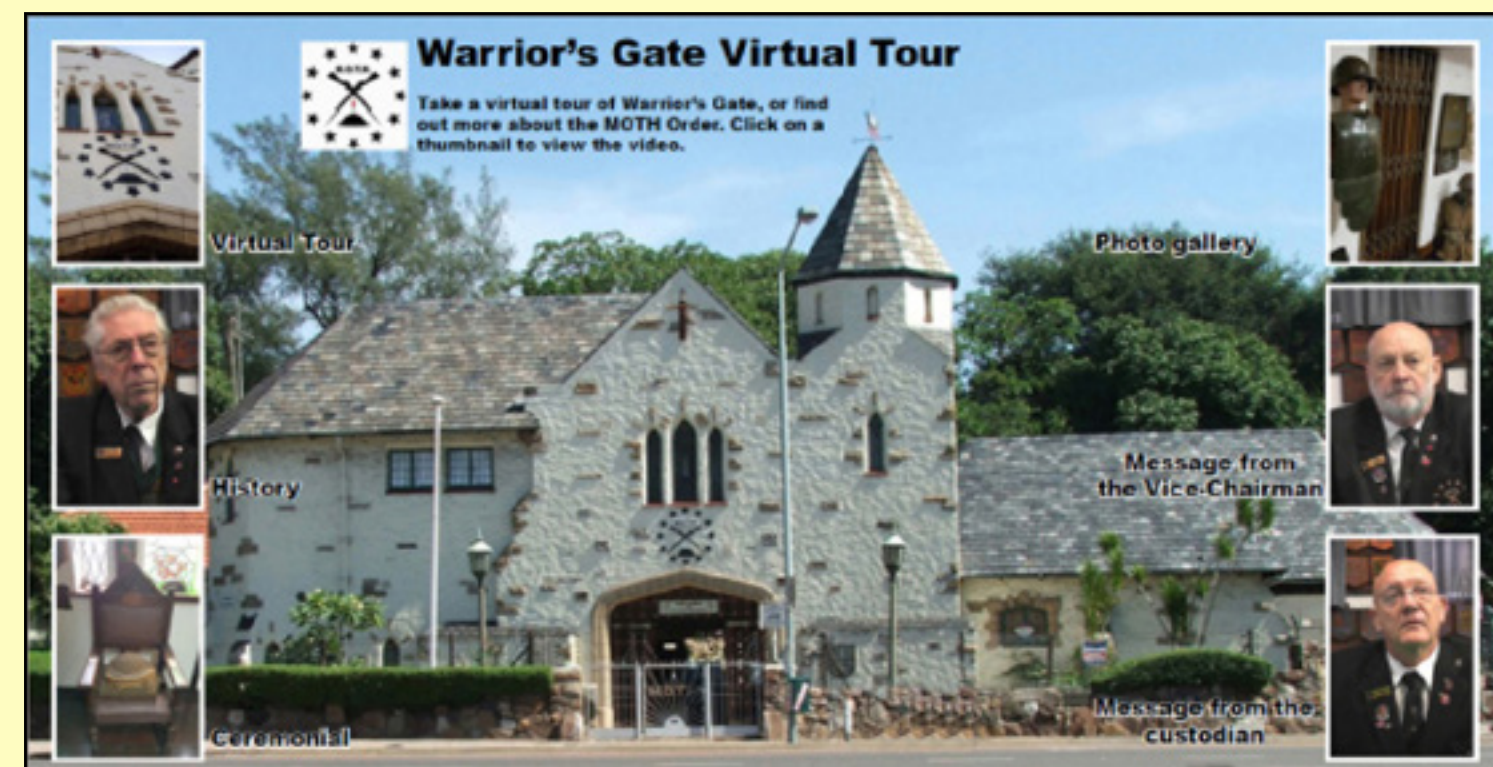
These are just ten of them, but they do give food for thought.

As Mr. Churchill so aptly put it, “History is written by the victors.”

And, as we have so often seen in the past, history is often changed to suit the national or political goals of who ever is in power at the time.

When history is written it is often not ‘the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.’”

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.



Special Forces - Green Berets

Part twenty-three of a series that looks at Special Forces around the world. This month we feature the United States Army Special Forces, better known as 'The Green Berets'.

The United States Army Special Forces, colloquially known as the “Green Berets” due to their distinctive service headgear, are a special operations force of the United States Army that are designed to deploy and execute nine doctrinal missions: unconventional warfare, foreign internal defence, direct action, counter-insurgency, special reconnaissance, counter-terrorism, information operations, counter-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and security force assistance.

The first two missions, unconventional warfare and foreign internal defences emphasize language, cultural, and training skills in working with foreign troops. Other Special Forces missions, known as secondary missions, include: combat search and rescue (CSAR), counter-narcotics, hostage rescue, humanitarian assistance, humanitarian de-mining, information operations, peacekeeping, and manhunts.

Other components of the United States Special Opera-

tions Command (USSOCOM) or other U.S. government activities may also specialize in these secondary missions.

The Special Forces conduct these missions via seven geographically focused groups. Many of their operational techniques are classified, but some non-fiction works and doctrinal manuals are available.

As special operations units, Special Forces are not necessarily under the command authority of the ground commanders in those countries. Instead, while in theatre, SF units may report directly to a geographic combatant command, USSOCOM, or other command authorities.

The Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) highly secretive Special Activities Centre (formerly known as the “Special Activities Division”) and more specifically its Special Operations Group (SOG) recruits from the U.S. Army's Special Forces.

Joint CIA–Army Special Forces operations go back to the MACV-SOG branch during the Vietnam War. The cooperation still exists today and is seen in the War in Afghanistan.

Mission

The primary mission of the Army Special Forces is to train and lead unconventional warfare (UW) forces, or a clandestine guerrilla force in an occupied nation.



The 10th Special Forces Group was the first deployed SF unit, intended to train and lead UW forces behind enemy lines in the event of a Warsaw Pact invasion of Western Europe.

As the U.S. became involved in Southeast Asia, it was realized that specialists trained to lead guerrillas could also help defend against hostile guerrillas, so SF acquired the additional mission of Foreign Internal Defence (FID), working with Host Nation (HN) forces in a spectrum of counter-guerrilla activities from indirect support to combat command.

Special Forces personnel

qualify both in advanced military skills and the regional languages and cultures of defined parts of the world. While they are best known for their unconventional warfare capabilities, they also undertake other missions that include direct action raids, peace operations, counter-proliferation, counter-drug advisory roles, and other strategic missions.

As strategic resources, they report either to USSOCOM or to a regional Unified Combatant Command. To enhance their DA capability, specific Commanders In-Extremis Force (CIF) teams were created with a focus on the direct action side of special operations.

SF team members work closely together and rely on one another under isolated cir-

cumstances for long periods of time, both during extended deployments and in garrison.

Because of this, they develop clannish relationships and long-standing personal ties. SF non-commissioned officers (NCO) often spend their entire careers in Special Forces, rotating among assignments to detachments, higher staff billets, liaison positions, and instructor duties at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (USA-JFKSWCS).

They are then required to move to staff positions or to higher command echelons.[citation needed] With the creation of USSOCOM, SF commanders have risen to the highest ranks of U.S. Army command, including command of USSOCOM, the Army's Chief of Staff, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

History

Special Forces traces its roots as the Army's premier proponent of unconventional warfare from purpose-formed special

operations units like the Alamo Scouts, Philippine guerrillas, First Special Service Force, and the Operational Groups (OGs) of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS).

Although the OSS was not an Army organization, many Army personnel were assigned to the OSS and later used their experiences to influence the forming of Special Forces.

During the Korean War, individuals such as former Philippine guerrilla commanders Col. Wendell Fertig and Lt. Col. Russell W. Volckmann used their wartime experience to formulate the doctrine of unconventional warfare that became the cornerstone of the Special Forces.

In 1951, Major General Robert A. McClure chose former OSS member Colonel Aaron Bank as Operations Branch Chief of the Special Operations Division of the Psychological Warfare Staff (OCPW) in the Pentagon.

In June 1952, the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) was formed under Col. Aaron Bank, soon after the establishment of the Psychological Warfare School, which ultimately became today's John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Centre and School.

The 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) was split, with the cadre that kept the designation 10th SFG deployed to Bad Tölz, Germany, in September 1953. The remaining cadre at Fort Bragg formed the 77th Special Forces Group, which in May 1960 was reorganized and designated as today's 7th Special Forces Group.



HALO: Special Forces personnel perform a high-altitude, low-opening jump over Yakima training centre.

Since their establishment in 1952, Special Forces soldiers have operated in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, North Vietnam, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Colombia, Panama, Haiti, Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo, 1st Gulf War, Afghanistan, Iraq, the Philippines, Syria, Yemen, Niger and, in an FID role, East Africa.

The Special Forces branch was established as a basic branch of the United States Army on 9 April 1987 by Department of the Army General Order No. 35.

Special Forces Groups

There are currently seven active Special Forces Groups. A Special Forces group is historically assigned to a Unified Combatant Command or a theater of operations.

The Special Forces Operational Detachment C or C-detachment (SFODC) is responsible for a theater or a major subcomponent, which can provide command and control of up

to 18 SFODAs, three SFODB, or a mixture of the two. Subordinate to it is the Special Forces Operational Detachment Bs or B-detachments (SFODB), which can provide command and control for six SFODAs.

Further subordinate, the SFODAs typically raise company- to battalion-sized units when on unconventional warfare missions. They can form 6-man "split A" detachments that are often used for special reconnaissance.

The groups are 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 13th, 19th and 20th Special Forces Group.

Entry Qualifications

The basic eligibility requirements to be considered for entry into the Special Forces are:

- Be age 20–36.
- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be a high school graduate.
- Score a General Technical score of 110 or higher or a combat operation score of 110 on the Armed Services



PAYING RESPECT: Soldiers from each of the Army's seven Special Forces Groups (note seven different colors of beret patches) at the gravesite of President John F. Kennedy in November 2011.

- Vocational Aptitude Battery.
- Airborne qualified or volunteer for Airborne training.
- Must pass the Physical Fitness Assessment with at least 49 push-ups, 59 sit-ups, 6 pull-ups, and run two miles in a maximum of 15 minutes and 12 seconds.
- Meet medical fitness standards as outlined in SF Physical IAW AR 40-501.
- Must successfully complete the Pre-Basic Task list.
- Eligible for a secret security clearance.
- Swim 50 m wearing boots and ACUs prior to SFQC.
- Must have 20/20 or corrected to 20/20 in both near and distant vision in both eyes.
- One year of college is preferred, but it is not mandatory for enlistment.

Selection and training

The Special Forces soldier trains on a regular basis over the course of their entire career. The

initial formal training program for entry into Special Forces is divided into four phases collectively known as the Special Forces Qualification Course or, informally, the "Q Course".

The length of the Q Course changes depending on the applicant's primary job field within Special Forces and their assigned foreign language capability, but will usually last between 55 and 95 weeks.

After successfully completing the Special Forces Qualification Course, Special Forces soldiers are then eligible for many advanced skills courses.

These include, but are not limited to, the Military Free Fall Parachutist Course (MFF), the Combat Diver Qualification Course, Special Operations Combat Medic and the Special Forces Sniper Course (SFSC).

The Green Berets

U.S. Army Special Forces adopted the green beret unof-

ficially in 1954 after searching for headgear that would set them visually apart.

Members of the 77th SFG began searching through their accumulated berets and settled on the rifle green colour from Captain Miguel de la Peña's collection. Captain Frank Dallas had the new beret designed and produced in small numbers for the members of the 10th & 77th Special Forces Groups.

Their new headdress was first worn at a retirement parade at Fort Bragg on 12 June 1955 for Lieutenant General Joseph P. Cleland, the now-former commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps. Onlookers thought that the operators were a foreign delegation from NATO.

In 1956 General Paul D. Adams, the post commander at Fort Bragg, banned the wearing of the distinctive headdress, (although members of the Special Forces continued to wear it surreptitiously).

This was reversed on 25 September 1961 by Department of the Army Message 578636, which designated the green beret as the exclusive headdress of the Army Special Forces.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy authorized them for use exclusively by the U.S. Special Forces. Preparing for a 12 October visit to the Special Warfare Centre at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the president sent word to the centre's commander, Colonel William P. Yarborough, for all Special Forces soldiers to wear green berets as part of the event.

The president felt that since they had a special mission, Special Forces should have some-

thing to set them apart from the rest. In 1962, he called the green beret “a symbol of excellence, a badge of courage, a mark of distinction in the fight for freedom.”

Forrest Lindley, a writer for the newspaper *Stars and Stripes* who served with Special Forces in Vietnam said of Kennedy’s authorization:

“It was President Kennedy who was responsible for the rebuilding of the Special Forces and giving us back our Green Beret. People were sneaking around wearing [them] when conventional forces weren’t in the area and it was sort of a cat and mouse game. Then Kennedy authorized the Green Beret as a mark of distinction, everybody had to scramble around to find berets that were really green. We were bringing them down from Canada. Some were handmade, with the dye coming out in the rain.”

Kennedy’s actions created a special bond with the Special Forces, with specific traditions carried out since his funeral when a sergeant in charge of a detail of Special Forces soldiers guarding the grave placed his beret on the coffin.

The moment was repeated at a commemoration of the 25th anniversary of JFK’s death – General Michael D. Healy (ret.), the last commander of Special Forces in Vietnam and later a commander of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Centre and School, spoke at Arlington National Cemetery, after which a wreath in the form of a green beret was placed on Kennedy’s grave.

Unit insignia

A silver colour metal and enamel device 2.86 cm in height consisting of a pair of silver arrows in saltire, points up and surmounted at their junction by the V-42 stiletto silver dagger with black handle point up; all over and between a black motto scroll arcing to the base and inscribed “*DE OPPRESSO LIBER*” in silver letters.

The insignia is the crossed arrow collar insignia (insignia of the branch) of the First Special Force, World War II combined with the fighting knife which is of a distinctive shape and pattern only issued to the First Special Service Force. The motto is translated as “From Oppression We Will Liberate Them.”

The distinctive unit insignia was approved on 8 July 1960. The insignia of the 1st Special Forces was authorized to be worn by personnel of the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) and its subordinate units on 7 March 1991.

The wear of the insignia by the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) and its subordinate units was cancelled and it was authorized to be worn by personnel of the 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne) and their subordinate units not authorized a distinctive unit insignia in their own right and amended to change the symbolism on 27 October 2016.



Yarborough Knife

Starting in 2002, all graduates of the qualification course were awarded a Yarborough knife, designed by Bill Harsey Jr. and named after Lt. Gen. William Yarborough, considered the father of the modern Special Forces.

All knives awarded are individually serial numbered and all awardees names are recorded in a special logbook.

In popular culture

The Green Berets have featured in numerous movies, books and even video games.

One of the better known films is the 1968 film ‘The Green Berets’ which starred the late John Wayne.

[The Ballad Of The Green Berets](#) was a song written by actual Green Beret Staff Sgt. Barry Sadler. The song went on to become a Number One hit in both the United States and South Africa.



Yarborough Knife

Weapons used by the Green Berets

The Green Berets are trained to use a variety of weapon types dated back from WW1 to recent conflicts. This is so the operators can be familiar with some specific enemy weapons during different missions, easily use such weapons in any nation without problem, and train different factions using those weapons to fight with them.



Mk18 Assault Rifle



FN SCAR



AKM



Mk 22 Advanced Sniper Rifle



M79 Grenade Launcher

Those left behind

Whenever a soldier leaves to serve his country there is always an amount of uncertainty. Where is he going? What will he be doing? Will he come home again? And it is not only the soldier that asks these questions.

Back in 1966 US Special Forces Staff Sergeant Barry Sadler had an unlikely hit song with The Ballad of the Green Berets.

The song reached Number One in the United States, as well as in South Africa.

The song originally had 12 verses, but it was trimmed down to a radio-friendly three verses.

The author Robin Moore, who wrote the book, *The Green Berets*, helped Sadler write the lyrics and get a recording contract with

RCA Records.

The lyrics were written, in part, in honour of U.S. Army Specialist 5 James Gabriel, Jr., a Special Forces operator and the first native Hawaiian to die in Vietnam, who was killed by Viet Cong gunfire while on a training mission with the South Vietnamese Army on 8 April 1962.

The third and final verse of the song goes:

Back at home a young wife
waits

Her Green Beret has met his
fate

He had died for those
oppressed.

Leaving her this last request.

And every soldier that has
gone off to serve his country or
fight in a war has left a woman
waiting back home.

It may be a mother, a wife,

a girlfriend, a sister, or even a
daughter. They tend to ask the
same questions that he does.
Where is he going? What will
he be doing? Will he come
home again?

David* spent nearly
30 years as a permanent force member
of the South African
Defence Force. As
a member of an infantry battalion he
spent a considerable
amount of time on
the border.

According to David
it was just as hard, if not
harder, for the women as
it was for the men.

“I joined the army
straight from
school,
so

I never did national service or
anything,” David says. “That
was back in 1962 and I was 17
years old. I didn’t have a girl-
friend at the time, so the only
woman I left behind was my
mother. I know she wasn’t all

that happy about
me joining

the army. My father worked for
the railways and she was hop-
ing I would do the same.”

Three years later, while home
for the weekend, David met the
woman that would become his
wife.

“She was 18 and worked at
the local bank. I invited her
out for coffee and a movie and
we started dating. It was diffi-
cult because I only saw her on
weekends when I could get
home. If I had the week-
end off, which luckily

was most weekends,
I would have to
drive nearly 300
kilometres to get

home and then do the return
journey on Sunday evening.”

Three months after they start-
ed dating David and Yolanda*
became engaged and a year lat-
er they were married. He had
been married for less than a
month when he received a nas-
ty surprise.

“We were married on a Satur-
day and my officer command-
ing gave me the Monday, Tues-
day and Wednesday leave so we
could go on honeymoon. Just
three days.

“Two weeks after I was
married I was informed
that our battalion
was leaving for

South West Africa the following week. This was in November 1966. I was a sergeant back then and was a company platoon sergeant. We were among the first SADF troops sent to South West Africa.”

Naturally his new bride was not all that happy.

“We had only been married a few weeks,” says Yolanda. “And now he was going away. He didn’t really know where he was going, or when he would be coming back. You must realise that back then we didn’t know anything about the ‘Border War’. Look, I know I married a soldier, but we weren’t fighting a war or anything. So I didn’t understand why he had to go away.”

It was only four months later when David returned home. During his time away the only contact had been by letters.

During the remainder of his military career David spent many months away from home. It often put a strain on his marriage. During his career David and Yolanda had three children, two girls and a boy, and they have seven grandchildren. These days he is retired and he has moved to the coast.

“I missed out on a lot of important events,” he says. “I wasn’t there for the birth of two of my three children. I missed out on all of their first day at school. When my father passed away I was on the border. I only managed to make it back just in time for the funeral.

“When I think about it I think that Yolanda had it far worse than I did. When I was on the border I knew where I was and I knew what I was doing. Back

at home Yolanda had no idea.”

At least David was fortunate enough to come home after every trip. Some where not so lucky.

Sandra* and Owen* started dating when she was in standard six and he was in standard seven.

In 1981 she went into matric and Owen left to do his two years national service.

“I promised that I would wait for him, and I did. During the two years he did national service I never dated anyone else. I even went to my matric dance with my cousin.

“Owen would write as often as possible and at least once a week he would phone me, except for the four months he was on the border. And we would spend every one of his weekend passes together.”

After matric Sandra began work and at the end of that year Owen finished his national service. Three months later they were married.

A year later Sandra was two months pregnant. It was then that Owen received his first call up. He was now with a Citizen Force unit and they would be doing a three-month camp on the border.

“I can’t say I was thrilled about it,” says Yolanda. “But we both knew he would be required to do camps every year. About three weeks after he left I was really missing him. He had written me two letters and I had written back and also sent him a parcel.

“I had just arrived home from work when there was a knock at the door. I opened up to find a military chaplain and another

army officer on my doorstep. My blood went ice cold.

“They told me that Owen had been killed in a contact with the enemy that morning. Everything was a blur. He was given a military funeral and to be honest I don’t remember much about it. My life had been torn apart.”

Seven months later Sandra gave birth to a baby girl that would never get to meet her father. Five years later Sandra moved with her daughter overseas. She remarried and a year later gave birth to another baby girl.

“I’m happy with my husband and he has always been very understanding. He helped raise my first child as if it was his own. Yet I will never forget Owen and he will always be the love of my life.”

Yet Sandra is not the only woman to have lost a loved one as a result of war.

One third of the 9.7 million soldiers killed or declared missing during the Great War left behind a widow. The total number of women widowed as a result of the First World War is estimated to be three to four million.

After the war Italy was left with more than 200,000 widows. Great Britain had more than 240,000 while Germany ended up with over 525,000 widows. France ended the war with more than 700,000 widows, approximately half of the 1,400,000 French soldiers killed or missing action.

Many of these women had children who would now have to face life without a father.

And it was not just the mar-



LEAVING ON DEPLOYMENT: A military C-130 transport plane takes off. This was the same type of aircraft that carried most South African troops to and from the border.

ried women that suffered. Soldiers have parents, relatives and loved ones. The death of a soldier affects a wide circle of people.

Many wives would wait anxiously at home for their men to return from military service. Often they had to handle day to day affairs on their own with little support from their men.

They would often have to raise children, handle all the monthly accounts, take the car for a service, and do a hundred and one other things - all while their husbands were away on military service.

Of course not every wife was prepared to wait patiently at home while her husband was away. This is something that has happened as long as there have been wars.

When Susan* married James* he had already finished his one year national service and he worked as a marketing consultant.

“James really loved the military,” Susan says. “Once a week he would go through to the officer’s mess at his citizen

force unit for drinks. He would often be involved with his unit on weekends as well.”

Two years after completing his national service James joined the permanent force as an officer.

“After that he was away more than he was at home. He did a couple of courses at the Infantry School and quite a few courses in Pretoria. So he would be away for weeks, sometimes more than a month, at a time.

“And of course when he went to the border it was for long periods of time. I was still in my early 20s and the last thing I wanted was to sit at home alone every night and weekend. I started an affair and after a while it turned serious. James came back after one border trip and I told him I wanted a divorce. He was devastated, but really, can you blame me?”

Of course many young soldiers, especially those that were conscripted, had girlfriends. Many of them were not prepared to put their young lives on hold for a year or two. Throughout the history of the military there

have been soldiers that received the dreaded “Dear John” letter. Basically this was a letter from their girlfriend telling them that they had been dumped.

Gert* did his one year national service in 1976. He lived in Johannesburg and was called up to the Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg, only 45 kilometres away from home.

“It was really cool because I was so close to home,” Gert says. “After basic and phase one training I became a duty driver. It wasn’t back-breaking work and I would get pass every second weekend.

I enjoyed being the duty driver at night. I used to sit around the duty room until about midnight and then go to bed.

One night I was on duty and it was my girlfriend’s 18th birthday. I can remember that it was a Tuesday night and I really wanted to visit her and give her a big surprise. I don’t know what I was thinking, but I decided to take the duty vehicle and go and visit her.”

Gert’s little trip was discovered when the duty officer went looking for him to make a trip to the local shop in town.

“I was charged and sentence to 14 days in detention barracks. After that I was sent as a signaller to 2 SAI in Walvis Bay for the remainder of my national service. Now I was so far away from home I couldn’t even go home over weekends. And the worst of it all, about three weeks after I was posted to Walvis Bay my girlfriend broke up with me.”

* Names changed on request.

Military Manifestations

If there are such things as ghosts, lost spirits and supernatural manifestations, then it stands to reason that battlefields will be some of the most haunted places on the planet. Matt O'Brien takes a closer look at things that go bump in the night.

How many of you have seen a ghost? Or maybe you've experienced the strange and supernatural. Then again, maybe you're convinced it's just a load of malarkey.

Personally, I'm a bit of a sceptic. The only spirits I've had dealings with normally come in a bottle marked 'Bushmills'.

Yet while I say that, I must confess that I once did have an experience that left me more than a bit perplexed.

I was privileged to visit the Delville Wood South African National Memorial near Longueval in France.

Afterwards I took a walk into the actual woods where the battle had taken place. I stood there with my head bowed, trying to imagine what it must have been like back in 1916.

As I stood there, something strange happened. I didn't see anything. Nor did I hear anything out of the ordinary. Yet I was overcome by an overwhelming feeling of sadness. I started to sob like a baby.

Now while I don't believe in things that go bump in the night, there are many people that do. And even I have to admit that there may be more to it than meets the eye.

If things such as ghosts, spirits, apparitions and like do exist, then it makes sense that battlefields would have their fair share of them. After all, most of them are places where people

met an untimely and often violent death.

So let's take a look at some of the most haunted battlefields and military installations.

Fort Meigs

William Henry Harrison was the ninth president of the United States. Yet before that he had been a military man. A general to be exact.

During the War of 1812 he established Fort Meigs in Ohio. For over a year he defended it against British attacks before it was finally abandoned and burnt down.

In 1974 it was reconstructed and opened to the public. Since then many people have claimed to hear cannon fire, muskets, and the sounds of fifes and drums being played.

Still more people have stated they hear footsteps and, when walking around outside, have seen apparitions staring at them through the windows.

It's believed that over 500 dead American, British, and Indian soldiers are buried in unmarked graves around and underneath the fort.

Battle Abbey

If you know your history then you will remember that the Battle of Hastings took place in 1066.

King Harold II, along with 7,500 of his Saxons, went up against the invading Normans

who were led by William, Duke of Normandy. Or course William was better known as William the Conqueror and sometimes William the Bastard.

William defeated Harold and went on to become the first Norman king of England.

An abbey was built on Senlac Hill with the high altar said to have been placed on the exact spot where King Harold was slain.

Now building an abbey on the site of that much bloodshed was probably not the brightest idea. Over the years there have been numerous bizarre reports.

Most of the sightings have been of ghostly monks rather than soldiers.

There are some other claims, such as the high altar bleeding and a soldier marching through the Great Hall carrying a sword, but those tales are considerably less substantiated.

Marston Moor

As we all know, politics can sometimes become a bit heated. Throughout history it has often led to civil war.

The English actually had three civil wars in a row, fought mainly about how the government should be run.

The wars were fought between the Parliamentarians ("Roundheads") and Royalists ("Cavaliers")

The First English Civil War took place between 1642 and



BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATERS: It looks peaceful enough now, but Antietam Creek was the scene of one of the bloodiest battles of the US Civil War.

1646. The Second English Civil War lasted from 1648 to 1649, and the Third English Civil War was fought between 1649 and 1651.

The three civil wars cost more than 84,000 people their lives. More than 100,000 civilians also died as a result of the English Civil Wars.

The Battle of Marston Moor took place on 2 July 1644. The Royalists suffered a heavy defeat, with some 4,000 of them being killed.

The Parliamentarians were led by Oliver Cromwell. He used the Old Hall as his base of operations and, according to legend, he's still there to this day.

And that's not even mentioning the fact that, apparently, the spirits of the Royalists that were slain in the battle still roam the area.

There have been reports over the years of phantom soldiers marching in Marston Moor, including possible sightings in 1932, 1968, and 1992, when people reportedly observed long haired, finely dressed soldiers marching along the roads.

Dieppe

Before the invasion of Normandy on 6 June 1944, the Allies wanted to test the feasibility of an amphibious landing on an enemy coastline.

To this end they launched Operation Jubilee, which was also known as the Dieppe Raid.

On 19 August 1942 a force consisting mainly of Canadian troops, along with some British and a few Americans, landed on the French coast at Dieppe. The operation was a spectacular failure.

From the time they landed at 05h00 until they retreated back across the English Channel at 14h00 they suffered more than 4,000 casualties.

Now let's fast forward nine years later to 1951. A pair of tourists are enjoying their summer holiday in Puys, nearby to Dieppe. At 04h00 they are awakened by what sounded like heavy gunfire. Then there is small arms fire, shouting voices and other sounds of battle. It is coming from the beach nearby their hotel.

For the next three hours they document all of the sounds they

heard. Later the Society for Paranormal Research determined that their notes matched up, almost to the second, to the events of the Dieppe Raid, which had taken place on that exact beach.

Antietam

The American Civil War resulted in the deaths of between 785,000 and a million people. Many of the battles were notable for the high number of casualties that occurred. The Battle of Antietam was no exception.

The battle took place on 17 September 1862 at Antietam Creek in Maryland. The battle only lasted four hours and was fought in a very confined area. Yet more than 23,000 men were killed, wounded or reported missing.

Today, the small road near Antietam Creek is known as Bloody Lane. And for good reason. Visitors have often reported hearing the sound of gunfire and getting the smell of gunpowder. Others claim to have both seen and heard spirits in the area.

Virtually everything surrounding the Battle of Antietam has had reports of haunting, from Burnside's Bridge, where Ambrose Burnside's Union soldiers pushed back the Confederates and where the dead were quickly buried in shallow, unmarked graves, to the nearby St. Paul Episcopal Church, which was used as a Confederate hospital in the aftermath of the battle.

According to the local legends, the floorboards of the church are so stained in blood that not even sandpaper will take it out.

Gettysburg

Fought from 1 July to 3 July 1863 in the small town of Gettysburg in southeastern Pennsylvania, the Battle of Gettysburg is viewed as the turning point for the Union in the Civil War. The battle resulted in more than 50,000 casualties.

Since then almost everyone that has visited Gettysburg will have some spooky story to share.

At the Daniel Lady Farm, which served as the Confederate field hospital, it is believed that more than 10,000 deceased soldiers still haunt the grounds.

Cashtown Inn, where the first soldier in the Battle of Gettysburg was killed, also has some bizarre tales, and the owners claim to have photographic evidence of spirits on the premises, as well as guests reporting hearing knocking on doors, lights turning on and off, and doors locking and unlocking themselves.

Those are only a small sampling of the alleged ghostly sightings, which have also been reported at the Gettysburg Hotel and the Baladerry Inn, as well as on the battlefields themselves.

Passchendaele

The Battle of Passchendaele, also known as the Third Battle of Ypres, lasted just over three months between July and November 1917.

The Germans were pounded by artillery, with as many as one million rounds being fired. The Germans were up against a force consisting of British, Canadian, New Zealand and South African troops. Australian forces joined in as well.



DOOMED CITY: If cities can be haunted, then Stalingrad has to be a candidate. More than two million people died there in five months of fighting during World War II.

Due to the countless shell holes, heavy rains and thick mud, the battlefield was difficult to navigate. One wrong slip and you could disappear into the mud, never to be seen again.

Nearly 400,000 would die on all sides and almost 100,000 soldiers who died were never identified.

Now, it's said the village is haunted with sounds of battle, screams, gunfire and other phantom noises that can be heard at random times.

Culloden

The Battle of Culloden marked the crushing of the Jacobite Rebellion in the mid-1700s.

The Scottish clans were heavily outnumbered by the troops of Bonnie Prince Charles. The terrain did not favour the Scots and some reports say that the battle was over in under an hour.

The anniversary of the battle is 16 April and it's said that on that day, the ghostly fallen soldiers reappear, and sounds of battle, including clashing swords, can be heard. Some tales say individuals have encountered fallen soldiers on

the battlefield, as well as one soldier who roams the area in a stunned state.

It's also reported that birds do not sing near the burial mounds, due to the creepy atmosphere.

Little Bighorn

Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer of the US 7th Cavalry really knew how to pick a fight.

Twelve companies of the 7th Cavalry were involved in a campaign against the Lakota, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho tribes.

On 25 and 26 June 1876, five companies, a force of about 700 cavalrymen and scouts, engaged in battle against the Indians.

Under the command of Custer, they faced a foe numbering around 2,500. In the Battle of Little Bighorn, sometimes known as Custer's Last Stand, the cavalry were annihilated.

These days hauntings are widely reported at the sight of the battle. Visitors say they instantly become overwhelmed with a feeling of hopelessness. Others say they experience hal-



THE CASTLE: Most people that have spent time at the Castle will have at least one good ghost story to tell.

lucinations of the battle. One grounds keeper says her on-site home was haunted by a Calvary soldier.

Stalingrad

It has often been called one of the most deadly battles in all of human history. And with more than two million deaths, it certainly earned the title.

The battle lasted for just over five months, from 23 August 1942 to 2 February 1943. German troops, supported by Romanian, Italian, Hungarian and Croatian troops fought the Russians for control of the city. Many say that this was where Germany lost World War II.

Today the city is called Volgograd, named after the Volga River.

Now, entire sections of neighborhoods in the city are said to be extremely haunted by the dead.

It's reported that the dead have continued living their normal lives as ghostly figures,

roaming the places where they once lived, fought, and died.

Towton

Early we mentioned the three English Civil Wars that took place between 1642 and 1651. Well, it wasn't the first time that the English had tried their hand at civil War.

From May 1455 to August 1485, a total of 30 years, two English rival branches of the royal House of Plantagenet: the House of Lancaster (associated with a red rose), and the House of York (whose symbol was a white rose), fought for control of the throne. It comes as no big surprise to discover that it was called the War of the Roses.

Eventually, the wars eliminated the male lines of both houses.

One of the bloodiest battles of the War of the Roses took place in early 1461 at Towton. As many as 80,000 men were involved in the battle that lasted for 10 hours. Approximately

30,000 individuals died, in total. The battle is said to have taken place during heavy snowfall.

Now, it's reported that, every seven years, the town of Towton will experience a similar heavy snowstorm. If one walks out into the storm, to the site of the battle, they'll see the two armies fighting for a little more than three hours.

Castle of Good Hope

Lastly, we head for Cape Town and our own Castle of Good Hope.

Built by the Dutch East India Company between 1666 and 1679, the Castle is the oldest existing colonial building in South Africa. The Castle was the centre of civilian, administrative and military activity at the Cape for 150 years and also the site of gruesome punishments, torture and executions. Obviously this has left a legacy of disturbed and restless spirits.

Most people that spent time at the Castle will have a ghost story or two to tell. Stories have been told of footsteps pacing along the battlements between the two bastions of Leerdam and Buren.

National servicemen that did guard duties at the Castle would refuse to go past the *Donker Gat* (dark hole) dungeon when making rounds late at night. They said it felt as if a powerful force or vacuum wanted to suck them in.

If you have any 'spooky' stories from your time in the military, drop us an e-mail and we will do a follow-up story.

A thousand words...

It has been said that a picture paints a thousand words. Yet while this may be true, there is often a story behind the photograph that many are unaware of.

When one thinks of equipment and technology that has changed the face of war, one immediately thinks of military hardware.

And while there is little doubt that military hardware and technology has changed the way wars are fought, there is another device that we seldom think about. And it is a device that has really changed the way that war is viewed.

It's a device that most of us know how to use, and many of us have one of our own. It's called a camera.

The first known photograph ever taken was by Joseph Nicéphore Niépce in 1826 or 1827, showing a view from a window of his home in France's Burgundy region.

In 1839, the first known photograph of a person was taken in Paris, showing a shoe shiner working on the Boulevard du Temple.

It was Mathew Brady, known as the father of photojournalism, and his employee, Andrew Gardner, that really changed the way people saw war.

Brady began shooting pictures of dead American soldiers on Civil War battlefields.

Prior to the appearance of the camera on the battlefield the only images of war seen by the general public was through the medium of paintings.

Paintings more often than not glorified war. They showed that

when soldiers did die in battle they did so with a shout of patriotism and a smile on their face. The camera changed all that.

The public were exposed to the true horrors of war and it began to dawn on them that maybe war was not as glorious as the generals and politicians claimed it was.

From the American Civil War onwards, the camera was present at nearly every major conflict.

Certain photojournalist made both their living and their reputation on their conflict coverage. And from World War I onwards it was not just the still camera that was capturing images. The movie camera also started coming into its own.

During World War II most of the major protagonists had their own film and media units that produced stories, took photographs, and shot film. The majority was for propaganda purposes.

Yet there were also independent journalists, photojournalists and cameramen. Often they would put their lives at risk to get their stories and capture images.

These independents did not always please the military though. All too often their stories and images contradicted what the military was telling the public.

For example the military might release a statement telling of how they had launched a

successful bombing raid on an enemy industrial complex and put a severe dent in enemy production.

What the statement did not mention was that the industrial complex was in the middle of a major city.

The public would then be exposed to photographs of the damage caused to the city, and of the civilian casualties - men, women and children.

It was probably during the Vietnam War that the television camera came into its own. Within hours of an event happening, the major networks were broadcasting footage of the event. And often it was very graphic.

Many people have claimed that it was this footage that turned American public opinion against the war in Vietnam.

These days the camera is everywhere and, with modern digital technology, nothing tends to escape the lens.

Cameras have become smaller while the quality of the photos and video they shoot has become exceptional.

Many troops now have small cameras mounted on their helmets that are capable of filming and transmitting live real-time footage.

Just about everyone in a combat zone, both military and civilians, will have a smart phone capable of taking high resolution photographs and video. And within minutes the photo-

graphs or video is available for the world to see on websites such as YouTube and Facebook.

All you need to do is a search on sites such as YouTube and you will find hundreds and hun-

dreds of hours of footage to watch.

Many of the new cameras, including those on smart phones, are capable of live-streaming. That means you can watch foot-

age as it is happening.

This article looks at some of the most iconic photographs of war and, where possible, gives a bit of background to the photograph.

The Battle of Antietam was perhaps one of the bloodiest of the American Civil War.

Andrew (Alexander) Gardner took 70 photographs of the dead lying in the fields.

This was the first time that dead soldiers had been photographed on a battlefield.

He later put them on display in New York City and the public was horrified. It was the first time that the true horrors of war had been brought home to them.



Robert Capa was probably one of the most famous conflict photojournalists of the mid-20th century.

This photograph, taken during the Spanish Civil War, was titled 'The Falling Soldier'.

Since the 1970s, doubt has been cast on the authenticity of the image, with many suggesting that the photograph was staged. Either way, it remains one of history's most famous war photographs.



This photograph, taken in 1943, shows the Jewish people of the Warsaw Ghetto in Poland surrendering to the Nazis. It was likely taken by a Nazi photographer named Franz Konrad.

The nine-year old boy in the photograph may have been Tsvi Nussbaum, who later became a doctor in New York. The claim was, however, never proved.

What made the photograph so heart-wrenching was that most of those shown in the photographs would die in Auschwitz.



Probably one of the most reproduced photographs ever. Five Marines and a Navy corpsman plant a US flag on top of Mount Suribachi after the bloody battle for Iwo Jima in 1945.

The photograph was taken by Joe Rosenthal, who also faced suspicions that he staged the patriotic scene. Yet the event did happen.

What many don't realise is that this photograph shows the second raising of the flag that day.

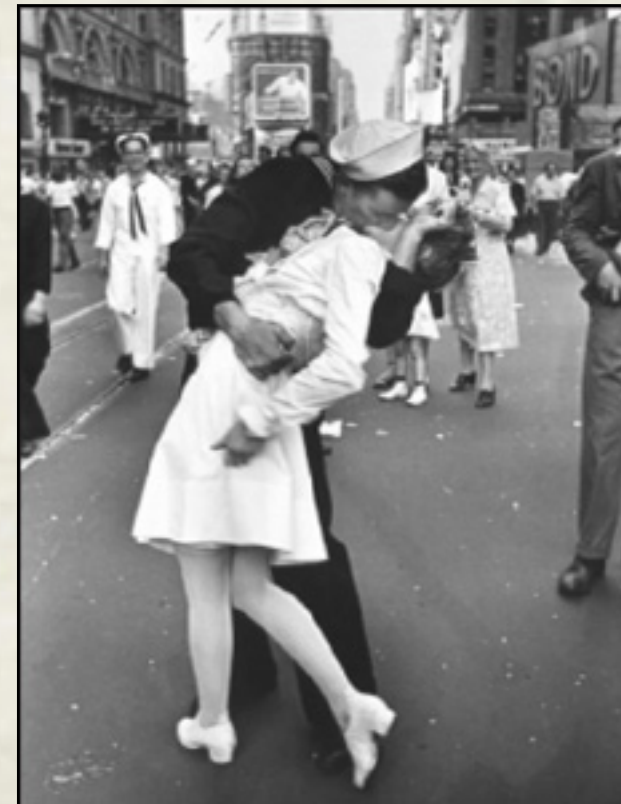
The first flag, raised hours earlier, was deemed to be too small to be seen from the base of the mountain.



Soviet soldiers plant the Russian flag atop the Reichstag to conclude the Battle of Berlin and, in effect, the end of the war in Europe and their victory over Nazi Germany.

The photo was shot by Soviet photographer Yevgeny Khaldei and shows Alyosha Kovalyov and Abdulkhakim Ismailov raising the hammer and sickle.

But the truth behind the photo, who was in the photo, and who actually raised the Soviet victory banner, was muddled by the Russian propaganda machine for decades.



World War II was officially over, and people were celebrating the fact. This iconic photograph of an American sailor kissing a woman in Time Square became a symbol of the joy and excitement at the end of the war.

Alfred Eisenstaedt from *Life* took the photograph, but didn't get the names of the two people. Over the years several people have claimed to be the kissers.

A book released in 2015 identifies the pair as George Mendonsa and Greta Zimmer Friedman.



South Vietnamese General Nguyen Ngoc Loan, chief of the National Police, summarily executes a man on a Saigon street during the 1968 Tet Offensive. The photo was taken by Eddie Adams and was shown around the world and displayed at anti-war demonstrations in the US.

What was perhaps not common knowledge was that the person shot was Nguyen Van Lem (also known as Bay Lop), a Viet Cong intelligence officer. Spies, or soldiers operating in civilian dress, are not covered by the Geneva Convention and can be summarily executed.

Taken by Nick Ut, this photo shows terrified Vietnamese children running down Route 1 near Trang Bang after an aerial napalm attack on suspected Viet Cong hiding places on 8 June 1972.

It was also shown around the world and used in anti-war demonstrations to show the atrocities committed by the Americans in Vietnam.

But it was not the Americans that carried out the raid. A South Vietnamese plane accidentally dropped napalm on its own soldiers and civilians.

The naked girl is nine-year old Kim Phuc. She survived and is now a Canadian citizen, running a foundation that assists children injured and traumatized by war.



Following a crackdown that resulted in the deaths of hundreds of student demonstrators in Beijing, a lone Chinese protester steps in front of People's Liberation Army tanks in Tiananmen Square in 1989.

The event was captured by at least five photographers. The identity and fate of the man in the photograph is unknown. It is, however, claimed that he wasn't even one of the student demonstrators, merely someone that wanted to show his disapproval at the government's reaction to the situation.



President Barack Obama and members of his national security team watch anxiously as they monitor the raid by US Navy's SEAL Team 6 that killed Osama bin Laden in 2011.

White House photographer Pete Souza captured the tension of the moment.

Hunting bin Laden

Osama bin Laden was on the American Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) lists of Ten Most Wanted Fugitives and Most Wanted Terrorists for 12 years. But who was he really, and why did it take so long to bring him to justice?

Even though it has almost been 20 years, most people will still remember where they were and what they were doing on 11 September 2001.

On the morning of Tuesday 11 September 2001 a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks were launched against the United States by the Islamic terrorist group al-Qaeda.

The attacks killed 2,977 people (not counting the 19 hijackers who also died), injured over 6,000 others, and caused at least \$10 billion in infrastructure and property damage. The attacks became known simply as "9/11".

Four passenger airliners operated by two major U.S. passenger air carriers (United Airlines and American Airlines) - all of which departed from airports in northeastern United States bound for San Francisco and Los Angeles - were hijacked by 19 al-Qaeda terrorists.

Two of the planes, American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175, were crashed into the North and South towers, respectively, of the World Trade Centre complex in Lower Manhattan.

Within an hour and 42 minutes, both 110-story towers collapsed. Debris and the resulting fires caused a partial or complete collapse of all other buildings in the World Trade Centre

complex, including the 47-story 7 World Trade Centre tower, as well as significant damage to ten other large surrounding structures.

A third plane, American Airlines Flight 77, was crashed into the Pentagon (the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defence) in Arlington County, Virginia, which led to a partial collapse of the building's west side.

The fourth plane, United Airlines Flight 93, was initially flown toward Washington, D.C., but crashed into a field in Stonycreek Township near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, after its passengers thwarted the hijackers.

9/11 is the single deadliest terrorist attack in human history and the single deadliest incident for fire fighters and law enforcement officers in the history of the United States, with 343 and 72 killed, respectively.

Osama bin Laden is most well known for his role in masterminding the September 11 attacks, which resulted in the deaths of nearly 3,000 and prompted the United States to initiate the War on Terror.

He subsequently became the subject of a decade-long international manhunt. From 2001 to 2011, bin Laden was a major target of the United States, as the FBI offered a \$25 million bounty in their search for him.

On 2 May 2011, nearly ten years after the 9/11 attacks, bin Laden was shot and killed by United States Navy SEALs inside a private residential compound in Abbottabad, where he lived with a local family from Waziristan, during a covert operation conducted by members of the United States Naval Special Warfare Development Group and Central Intelligence Agency SAD/SOG operators on the orders of U.S. President Barack Obama.

Yet who exactly was Osama bin Laden? And why did it take a decade to finally bring him to justice?

Background

Osama bin Mohammed bin Awad bin Laden was born on 10 March 1957 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He was a son of Yemeni Mohammed bin Awad bin Laden, a millionaire construction magnate with close ties to the Saudi royal family, and Mohammed bin Laden's tenth wife, Syrian Hamida al-Attas (then called Alia Ghanem).

He attended university in Saudi Arabia until 1979, when he joined Mujahideen forces in Pakistan fighting against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan.

He helped to fund the Mujahideen by funnelling arms, money and fighters from the Arab world into Afghanistan, and gained popularity among

many Arabs.

In 1988, he formed al-Qaeda. He was banished from Saudi Arabia in 1992, and shifted his base to Sudan, until U.S. pressure forced him to leave Sudan in 1996.

After establishing a new base in Afghanistan, he declared a war against the United States, initiating a series of bombings and related attacks.

Bin Laden was on the American Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) lists of Ten Most Wanted Fugitives and Most Wanted Terrorists for his involvement in the 1998 U.S. embassy bombings.

Bin Laden initially denied involvement in the 9/11 attacks. On 16 September 2001, bin Laden read a statement later broadcast

by Qatar's Al Jazeera satellite channel denying responsibility for the attack.

In a videotape recovered by U.S. forces in November 2001 in Jalalabad, bin Laden was seen discussing the attack with Khaled al-Harbi in a way that indicates foreknowledge. The tape was broadcast on various news networks on 13 December 2001.

In an 18 minute video played on Al-Jazeera in 2004, bin Laden abandoned his denials without retracting past statements. In it he said he had personally directed the nineteen hijackers.

Osama bin Laden was first indicted by a grand jury of the United States on 8 June 8

1998 on a charges of

"conspiracy to attack defence utilities of the United States" and prosecutors further charged that bin Laden was the head of the terrorist organization called al-Qaeda, and that he was a major financial backer of Is-

lamic fighters worldwide.

On 4 November 1998, Osama bin Laden was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, on charges of *Murder of U.S. Nationals Outside the United States, Conspiracy to Murder U.S. Nationals Outside the United States, and Attacks on a Federal Facility Resulting in Death* for his alleged role in the 1998 United States embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania.

The evidence against bin Laden included courtroom testimony by former al-Qaeda members and satellite phone records, from a phone purchased for him by al-Qaeda procurement agent Ziyad Khaleel in the United States.

However the Taliban ruled not to extradite Bin Laden on the grounds that there was insufficient evidence published in the indictments and that non-Muslim courts lacked standing to try Muslims.

Bin Laden became the 456th person listed on the FBI Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list, when he was added on 7 June 1999, following his indictment along with others for capital crimes in the 1998 embassy attacks.

Attempts at assassination and requests for the extradition of bin Laden from the Taliban of Afghanistan were met with failure before the bombing of Afghanistan in October 2001.

In 1999, U.S. President Bill Clinton convinced the United Nations to impose sanctions against Afghanistan in an attempt to force the Taliban to



extradite him.

Years later, on October 10, 2001, bin Laden appeared as well on the initial list of the top 22 FBI Most Wanted Terrorists, which was released to the public by the President of the United States George W. Bush, in direct response to the 9/11 attacks, but which was again based on the indictment for the 1998 embassy attack.

Bin Laden was among a group of thirteen fugitive terrorists wanted on that latter list for questioning about the 1998 embassy bombings. Bin Laden remains the only fugitive ever to be listed on both FBI fugitive lists.

Despite the multiple indictments listed above and multiple requests, the Taliban refused to extradite Osama bin Laden.

Capturing Osama bin Laden had been an objective of the United States government since the presidency of Bill Clinton.

In 1988 US Clinton had signed a directive authorizing the CIA (and specifically their elite Special Activities Division) to apprehend bin Laden and bring him to the United States to stand trial. If taking bin Laden alive was deemed impossible, then deadly force was authorized.

On 20 August 1998, 66 cruise missiles launched by United States Navy ships in the Arabian Sea struck bin Laden's training camps near Khost in Afghanistan, missing him by a few hours.

In 1999 the CIA, together with Pakistani military intelligence, had prepared a team of approximately 60 Pakistani commandos to infiltrate Af-

ghanistan to capture or kill bin Laden, but the plan was aborted by the 1999 Pakistani coup d'état.

In 2000, foreign operatives working on behalf of the CIA had fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a convoy of vehicles in which bin Laden was traveling through the mountains of Afghanistan, hitting one of the vehicles but not the one in which bin Laden was riding.

All of these attempts to capture or kill bin Laden took place before 9/11.

Immediately after the 9/11 attacks, U.S. government officials in the Bush Administration named bin Laden and the al-Qaeda organization as the prime suspects and offered a reward of \$25 million for information leading to his capture or death.

According to The Washington Post, the U.S. government concluded that Osama bin Laden was present during the Battle of Tora Bora, Afghanistan in late 2001, and according to civilian and military officials with first-hand knowledge, failure by the United States to commit enough U.S. ground troops to hunt him led to his escape and was the gravest failure by the United States in the war against al-Qaeda.

U.S. and Afghanistan forces raided the mountain caves in Tora Bora between 14–16 August 2007. The military was drawn to the area after receiving intelligence of a pre-Ramadan meeting held by al-Qaeda members. After killing dozens of al-Qaeda and Taliban members, they did not find Osama bin Laden.

On 7 October 2008, in the

second presidential debate, on foreign policy, then-presidential candidate Barack Obama pledged, "We will kill bin Laden. We will crush al-Qaeda. That has to be our biggest national security priority."

On 18 October 2010, an unnamed NATO official suggested that bin Laden was "alive and well and living comfortably" in Pakistan, protected by elements of the country's intelligence services.

A senior Pakistani official denied the allegations and said that the accusations were designed to put pressure on the Pakistani government ahead of talks aimed at strengthening ties between Pakistan and the United States.

In April 2011, various intelligence outlets were able to pinpoint Bin Laden's suspected location near Abbottabad, Pakistan. It was previously believed that bin Laden was hiding near the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas, but he was found 160 km away in a three-story mansion in Abbottabad.

Bin Laden's mansion was located 1.3 km southwest of the Pakistan Military Academy.

In April 2011, President Obama ordered a covert operation to kill or capture bin Laden.

On May 2, 2011, the White House announced that U.S. Navy SEALs had successfully carried out the operation, killing him in his Abbottabad compound in Pakistan.

Operation Neptune Spear

Osama bin Laden was killed in Abbottabad, Pakistan, on 2 May 2011 shortly after 01h00



COMPOUND: The compound in Abbottabad where Osama bin Laden had been living when it was raided by US Special Forces.

local time by a United States military special operations unit.

The operation, code-named Operation Neptune Spear, was ordered by United States President Barack Obama and carried out in a U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) operation by a team of United States Navy SEALs from the United States Naval Special Warfare Development Group (also known as DEVGRU or informally by its former name, SEAL Team Six) of the Joint Special Operations Command, with support from CIA operatives on the ground.

The raid on bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad was launched from Afghanistan. After the raid, reports at the time stated that U.S. forces had taken bin Laden's body to Afghanistan for positive identification, then buried it at sea, in accordance with Islamic law, within 24 hours of his death.

Subsequent reporting has called this account into question - citing, for example, the absence of evidence that there

was an imam on board the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, where the burial was said to have taken place.

Pakistani authorities later demolished the compound in February 2012 to prevent it from becoming a neo-Islamist shrine.

In February 2013, Pakistan announced plans to build a R265 million amusement park in the area, including the property of the former hideout.

Conspiracy theories

Finally, more than 12 years after President Clinton had given the order for bin Laden to be captured or killed, Osama bin Laden was dead.

It had cost the United States \$450 billion to hunt down and kill bin Laden. But had bin Laden really been killed on 2 May 2011? The death of Osama bin Laden in May 2011 gave rise to various conspiracy theories, hoaxes, and rumours.

These include the ideas that bin Laden had been dead for years, or is still alive. Doubts

about bin Laden's death were fuelled by the U.S. military's supposed disposal of his body at sea, the decision to not release any photographic or DNA evidence of bin Laden's death to the public, the contradicting accounts of the incident (with the official story on the raid appearing to change or directly contradict previous assertions), and the 25 minute blackout during the raid on bin Laden's compound during which a live feed from cameras mounted on the helmets of the U.S. special forces was cut off.

Some believed that bin Laden was working with the U.S. during the entire war on terror. He was killed because they feared he would eventually reveal the truth.

Others believe that bin Laden had been killed years before but this information was kept secret until just before the US Presidential Elections in order to boost Obama's ratings.

Fact file

Here are a few bits of information you may or may not know about Osama bin Laden.

- Osama bin Laden was the 17th of an estimated 58 children of construction magnate Mohammed bin Awad bin Laden.
- Bin Laden received an elite, Western-style education in Saudi Arabia and attended a Quaker school in Lebanon for a year.
- Bin Laden graduated with a degree in civil engineering in 1979 from King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- The CIA supported extrem-

- ist Islamic groups in the 1980s - including bin Laden's - with weapons and over \$1 billion when they were fighting the Soviet Union in Afghanistan.
- While his father married 22 times and fathered 58 children, bin Laden married at least five women and fathered approximately 24 children.
 - Bin Laden received between \$25 to \$30 million in inheritance after his father's death, which he funnelled to jihadist activities in Afghanistan.
 - Bin Laden was expelled from Saudi Arabia in 1991. He and other Al Qaeda members then relocated to Sudan with an estimated \$250 million that they used to grow their terror network.
 - The United States and Saudi Arabia agreed to match funding to jihadi groups in 1991, when over \$400 million was given to what would later become the Taliban.
 - After radical Islamists first struck the World Trade Centre with a car bomb in 1993, bin Laden was implicated as a co-conspirator.
 - Bin Laden was a passionate fan of British football team Arsenal F.C. and reportedly visited their stadium twice during a trip to London in 1994.
 - According to Kola Boof, a Sudanese writer who claims to have been made bin Laden's sex slave in the 1990s, he was obsessed with Whitney Houston, and regularly spoke of his dreams of marrying her and killing her husband, Bobby Brown.
 - Bin Laden forbade his followers from listening to music as well as drinking iced water.
 - Knowing that the United States could not be defeated militarily, bin Laden's long-term strategy was to draw out the United States into a costly war of attrition. He believed he could bankrupt the U.S. economy by forcing the country into wars across the globe.
 - After the United States launched missile attacks against Al Qaeda's compound in Afghanistan by tracking satellite phone use, Bin Laden didn't use a phone after 1998.
 - According to biographers and associates, bin Laden loved westerns, which is largely why he owned so many horses and took to wearing cowboy hats at his Abbottabad compound.
 - In an elaborate attempt to fake his death, Al Qaeda staged a funeral for bin Laden in the Tora Bora mountains of Afghanistan in 2001.
 - Bin Laden penned a letter to President Barack Obama in 2011 urging him to act on climate change.
 - Bin Laden was between 1.95 (6'4") and 2.01 metres tall (6'6") but weighed only 73 kilograms.
 - A gem dealer from Michigan named Tom Lee claims to have learned of Osama bin Laden's hiding place in Abbottabad, Pakistan from a friend in Pakistani intelligence all the way back in 2003. He immediately passed the info on to the FBI. When bin Laden was killed in that very hiding place in 2011, Lee sought the advertised \$25 million reward, but was ignored by the FBI.
 - Osama bin Laden was killed on May 2nd, 2011 by United States Navy SEALs, with his body disposed of at sea the same night.
 - The person who broke the news of bin Laden's death to the public was none other than Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. In a tweet that went out over an hour before the president addressed the nation, Johnson, likely acting on a tip from his Navy SEAL cousin, was the first to hint at the historic news that would soon be shared with the world.
 - The Centre for Public Integrity calculates the cost of tracking and killing Osama Bin Laden at \$450 billion, making him the most expensive assassination target in world history.
 - While the exact method used to ultimately locate Osama bin Laden prior to the operation that ended with his death hasn't been released by the U.S. government, most accounts point to a Pakistani intelligence officer who disclosed his location for a \$25 million reward.
 - No physical evidence of Osama bin Laden's death has been released to the public.



General Knowledge

This month is all about general knowledge. We ask you 25 questions, you tell us the answer. Some of them you should all know, others are a bit more difficult and will be a true test of your general knowledge regarding military matters. Answers on page 00

- Who was the only member of the South African Air Force to become Chief of the SADF?
- In what year did National Service end in the South African Defence Force?
- What was a Leading Seaman in the South African Navy better known as?
- Which South African army unit was based at Nduduku in Zululand?
- The motto of the South African Corps of Signals is 'Certa Cito'. What does it mean?
- Who was South Africa's leading air ace during World War I?
- Situated in the Northern Transvaal, close to the town of Groblersdal, was a farm where the South African Police did their counter insurgency training. What was this training facility called?
- On what date did Operation Reindeer, the attack on Cassinga, take place?
- Who was the first person to be awarded the Honoris Crux?
- How many South Africans were awarded the Victoria Cross during World War II?
- Where was the first place ever bombed by the South African Air Force?
- What was the nickname given to Britain's Home Guard during World War II?
- By what name was the German Panzerkampfwagen V better known?
- What does the AK stand for in AK-47?
- Who was the top air ace of World War II?
- What were the code-names for the five beaches on D-Day?
- Which big band leader disappeared over the English Channel on 15 December 1944?
- Where did the shortest war on record take place, and how long did it last?
- Which Rhodesian unit was known as "The Saints"?
- What famous American aviation group flew P-51 Mustangs with bright red tails?
- Which former heavyweight boxing champion was a paratrooper during World War II?
- Which country has the smallest army in the world?
- During the Vietnam War, who was known as Hanoi Jane?
- How long did the 100 year war last?
- What was significant about the Battle of Kursk in 1943?



A clean bill of health

TS Birkenhead assists Hawston community preparing Paddavei Park run course. By Lt Cdr Glenn von Zeil.

TS Birkenhead, located in Hawston near Hermanus, will hopefully be commissioned in 2021 as the youngest Sea Cadet unit in South Africa.

The unit is commanded on Officer-in-Charge WO1 Noel Dreyer (Ret) supported by a handful of local interested parents. The unit evolved from the Hawston Cadet Group and currently has three adult Instructors and 44 Sea Cadets on strength.

The unit has been utilising the local Hawston Primary School premises after school to operate from until a suitable permanent home is located.

It is hoped that this may manifest at the local yacht club as sailing, pulling, water borne training forms part of the curriculum. The Major of Hermanus, Mr Dudley Coetzee, has shown a keen interest in assisting WO1 Dreyer in securing a suitable home for TS Birkenhead.

The unit was named in memory of the HMS Birkenhead which was wrecked on 26 February 1852 near Danger Point, Gansbaai, whilst transporting troops.

As there were not sufficient serviceable life boats the soldiers stood firm on the deck whilst the “women and children

first” went into the lifeboats. Only 193 of the 643 on board survived.

The “Birkenhead drill” of Rudyard Kipling’s poem came to describe courage in the face of hopeless circumstances.

The co-ordinators of local popular Paddavlei Park Run raised concern regarding illegal dumping on part of the route.

The new 5km route starts at the Hawston Sports fields, then the beach, through the Milkwood forest and along the vlei before ending back at the Hawston Sports fields. 75% of the route, as is required, must be through a natural setting and in this case traverses several eco systems.

As Park Runs are popular and participants enjoy to visit other runs the intent is to attract runners to Hawston. In addition, the objective is to create awareness of the Paddavlei locally, provide economic opportunities through the sale of food at the sports centre and attract visitors.

Although the municipality did a good clean up there was still “fine detail” to make the run “good for the eyes” and improve the runners experience.

These are terms which Sea Cadets know well when preparing for inspection and they did a wonderful job in assisting to prepare the Paddevlei Parkrun route.

In addition the Sea Cadets

also assisted the rehabilitation team in removing alien vegetation comprising:

- 16x grids / 16 000m squared cleared
- 1730 Port Jackson removed
- 101 Rooikrans removed
- 251 Australian Myrtles removed
- 2082 Ailien plants removed

Bravo Zulu to WO1 Noel Dreyer and the Sea Cadets from TS Birkenhead in contributing to the Paddavlei Park Run project in Hawston.

Keep your eye on TS Birkenhead as there will be more project coming up to augment their Seamanship Training.

Should you be interested to supporting TS Birkenhead please contact the Officer Commanding WO1 Noel Dreyer (Ret) at noelmdreyer@gmail.com.



PICK IT UP: Cadets from TS Birkenhead hard at work in Paddavei Park. In the army this was known as a ‘chicken parade’. In the navy, however, they referred to it as ‘skirmishing’. I remember the old adage, “If it moves, salute it. If it doesn’t move, pick it up or paint it.”



During World War II my grandfather personally brought down 23 German aircraft.



Apparently he was the worst mechanic the Luftwaffe ever had.

A fond farewell

TS Woltemade Covid-19 Matric farewell. By **SUB LT. GAYLENE PILLAY**, Executive Officer, TS Woltemade.

All Sea Cadet units are extended families for the Sea Cadets and TS Woltemade is no different. 2020 posed unique challenges for Sea Cadets and Adult Officers and Instructors as the family were separated due to lockdown.

The unit successfully utilised on line creative projects to stay in contact with the Sea Cadets via technology and set many interesting practical tasks for them to complete at home. Projects were submitted via cell phone on photo or video format.

Usually a final Prize Giving Parade takes place where prizes are awarded and leave is taken of those Sea Cadets writing Matric. This is one of the highlights of the year. Therefore the Officers investigated other ways of saying farewell to the senior Sea Cadets, some of whom had spent 5 years at the unit. These deliberations were intended to close the loop and avoid this group feeling that they have been “kicked out of the nest” without a goodbye.

The idea for a “farewell” was born and a date was set. A three course dinner with all the trimmings was planned for the Sea Cadets and their immediate families. Not everyone could share in this special event because of Covid-19 regulations, however this did not dampen the excitement.

Each one of our senior Sea Cadets participated by reflect-

ing for a few minutes on the impact of the Sea Cadets and TS Woltemade had had in their lives. Each also shared a special moment.

This is what the senior Sea Cadets shared:

- LS Ashton Appolis (New Entry class July 2016). Always painfully shy, however he confidently told us how he had learned to set goals for himself and not to deviate or allow anyone to distract him.
- PO Clayton Cornelius (New Entry class January 2017). He shared how Sea Cadets had transformed his life from a boy who could not focus on anything for too long due to ADHD to a young man keen to go out into the world. As he was given direction by the Adult Officers, he now knew what he wanted to do with his life. Sea Cadets had also given him opportunity to learn to focus his energy on things that really matter.
- PO Ashwin Gordon (New Entry class January 2017). He indicated that when he started as a Sea Cadet, he was highly competitive and saw other Cadets as competition. However, as time progressed, he learned that he would progress further and faster if he embraced them as family instead of competing.
- PO Joshua Julius (New En-

try class July 2015). In July 2017 he contracted tuberculosis in his spine and was paralyzed from the waist down. Doctors indicated that he would be wheelchair bound for the rest of his life. When his mom contacted the Commanding Officer, he said to her to send our Sea Cadet back to the unit as soon as he is released from hospital. He returned, participated in all activities and eventually grew strong enough to discard the wheelchair when he could walk and run again. He credited drawing his strength from his fellow Sea Cadets because they refused to leave him behind or give up on him.

- LS Venisha Dietrich (New Entry class July 2018). She could not share the evening with us but sent a voice note to share with the audience of how her time at TS Woltemade had taught her that she is stronger than what her brain or body tells her.
- PO Brandon Thompson (New Entry class January 2015). Shy because of a speech impediment. This evening he took the microphone and shared how nervous he was because of his stutter. Being a Sea Cadet had taught him to be patient with himself and that he would eventually overcome any obstacle. He delivered a confident 4-minute speech

without any stutter.

- Sea Brenhton Sam (New Entry class January 2018). His opening address had everyone in stitches as he shared how many times, he wanted to quit but his family gave him no choice. He feels that his academic work has benefited and that he expects to be in the top ten of his school due to the confidence and perseverance he learned as a Sea Cadet.

After all the senior Sea Cadets had spoken, they were given service certificates and testimonials from TS Woltemade. Many tears were shed, thankful for the years we could’ve shared together on their journeys.

This was the first time TS Woltemade had celebrated an occasion like this and we trust that it is the start of a new tradition.

As the long-standing XO of TS Woltemade, I am indeed proud to be sending such good quality of young people out into the world to create a positive ripple.

For more information on joining, volunteering as an adult in-

structor or donating to the Sea Cadets see www.seacadets.za.org.

All photographs by Nomadic Photography



PO Clayton Cornelius and his family.



PO Ashwin Gordon and his family.



PO Brandon Thompson and his family.



Sea Brenhton Sam delivers a confident speech at the Farewell function.



TOP: All Matric / senior Sea Cadets at TS Woltemade who completed their training in 2020.



MIDDLE: PO Joshua Julius and his family.

BOTTOM LEFT: LS Ashton Appolis and his family.

BELOW: LS Venisha Dietrich unfortunately could not attend, however did submit a photo.



Rank Structure - US Army

Over the next few months we will be running a series of articles looking at the rank structure of various armed forces. This month we look at the United States Army.



Earlier in this issue we looked at the United States Army Special Forces, better known as The Green Berets.

As the fall under the United States Army their rank structure is the same as the regular US Army ranks.

The ranks of Sergeant Major of the Army, General of the Army, and General of the Armies would not be possible for a member of the Green Berets.

They could, however, be given to those that had previously served in the US Army Special Forces.

Non-commissioned Officers (NCO)



Private E2



Private First Class



Specialist



Corporal



Sergeant



Staff Sergeant



Sergeant First Class



Master Sergeant



First Sergeant



Sergeant Major



Command Sergeant Major



Sergeant Major of the Army

Officers



First Lieutenant



Lieutenant



Captain



Major



Lieutenant Colonel



Colonel



Brigadier General



Major General



Lieutenant General



General



General of the Army



General of the Armies

Weapons & Equipment: Vietnam

This month we compare the weapons and equipment of the major combatants in the Vietnam War.

The Vietnam War was fought between 1 November 1955 and 30 April 1975.

Beginning in 1950, American military advisors arrived in what was then French Indochina.

By 1969 there were 530,000 US troops serving in Vietnam. In total 2,709,918 American troops served in Vietnam.

All arms of the US Military took part in the Vietnam conflict, including the US Army, US Marine Corps, US Air Force, US Navy, and even the US Coast Guard.

The Americans were there to assist the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN). More than two million South Vietnamese troops would take part in the war.

While the United States and South Vietnamese made up the bulk of the forces fighting on the side of the south, other countries also sent troops to Vietnam to assist the Americans.

These countries included the Khmer Republic, Laos, South Korea, Thailand, the Philippines, the Republic of China, New Zealand and Australia.

Facing the forces of the south were the North Vietnamese regular and irregular forces.

The regular forces consisted of the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and this included both an air force and a navy. The ir-

regular forces were made up of the Viet Cong (VC).

They were supported by a number of other countries and organisations that included the Khmer Rouge, the Pathet Lao, China, Cuba, the Soviet Union and other Eastern Bloc countries.

For all intents and purposes, the Vietnam War was considered a Cold War-era proxy war.

It was a long and costly war and this was reflected by the casualties figures.

South

- United States: 58,318 dead; 303,644 wounded.
- South Vietnam: Between 254,256–313,000 military dead; 1,170,000 wounded. There were also between 195,000–430,000 civilians killed in the conflict.
- Khmer Republic: Unknown.
- Laos: 15,000 army dead.
- South Korea: 5,099 dead; 10,962 wounded; four missing.
- Thailand: 351 dead.
- Philippines: Nine dead; 64 wounded.
- Republic of China: 25 dead.
- New Zealand: 37 dead.
- Australia: 521 dead; 3,129 wounded.

North

- North Vietnam & Viet Cong: Between 65,000–182,000

civilian dead; between 666,000–950,765 military dead; 600,000+ wounded.

- Khmer Rouge & Pathet Lao: Unknown.
- North Korea: 14 dead.
- Cuba: Unknown.
- China: 1,100 dead; 4,200 wounded.
- Soviet Union: 16 dead.

The Soviet Union and China were far more involved in the war than many people realise.

Russian ships in the South China Sea would pick up American B-52 bombers flying from Okinawa and Guam and then send early warnings to the North Vietnamese.

The Soviet Union supplied North Vietnam with medical supplies, arms, tanks, planes, helicopters, artillery, anti-aircraft missiles and other military equipment. Soviet crews fired Soviet-made surface-to-air missiles at U.S. F-4 Phantoms, which were shot down over Thanh Hóa in 1965. Over a dozen Soviet soldiers lost their lives in this conflict.

China's support for North Vietnam when the U.S. started to intervene included both financial aid and the deployment of hundreds of thousands of military personnel in support roles.

The Chinese military claims to have caused 38% of American air losses in the war.

US Army & US Marine Corps

The US Army and US Marine Corps made up the bulk of the American troops that served in Vietnam. Many of them were draftees.



The standard US rifle was the 5.56 x 45 mm Colt M16A1. It used a 20 round box magazine.

Many troops did not like the M16, claiming that it did not have enough stopping power.

US Army infantryman



The standard US Army side arm was the .45 ACP Colt M1911A1.



At least one troop in a squad would be armed with an M79 grenade launcher. It was a single-shot, shoulder-fired, break-action grenade launcher that fired a 40x46 mm grenade. It was nicknamed the 'Thumper' because of the distinctive sound it made when fired.



Introduced in 1959 it would go on to serve in every branch of the US military and become synonymous with the Vietnam War. It was of course the M60 machine gun.

The M60 was a general-purpose machine gun that fired 7.62x51 mm NATO cartridges from a disintegrating belt of M13 links.

It was nicknamed "The Pig" due to its bulky size and appetite for ammunition.

Officially it was known as the M-1 Helmet, although troops called it the 'steel pot'. The helmet covers would often be festooned with graffiti.

Items such a box of cigarettes, rifle oil, insect repellent, or even a spare magazine would be tucked into the band.



Most US troops would carry at least two M26 hand grenades with them. Some would also carry the M34 white phosphorus grenade that was nicknamed 'Willie Pete'.

Special Forces

During the Vietnam War various US Special Forces groups were deployed in Vietnam. These included Green Berets (Army), Army Rangers, SEALs (Navy), and Marine Force Recon.



Most special force units preferred the 5.56 x 45 mm Cold Automatic Rifle (CAR-15), also known as the Colt Commando. It had a 30 round magazine and was shorter than the M16.

The 5.56 x 45 mm Stoner 93 could be configured as a rifle, a carbine, a top-fed light machine gun, a belt-fed squad automatic weapon. It was a weapon favoured by Special Forces.



If Special Forces troops carried side arms it would usually be a 9 x 19 mm Parabellum Browning Hi-Power pistol or the Smith & Wesson Mark 22 Mod.0 "Hush Puppy". This was a 9 x 19 mm Parabellum pistol that had a detachable suppressor.



Special Forces troops would seldom wear helmets and favoured a cloth hat commonly known as a 'Boonie' hat.

Because they often spent extended periods in the jungle, Special Forces would carry an Alice pack. It could hold far more than the standard issue infantry backpack.



Army of the Republic of Vietnam

ARVN troops would be issued with standard US Army equipment. While some of them were issued with M16 rifles, many would be issued with the older M1 Garand.



Made in large numbers during World War II, the M1 Garand was used by every branch of the US military. Originally a 7.62x63 mm calibre weapon this was changed so that it could fire the 7.62x51 mm NATO round. Once the American military adopted the M16, the M1 Garand was issued to South Vietnamese troops.

Viet Cong

The Viet Cong, also known as the National Liberation Front of Southern Vietnam or NLF was an armed communist political revolutionary organization in South Vietnam and Cambodia.

Its military force, the Liberation Army of South Vietnam (LASV), fought against the United States and South Vietnamese governments during the Vietnam War, eventually emerging on the winning side.



Used by both the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army, the AK-47 was probably the most common weapon of the war.

Firing 7.62×39 mm ammunition from a 30 round magazine, the weapon was robust and easy to maintain.



Another weapon favoured by the VC was the 7.62×39 mm Simonova SKS carbine. The VC also used weapons captured from the Americans and even those captured from the Japanese in World War II and the French during the Indo-China War.



The VC seldom wore boots. Instead they would make their own sandals from an old car tyre. The Americans gave them the nickname 'Ho Chi Minh Sandals'.



Many NVA officers would carry the 7.62×25 mm Tokarev TT-33 pistol.

North Vietnamese Army

The People's Army of Vietnam (NVA - North Vietnamese Army) was the regular force of North Vietnam. They were far better trained and equipped than the Viet Cong and had their own air force and navy.

The equipment they carried was similar to that of the Viet Cong, but usually much newer.



The 7.62×39 mm Ruchnoy Pulemyot Degtyaryova or RPD light machine gun was used by both the VC and the NVA.



The RPG-7 was used extensively by the VC and the NVA. It was effective against light-skinned and armoured vehicles and was often used against helicopters on the ground.



Nicknamed the 'Chi Com' by the Americans, the RGD-33 hand grenade was used by both the VC and NVA.



Norman Schwarzkopf Jr.

Decorated veteran of the Vietnam War and adviser to the South Vietnamese Army, he would go on to become a four-star general and commander of the United States Central Command. He would lead all coalition forces in the Gulf War. This was Stormin' Norman Schwarzkopf.

Norman Schwarzkopf was highly decorated in Vietnam, being awarded three Silver Star Medals, two Purple Hearts, and the Legion of Merit.

Rising through the ranks after the conflict, he later commanded the U.S. 24th Infantry Division and was one of the commanders of the Invasion of Grenada in 1983.

Assuming command of United States Central Command in 1988, Schwarzkopf was called on to respond to the Invasion of Kuwait in 1990 by the forces of Iraq under Saddam Hussein. Initially tasked with defending Saudi Arabia from Iraqi aggression, Schwarzkopf's command eventually grew to an international force of over 750,000 troops.

After diplomatic relations broke down, he planned and led Operation Desert Storm - an extended air campaign followed by a highly successful 100-hour ground offensive - which defeated the Iraqi Army and liberated Kuwait in early 1991.

A hard-driving military commander with a strong temper,

Schwarzkopf was considered an exceptional leader by many biographers and was noted for his abilities as a military diplomat and in dealing with the press.

Early Life

Herbert Norman Schwarzkopf Jr. on 22 August 1943 in Trenton, New Jersey. His parents were Herbert Norman Schwarzkopf Sr. and Ruth Alice (née Bowman). He had two older sisters, Ruth Ann and Sally Joan.

In January 1952, the younger

Schwarzkopf's birth certificate was amended to make his name "H. Norman Schwarzkopf", reportedly because his father hated his first name.

His father was a 1917 graduate of the United States Military Academy and veteran of World War I. He later went on to become founding Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police, where he worked as a lead investigator on the 1932 Lindbergh baby kidnapping case.

When Norman Schwarzkopf was eight years old, his father returned to the military amid World War II. His continuous absence made home life difficult, particularly for his wife.

As a 10 year-old cadet at Bordentown Military Institute, near Trenton, he posed for his official photograph wearing a stern expression because - as he said afterwards - "Some day when I

become a general, I want people to know that I'm serious."

In 1946, when Norman Schwarzkopf was 12, he moved with his father to Tehran, Iran. In Iran, Norman learned shooting, horseback riding, and hunting.

Schwarzkopf developed a life-

long interest in Middle Eastern culture. The family moved to Geneva, Switzerland, in 1947, following a new military assignment for Herbert Schwarzkopf.

The senior Schwarzkopf visited Italy, Heidelberg, Frankfurt, and Berlin, Germany during his military duties, and the younger Schwarzkopf accompanied him.

By 1951 he had returned to Iran briefly before returning to the United States. Herbert Schwarzkopf died in 1958. From a young age, Norman wanted to be a military officer, following his father's example.

He attended the United States Military Academy, where he played football, wrestled, sang and conducted the West Point Chapel choir.

He graduated in 1956, finishing 43rd out of a class of 480. He earned a Bachelor of Engineering degree and later a Masters of Engineering at the University of Southern California.

He was also a member of Mensa and his IQ was tested at 168.

Military career

On graduating from West Point, Schwarzkopf was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Infantry Branch.

He spent from October 1956 to March 1957 at United States Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he earned his Parachutist Badge.

His first assignment was as platoon leader, later executive officer, of E Company, 2nd Airborne Battle Group, 187th

Airborne Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

It was during this time he later recounted he found chronic problems in military leadership, amid what historians have called a larger doctrinal crisis.

Schwarzkopf later recounted many officers and NCOs he met in this assignment "had no sense of duty or honour, and who saw the world through an alcoholic haze."

He was promoted to first lieutenant in 1958. In July 1959, Schwarzkopf was assigned his first overseas assignment; as a staff officer alternating with duties as a platoon leader, liaison officer, and reconnaissance platoon leader with the 6th Infantry Regiment in West Germany.

In July 1960, Schwarzkopf was assigned as aide-de-camp to Brigadier General Charles Johnson, who commanded the Berlin Brigade in West Berlin.

Schwarzkopf was promoted to captain in July 1961 and re-assigned for Advanced Infantry School at Fort Benning for eight months. He also earned his Master Parachutist Badge in that time.

From June 1962 to June 1964, Schwarzkopf completed a Master of Science in Engineering at the University of Southern California. He then returned to West Point to serve as an instructor in the Department of Mechanics.

He was originally intended to teach at the Military Academy for three years, but after his first year he volunteered for service in South Vietnam because

he thought that career advancement could be most quickly earned in combat. West Point approved his request in early 1965 with the stipulation that he return and teach the remaining two years after his tour.

Vietnam War

In the Vietnam War, Schwarzkopf served as a task force adviser to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam Airborne Division. He was promoted to major shortly after arriving in Vietnam.

After an initial orientation at Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV), headquartered in Saigon, Schwarzkopf was sent north to Pleiku in the central highlands, in the II Corps Tactical Zone.

He got his first combat experience on 3 August when he was the senior adviser to a force of 1,000 South Vietnamese paratroopers sent to relieve a beleaguered South Vietnamese Army force at Đức Cơ Camp.

The paratroopers took heavy casualties and a second, larger force was required to relieve them. That force too came into heavy contact. Schwarzkopf and his group fought continuously for several days.

At one point, he braved heavy North Vietnamese fire to recover and treat a handful of wounded South Vietnamese soldiers and escort them to safety.

By 17 August the 173rd Airborne Brigade arrived and broke the siege, ending the Battle of Đức Cơ. General William Westmoreland later arrived to review



the incident and congratulate Schwarzkopf.

For his leadership in the battle, Schwarzkopf was awarded the Silver Star. On 14 February 1966, Schwarzkopf led an ARVN paratrooper assault on a Viet Cong position, during which he was wounded four times by small arms fire. In spite of this, he refused medical evacuation or to relinquish command until the objective had been captured. For this, he was awarded a second Silver Star and a Purple Heart.

After ten months of combat duty, Schwarzkopf was pulled from the front by MACV and reassigned as senior staff adviser for civil affairs to the ARVN Airborne Division.

Then, he returned to the United States and finished his teaching assignment at West Point, where he was an associate professor in the Department of Mechanics. In 1968, he attended the Army's Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, completing the course in June 1969.

In this time back home, he also met and then married Brenda Holsinger, a flight attendant for Trans World Airlines. The couple would later have three children.

In June 1969 Schwarzkopf, recently promoted to lieutenant colonel, was sent back to Vietnam on a second tour of duty.

He was assigned as executive officer to the chief of staff at MACV headquarters, based at Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Saigon. Schwarzkopf later re-

called this second tour of duty was very different from his first; there were 500,000 U.S. troops in Vietnam, the Vietnamization strategy was in effect, and recent events such as the Tet Offensive and My Lai Massacre put troops under increased political scrutiny.

In December 1969 he gained his first field command, taking over the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade at Chu Lai. He later said these troops were initially demoralized and in poor condition, racked with rampant drug use and disciplinary problems as well as a lack of support from home.

Despite the brigade's otherwise controversial performance record, Schwarzkopf was quickly regarded as one of its best combat commanders.

He aggressively stepped up patrols and operations to counter Viet Cong infiltration in the battalion's sector. He developed his leadership attitudes during this command.

Fellow commander Hal Moore (featured in the May 2019 issue) later wrote that during his time in Vietnam Schwarzkopf acquired his well-known temper, while arguing via radio for passing American helicopters to land and pick up his wounded men.

He also showed a preference of leading from the front and prided himself on avoiding the rear areas, which he called a "cesspool".

Returning to the United States in 1970, Schwarzkopf was

awarded a third Silver Star and a second Purple Heart for risking his life to protect the soldiers, as well as three Bronze Star Medals and a Legion of Merit for his command performance.

Still, his experiences in Vietnam embittered him to U.S. foreign policy.

Rising to general

Schwarzkopf was disgusted by the treatment of Vietnam veterans in the United States after the war and he considered leaving the military. He ultimately decided to stay, hoping to fix some of the problems encountered by the military during the war.

He underwent surgery at Walter Reed Army Hospital shortly after his return from Vietnam to repair long-standing back problems exacerbated by parachute jumps.

Between 1970 and 1983, Schwarzkopf took on a number of different assignments. Promoted to colonel, Schwarzkopf volunteered for an assignment in Alaska, and in late 1974 became deputy commander of the 172nd Infantry Brigade at Fort Richardson, Alaska.

In October 1976, he moved to Fort Lewis, Washington, to command the 1st Brigade of the 9th Infantry Division, where he impressed his division commander, Major General Richard E. Cavazos.

Having been very successful improving the combat readiness of the 1st Brigade, he was nominated to receive his first star as a brigadier general.



MEETING THE BIG BOSS: Norman Schwarzkopf (middle), then a major, meets with General William Westmoreland (left), commander of all US Forces in Vietnam.

In July 1978, Schwarzkopf became deputy director of plans at the U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii.

He then served a two-year stint as assistant division commander of the 8th Infantry Division (Mechanized) in Germany.

He returned to Washington D.C. for an assignment as director of personnel management for the Army, subordinate to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, General Maxwell R. Thurman.

Schwarzkopf was promoted to major general. In June 1983, he became commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Stewart, Georgia.

He immediately established an extremely rigorous training regimen and became well known among the troops of the command for his strict training and aggressive personality.

On 25 October 1983, Schwarzkopf was appointed to the command group for the Invasion of Grenada. He was the

chief army adviser to the overall operation commander.

The operation was plagued by logistical difficulties, exacerbated by poor communication and lack of cooperation between the branches of the United States military.

Schwarzkopf was named deputy commander of the invasion at the last minute, leaving him with little say in the planning.

While he initially did not think the U.S. should have been involved in the conflict, he later said he considered the mission a success because it re-asserted the dominance of the U.S. military after the Vietnam War. Following the invasion, Schwarzkopf returned to the 24th Infantry Division and completed his tour as its commander.

The operation was a learning experience for Schwarzkopf, who saw the need to develop greater cooperation between the services for future joint operations.

He would later push for more

policies to make joint warfare and inter-service cooperation standard practice in warfare.

In July 1985, Schwarzkopf began an 11 month assignment as Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans at the Pentagon. On 1 July 1986, he was promoted to lieutenant general, and was reassigned to Fort Lewis as commander of I Corps. He held this post for 14 months before returning to the Pentagon as Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans in August 1987.

Commander of CENTCOM

In November 1988, Schwarzkopf was named commander of United States Central Command (CENTCOM). He assumed command of CENTCOM, with his headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida, and was promoted to general. At the time of this appointment, CENTCOM had overall responsibility for U.S. military operations in 19 countries, and had 200,000 service members on call should a crisis arise.

Schwarzkopf immediately took to changing the focus of the command, which to that point had focused on the "Zagros Doctrine", a hypothetical ground invasion by the Soviet Union through the Zagros Mountains which the U.S. would counter in Iran. Schwarzkopf was more concerned with the effects of the Iran-Iraq War on the stability of the region than of an external threat posed by the Soviet Union.

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee in March 1989, Schwarzkopf maintained that the Soviet Union was a threat to the region, but when giving an overview of the countries in the region, noted that Iraq posed a threat to its weaker neighbours.

He implored that the U.S. “seek to assert a moderating influence in Iraq.” With regional turmoil growing, Schwarzkopf became concerned about the threat posed by Saddam Hussein, focusing the attention of his command to prepare to respond to what he thought was a “more realistic scenario.”

That year, his command began planning to counter an Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, seeing it as a likely conflict which would threaten the interests of the United States.

Though he declined to identify Iraq specifically as a threat, he noted a regional conflict was the most likely event to destabilize the region, and noted Iraq’s ceasefire with Iran meant it was continuing to grow and modernize its military.[79] In early 1990, he drafted a war plan, Operations Plan 1002-90, titled “Defence of the Arabian Peninsula,” which envisioned an Iraqi invasion of Saudi Arabia through Kuwait.

During CENTCOM military exercises in July 1990 termed Internal Look ‘90, Schwarzkopf wrote up a scenario that tested how the command would respond to a regional dictator invading a neighbouring country and threatening oil fields there,

a scenario which closely mirrored the rising tension between Iraq and Kuwait.

One week after the end of these exercises, Iraq invaded Kuwait on 2 August 1990.

Gulf War

Initially believing the Iraqi Army would only advance to the Rumailah oil field, Schwarzkopf was surprised when the Iraqis captured Kuwait City.

Fearing Iraq would next invade Saudi Arabia, Schwarzkopf ordered contingency plans put in motion, with the 82nd Airborne Division, 101st Airborne Division and 24th Infantry Division put on alert.

He was then called to an emergency meeting with President George H. W. Bush, where his Internal Look ‘90 strategic plans were made the basis of a potential counter-offensive plan. By 5 August, Bush opted for an aggressive response to the invasion.

Schwarzkopf then accompanied Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney to meet with Saudi King Fahd to convince him to allow U.S. troops into Saudi Arabia to counter the Iraqi military.

With Fahd’s consent, Bush ordered troops into Saudi Arabia on 7 August, initially tasked to defend Saudi Arabia should Iraq attack.

By 20 August, 20,000 U.S. troops were in Saudi Arabia, with another 80,000 preparing to deploy, and a further 40,000 reserves tapped to augment them.

Schwarzkopf arrived at the

CENTCOM command in Riyadh on 25 August, and on 29 August he conducted his first front-line tour of the potential combat zone, accompanied by reporters.

Over the next several weeks, Schwarzkopf spoke frequently with both reporters and troops under his command, conducting many high-profile press conferences and updates to the situation in Saudi Arabia.

Schwarzkopf worked to help coordinate the contributions of the different nations contributing military forces to the effort.

The operation was known as Operation Desert Shield. On 29 December 1990, he received a warning order from The Pentagon to be ready to attack into Iraq and Kuwait by 17 January.

Schwarzkopf devised an operational plan, dubbed “Operation Desert Storm,” to be based on overwhelming force and strong infantry attacks supported by artillery and armour.

At 02h40 on 17 January, after 139 days of planning and build up, the air campaign against Iraq began.

He oversaw the strikes from his war room in Riyadh, then emerged from his command centre late in the day on 18 January to speak to the press, saying the air war had gone “just about exactly as we had intended it to go”.

The air campaign proved to be a success by achieving air superiority and destroying the Iraqi military communications network, supplies, as well as many tanks and armoured vehicles.



TALKING TO THE PRESS: Norman Schwarzkopf briefs the media at a press conference in Riyadh.

By 20 January he announced Iraq’s nuclear test reactors had been destroyed, and by 27 January he announced that the coalition had total air superiority in Iraq.

Bush then gave Hussein an ultimatum to withdraw from Kuwait by 12h00 on 23 February or Schwarzkopf’s ground forces would attack.

At 04h00 on 24 February the ground attack went in, with the Saudi-led Arab forces attacking into Kuwait City, while two U.S. Marine Corps divisions struck at the oil fields, and the VII Corps and XVIII Airborne Corps on the left flank struck quickly to cut off the Iraqi forces from the west.

Schwarzkopf expected the war to last several weeks, and had anticipated chemical weapon attacks by the Iraqi forces, which did not occur. Resistance was lighter than Schwarzkopf expected, and Iraqi troops surrendered in large numbers.

Within 90 hours, his force had destroyed 42 of 50 Iraqi Army divisions at a cost of about 125 killed and 200 wounded among American troops, and about 482 killed, 458 wounded among all of the coalition.

He ordered his forces to destroy as much Iraqi armour and equipment as possible in order to ensure that Iraq’s offensive capability would be weakened in the near term.

Schwarzkopf, who had ordered a media blackout during the ground offensive, finally appeared before journalists on 27 February to explain his strategy. On 3 March he arrived in Kuwait City to survey the aftermath of the Iraqi occupation and negotiate a ceasefire with Iraqi military leaders, as well as work out the return of prisoners of war on both sides.

With this in place, he then began the process of overseeing U.S. troops returning from the conflict.

Retirement

Schwarzkopf returned to the United States after the Gulf War as a national hero, and his ability to effectively deal with the press left him a positive image.

Schwarzkopf indicated a desire to retire from the military in mid-1991. He was initially considered for promotion alternatively to General of the Army or to Army Chief of Staff, and was ultimately asked to assume the latter post, but he declined.

He was later questioned about running for political office, but, considering himself an independent, expressed little interest in doing so. Schwarzkopf was not vocal about his political opinions during his military career.

He retired from the military in August 1991, moving to Tampa, Florida.

In 1992, Schwarzkopf published a memoir, *It Doesn’t Take a Hero*, about his life; it became a best seller. In 1993, Schwarzkopf was found to have prostate cancer, for which he was successfully treated.

Schwarzkopf died at age 78 on 27 December 2012 from complications following a bout of pneumonia.

A memorial service was conducted on February 28, 2013, at the Cadet Chapel at West Point. He was cremated and his ashes were buried near those of his father in the West Point Cemetery in a ceremony attended by cadets, military leaders, and New Jersey State Police Troopers

FN FAL Assault Rifle

During the Cold War it was given the title 'The right arm of the Free World' and used by more than 90 countries. The FN FAL is a weapon that was forged in battle.

The FAL (French: *Fusil Automatique Léger*) is a battle rifle designed by Belgian small arms designers Dieudonné Saive and Ernest Vervier and manufactured by *Fabrique Nationale Herstal* (FN Herstal).

During the Cold War the FAL was adopted by many countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), with the notable exception of the United States. It is one of the most widely used rifles in history, having been used by more than 90 countries.

Because of its prevalence and widespread usage among the militaries of many NATO and first world countries during the Cold War it was given the ti-

tle "The right arm of the Free World".

It is chambered for the 7.62×51mm NATO cartridge (although originally designed for the .280 British intermediate cartridge). The British Commonwealth variant of the FAL was redesigned from FN's metric FAL into British imperial units and was produced under licence as the L1A1 Self-Loading Rifle.

FN created what is possibly the classic post-war battle rifle. Formally introduced by its designers Dieudonné Saive and Ernest Vervier in 1951, and produced

two years later.

The FAL battle rifle has its Warsaw Pact counterpart in the AKM, each being fielded by dozens of countries and produced in many of them. A few, such as Israel and South Africa, manufactured and issued both designs at various times. Unlike the Soviet AKM assault rifle, the FAL utilized a heavier full-power rifle cartridge.

Design

The FAL operates by means of a gas-operated action very similar to that of the Russian SVT-40.

The gas system is driven by a short-stroke,



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE: Above is the British L1A1 rifle with the FN FAL below.

spring-loaded piston housed above the barrel, and the locking mechanism is what is known as a tilting breechblock. To lock, it drops down into a solid shoulder of metal in the heavy receiver much like the bolts of the Russian SKS carbine and French MAS-49 series of semi-automatic rifles.

The gas system is fitted with a gas regulator behind the front sight base, allowing adjustment of the gas system in response to environmental conditions. The piston system can be bypassed completely, using the gas plug, to allow for the firing of rifle grenades and manual operation.

The FAL's magazine capacity ranges from five to 30 rounds, with most magazines holding 20 rounds. In fixed stock versions of the FAL, the recoil spring is housed in the stock, while in folding-stock versions it is housed in the receiver cover, necessitating a slightly different receiver cover, recoil spring, and bolt carrier, and a modified lower receiver for the stock.

FAL rifles have also been manufactured in both light and heavy-barrel configurations, with the heavy barrel intended

for automatic fire as a section or squad light support weapon. Most heavy barrel FALs are equipped with bipods, although some light barrel models were equipped with bipods, such as the Austrian StG58 and the German G1, and a bipod was later made available as an accessory.

Among other 7.62×51mm NATO battle rifles at the time, the FN FAL had relatively light recoil, due to the gas system being able to be tuned via regulator in fore-end of the rifle, which allowed for excess gas which would simply increase recoil to bleed off. In fully automatic mode, however, the shooter receives considerable abuse from recoil, and the weapon climbs off-target quickly, making automatic fire only of marginal effectiveness.

Many military forces using the FAL eventually eliminated full-automatic firearms training in the light-barrel FAL.

Production and use

The FAL has been used by over 90 countries, and over two million have been produced. The FAL was originally made by *Fabrique Nationale de Herstal* (FN) in Liège, Belgium,

FN FAL



Weight: 4.3 kg

Length: 1,090 mm

Barrel Length: 533 mm

Cartridge: 7.62x51 NATO

Action: Gas operated

Rate of fire: 700 rounds/min

Muzzle Velocity: 840 m/s

Feed System: 20 or 30 round detachable box magazine

Sights: Aperture rear sight, post front sight; sight radius:

but it has also been made under license in fifteen countries. As of August 2006, new examples were still being produced by at least four different manufacturers worldwide.

A distinct sub-family was the Commonwealth inch-dimensioned versions that were manufactured in the United Kingdom and Australia (as the L1A1 Self Loading Rifle or SLR), and in Canada as the C1. The standard metric-dimensioned FAL was manufactured in South Africa (where it was known as the R1), Brazil, Israel, Austria and Argentina. Both the SLR and FAL were also produced without license by India.

Mexico assembled FN-made components into complete rifles at its national arsenal in



Mexico City. The FAL was also exported to many other countries, such as Venezuela, where a small-arms industry produces some basically unchanged variants, as well as ammunition.

By modern standards, one disadvantage of the FAL is the amount of work which goes into machining the complex receiver, bolt and bolt carrier. Some theorized that the movement of the tilting bolt mechanism tends to return differently with each shot, affecting inherent accuracy of the weapon, but this has been proven to be false. The FAL's receiver is machined, while most other modern military rifles use quicker stamping or casting techniques.

Modern FALs have many improvements over those produced by FN and others in the mid-20th-century.

Conflicts

In the more than 60 years of use worldwide, the FAL has seen use in conflicts all over the world. During the Falklands War, the FN FAL was used by both sides. The FAL was used by the Argentine armed forces and the L1A1 Self Loading Rifle (SLR), a semi-automatic only version of the FAL, was used by the armed forces of the UK and other Commonwealth nations.

The FAL has been used in no fewer than 31 conflicts and wars. These include:

- Mau Mau Uprising.
- Bay of Pigs Invasion.
- Nigerian Civil War.
- Six-Day War.
- Yom Kippur War.
- Angolan Civil War.
- Rhodesian Bush War.
- Falklands War.
- South African Border War.

R1 rifle

The FAL was produced under license by ARMSCOR by Lytleton Engineering Works.

After a competition between the German G3 rifle, the Armalite AR-10, and the FN FAL, the South African Defence Force adopted three main variants of the FAL: a rifle with the designation R1, a "lightweight" variant of the FN FAL 50.64 with folding butt, fabricated locally under the designation R2, and a model designed for police use not capable of automatic fire under the designation R3.

A number of other variants of the R1 were built, the R1 HB, which had a heavy barrel and bipod, the R1 Sniper, which could be fitted with a scope and the R1 Para Carbine, which used a Single Point IR sight and had a shorter barrel.

The R1 was standard issue in

the SADF until the introduction of the R4 in the early 1980s. It is still used by the SANDF as a designated marksman rifle.

5.56 mm vs 7.62 mm

Many countries that used the 7.62 mm FAL have now switched to weapons that use the 5.56×45 mm NATO round.

South Africa adopted the R4, which is based on the Israeli IMI Galil.

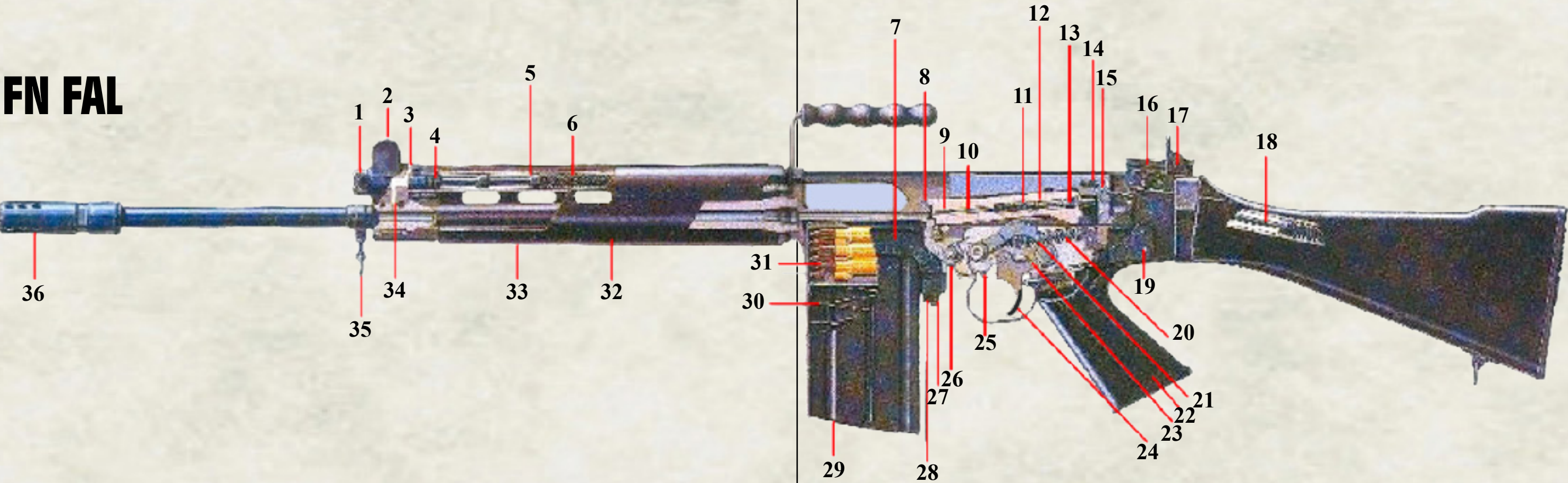
Many countries have also switched to bullpup assault rifles. For example, Britain now uses the 5.56 mm SA80. Both Austria and the Irish Defence Forces use the Steyr AUG. France uses the FAMAS F1.

Yet there are still many countries that use the FN FAL, a weapon that was forged in battle.

KEY

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Gasplug. | 21.Axis change lever. |
| 2. Foresight Protector. | 22.Pistol grip. |
| 3. Gas outlet vent. | 23.Plunger. |
| 4. Gas regulator sleeve. | 24.Trigger. |
| 5. Piston. | 25.Sear. |
| 6. Piston spring. | 26.Locking shoulder. |
| 7. Ejector. | 27.Safety sear. |
| 8. Extractor. | 28.Magazine catch. |
| 9. Firing pin. | 29.Magazine. |
| 10.Slide. | 30.Spring for magazine platform. |
| 11.Firing pin spring. | 31.7.62 mm NATO round. |
| 12.Hammer. | 32.Hand guard. |
| 13.Pin retraining firing gun. | 33.Barrel. |
| 14.Slip rod spring. | 34.Gas port. |
| 15.Plunger spring slip rod. | 35.Front sling swivel. |
| 16.Back sight adjuster screw. | 36.Flash hider. |
| 17.Back sight. | |
| 18.Slide rod. | |
| 19.Lever activating butt catch. | |
| 20.Hammer spring. | |

FN FAL



On 20 November 1970, US Special Forces attacked Son Tay, a camp only 37 kilometres from Hanoi, that was believed to house American prisoners of war. The raid was a text book operation that succeeded with one exception - the prisoners were no longer there.

The briefing given by US Special Forces Colonel Arthur "Bull" Simons was simple, but straight to the point.

"We are going to rescue 70 American prisoners of war, maybe more, from a camp called Son Tay. This is something American prisoners have a right to expect from their fellow soldiers. The target is 23 miles (37 km) west of Hanoi."

By the spring of 1970 there were more than 450 known American POWs held in North Vietnam. Another 970 American servicemen were listed as missing in action.

Some of them had been in captivity for more than five years, the longest period in any war in American history.

Intelligence reports told of brutal conditions, torture, and even deaths of the POWs.

Background

In May 1970 aerial reconnaissance photographs revealed the existence of two prison camps west of Hanoi, the capital of North Vietnam.

At Son Tay, one photograph showed a large 'K' drawn in the dirt. This was the code for "come and get us".

The other camp, at Ap Lo, showed a photograph of the letters SAR (Search and Rescue) spelled out by the prisoner's laundry. An arrow with the number '8' indicated the distance the men had to travel to the fields they worked in.

Air Force Brigadier General LeRoy J. Manor and Army Colonel Arthur D. "Bull" Simons began to plan an operation to rescue the prisoners from Son Tay.

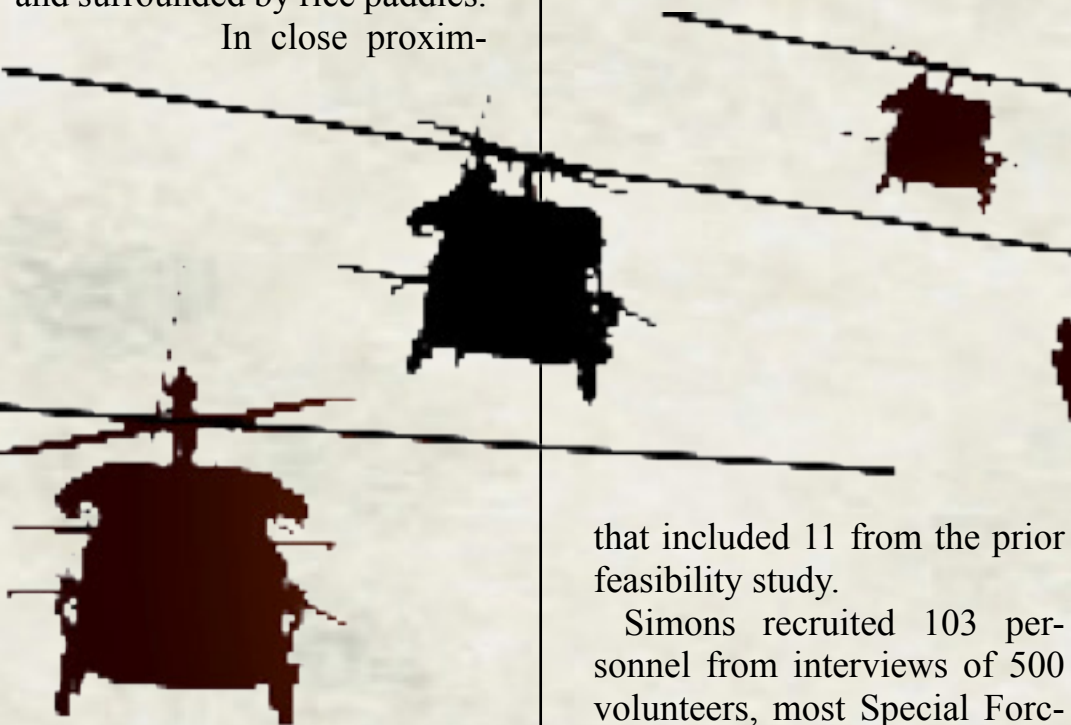
Reconnaissance photos taken by SR-71 "Blackbirds" revealed that Son Tay "was active". SR-71 reconnaissance aircraft took most of the Son Tay target photos from above 24,000 metres while streaking over North Vietnam at more than three times the speed of sound.

Planning and training

There were numerous obstacles that had to be considered. The camp itself was in the open and surrounded by rice paddies.

In close proxim-

ity was the 12th North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Regiment totalling approximately 12,000 troops.

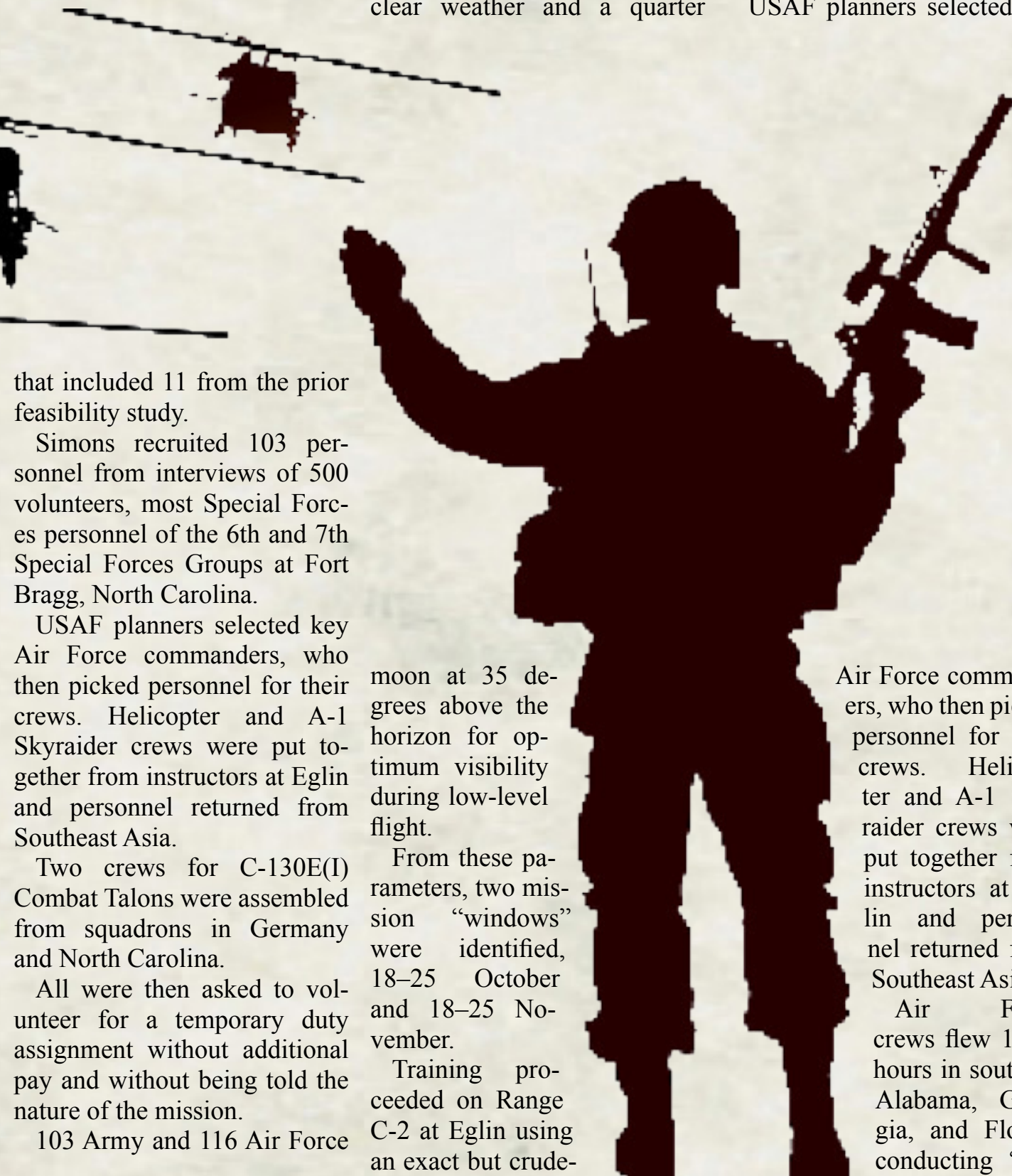


Also nearby was an artillery school, a supply depot, and an air defence installation.

500 metres south was another compound called the "secondary school", which was an administration centre housing 45 guards. To make matters more difficult, Phuc Yen Air Base was only 32 kilometres north-east of Son Tay.

The raiders would have to get in and out very quickly, before anyone could react to the situation.

Admiral Thomas H. Moorer,



that included 11 from the prior feasibility study.

Simons recruited 103 personnel from interviews of 500 volunteers, most Special Forces personnel of the 6th and 7th Special Forces Groups at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

USAF planners selected key Air Force commanders, who then picked personnel for their crews. Helicopter and A-1 Skyraider crews were put together from instructors at Eglin and personnel returned from Southeast Asia.

Two crews for C-130E(I) Combat Talons were assembled from squadrons in Germany and North Carolina.

All were then asked to volunteer for a temporary duty assignment without additional pay and without being told the nature of the mission.

103 Army and 116 Air Force

personnel were selected for the project, including ground force members, aircrewmembers, support members, and planners.

The 219 man task force planned, trained, and operated under the title of the "Joint Contingency Task Group" (JCTG).

The planning staff set up parameters for a night time raid, the key points of which were clear weather and a quarter

ly made replica of the prison compound for rehearsals and a \$60,000 1.5 x 15 metre scale table model (codenamed "Barbara") for familiarization.

Simons recruited 103 personnel from interviews of 500 volunteers, mostly Special Forces personnel of the 6th and 7th Special Forces Groups at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

USAF planners selected key

moon at 35 degrees above the horizon for optimum visibility during low-level flight.

From these parameters, two mission "windows" were identified, 18-25 October and 18-25 November.

Training proceeded on Range C-2 at Eglin using an exact but crude-

Air Force commanders, who then picked personnel for their crews. Helicopter and A-1 Skyraider crews were put together from instructors at Eglin and personnel returned from Southeast Asia.

Air Force crews flew 1,054 hours in southern Alabama, Georgia, and Florida conducting "dis-

similar (aircraft) formation" training with both UH-1H and HH-3E helicopters at night and at low-level (a flight profile for which procedures had to be innovated by the two selected crews), and gaining expertise in navigation training using forward looking infrared (FLIR), which, until Ivory Coast, had not been part of the Combat Talon's electronics suite.

A vee formation in which the slower helicopters drafted in echelon slightly above and behind each wing of the Combat Talon escort aircraft was chosen and refined for the mission to give the helicopters the speed necessary to keep pace with the Talons flying just above their stall speeds.

Special Forces training began on 9 September, advancing to night training on 17 September and joint training with air crews on 28 September that included six rehearsals a day, three of them under night conditions.

By 6 October, 170 practice sessions of all or partial phases of the mission were performed on the mock up by the Special Forces troopers, many with live fire.

On that date, the first full-scale dress rehearsal, using a UH-1H as the assault helicopter, was conducted at night and included a 5.5-hour, 1,106 km flight of all aircraft, replicating the timing, speeds, altitudes, and turns in the mission plan.

The rehearsal spelled the end of the option to use the UH-1 when its small passenger compartment resulted in leg cramps to the Special Forces troopers that completely disrupted the timing of their assault, more

than offsetting the UH-1's only advantage (smaller rotor radius) over the larger HH-3.

Two further full night rehearsals and a total of 31 practice landings by the HH-3E in the mock-up's courtyard confirmed the choice.

Manor issued the formal launch order at 15:56 local time 20 November, while the raiding force was in the final stages of crew rest, and brought together the entire ground contingent for a short briefing regarding the objective and launch times.

Following the briefing, Manor and his staff flew by T-39 Sabreliner to Da Nang, where they would monitor the mission from the USAF Tactical Air Control Center, North Sector (TACC/NS) at Monkey Mountain Facility.

Three theater lift C-130s previously staged at U-Tapao Royal Thai Navy Airfield arrived at Takhli to transport the Army contingent and helicopter crews to Udorn RTAFB and the A-1 pilots to Nakhon Phanom.

Mission organisation

The fifty-six Special Forces troopers selected to conduct the raid were flown from Takhli to their helicopter staging base at Udorn RTAFB by C-130 on the evening of 20 November.

The Special Forces were organised into three platoons: a 14-man assault group, code-named Blueboy, which would crash-land within the prison compound; a 22-man support group, Greenleaf, which would provide immediate support for the assault team, and a 20-man security group, Redwine, to protect the prison area from NVA



SPECIAL FORCES LEGEND: Colonel Arthur D 'Bull' Simons.

reaction forces and provide backup support if needed for either of the other two groups. Simons (using the call sign Axle) accompanied the Greenleaf group, while the ground force commander, LTC Elliott P. "Bud" Sydnor, Jr. (Wildroot), was with the Redwine group.

The 56 raiders were heavily armed, carrying a total of 51 personal side arms, 48 CAR-15 carbines, two M16 rifles, four M79 grenade launchers, two shotguns, and four M60 machine guns.

They carried 15 Claymore mines, 11 demolition charges, and 213 hand grenades and were equipped with a plethora of wire cutters, bolt cutters, axes, chainsaws, crowbars, ropes, bullhorns, lights, and other equipment (much of it acquired from commercial retail sources) to execute the mission.

The ground force was also equipped for voice communications with 58 UHF-AM and 34 VHF-FM radios, including a survival radio for each individual soldier.

116 aircraft (59 Navy and



GOING IN: Some of the Son Tay raiders prior to the mission. It was one of the most audacious special forces raids carried out during the Vietnam War.

57 Air Force) participated in the operation, with 28 aircraft (crewed by 92 airmen) assigned direct roles in the target area.

Two C-130E Combat Talons, modified with the temporary addition of FLIR sets, were assigned to navigate the mission. One was to lead the helicopter "assault formation" (Cherry 01) and the second to escort the A-1 "strike formation" (Cherry 02).

Because of the variances in cruising speeds between the helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft, the forces flew separate routes, with the faster strike formation trailing the helicopter formation by several minutes and zigzagging across its route.

Each Combat Talon crew cross-trained to assume the role of the other, but the assault formation was required to have a navigation leader with four fully functioning engines all the way to the objective.

Operation Kingpin

Operation Kingpin was the assault phase of Operation Ivory Coast.

Beginning at 22:00 on 20 November 1970, aircraft began leaving five bases in Thailand and one in South Vietnam.

Cherry 02, the Combat Talon escort for the A-1 strike formation, took off from Takhli at 22:25. Cherry 01, scheduled to take off a half hour later, had difficulty starting an engine and took off 23 minutes late at 23:18.

Cherry 01 adjusted its flight plan and made up the time lost at engine start. At 23:07, two HC-130P aerial refuelers (call signs Lime 01 and Lime 02) took off from Udorn, followed by the helicopters ten minutes later.

Shortly after midnight, the A-1 Skyraiders lifted off four minutes early from Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base under clandestine, blacked-out conditions.

The helicopters encountered thick clouds over northern Laos

at their refueling altitude and climbed to 2,100 metres AGL (Above Ground Level) to refuel from Lime 01 on the flight plan's fourth leg. Lime 01 then led them to the next checkpoint for hand-off to Cherry 01 at 01:16.

The assault formation approached from the southwest using the clutter returns of the mountains to mask them from radar detection, while U.S. Navy aircraft launched at 01:00 on 21 November from the aircraft carriers USS Oriskany and USS Ranger in the largest carrier night operation of the Vietnam War.

Starting at 01:52, twenty A-7 Corsairs and A-6 Intruders, flying in pairs at stepped-up altitudes to deconflict their flight paths, entered North Vietnamese airspace on three tracks, dropping flares to simulate an attack. The last track also dropped chaff to mimic the mining of Haiphong harbor.

Over the Gulf of Tonkin, twenty-four other aircraft in thirteen orbits provided support and protection. The operation prompted a frantic air defense reaction at 02:17 that provided a highly effective diversion for the raiders and completely saturated the North Vietnamese air defense system.

Combat assault

At 02:18 Cherry 01 transmitted the execute command "Alpha, Alpha, Alpha" to all aircraft as it overflew the prison and deployed four illumination flares, then performed a hard-turning descent to 150 metres to drop two battle simulators south and southeast of Son Tay.

After Apple 03 made its strafing pass with side-firing mini guns on the prison's guard towers, Cherry 01 successfully dropped one of two planned napalm ground markers as a point of reference for the A-1s, then departed the objective area to a holding point over Laos where it would provide UHF direction-finding steers for the departing aircraft.

The assault helicopters in single file encountered winds that caused them to break formation 140 metres to the right of their intended track. The pilots of Apple 03, the gunship helicopter preceding the others, observed a compound nearly identical to the prison camp in size and layout (previously labeled a "secondary school" by intelligence sources) and steered toward it, followed by the assault lift force.

However, they recognized their error when they saw the river next to the actual location and corrected their flight path. Banana, the HH-3E carrying the Blueboy assault team, descended on the wrong location and observed that the expected courtyard was much smaller than required and that the expected treeline enclosed the compound rather than crossing through it.

By that time, Blueboy (as previously rehearsed) was firing its weapons from all openings in the helicopter. Banana's pilots also recognized the error, applied power, and quickly veered north to the actual target.

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Despite the error, and trees taller than briefed that forced a steeper descent than rehearsed, the assault team crash-landed into the courtyard of Son Tây prison at 02:19 with all weapons firing.

Although one raider, acting as a door gunner, was thrown from the aircraft, the only casualty was the helicopter's flight engineer, whose ankle was fractured by a dislodged fire extinguisher.

Army Captain Richard J. Meadows used a bullhorn to announce their presence to the expected POWs, while the team dispersed in four elements on a rapid and violent assault of the prison, killing guards and me-

thodically searching the five prisoner blocks cell by cell.

Also at 02:19, Apple 01 (after its pilots saw Banana fire on the first location) landed the Greenleaf support group outside the south side of the secondary school, thinking it to be the target prison compound. Unaware that it was 400 meters from the objective, it lifted off to relocate to its holding area.

The "secondary school" was actually a barracks for troops that, alerted by Banana's aborted assault, opened fire on Greenleaf as two of its elements assaulted the compound.

The support group attacked the location with small arms and hand grenades in an eight-minute fire-fight, after which Simons estimated that 100 to 200 hostile soldiers had been killed.

Two A-1s supported Greenleaf with an air strike using white phosphorus bombs on a wooden footbridge east of the area. Apple 01 returned at 02:23, and by 02:28, the support group had disengaged under fire and re-boarded the helicopter for the short movement to the correct landing area.

The pilot of Apple 02 observed the errors in navigation by the helicopters in front of him and made a hard turn towards the prison. He also observed Apple 01 unload at the secondary school and initiated Plan Green, the contingency plan for the loss or absence of Greenleaf.

The Redwine security group, including ground force commander Sydnor, landed at 02:20 outside Son Tây prison and immediately executed the previously rehearsed contingency

plan.

In the meantime, Cherry 02 arrived with the A-1 force, dropped two more napalm ground markers, and created other diversions to disguise the target area by dropping MK-6 log flares and battle simulators at road intersections that North Vietnamese reaction forces might be expected to use.

Cherry 02 then orbited in the area just west of the Black River acting as on-call support for the ground teams, jamming North Vietnamese radio communications, and providing a secure radio link to the mission command post in Da Nang.

After a thorough search that included a second sweep ordered by Meadows, Blueboy's three teams found that the prison held no POWs.

Meadows transmitted the code phrase "Negative Items" to the command group. Pathfinders clearing the extraction LZ blew up an electrical tower that blacked out the entire west side of Son Tây including the prison area.

At 02:29, Sydnor ordered the A-1s to attack the vehicle bridge over the Song Con leading into the area and, three minutes later, called for extraction by the HH-53s idling on the ground in a holding area a mile away.

Before the first helicopter arrived, a truck convoy approached the prison from the south, but was stopped by two Redwine security teams that each fired an M72 light antitank weapon into the lead vehicle.

The HH-53s returned singly to the extraction landing zone amidst the SAM barrage, flying well below the minimum effec-

tive level of the missiles, and Apple 01 landed first at 02:37.

It lifted off with its passengers at 02:40, followed a minute later by the landing of Apple 02, which departed at 02:45. Apple 03, the last aircraft out, was cleared to leave its holding area at 02:48.

The raid had been executed in only 27 minutes, well within the planned 30-minute optimum time. Although at first it was feared one raider had been left behind, all the troopers were accounted for. One Redwine trooper had been wounded in the leg and was the only casualty to hostile fire on the raid.

Impact of the raid

The mission was deemed a "tactical success" because of its execution, but clearly involved an "intelligence failure". The 65 prisoners at Son Tây had been moved on 14 July because its wells had been contaminated by flooding, or possibly due to the threat of further inundation, to a camp 24 km closer to Hanoi that the POWs dubbed "Camp Faith".

Criticism of the raid, particularly in the news media and by political opponents of the Vietnam War and the Nixon Administration, was widespread and of long duration. Not only was the failure denounced as the result of poor or outdated intelligence, but charges were made that the operation caused increased mistreatment of the prisoners.

However, as a result of the raid, the North Vietnamese consolidated their POW camps to central prison complexes. An area of the infamous "Hanoi

Hilton" formerly housing civilian and South Vietnamese prisoners became "Camp Unity", a block of large communal areas housing 50 POWs each.

After their repatriation, many POWs said that being in close contact with other Americans lifted their morale, as did knowledge of the rescue attempt. Some POWs said that food, medical care, and even seemingly basic things like mail delivery vastly improved after the raid.

Recognition of participants

For their actions, members of the task force received six Distinguished Service Crosses, five Air Force Crosses, and at least 85 Silver Stars, including all 50 members of the ground force who did not receive the DSC. Manor received the Distinguished Service Medal.

The successful demonstrations of joint operating capability in Ivory Coast and Kingpin were, in part, a model for the creation of a joint United States Special Operations Command in 1987.

Son Tây raider HH-53 68-10357 (Apple 01) was subsequently converted to MH-53M Pave Low IV standard, served in Bosnia and Iraq and was finally retired in 2008 after 38 years of service, the last survivor of the five Apples.

It is now on display in the Cold War Gallery of the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio.

While the raid may have failed in its overall objective, it is still regarded as a text-book special forces operation.



*With a speed that would make any weapon's tiffie weep with envy, **Matt O' Brien** strips and assembles a variety of weapons. Now he's wondering what to do with all the parts left over.*

Let's face it. It's not every day that you get something for free. Especially something that is worth while. Well the game that I am reviewing this month is actually free.

I call it a game, but it's actually more than that. It's also a puzzle and a great training guide.

The game in question is called World of Guns: Gun Disassembly and it is available on Steam free of charge.

The software can be used as both an interactive firearms reference source and encyclopedia, and a casual puzzle game with a goal of disassembling and assembling models in the correct sequence and in the least possible time.

The player is presented with an interactive model of a real-world firearm (or other mechanism) in a 3D environment. You have complete control of the camera, along with additional viewing options allowing you to explore the inner mechanical design of the piece. These include a multi-layered X-ray view, "trainer cutaway" mode and several slow-motion settings.

Depending on the game mode, the player is required to either learn the correct operation of

the weapon, or perform its disassembly or assembly.

Game modes are arranged in the order of increasing complexity, including field-stripping the weapon, complete disassembly of the mechanism, and finally disassembly and assembly against the clock and/or with penalties for incorrect moves.

Every model has local and global leaderboards and a set of in-game achievements.

The game includes interactive shooting ranges with timed objectives, as well as additional features like gun quizzes and a weapon skin editor.

As you complete various challenges you are rewarded with in-game credits. These can be used to unlock new weapons. Or you can purchase credits via steam.

There is also the option to buy a lifetime access bundle which gives the user access to all current and future models in the library. Often they have a sale and you can pick it up at a really good price.

Currently there are 232 weapons available and the game developers, Noble Empire Corp, bring out one or two new weapons each month.

Just take a look at the variety

of weapons that you can get.

- 20 select fire rifles.
- Eight light machine guns.
- Nine machine guns.
- 16 submachine guns.
- 12 bolt action rifles.
- 48 pistols.
- 14 revolvers.
- 16 self-loading rifles.
- 10 shotguns.
- Three anti-tank rifles.
- Two grenade launchers.

There is also a flintlock pistol and a rocket propelled grenade launcher.

Other military hardware includes a German 88 mm flak gun, a Russian ZiS-3 76-mm divisional gun M1942, a HM-MWV A2 (Humvee), a Russian BMP-3 infantry fighting vehicle, and an American Vought F4U Corsair aircraft.

For those more into non-military stuff there are four cars (AC (Shelby) Cobra, Custom Hot Rod, Lotus Seven, DeLorean DMC-12), two motorcycles (Ducati 916, Captain America from Easy Rider), and six skeletons (Allosaurus, Wolf, Gorilla, Horse, Lion, Homo sapiens).

What I really enjoy is that most of the weapons used in our own bush war are available. These include:

- AK-47.
- FN-FAL (R1).



- PPSH 41.
- Uzi.
- Makarov PM.
- Tokarev TT-30.
- SKS.
- M-79 grenade launcher.
- RPG-7.
- RPD light machine gun

The various modes that you can access with each model are challenging and also very informative.

The first thing you can do is field strip a weapon. This is the what you would do in real life if you wanted to clean the weapon.

If you field strip an AK-47 for example, there are 14 parts that need to be disassembled and then reassembled. If, however, you want to disassemble the weapon completed then there are 96 parts.

When you disassemble and reassemble a weapon you can do it against the clock. The

quicker the time, the more credits you earn.

There are also three game modes. The standard mode will allow you to get hints as what to do next. Then there is the Super Game, which allows no hints. Finally there is the hardcore mode which is really difficult.

The operation mode requires you do to certain things such as fire the weapon on available settings for that weapon (i.e. single shot, burst or automatic), engage and disengage the safety, reload the weapon, and add any accessories such as sights, bayonet, extended stock, etc.

You can also paint the weapon in various colours or patterns.

For those of you not interested in using the software as a game, it is also an excellent tool for observing how each weapon works. Each of the models comes with quite a bit of information about it.

This is a game that I would really recommend. Especially as you can get it for free..

And, just to brag a little, there are currently 2.2 million people that own this game on Steam.

Of these 2.2 million I am currently ranked at 4,568. That means I am in the top one percent of players world wide. Among the South African players I am ranked 9th.

So go ahead and beat that.



Publisher - Noble Empire Corp.

Genre - Simulation

Score - 8/10

Price - R489 (on Steam)



Series Review

Dad's Army

Released: 1968 - 1977

Number of series: Nine series (80 episodes)

Running time: 30 minutes per episode

Directed by: David Croft

Personally I would rate Dad's Army as one of the best military sitcoms I have ever seen.

Written by David Croft and Jimmy Perry, Dad's Army is a BBC sitcom about the British militia called the Home Guard during World War II.

The Home Guard consisted of local volunteers otherwise ineligible for military service, either because of age or by being in professions exempt from conscription. They were given the nickname 'Dad's Army'.

The show is set in the fictional seaside town of Walmington-on-Sea, on the south coast of England and deals with the local Home Guard detachment.

In charge of the unit is the local bank manager George Mainwaring (he pronounces it as Mannering). He appointed himself leader of his town's contingent of Local Defence Volunteers with the rank of Captain. The role was played by Arthur Lowe.

Sergeant Arthur Wilson (John Le Mesurier), a diffident, upper-middle-class Chief Bank Clerk who would quietly question Mainwaring's judgement ("Do you think that's wise, sir?"). Wilson had actually served as a Captain during the First World War, but he only reveals this in the final episode.

Lance Corporal Jack Jones (Clive Dunn), the local butch-

er, born in 1870. Jones is an old campaigner who took part in the Gordon Relief Expedition of 1884-85, Kitchener's campaign in the Sudan in 1896-98, and the Boer War. He most common phrase is "Don't panic!"

Other members of the squad include dour Scottish former Chief Petty Officer Private James Frazer (John Laurie), Private Joe Walker (James Beck), a black market spiv, Private Charles Godfrey (Arnold Ridley), a retired shop assistant, and Private Frank Pike (Ian Lavender), the youngest of the platoon.

Supporting cast members include the platoon's major rival and nemesis local greengrocer ARP Chief Warden William Hodges (Bill Pertwee).

Then there is The Reverend Timothy Farthing (Frank Williams), the effete, huffy vicar of St Aldhelm's Church. He reluctantly shares his church hall and office with Mainwaring's platoon.

Finally is Maurice Yeatman (Edward Sinclair), the verger at St Aldhelm's Church and Scoutmaster of the local Sea Scout troop. He is often hostile to the platoon while frequently sycophantic to the vicar, who often struggles to tolerate him.

The situations that the platoon get themselves into are often hilarious.

Captain Mainwaring is a pompous yet essentially brave

and unerringly patriotic. He wants everything done by the book. He often refers to Private Pike as "You stupid boy!"

Wilson is very laid back and will say things such as "Would you all mind coming to attention."

A full-length feature film was released in 1971. The film's UK premiere was on 12 March 1971 at the Columbia Theatre, London. Critical reviews were mixed, but it performed well at the UK box office.

It is not that easy to still purchase the entire box set of Dad's Army, but the best place to find it would be online.

You can also find many single episodes available on YouTube. It's a series well worth watching.



Click on the poster to watch an episode of Dad's Army.

Pilgrim Days

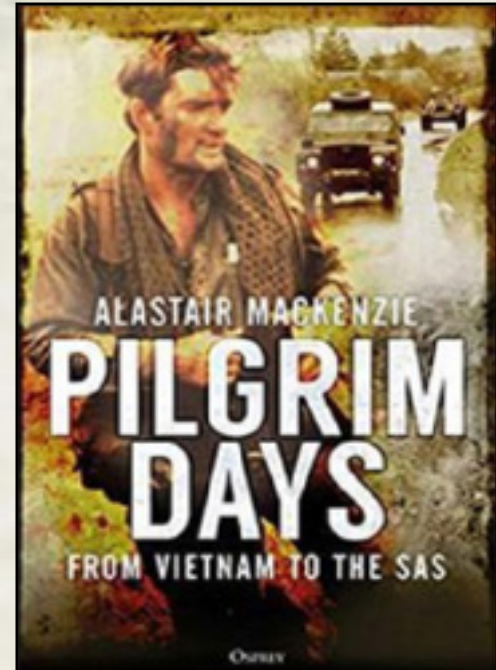
Pilgrim Days - From Vietnam to the SAS by Alastair MacKenzie is a really good read.

If there was ever anyone who went a little further, a little beyond, it was Alastair MacKenzie.

In a career spanning 30 years, MacKenzie served uniquely with the New Zealand Army in Vietnam, the British Parachute Regiment, the British Special Air Service (SAS), the South African Defence Force's famed ParaBats, the Sultan of Oman's Special Forces and a host of private security agencies and defence contractors.

MacKenzie lived the soldier's life to the full as he

journeyed 'the Golden Road to Samarkand'. This extraordinary new work from the author of Special Force: The Untold Story of 22nd Special Air Service Regiment (SAS) vividly documents, in a detail that stuns, the experience of infantry combat in Vietnam, life with the Paras, the tempo of selection for UK Special Forces, covert SAS operations in South Armagh and SAS Counter Terrorist training on the UK mainland, vehicle-mounted Pathfinder Brigade insertions into Angola and maritime counter-terrorism work in Oman.



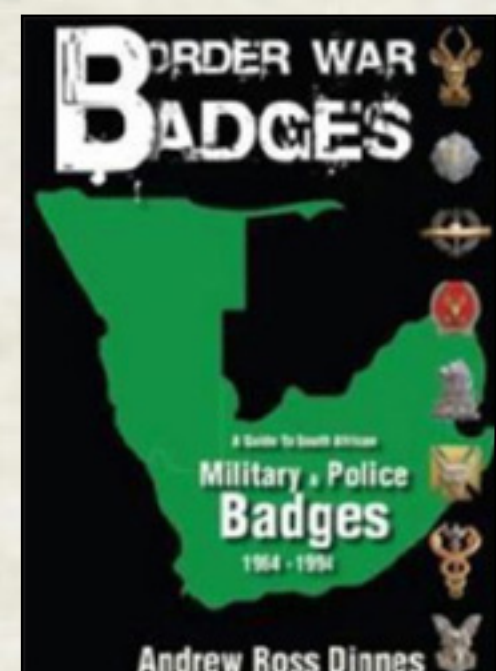
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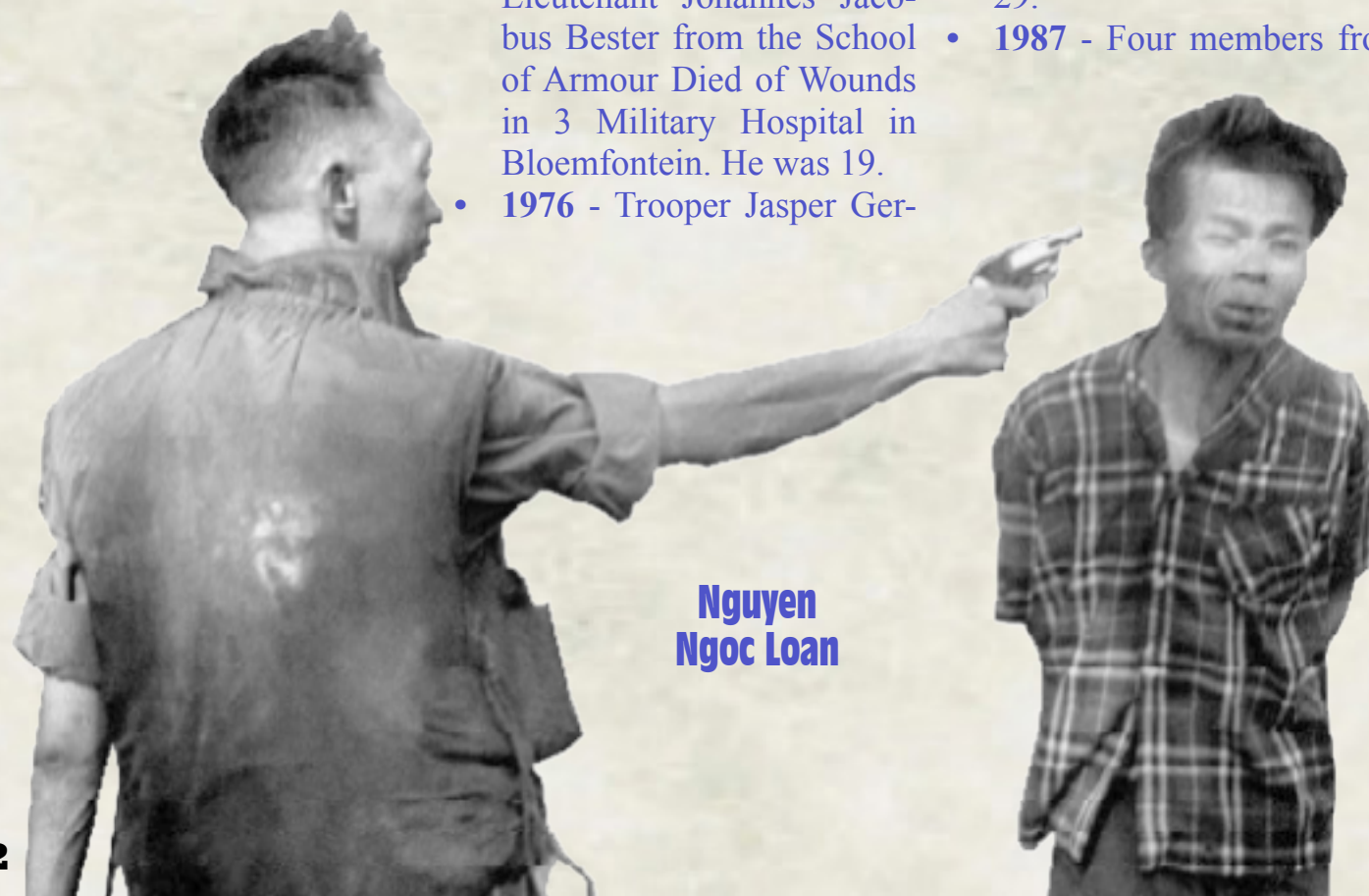
Some of the significant military events that happened in February. Highlighted in blue are the names of those members of the South African Defence Force (SADF) that lost their lives during the month of February.

1 February

- **1862** - Julia Ward Howe's "Battle Hymn of Republic" is published.
- **1920** - The South African Air Force is established, the first of the Commonwealth air forces. Lt-Col. Pierre van Ryneveld is appointed as Director of Air Services.
- **1943** - Marshal Paulus surrenders the German Sixth Army at Stalingrad.
- **1944** - Japanese learn Australia has formed a war crimes commission.
- **1951** - Alfred Krupp & 28 other German war criminals are freed.
- **1957** - Field Marshal Friedrich Paulus, dies at the age of 66.
- **1960** - Extreme right-wing rebels in Algiers surrender.
- **1961** - Minuteman ICBM is successful in its first full scale test.
- **1968** - Saigon: Nguyen Ngoc Loan summarily executes a Viet Cong murderer.
- **1968** - The Canadian Forces are formed, through the merger of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, an "experiment" that is ended in 2011.
- **1971** - Two members from the Armoured Corps were accidentally Killed or Died of Wounds when a 90mm High Explosive Anti-Tank round exploded in the gun breech of their armoured car during live firing exercises at De Brug, Bloemfontein. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant Johannes Jacobus Bester from the School of Armour Died of Wounds in 3 Military Hospital in Bloemfontein. He was 19.
- **1976** - Trooper Jasper Ger-

hardus Johannes Visser from 1 SSB was killed instantly in the explosion. He was 19.

- **1976** - Rifleman Nicolaas Pretorius from Regiment Springs was critically wounded by an accidental weapon discharge in Southern Angola on 31 Jan 1976. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria where he succumbed to his wounds the following day on 1 February 1976. He was 29.
- **1981** - France sells 60 Mirage fighters to Iraq.
- **1986** - Sergeant Gerhardus Frederick Nortje from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 29.
- **1987** - Four members from



Nguyen
Ngoc Loan

32 Battalion were Killed in Action during a first light attack on a PLAN camp in the Cassumbi area east of Cassinga during Operation Kakebeen. Lance Corporal Joao and Rifleman Tolosi the MAG Gunner were killed instantly when a Soviet 82mm Mortar Bomb landed and exploded between them while the other two suffered fatal gunshot wounds during the fire-fight. The casualties were: Lance Corporal Evaristo Joao (32). Rifleman Gonsalves Antonio (22). Rifleman Kambala Tolosi (22). Rifleman Domingoes Zua (31).

- **1988** - Gunner Stephanus Petrus Stoop of 14 Artillery Regiment, attached to "P" Battery, 32 Battalion accidentally drowned while swimming somewhere in the Operational Area. He was 20.
- **1991** - Rifleman Joao Andrade from 201 Battalion SWATF died of natural causes in Hospital. He was 42.

2 February

- **1848** - The war between the U.S. and Mexico ended with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.
- **1901** - The U.S. Army Nurse Corps was formed on this day.
- **1942** - US ceases production of private cars to convert to war production.
- **1945** - Mass escape attempt

at Mauthausen concentration camp.

- **1957** - The United Nations (UN) adopts a resolution calling for Israeli troops to leave Egypt.
- **1971** - Idi Amin assumes power in Uganda following a coup that ousted President Milton Obote.
- **1972** - Irate Dubliners torch the British Embassy to protest 'Bloody Sunday' in Derry.
- **1973** - Captain Leslie John Marshall from Flying Training School Langebaanweg was Killed when his Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I, Serial No 485 crashed near Darling while he was practicing low level aerobatics. He was 26.
- **1975** - Rebels begin an offensive in Eritrea, Ethiopia. Ethiopia's military government orders bombers, armoured units and troops into operations against them in Eritrea Province.
- **1978** - Chief Matanzima announces that all South Africans seconded to the Transkei Army will leave Transkei by 31 March 1978.
- **1980** - Rifleman Willem Johannes Gerhardus Uys Olivier from 7 SAI was killed when the Buffel Troop Carrier in which he was a passenger, overturned at Ondangwa. He was 19.
- **1982** - Lance Corporal Johnny Atilla Nemith from 7 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident at Ha-

zyview. He was 19.

- **1984** - Rifleman Joshua Sitarara from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN Insurgents. He was 24.
- **1986** - Leading Seaman Cavan Rennie Boyd from SAS President Pretorius accidentally drowned whilst restrained in an overturned paddle ski off Bloubergstrand. He was 25.
- **1989** - Rifleman Christian Le Wack from Group 39 was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident, at Bloemfontein. He was 29.
- **1989** - Soviet troops leave Afghanistan, ending nine years of war.
- **1992** - Rifleman Benjamin Boorman from 3 SAI was accidentally shot and killed by a fellow Unit member during riot control operations at Mpophweni Township. He was 23.
- **2004** - Max Schmeling, former world heavyweight boxing champion and WW II Fallschirmjaeger, dies at the age of 99.

3 February

- **1838** - Piet Retief, seventy burghers and thirty mounted servants arrive at Dingaan's kraal Ungungundlovu (Home of the Elephant) for the signing of the Retief-Dingane treaty.
- **1903** - Britain conquers Kano from Nigerian rebel forces.

- **1915** - Battle of the Suez Canal: a Turkish attempt to cross the canal is defeated.
 - **1922** - General Christiaan Rudolph de Wet, well-known leader of Boer forces in the Second Anglo-Boer War, dies on his farm at the age of 67.
 - **1933** - Hitler informs his generals to prepare for war to secure *Lebensraum*.
 - **1943** - An extraordinary act of heroism occurred in the icy waters off Greenland after the U.S. Army transport ship *Dorchester* was hit by a German torpedo and began to sink rapidly. When it became apparent there were not enough life jackets, four U.S. Army chaplains on board removed theirs, handed them to frightened young soldiers, and chose to go down with the ship while praying.
 - **1943** - Troop transport 'Dorchester' torpedoed & sunk off Greenland with great loss of life.
 - **1977** - General Tafari Banti (Teferi Benti), Ethiopia's chief of state, is killed in gun battle that breaks out around Addis Ababa headquarters of the nation's feuding military leaders. Lieutenant-Colonel Haile Mariam Mengistu replaces him.
 - **1978** - Rifleman Afonso Da Silva from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with the enemy forces at Mamuandi during Operation Seiljag. He was 22.
 - **1983** - Lance Corporal Carl Leopold Albert Craemer from 8 SAI was Killed in Action when the Buffel Troop Carrier he was driving, detonated three boosted Yugoslavian TMA-3 Anti-Tank cheese mines that were triggered by a Soviet PMN "Black Widow" Anti-Personnel Mine on the road between Oshigambo and Ondangwa. He was 20.
 - **1988** - Lance Corporal Marius John Lecuona from 2 SSB attached to 61 Mech Battalion was killed during Operation Hooper in Southern Angola.
- #### 4 February
- **1861** - Apache Chief Cochise was arrested in Arizona by the U.S. Army for raiding a ranch. Cochise then escaped and declared war, beginning the period known as the Apache Wars, which lasted 25 years.
 - **1874** - British forces under Garnet Wolseley burn Kumasi, Ghana, ending Ashanti War.
 - **1899** - The Philippine-American War (Philippine Insurrection) begins with heavy fighting at Manila.
 - **1904** - Herero Revolt in German South West Africa: Omaruru is relieved after a fierce battle between Franke and the Ovaherero.
 - **1911** - Pieter Arnoldus Cronjé, Boer general during the Second Anglo-Boer War, dies in Potchefstroom.
 - **1938** - Hitler assumes direct control of the German Army.

- **1939** - The "Ossewabrandwag" (OB) is founded as an Afrikaans cultural and political organisation in Bloemfontein, under leadership of Col. J. Laas.
- **1944** - Japanese launch major offensive against British in the Arakan, Burma.
- **1961** - Civil war erupts in Angola.
- **1964** - The number of men required for military training in 1964 is to increase by 60%, i.e. from 10,368 to 16,537.
- **1967** - Crew of the US carrier *FDR* are refused leave in South Africa because of the apartheid laws.
- **1980** - Three members from 6 SAI were Killed in Action when their patrol was ambushed around mid-morning near Nkongo by PLAN Insurgents using heavy calibre weapons, mortars and RPG-7 Anti-Tank Rockets. The casualties were: Rifleman Michael Derek Loubser (20). Rifleman Jacobus Johannes Maritz (20). Rifleman Jacobus Johannes van der Star (20).
- **1980** - Rifleman Anthony Michael Scholtz from 41 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN Insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 17.
- **1981** - Corporal Daniel Johannes van Wyk from Sector 20 Headquarters was killed in a military vehicle accident near Rundu. He was 19.
- **1982** - 2nd Lieutenant Douglas Raymond Fincham from 82 Mechanised Brigade accidentally drowned in the Vaal River at Barkley West. He was 24.
- **1983** - Private Jan Gabriel Johannes van der Berg from 201 Battalion SWATF was accidentally killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned during follow-up operations in Southern Angola. He was 20.
- **1986** - Private Ronnie Marx from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed instantly when he was struck by lightning during a thunderstorm. He was 18.
- **1987** - Sapper Shawn Engelbrecht from 25 Field Squadron was Killed in Action when his Buffel Troop Carrier detonated a landmine in Northern Owamboland. He was 20.
- **1988** - Two members of 101 Battalion Romeo Mike were Killed in Action near Mupa in Southern Angola when their Casspir drove into an ambush and was struck by a Czechoslovakian RPG-75 Anti-Tank Rocket. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant Michael Sean McCann (21). Sapper Michael Colin Suter (20) from 25 Field Engineer Squadron attached to 101 Battalion Romeo Mike.
- **1988** - Two members of the South West Africa Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K (Koevoet) were Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. They

- **1989** - The Citizen reveals that Miss Olivia Forsyth who arrived at the British Embassy in Luanda, Angola, seeking sanctuary from the ANC, which, she alleged, has kept her in confinement for months and severely tortured her, was indeed a South African spy. Her claim to be a SA agent was formerly rejected by SA authorities.
 - **1990** - Nine Israeli tourists and two Egyptian guards are killed and twenty tourists wounded when masked assailants open fire on a bus en route to Cairo.
- #### 5 February
- **1840** - Hiram Stevens Maxim, inventor of the first practical machine gun, is born on this day.
 - **1900** - General Redvers Buller conquers Vaalkrans at the Tugela river, but shelling from both sides continues and the British forces have to evacuate their positions two days later.
 - **1915** - General Louis Botha leaves for South West Africa to take control of the Union troops who would conquer the area from Germany.
 - **1918** - Stephen W Thompson becomes the first US pilot to down an enemy airplane.
 - **1935** - Johannes Jacobus Geldenhuys (Jannie), former Chief of the South African Defence Force, is born in Kroonstad.
 - **1943** - Germans deport 12,000 Jews from Bialystok to death camps.
 - **1958** - A B-47 & F-86 collide at 36,000 feet off the Georgia coast, causing the loss of an H-Bomb, which is still missing.
 - **1970** - Captain Johannes Jacobus Lombard from 4 SAI was deliberately shot dead by a disgruntled soldier in the mess at Katima Mulilo. He was 29.
 - **1973** - Funeral for Lt Col William Nolde, last US soldier killed in Vietnam.
 - **1976** - The Defence Amendment Bill, making provision for the employment of South African conscripted troops anywhere outside South Africa, is approved.
 - **1976** - Sapper Jonathan Aschman from 21 Field Engineer Squadron, South African Engineer Corps was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Central Angola during Operation Savannah. He was 19.
 - **1976** - Trooper Willem Johannes Cronje from Regiment Oranje Rivier was Killed in Action in Central Angola during Operation Savannah. He was 26.
 - **1980** - Two members from 6 SAI were Killed in Action when their Temporary Base at Nkongo was attacked by PLAN insurgents. The casualties were: Rifleman Chris-

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- to Swanepoel (19). Rifleman Bruce Edward Schultz (20).
- **1981** - Police announce the arrest of a number of Whites in connection with sabotage acts for which the Wit Kommando has claimed responsibility on 15 August 1980 and on 12 December 1980.
- **1981** - Rifleman Bernard Jacobus Leach from 1 SAI was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents while on patrol near the Cut-line. He was 21.
- **1982** - Two members from 4 SAI were killed at their Base at Ohiki, 18km North of Omauni when they tried to make a skyrocket by using a tent pole. They were: Rifleman Evert Phillipus Du Toit (20). Rifleman Robert Glenn Dunn (19).
- **1983** - Former Gestapo official Klaus Barbie brought to trial in Lyon, France.
- **1985** - Rifleman Paul Ismael from 101 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces. He was 24.
- **1987** - Rifleman Peter Benz Reynolds from 5 Recce Regiment was killed when the Kwêvoel vehicle he was driving, overturned when he tried to avoid cattle in the road between Ondangwa and Tsumeb. He was 22.
- **1991** - Lieutenant Johannes Francois Neuhoff from 85 Combat Flying School was killed when his Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I, Serial No. 604 crashed near Pietersburg. He was 25.
- **1992** - Rifleman Daniel Stephanus Hendrik Du Toit from the Regiment Botha was killed when he accidentally slipped at a waterfall and fell 30 metres to his death, while on Patrol at the Table Mountain in Natal. He was 33.
- **1993** - Up to 200 Somali youths hurl rocks at US forces and set tyre barricades ablaze in the belief that American troops shot to death a Somali man.

6 February

- **1838** - At the farewell function following the signing of Retief's treaty, Piet Retief, seventy of his men and thirty mounted servants are killed on the orders of Zulu King Dingane at Ungungundlovu. The Trekkers are bound and taken from the enclosure to a spot where they are spiked and clubbed to death.
- **1899** - Spanish-American War officially ends.
- **1901** - The battle of Chrissiesmeer (Lake Chrissie) takes place during the Second Anglo-Boer War.
- **1941** - Battle of Beda Fomm: British complete destruction of Italian Tenth Army.
- **1941** - British troops capture Bengazi, Libya.
- **1945** - Battle for Manila begins.
- **1945** - Over 4,000 American POWs are freed from prison camps on Luzon.
- **1970** - Israelis sink a 700-ton Egyptian minelayer in the Gulf of Suez in reprisal

for the sinking of two Israeli ships at Elath.

- **1977** - Rhodesian security forces launch a full-scale search for a gang, which massacred seven White Roman Catholic missionaries three Jesuits and four Dominican nuns at St Paul's Mission at Musami, near Mrewa.
- **1978** - Chad breaks links to Libya in protest to their support of Muslim guerrillas currently fighting in northern Chad.
- **1981** - Rifleman L Kavari from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1982** - Rifleman Hirite Vilho from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 20.
- **1982** - Rifleman Ningileymo Kondjeni Meulemo from 101 Battalion SWATF was killed during operations in Southern Angola. He was 22.
- **1984** - Rifleman Xavier Arico from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 24.
- **1984** - Special Constable M. Kaibotya from Koevoet was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in North-

- ern Owamboland. He was 34.
- **1985** - Rifleman Immanuel Gabriel from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 28.
- **1985** - Trooper Hermanus Christoffel Helm from 2 Special Service Battalion collapsed and died after suffering a fatal heart attack during a physical training session at Walvis Bay. He was 18.
- **1985** - Corporal Noel Mbumba Marcel from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 30.

- **1994** - National Peacekeeping Force (NPKF), Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana, says that the NPKF will probably not be ready to keep the peace during the elections in April.
- **2004** - Chechen terrorists bomb the Moscow subway, 49 die, scores injured.

7 February

- **1900** - British forces, under Buller, are defeated by the Boers under Botha at the end of the three-day battle of Vaalkrans.
- **1900** - The British fail for the third time to relieve the Boer siege of Ladysmith.
- **1901** - Britain sends 30 000 additional troops to South Africa.
- **1942** - The 2nd SA Division moves into Tobruk.

- **1943** - Guadalcanal: U.S. troops advance on both coasts, as the Japanese complete the evacuation of their troops from the island.
- **1944** - Germans launch counteroffensive at Anzio.
- **1945** - General Douglas MacArthur returns to Manila.
- **1948** - Omar Bradley succeeds Dwight Eisenhower as Army Chief of Staff.
- **1964** - Somali troops invade Ethiopia to assert claim to Ogaden desert area.
- **1965** - US begins sustained air operations against North Vietnam.
- **1968** - Air Mechanic Philip Johannes Joubert from 24 Squadron was shot dead while on guard duty when he was struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 19.



Douglas MacArthur

- **1969** - Nigerian planes bomb and strafe a crowded market in a village in rebellious Biafra, killing more than 200 people.
 - **1973** - Two members from the Infantry School Instructor Staff were killed instantly in Oudtshoorn when a stockpile of old unstable explosives that they were preparing for demolition, accidentally detonated. The casualties were: WO Lukas Petrus Jacobus Steenkamp (45). Staff Sergeant Pieter Paul van Jaarsveld (30).
 - **1978** - Gunner Abraham Hattingh from 4 Artillery Regiment was killed instantly at Potchefstroom during a violent storm when the electric floor polisher he was using to polish the barracks floor, was struck by lightning. He was 17.
 - **1979** - Nazi war criminal Josef Mengele drowns in Brazil at the age of 67.
 - **1987** - Trooper Johann Labuschagne from 61 Mechanised Battalion died during a two week Infantry training exercise at Oshivello.
 - **1989** - Sapper Ian Steward Hanslo from the School of Engineers was killed while on guard duty at the Unit's main gate when he was accidentally run over by a 10-ton truck. He was 19.
- Heights, near Schuinshoogte (also called the Battle of Skuinshoogte) is fought in the Anglo-Transvaal War. Eight Boer and 100 British soldiers are killed. In this battle the Boer force of 100 men defeats the English force of 600 who are assisted by cavalry and four cannons.
- **1943** - Burma: Orde Wingate's Chindits begin raid against the Japanese.
 - **1943** - Red Army liberates Kursk.
 - **1978** - Three members of 32 Battalion were Killed in Action during in a fierce fire fight with superior enemy force at Mamuandi in Southern Angola during Operation Seiljag. They were: Rifleman Lucindo Laurindo (20). Rifleman Rodrigues Augusto (19). Rifleman Antonio Mussungu (20).
 - **1978** - Rifleman N. Bernade from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during in a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola between Onhunda and Oshipala during Operation Seiljag. He was 19.
 - **1979** - Gunner Pieter Du Toit from 10 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment received serious burns on 7 February while escorting a patient in an ambulance to 2 Military Hospital at Wynberg. He passed away on 8 February. He was 20.
 - **1981** - Rifleman Morgan John Williams from 5 SAI was Killed when he was

8 February

- **1865** - Martin Delany becomes first black major in the US Army.
- **1881** - The Battle of Ingogo

struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle in Northern Owamboland. He was 20.

- **1984** - Captain Sarel Jacobus Kruger from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was killed in a parachute training accident at Hoedspruit. He was 26.
- **1984** - Rifleman Hendrik Francois Taljaard from the Equestrian Centre was killed instantly when he was accidentally run over by a Samil 100 truck near Potchefstroom while on his way to stand guard at the North West Command Ammunition Dump. He was 19.
- **1984** - 2nd Lieutenant Johannes Petrus Verhoef from 8 SAI died from gunshot wounds accidentally sustained near AFB Ondangwa in Northern Owamboland. He was 21.
- **1988** - Rifleman Thomas Andries Dreyer from 5 SAI accidentally drowned while swimming in the Klip River. He was 24.

9 February

- **1900** - George Frederick Labram, mechanical engineer who built 'Long Cecil' for the defence of Kimberley during the siege by the Boers, is killed by a shell from a Boer 'Long Tom' only a few days before the siege was raised.
- **1904** - A predawn Japanese torpedo boat attack on the Russian Fleet outside Port

Arthur, initiates the Russo-Japanese War.

- **1916** - General Jan Christian Smuts is appointed commander of UK and South African troops in the East African campaign of World War I.
- **1916** - Britain adopts conscription for World War I.
- **1916** - The Cape Corps, consisting of thirty-two officers and 1022 soldiers, leaves for East Africa during the First World War.
- **1918** - U.S. Army Chaplains' School is established on this day.
- **1941** - The German troops of General Erwin Rommel move from Italy to North Africa.
- **1943** - During World War II in the Pacific, U.S. troops captured Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands after six months of battle, with 9,000 Japanese and 2,000 Americans killed.
- **1945** - Germans blow up dams on the Ruhr.
- **1977** - Rifleman Frederick Francois Oosthuizen from Meyerton Commando died from a gunshot wound resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while his patrol was busy preparing an ambush position north of Oshakati. He was 20.
- **1978** - South Africa is to make its own missiles. Kentron (Pty) Ltd, a newly formed subsidiary of ARMSCOR (the South African Armaments Corporation)

will produce these.

- **1987** - Corporal Marius Viljoen from 2 Special Service Battalion was killed at the Rooisloot Training Terrain at Zeerust when his Eland armoured car overturned during training exercises. He was 19.
- **1990** - Rifleman Gerhard Paul Heine from 5 SAI was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Umhlanga Rocks. He was 19.
- **1991** - Oupa Gqozo, head of the Ciskei, claims to have put down the second coup attempt in the space of two weeks, with the assistance of South African forces.
- **1992** - After two days of fighting between Islamic fundamentalists and security forces in Algeria, a state of emergency is declared.
- **1996** - WW II Luftwaffe ace Adolf Galland dies at the age of 83. He was the youngest man in Europe to become a general since Napoleon.
- **1999** - An Ethiopian plane bombs an Eritrean village full of homeless people, killing at least five civilians and escalating a border dispute.

Adolf Galland

10 February

- **1840** - Commandant-General M.W. Pretorius installs Mpande as King of the Zulus after the power of Mpande's brother, Dingane, is broken at a final battle at Magongo on the Umkuzi River.
- **1901** - General Christiaan de Wet invades the Cape Colony for the second time at Zanddrif, near Philippolis.
- **1906** - HMS 'Dreadnought' is launched, initiating a naval arms race.
- **1916** - Geneneral Jan Smuts is appointed commander of the Allied forces in East Africa.
- **1942** - The first Medal of Honor during World War II was awarded to 2nd Lt. Al-



exander Nininger (posthumously) for heroism during the Battle of Bataan.

- **1943** - Britain's Eighth Army reaches Tunisian border.
- **1943** - Battle of Krasny Bor: The Soviets attempt to break the siege of Leningrad, but defending German and Spanish troops hold.
- **1962** - USSR swaps U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for spy Rudolph Abel.
- **1964** - Australian carrier 'Melbourne' collides with the destroyer 'Voyager', which sinks, 82 die.
- **1972** - Lance Corporal James Charles Warren from 2 Squadron was killed in a aircraft ground mishap at the Squadron. He was in the process of removing an aircraft ejection seat when the drogue gun on the seat accidentally fired and he was fa-

tally injured. He was 23.

- **1983** - Rifleman Adao Salvador from 32 Battalion was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident, at Mosese. He was 22.
- **1988** - South Africa sends troops to Bophuthatswana to reinstate Lucas Mangope who was ousted by local defence force members on charge of corruption.
- **1989** - The Citizen reports that an alleged member of the SADF, Isaiah Moyo, was convicted in Lusaka, Zambia, on three counts of espionage and sentenced to fifty years' hard labour. The SADF denied any knowledge of Mr Moyo. The sentence was later reduced to thirty years.
- **1994** - Lieutenant Garth Harold Esterhuizen from 42 Squadron was killed when his Cessna 185A, Serial No. 720 crashed at Carletonville after flying into power lines during a low level cross country training flight. He was 23.

- **2017** - Lt. General Harold Gregory "Hal" Moore, Jr, hero of the Ia Drang Valley in Vietnam, dies at the age of 84.

11 February

- **1900** - The second British offensive begins with a British invasion of the Orange Free State when almost 50,000 men and 170 guns cross the border from Modder River and Graspan to a water-rich farm at Ramdam.
- **1935** - League of Nations debates the border dispute between Italy and Ethiopia, whilst Mussolini prepares to ship out 35,000 troops to East Africa.
- **1941** - Erwin Rommel lands in Tripoli to assume command of the Afrika Korps.
- **1963** - The defence minister, J.J. Fouché, announces in the House of Assembly that he intends to increase the strength of the permanent army by fifty per cent.
- **1971** - US, UK, USSR, others sign a treaty banning nuclear weapons on the seabed.
- **1975** - A Rhodesian government spokesman announces that elements of the South African police are withdrawing from certain forward positions on the Zambezi River, after undertakings from the Zambian government about guerrilla infiltrations there.
- **1978** - Lieutenant Johannes Hendrik Du Toit from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces during an ambush while operating in Zambia. He was 23.
- **1980** - Private Gert Petrus

Gerber from Central Flying School Dunnottar attached to 95 Tactical Airfield Unit, suffered critical head injuries when his fuel tanker vehicle overturned near Oluno in Northern Owamboland on 5 February 1980. He succumbed to his injuries in 1 Military Hospital on 11 February 1980. He was 19.

- **1981** - Rifleman Archie Ronnie Williams from the South African Cape Corps died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while on patrol in Northern Owamboland. He was 26.
- **1982** - Sapper Phillipus Johannes De Bruin from 5 Engineer Regiment was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 23.
- **1985** - Eight members of 32 Battalion were Killed in Action and five more Died of Wounds when Charlie Company Patrol was operating in the vicinity of the Bale River in Southern Angola during Ops Forte. The eight casualties that were killed in the initial contact were: Lieutenant David Gordon Light (26). Rifleman Jakob Eduardo Jamba (31). Lance Corporal Jose Alfredo Sachilombo (27). Rifleman Petrus Kalitoko Kahete (31). Rifleman Alberto de Almeida (19). Rifleman Paulo Jose (27). Rifleman Kausanga Galonga (27). Rifleman Jose Chihamba (30). After sunset while the casualties were being evacuated

to a temporary emergency base, another four of the wounded men, all suffering from massive chest wounds as a result of Rifle Grenades and RPG-7 Rockets, succumbed to their injuries. They were: Riflemen Joao Fernando (29). Rifleman Mateus Joaquim (26). Rifleman Zeferino Chipoya (22). Rifleman, Mateus Antonio Kinguelele (32). Rifleman Musose Muema (32) succumbed to his injuries the following day.

- **1990** - The South African Defence Force (SADF) admits the existence of a secret unit called the Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB), which was also allegedly involved in hit-squad actions against activists. President De Klerk said in March 1990 that he had been informed about the CCB only in January 1990.

12 February

- **1942** - The "Channel Dash": German battleships 'Scharnhorst' & 'Gneisenau', & heavy cruiser 'Prinz Eugen' escape from Brest to Germany.
- **1955** - Pres Eisenhower sends US advisors to South Vietnam.
- **1976** - Rifleman Johannes Jacobus Bruwer from 6 SAI Died in 1 Military Hospital from gunshot wounds accidentally sustained while in Northern Owamboland. He was 21.
- **1979** - The State Security Council (SSC) approves

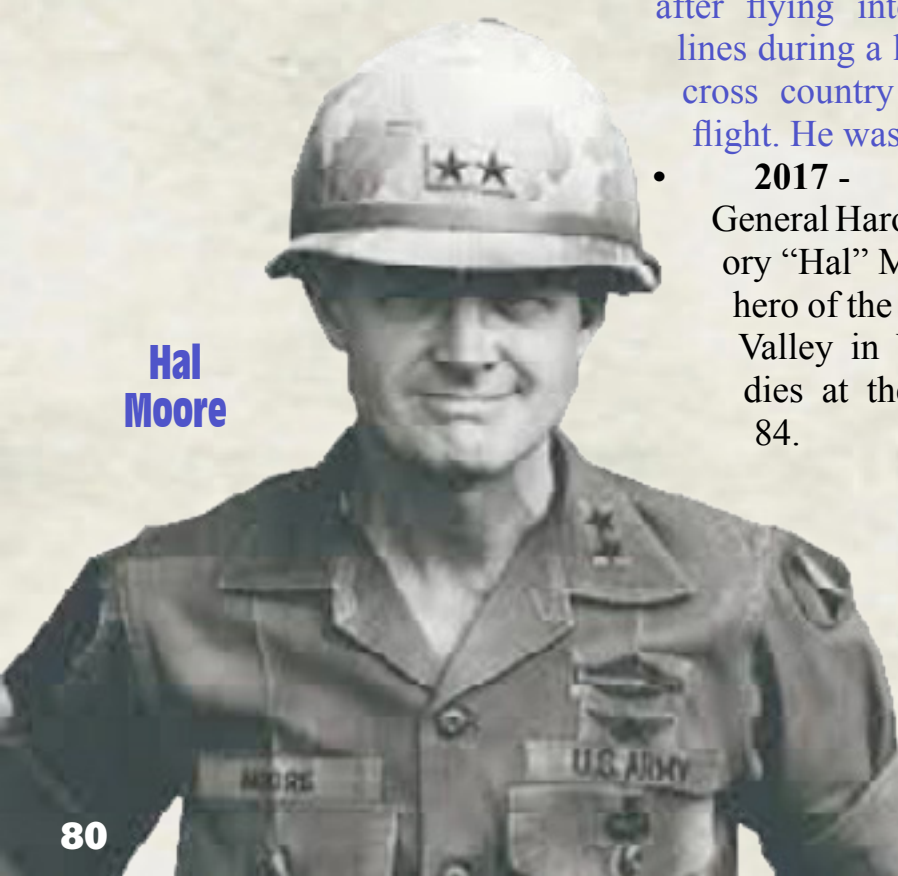
guidelines for the conducting of military operations against liberation movements in foreign countries.

- **1979** - Nationalist guerrillas in Rhodesia shoot down an Air Rhodesia airliner with a missile, killing fifty-nine people.
- **1985** - Captain Robert Raymond Rodel from 4 Squadron was Killed in Action in Northern Owamboland in Atlas MB326KC Impala Mk II, Serial No.1096. He was 26.
- **1985** - Five members from 102 Battalion SWATF and 1 SWA Engineer Regiment SWATF (attached) were Killed in Action in Western Koakoland when their Buffel Troop Carrier convoy was ambushed by a numerically superior force of approximately 40 heavily armed SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. The casualties were: Corporal Mannie Maheue (22). Sapper Willem Vallien (18). Sapper Gerhard van Wyk (19). Sapper Bartholomeus Kapindi (22). Sapper Niklaas Johannes Ferris (24).

13 February

- **1901** - Lord Kitchener meets with Gen. Louis Botha in an effort to end the Anglo-Boer War, but Botha finds the British conditions unacceptable. The battle of Wolwekuil is fought the same day.
- **1924** - Japanese Admiral Kenji Ide and his aide, Capt. Isoroku Yamamoto, visit the

Hal Moore



- U.S. Naval War College
- **1941** - WW2: The 12th African Division, with 1st SA Infantry Brigade in command, captures Kismayu in Somaliland.
- **1942** - Hitler finally cancels "Operation Seelöwe", the invasion of Britain.
- **1945** - During World War II in Europe, British and American planes began massive bombing raids on Dresden, Germany. A four-day firestorm erupted that was visible for 200 miles and engulfed the historic old city, killing an estimated 135,000 German civilians.
- **1960** - The first French atom bomb is tested in the Sahara desert.
- **1961** - UN security council urges use of force to prevent civil war in the Congo.
- **1972** - Patrol Officer Michael Fenton Hill, a South African National serving in the British South Africa Police stationed at Wedza, was killed in a motor vehicle accident while travelling on the Salisbury to Umtali Road. He was 20.
- **1976** - General Murtula Ramat Muhammed, Nigerian head of state since a bloodless coup in 1975, is assassinated during a failed military coup.
- **1980** - 2nd Lieutenant Ignatius Petrus Du Preez from 201 Battalion SWATF Died of Wounds during an operation in Southern Zambia when he accidentally triggered a booby trap while clearing a SWAPO/PLAN base. He was 21.
- **1981** - Rifleman Jaco Marais from the South African Army was killed in a private motor vehicle accident in Pretoria He was 18.
- **1993** - Angolan government troops break into Unita rebel-held highlands in an attempt to open a supply corridor to the embattled city of Huambo.
- **1994** - Rifleman Mbhonono Johnson Myeni from 111 Infantry Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident at Alexandra. He was 27.
- **1994** - Somali gunmen kidnap two Italian aid workers and an Egyptian UN peacekeeper is killed.
- **1997** - Rebels under Laurent Kabila take Zairian town of Faradje while advancing on country's third largest city, Kisangani.
- **1999** - Osama bin Laden, the Saudi millionaire suspected of being behind the bombings of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, is reported to have disappeared from his base in Afghanistan.

14 February

- **1900** - General Buller starts his fourth attempt to relieve Ladysmith, Natal. The British withdraw from their positions around Colesberg and regroup at Arundel Sid-ing nearby.
- **1940** - British merchant ships are armed against Ger-

- man submarines and raiders.
- **1941** - German 5th Light Division, Rommel's Afrika Corps, arrive at Tripoli.
- **1943** - The Soviets liberate Rostov from the Germans.
- **1973** - An Israeli fighter pilot shoots down a Libyan aircraft over the Sinai Desert. Seventy-four passengers and crew members die.
- **1981** - Eight Army officers are paraded by President Samora Machel at a mass rally in Maputo and are accused of treason and complicity with South Africa in the raid on the military base at Matola, where two of them were in command.
- **1987** - Three members from South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. They were: Lieutenant Colonel G.L. Steyn (48). Sergeant Christoffel Lodewikus Fourie (28). Constable Ryk Ludolph Erasmus (20).
- **1988** - Four Members from B Company 1 SAI including two Cousins acting as the MAG Light Machine Gunner team, were Killed in Action in South Eastern Angola during a contact with elements of the 59th FAP-LA Brigade during Operation Hooper. The casualties were: Corporal Jan Hendrik Kleynhans (19). Rifleman Andre Schalk Groenewald (18). Rifleman Pieter Hen-

- rich Groenewald (19). Rifleman Vincent Vernon Nieuwenhuizen (19).
- **1990** - Corporal Pieter Gabriel Jacobus Haasbroek from 4 Reconnaissance Regiment was accidentally killed when his parachute failed during a practice jump at the Saldanha Airfield near Vredenburg. He was 21.
- **1991** - Lance Corporal Deon Schutte from Group 33 shot dead in a shooting incident near the Mozambique border. He was 20.

15 February

- **1898** - In Havana, the U.S. Battleship Maine was blown up while at anchor and quickly sank with 260 crew members lost. The incident inflamed public opinion in the U.S., resulting in a declaration of war against Spain on April 25, 1898, amid cries of "Remember the Maine!"
- **1900** - General French relieves Kimberley after a siege of 123 days. The town has suffered only 134 casualties among armed defenders and twenty-one civilians, but some 1,500 people, mostly Coloureds and Blacks, have died of famine and disease. The British lost at least 2,237 men of the relieving force.
- **1900** - The British threaten to use natives in the Boer War fight.
- **1915** - "Sepoy Mutiny" at Singapore: About 800 Indian troops run amok until subdued by loyal troops and police.
- **1942** - Singapore surrenders to the Japanese; greatest disaster in British military history.
- **1944** - The Allies commence bombing & shelling the Monastery of Monte Cassino.
- **1970** - Air Chief Marshal Hugh Caswall Tremenheere Dowding, who led "The Few" during the Battle of Britain, dies at the age of 87.
- **1970** - Corporal Stephanus Abraham Johannes Latsky from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident on the Old Pretoria / JHB Road, near Valhalla when his Kombi skidded on the wet road and overturned. He was 19.
- **1979** - Major Frederick Wilhelm Christiaan Brits from 3 Squadron was killed when his Mirage F1CZ Serial No.200, crashed near Cullinan during a training flight. He was 32.
- **1989** - Soviet Russia completed its military withdrawal from Afghanistan after nine years of unsuccessful involvement in the civil war between Muslim rebel groups and the Russian-backed Afghan government. Over 15,000 Russian soldiers had been killed in the fighting.
- **1990** - Captain Cecil de Jong from 17 Squadron was killed when his Alouette III, Serial 637 crashed at Murrayhill near Hammanskraal during a confined space landing/

take-off. He was 29.

- **1992** - Two members from the School of Armour were killed when the military vehicle in which they were traveling as passengers, burst a rear tyre near Verkeerdevlei and overturned. They were: Trooper Grant James Koekemoer (18). Trooper Gert Johannes Grobler (18).

16 February

- **1940** - 'Altmark' Incident: HMS 'Cossack' violates Norwegian territoriality to free British prisoners held aboard a German tanker.
- **1941** - Remaining Italian forces are expelled from the Sudan.
- **1945** - Venezuela declares war on Nazi Germany.
- **1959** - Fidel Castro becomes premier of Cuba after the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista. Cuban intervention in the Angolan war started during his office.
- **1982** - Rifleman Daniel Cloete from 911 Battalion SWATF accidentally drowned in a flooded shona/river bed. He was 18.
- **1983** - Rifleman L.K. Kam-bathi from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 21.
- **1986** - Two members from 101 Battalion Romeo Mike SWATF were Killed in Action when their Casspir was hit by an RPG-7 Anti-Tank Rocket during a contact with

enemy forces in Southern Angola. They were: Corporal Nandago Thomas (22). Rifleman R. Boas (19).

- **1986** - Special Constable Abel Uteuga 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.
- **1986** - French warplanes bomb Libyan airfield in northern Chad used as support centre for rebels in their offensive against President Hissene Habre's government.
- **1988** - An attempted coup by the Bophuthatswana Defence Force is crushed by the S.A. Defence Force.

17 February

- **1900** - General Piet Cronje is trapped against the Modder River on the farm Wolwekraal in the Paardeberg vicinity, and the next day the battle of Paardeberg, which was to last ten days, starts.
- **1909** - Apache Chief Geronimo died while in captivity at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He had led a small group of warriors on raids throughout Arizona and New Mexico. Caught once, he escaped. The U.S. Army then sent 5,000 men to recapture him.
- **1916** - British and French forces complete capture of Germany's African colony of Cameroon during World

War I.

- **1980** - Staff Sergeant Michael Johannes van der Linde from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 39.
- **1981** - Signaler Walter James Griffin from 2 Signal Regiment attached to 237 Troop (BRUSH) in Grootfontein, was accidentally killed while returning to Grootfontein when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Otjovasandu in Sector 30. He was 19.
- **1984** - Rifleman Hendrik Jacobus Smith from 1 Parachute Battalion was Reported Missing near the Epupa Falls in Kaokoland. The Cunene River was flowing strongly and making whirlpools between the rocks. One of his boots fell into the river and he jumped in to retrieve it. He never re-surfaced and despite an intensive search by the members of the patrol, he was never located and remains unaccounted for. He was 20.
- **1987** - Two members from 202 Battalion SWATF were Killed in Action when their Buffel Troop Carrier detonated a landmine in Southern Angola. The casualties were: Lance Corporal L. Aukhumb (22). Rifleman G.H. Edwards (19).
- **1987** - Rifleman K.S. Kambonde from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with

SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 23.

- **1988** - Staff Sergeant Aubrey Nelson Borchers from 101 Battalion SWATF died in 1 Military Hospital after suffering a fatal heart attack. He was 49.
- **1988** - Lance Corporal William Arthur Frederick Price from 1 SAI, attached to 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was Killed in Action in Southern Angola during Operation Hooper. He was 19.
- **2017** - Three members of the South African Navy died while trying to rescue three members from the Department of Public Works who were working in a sewage pit repairing the valve. The casualties were: Leading Seaman Amrithlall Tothara Ramdin (41). Able Seaman Francois William Mundell (26). Seaman Henro Ter Borg from the Maritime Reaction Squadron (21).

18 February

- **1884** - British forces under General Charles Gordon reach Khartoum in Sudan.
- **1900** - The Battle of Paardeberg, which was to last up to 27 February, starts with an attack by the British under Maj General Lord Kitchener on the Boers under General Cronje.
- **1915** - Germany proclaims a blockade of England.
- **1941** - Mega, the Italian headquarters in southern

Abyssinia, falls to SA forces.

- **1977** - Rifleman Willem Andries Haarhoff from 3 SAI was accidentally killed when a pole fell on him. He was 18.
- **1980** - Gunner Samuel Deon van Aswegen from the Potchefstroom University Regiment was Killed in Action when his Buffel Troop Carrier was hit by an RPG-7 Anti-Tank Rocket during an enemy night ambush at Omindamba in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
- **1982** - Rifleman Mark Mason from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed in a friendly fire incident when their patrol was engaged by SWATF forces near the Cut-Line. He was 18.
- **1982** - Tragedy struck the South African Navy when the Frigate SAS President Kruger was involved in a collision with the fleet replenishment ship SAS Tafelberg during exercises in the South Atlantic Ocean. The force of the collision buckled the plates and crushed Mess 12 on the President Kruger where the Petty Officers sleeping quarters were located, killing or trapping those inside. After the order to abandon ship was given, the following 16 ratings were Reported Missing and remain unaccounted for: Chief Petty Officer Johannes Petrus Booysen. Chief Petty Officer Hartmut Wilfried Smit. Chief Pet-

ty Officer Willem Marthinus Gerhardus Van Tonder. Chief Petty Officer Donald Webb. Petty Officer Stephanus Petrus Bothma. Petty Officer Graham Alexander Frank Brind. Petty Officer Robin Centlivre Bulterman. Petty Officer Granville Williams De Villiers. Petty Officer Evert Koen. Petty Officer Hjalmar Lotter. Petty Officer Roy Anthony McMaster. Petty Officer Roy Frederick Skeates. Petty Officer William Russel Smith. Petty Officer Michael Richard Bruce Whiteley. Petty Officer Coenraad Johannes Wium. Able Seaman Gilbert Timothy Benjamin.

- **1982** - Private Daniel Johannes Jakobus Rossouw from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident at Asab. He was 19.
- **1983** - Constable Anton Delpont from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was mortally wounded during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
- **1983** - Sergeant Paul Petrus van Zyl from Western Air Command, Windhoek, was killed in a private motor vehicle accident at Olifantshoek while travelling back to Pretoria to take up his new posting at Air Force Headquarters. He was 23.
- **1983** - Sergeant Tema Kanheto from 201 Battalion

SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents at Elundu in Northern Owamboland. He was 23.

- **1984** - Rifleman Kim Inglis from Hotel Company, Infantry School was accidentally killed after being struck in the heart by a small piece of mortar bomb shrapnel during a live ammunition fire and movement attack training exercise at Omutiya. He was 19.
- **1985** - Corporal Leon van Buisbergen from 6 SAI was accidentally killed in Southern Angola by friendly fire from another South African Infantry Unit. He was 20.
- **1987** - Rifleman C.V. Kavita from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.

19 February

- **1937** - Italian troops commence with raids into Addis Abeba, capital of Ethiopia.
- **1942** - Japanese Vice-Adm Nagumo's aircraft raid Darwin, NW Australia, inflicting heavy casualties.
- **1945** - US Marines land on Iwo Jima.
- **1963** - The minister of defence announces the re-establishment, as of 1 April 1963, of the 'Cape Corps' of Coloured to be employed in non-combatant roles.
- **1976** - The MPLA government in Angola is recognised

by most countries of the world. Foreign intervention is condemned, and the withdrawal of Cuban and South African troops demanded.

- **1978** - Two members from the South African Air Force and one civilian passenger were Killed in Action while returning from Katima Mulilo to Air Force Base M'pacha after attending a Sunday Church Service. The casualties were: Commandant Liam Myles Poole (44). Major Andries Petrus Els (54). Mr David Jacobus De Lange (47).
- **1978** - Rifleman Raymond O'Brien Hunter from 2 SAI was Killed in Action at Elundu. He was 20.
- **1978** - Rifleman Johan Lemmer Caparus Ferreira from 2 SAI was captured along with Sapper Johan Van der Mescht just before sunrise on 19 February 1978 during a surprise attack by a group of approximately 47 SWAPO/PLAN insurgents on their TB at Elundu. Unlike Van der Mescht, Ferreira refused to go along with his captors and was subsequently murdered. He was 20.
- **1979** - Sapper Rudolf Francois van Heerden from 52 Battalion was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion at Mahanene in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1980** - The South African Defence Force has taken over from the police the security of Northern Natal since the area is becoming a

third front in Security Force action against guerrilla infiltration.

- **1981** - Rifleman Shaun Reginald Jessop from 1 SAI was killed when his Ratel Infantry Fighting Vehicle overturned during military exercises at Kimberley. He was 21.
- **1985** - Rifleman Jan Petrus van Niekerk from Infantry School died from an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head while in Sunnyside, Pretoria. He was 22.
- **1987** - Rifleman Nicholas Andrew Stubbs from the Equestrian Centre was killed in a military vehicle accident at the Reitz Show Grounds. He was 19.
- **1987** - Detective Sergeant Pieter Johannes Collen from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 29.
- **1988** - Rifleman Lambert Hendrik Fick from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed in a private motor cycle accident while on his way to Potchefstroom. He was 22.

20 February

- **1902** - Colonel C.W. Park, commanding three columns and accompanied by about 300 National Scouts and a commando of armed Blacks, surprise General Chris H. Muller in the Bothasberg,

about 60 km north-east of Middelburg and captures 153 burghers of Colonel Trichardt's commando while two burghers are killed.

- **1942** - Combined Japanese amphibious and airborne attack on Timor.
- **1943** - German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel broke through American lines at Kasserine Pass in North Africa as inexperienced U.S. Troops lost their first major battle of World War II in Europe, with 1,000 Americans killed.
- **1944** - Allied bombers begin five days of intensive air attacks on German aircraft production facilities and air bases, while their fighter escorts devastate defending Luftwaffe squadrons.
- 1966 - American Fleet Admiral Chester W Nimitz, at 80.
- **1977** - Rifleman H.M. Dos Santos from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 31.
- **1981** - Rifleman Sarel Philippus Piek from 2 Field Engineer Regiment died in the Sick Bay at M'pacha after contracting cerebral meningitis. He was 21.
- **1983** - Special Constable Johannes Joseph 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 North-

ern Owamboland. He was 23.

- **1986** - Rifleman I Tjisemo from 102 Battalion SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 24.
- **1988** - Major Edward Richard Every from 1 Squadron was Reported Missing during an Operational sortie over Southern Angola after his Mirage F1AZ 245 was shot down by a Soviet SA-13 Gopher Surface-to-Air Missile at Cuatir near Menongue. He was 31.

21 February

- **1916** - Battle of Verdun in France begins with a massive German artillery bombardment. It is the longest and bloodiest battle of World War 1, with more than one million killed.
- **1917** - The troopship SS Mendi collides with the Darro near the Isle of Wright. It sinks with a contingent of Black SA troops, on their way to France to fight on the British side. "Be quiet and calm, my countrymen. What is happening now is what you came to do ... you are going to die, but that is what you came to do. Brothers, we are drilling the death drill. I, a Xhosa, say you are my brothers ... Swazis, Pondos, Basotho ... so let us die like brothers. We are the sons of Africa. Raise your war-cries, brothers, for though they made us leave

our assegais in the kraal, our voices are left with our bodies" reputed to be the last words of Rev Wauchope Dyobha on the sinking ship SS Mendi.

- **1918** - Australians capture Jericho from the Turks.
- 1919 - Mary Edwards Walker, feminist and physician, Civil War Army contract surgeon, the only woman ever awarded a Medal of Honor, dies at the age of 86.
- **1944** - Prime Minister Tojo takes over direct control of the Japanese Army as Chief of Staff.
- **1978** - Lieutenant Phillip Joseph Castle from Regiment Windhoek, SWATF was Killed in Action in Northern Owamboland during a close-quarter battle with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents at Olusjandja Dam after his Patrol was ambushed just before sunrise. He was 20.
- **1979** - Rifleman Francis William John Snyman from 7 SAI was Killed in Action when the Bedford he was driving, detonated a land mine outside Oshakati. He was 19.
- **1980** - South Africa warns Mozambique it will not hesitate to strike back if Mozambique continues to shelter guerrillas conducting murderous operations and acts of sabotage against South Africa.
- **1981** - Commandant Pieter Gouws from 1 SWA Squadron SWATF was Reported Missing when his Civilian

aircraft, a Cherokee 6 PA32-300, Registration ZS-EXG, disappeared without trace while flying an aerial reconnaissance sortie up the South West African Coastline. He was 49.

- **1983** - Corporal Kallie Vermeulen from the Northern Logistical Command was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 21.
- **1984** - Rifleman Rinho Jepau from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 27.
- **1985** - Special Constable Johannes Tobias 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 25.
- 1988 - Two members from 5 Signals Regiment and one member from Infantry School were Killed in Action in Southern Angola during Operation Hooper when their position was attacked by Angolan Air Force MiG Fighter Bombers. The casualties were: Sergeant Gerhardus Marthinus Maritz (25). Corporal Van Zyl Venter (20). Signaler Jacques de Lange (19).

22 February

- **1915** - Germany begins "restricted" submarine warfare.
- **1940** - A Stuka of Kamp-

ffgeschwader 30 sinks two destroyers in a single attack in the North Sea off Bor-kum. Unfortunately for him the two ships, the 'Lebrecht Maas' and 'Max Schultz', are both German.

- **1967** - The Minister of Defence, P.W. Botha, discloses that South Africa's northern borders are protected by a radar complex constituting an early warning system and that her coasts will be covered by the Decca navigational system costing R6m.
- **1975** - The Military government of Ethiopia announces that 2,300 guerrillas have been killed in fighting in Eritrea.
- **1977** - Lieutenant Neil Bradley Liddell from 17 Squadron was Killed in Action when his Alouette III, Serial No. 76 was shot down by concentrated small arms fire during anti-insurgent operations in Southern Zambia. He was 28.
- **1978** - Rifleman Andre Bosch from 2 SAI Died of Wounds in 1 Military Hospital after being shot while standing guard at Elundu when their position was overrun by SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 18.
- **1980** - Sapper Phillipus Jurie Wynand Swane-

poel from 25 Field Squadron, South African Engineer Corps was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.

- **1984** - Special Constable Patisiu Tobias 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 24.
- **1985** - Private Philip Nat Gould from 61 Base Workshops was critically injured when he accidentally fell off a moving vehicle. He was admitted to 1 Military Hospital where he later succumbed to his injuries. He was 18.
- **1988** - Sapper Steven Eric Lelong from 1 Parachute Battalion Combat Engineering Unit was accidentally shot dead when his team of Combat Engineers were mistakenly ambushed by a 102 Battalion SWATF Reac-

tion Force Unit in Southern Angola. He was 19.

- **1988** - Corporal Petrus Jacobus Louw from 102 Battalion SWATF accidentally drowned in the Officers/NCO's swimming pool at the Headquarters. He was 19.
- **1991** - Major Richard John Miller from 85 Combat Flying School was killed when his Atlas MB326KM Impala Mk II, Serial No. 1008 crashed while carrying out an aerobatics display at Air Force Base Pietersburg. He was 33.

23 February

- **1917** - Caporale Benito Mussolini, 11th Bersaglieri, is seriously wounded in a mortar accident.
- **1942** - During World War II, the first attack on the U.S. mainland occurred as a Japanese submarine shelled an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing minor damage.
- **1945** - Iwo Jima: the 28th Marines raise the flag on Mount Suribachi.
- **1978** - Captain Andries Johannes van Ellewee from 41 Battalion was critically wounded at Narubis near Keetmanshoop during a live fire exercise. He was 26.
- **1980** - Staff Sergeant Am-

Iwo
Jima

erindo Maurao Da Costa PMM from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action when he detonated a booby trap after his team had walked into an enemy ambush. He was 35.

- **1981** - The Prime Minister declares that Soviet threats will not prevent South Africa from attacking ANC bases in Mozambique.
- **1983** - Private Ronald Richard Erasmus from 5 Maintenance Unit died in hospital from natural causes. He was 19.
- **1983** - Rifleman Simon Hamutenya from 101 Battalion SWATF Killed in Action during a contact with insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 23.
- **1983** - Lance Corporal William Francis Moag from 7 SAI died from gunshot wounds accidentally sustained in the Operational Area. He was 20.
- **1984** - Special Warrant Officer Lukus Likuis from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 31.
- **1986** - Special Sergeant Abel Matiasta from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 36.

• **1987** - Three members from 101 Battalion Romeo Mike Team SWATF were Killed in Action close to Vinticet in Southern Angola after their Casspir was hit by Soviet RPG-7 Anti-Tank Rockets when they drove into a SWAPO/PLAN Battalion ambush. They were: Corporal Hector Lucas Strydom (24). Rifleman Tom Job (23). Rifleman Esau Simon (24).

- **1987** - Two members from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) were Killed in Action and one wounded during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. They were: Special Sergeant Mwainbange Mwanyengange (23). Special Sergeant Johannes Naffral (35). Sergeant Christiaan Petrus Momberg. (Wounded and evacuated but died in 1 Military Hospital on 25 February 1987).
- **1989** - Rifleman Mhluteki Absalon Makatini from 111 Battalion died from gunshot wounds sustained in a shooting incident in Swaziland. He was 20.
- **1991** - In Desert Storm, the Allied ground offensive began after a devastating month-long air campaign targeting Iraqi troops in both Iraq and Kuwait.

24 February

- **1966** - A military coup in Ghana deposes President

Kwame Nkrumah while he is out of the country on his way to China.

- **1984** - Special Warrant Officer Herman Hosea from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 28.
- **1987** - Airman Nicolaas Wilhelmus Jacobus van Rheede van Oudtshoorn from Air Force Base Grootfontein died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while serving at the Base. He was 19.

25 February

- **1885** - Germany annexes Tanganyika and Zanzibar.
- **1902** - At least fifty-three British soldiers die, 130 are wounded and 500 captured in a surprise attack by Boer troops at Ysterspruit in the Klerksdorp vicinity.
- **1916** - Verdun: The Germans capture Fort Douaumont.
- **1954** - Military coup ousts Pres Adib el-Shishakli of Syria.
- **1981** - Hansard reports that on this date 289 servicemen of the SADF are in detention, of which 137 are being punished for reasons of conscientious objection.
- **1981** - Private Cornelius Tobias van Schalkwyk from the Dog Training Centre died in hospital at Oshakati after contracting Malaria in

Southern Angola while attached to an Infantry Unit as a dog handler. He was 19.

- **1986** - Captain Brian Du Preez from 116 Battalion was killed in a military motorcycle accident at Messina. He was 27.
- **1987** - Sergeant Christiaan Petrus Momberg from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was wounded in the head during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland on 23 February 1987. He was evacuated to Eenhana where he later lapsed into a coma prior to being evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria. He remained on life support until declared brain dead on 25 February 1987. He was 23.
- **1988** - Bombardier Clinton Hendricks from 10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment, was Killed in Action in Southern Angola near Cuito during Operation Hooper while operating with a 61 Mechanised Battalion Group SAM-7 Anti-Aircraft team. He was 19.
- **1988** - Lance Corporal Leon Francis van Wyk from Regiment Molopo was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola when his Olifant Tank was knocked out by a Soviet 130mm field gun. He was 30.
- **1993** - US marines and Nigerian soldiers blast at snipers in central Mogadishu,

Somalia, in a five-hour battle that kills one Somali.

- **2005** - Militiamen kill nine United Nations Bangladeshi peacekeepers in Ituri, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, in the worst attack against the UN force in the country. Ituri is one of the DRC's worst trouble spots, where ethnic militias have killed 50 000 civilians since 1999.

26 February

- 1852 - An English troop carrier, the Birkenhead with Robert Salmond as captain, carrying reinforcements for the 8th Frontier War, runs aground at Danger Point. Of the 638 passengers, only 184 could be rescued, as there were insufficient lifeboats. The women and children were sent ashore first, while the men remained standing on deck until they perished under the waves.
- **1916** - German U-Boat sinks the French liner 'Provence', 930 die.
- **1935** - Germany announces the existence of the Luftwaffe under Herman Göring.
- **1942** - German battleship 'Gneisenau' disabled by a British bomb.
- **1952** - Winston Churchill announces that Britain has produced its own atomic bomb.
- **1974** - Ethiopian army units seize Asmara, second largest city in Ethiopia, and demand better pay and living conditions.

- **1976** - Corporal Jan Andries Swanepoel from 8 Signal Regiment was Killed when the Unimog vehicle he was a passenger overturned at Chitado, Southern Angola. He was 25.
- **1980** - Rifleman Jakobus Andries Petrus Bosman from Witwatersrand Rifles was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 27.
- **1982** - Lieutenant Commander Robert Desmond Kohne from SAS Drakensberg was killed when he accidentally fell into lift shaft on the SAS Drakensberg during construction and maintenance work on the Ship at the Shipyards in Durban.. He was 29.
- **1984** - Scout Adrian Bruce Berend from the Intelligence School in Kimberley was killed in a civilian motor vehicle accident while on weekend pass. He was 19.
- **1990** - Defence Minister General Magnus Malan says all activities of the clandestine Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB) have been suspended pending the outcome of a judicial investigation.
- **1990** - Moscow begins pulling 73,000 troops out of Czechoslovakia.
- **1999** - Ethiopian troops breach Eritrean lines in a disputed border area, and Eritrea soon says it will accept an African peace plan for the ten-month war.

27 February

- **1881** - Boers defeat the British force at Majuba Hill, in the Anglo-Transvaal War. More than 200 British soldiers and two Boers are killed.
- **1900** - British troops under Gen. Redvers Buller break through the Boer lines during the Battle of Pietersburg.
- **1900** - The Boer general Piet Cronje surrenders with 3 919 men (nearly 10% of the total republican fighting strength) to the British at Paardeberg on the 10th day of the battle.
- **1902** - On the same day both the oldest and the youngest prisoners of war to be deported, are captured at Dwaalspruit. They are Gideon J. van Zyl of Vrede seventy-eight years old, and Johannes van Heerden of Heidelberg, only seven years old.
- **1973** - Candidate Officer Cornelis Ferreira Oosthuysen from 1 SSB was killed in a military vehicle accident in Bloemfontein. He was 19.
- **1974** - Ethiopia's cabinet resigns as military mutiny spreads from the captured city of Asmara.
- **1980** - Rifleman Leon Grobler from 2 Parachute Battalion died from wounds sustained on 20 February. He was 19.
- **1982** - Rifleman Peter Williams Hayfeni Naikaku from 32 Battalion was killed in action. He was 29.

- **1984** - Lance Corporal George Diederick Vorster from North West Command Provost Unit was killed on the Klerksdorp-Potchefstroom Road while carrying out convoy escort duty. He was 19
- **1986** - Special Constable Thomas Amunyongi from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
- **1987** - Sapper Norman Cecil van der Leeuw from 5 Military Works Unit, M'pacha, was accidentally killed after falling off the back of a moving truck at Katima. He was 20.
- **1988** - Rifleman Antonio Luis Cambinda from 32 Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident at Rundu. He was 22.
- **1988** - Special Warrant Officer Felix Creneus from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 29.
- **1991** - In Desert Storm, the 100-hour ground war ended as Allied troops entered Kuwait just four days after launching their offensive against Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces.

28 February

- **1844** - During a demonstration of naval fire power, one of the guns aboard the USS Princeton exploded, killing several top U.S. government officials on the steamer ship, and narrowly missed killing President John Tyler.
- **1900** - The British relieves Ladysmith after a siege of four months when reinforcements under Buller arrive.
- **1944** - Marshal of the Soviet Union Nikolai Fyodorovich Vatutin, is mortally wounded in an ambush by Ukrainian partisans and dies 15 April.
- **1977** - Private Craig Murray Irvine from 32 Field Workshop Squadron was killed in a military vehicle accident on the Bagani-Rundu Road. He was 22.
- **1979** - Sergeant Bernhard Fritz Wilhelm Kirchner from 41 Battalion was Killed in Action during a Contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 21.
- **1988** - South African commandos raid Gaborone, Botswana, in search of ANC members.
- 1994 - NATO conducted its first combat action in its 45 year history as four Bosnian Serb jets were shot down by American fighters in a no-fly zone.



General Knowledge

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. General Rudolph Hiemstra. | Swales. | Tuskegee Airmen). |
| 2. 1993. | 11. Brixton Ridge in Johannes- | 21. Max Schmeling. |
| 3. A killick. | burg. It was during the Rand | 22. The Vatican. The Swiss |
| 4. 5 Reconnaissance Com- | Rebellion in 1922. | Guard consists of just 110 |
| mando. They only became | 12. Dad's Army. | men. |
| 5 Reconnaissance Regiment | 13. The Panther. | 23. American actress Jane Fon- |
| after they moved to Phal- | 14. Avtomat Kalashnikova. | da. |
| aborwa. | 15. Erich 'Bubi' Hartmann of | 24. 116 years. |
| 5. Swift and sure. | the German Luftwaffe with | 25. It was the largest tank battle |
| 6. Anthony Beauchamp-Pro- | 352 kills. | ever to take place. |
| ctor. | 16. Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, | |
| 7. Maleoskop. | and Sword. | |
| 8. 4 May 1978. | 17. Glenn Miller. | |
| 9. Cpl Pieter Arnoldus Swane- | 18. Zanzibar. They declared war | |
| poel, 2 SAI, HCS, 11 No- | on Britain and then surren- | |
| vember 1975. | dered 38 minutes later. | |
| 10. Five. George Gristock, John | 19. The Rhodesian Light Infan- | |
| Nettleton, Gerhard Norton, | try, or RLI. | |
| Quentin Smythe, and Edwin | 20. 332nd Fighter Group (The | |



Military Despatches Website



"Things don't have to change the world to be important."

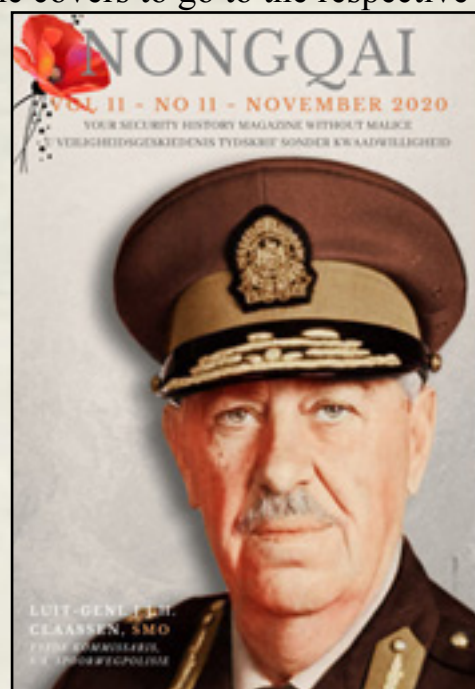
Steve Jobs



Useful links

Every month we will be featuring a few useful links to military websites, newsletters and on-line magazines. Stuff that we think our readers will appreciate.

Here are two of our favourites. The first one is Nongqai, the unofficial police newsletter for veterans of the former South African Police Force and for those interested in Police History. The second is Jimmy's Own, the official newsletter of the South African Signals Association. Click on the magazine covers to go to the respective websites.



Our aim is to make the Military Despatches website easy to use. Even more important to us, we want to make the website informative and interesting. The latest edition of the magazine will be available, as will all the previous editions. More over, there will be links to videos, websites, and articles that our readers may find interesting. So check out the website, bookmark it, and pass the URL on to everyone that you think may be interested.



Have you checked out the bookshelf on the website? Here you can open and read individual articles on screen with no need to download anything.

You will find articles on numerous different topics that have been published over the past two years as well as video clips and documentaries.

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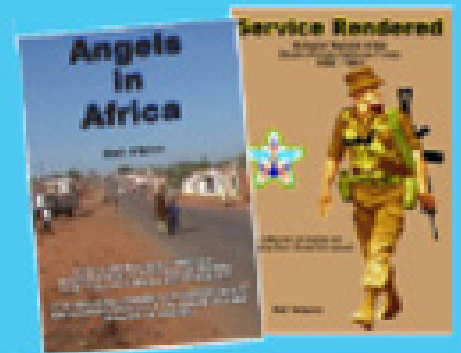
Online Magazines

Flip book magazines with pages that can be turned.



E-books

Produced in any electronic format required.



2D & 3D Animation

Produced in any video format.



Video Production

Scripting, storyboard, filming and editing done to any video format required. We also do aerial and underwater video and stills.



Still Photography

If you're thinking digital media then think Hipe Media.