



Military Despatches

Vol 57 March 2022

Hygiene in the trenches

How did soldiers stay clean and healthy in the trenches of World War I - simple answer, they didn't

No love lost

Why the Japanese Army and Navy hated each other

Irishmen in the Congo

The Siege of Jadotville

Miyamoto Musashi

Swordsman, philosopher, strategist, writer and rōnin.

For the military enthusiast



Military Despatches YouTube Channel



Click on any video below to view



Paratrooper Wings Quiz

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

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

Army Speak 101

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

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



Elite Military Units Quiz

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

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



Military Firearms Quiz

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

New videos each week

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

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



Who said that?

Throughout history military leaders and politicians have had some interesting things to say about war.

We give you 15 quotes, you tell us who made them.

Please remember to subscribe to our channel.

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

CONTENTS

March 2022

Page 10



Special Forces Selection - US Navy SEALs

Features

6

Ten longest sniper kills

Snipers have played a role in warfare since the early 1700s. Often a single sniper round has changed the course of a battle, or even a war. We look at the 10 longest sniper kills.

16

Counting the cost

According to official records, 2,573 members of the SADF died while on active service. Yet less than a third of them were killed in action. How did the rest die?

18

Breaking the siege

Castles were once the safest place to be in a siege. So how did attackers finally come up with a method to break the siege?

22

No love lost

When it came to the Imperial Japanese Army and the Imperial Japanese Navy it wasn't merely a question of inter-service rivalry. It went far deeper than that - they hated each other.

26

Arbeia Fort

The Roman army built the ancient world's greatest fortifications. Legionaries were more like combat engineers than ordinary soldiers, being trained in construction as well as the art of battle.

28

I wish I had one of those...

Over the last 30 years, technology has changed the way we do things. This is especially true in the military. **Matt O'Brien** is still green with envy.

32

Hygiene in World War I

Anyone that spent time in the bush knows how difficult it is to stay clean. So how did the troops stay clean and healthy in the trenches of World War I - the simple answer is that they didn't.

37

Battle of Britain - a few facts

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few" - Winston Churchill. We look at a few facts from the Battle of Britain.

Quiz

61

General Knowledge

This month we have 25 general knowledge questions for you. How many can you get right?



Editor's Sitrep

We called it! In the February issue of Military Despatches we said that two things could possibly take place soon. Either China would invade Taiwan, or Russia would invade the Ukraine.

This morning I woke up to the news that Russia had in fact launched a full scale invasion of the Ukraine. This is one of the few occasions where I am not happy that I was right.

Russian leader Vladimir Putin is targeting Ukraine because he claims the country is a puppet of the West.

He wants Ukraine to guarantee that it will not join NATO, to demilitarise and become a neutral state.

Sorry, but it doesn't work that way. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; U.S.S.R. no longer exists. Ukraine is no longer part of the Russian empire. And you cannot dictate to a sovereign nation.

As far as I'm concerned, Ukraine can join whoever they wish, Unless the Ukraine or NATO is planning on invading Russia, then Ukraine's membership of NATO is not a threat to Russia.

We now wait to see what the rest of the world will do. Especially NATO and the United Nations.

If things go as normal, the United Nations Security Council, of which Russia is a full time member, will have meetings, talk a lot, and then do nothing much.

Maybe a strongly worded letter to Putin telling him that he's a naughty boy

Some countries will condemn Putin and Russia, and some may even impose sanctions against Russia. This will not be of any direct help to the Ukraine.

NATO, the United Nations, or both need to step up to the plate and tell Putin that if he does not withdraw his troops from Ukraine immediately, he will then face military action.

Whether Putin will actually listen or not is another story. Let us just hope and pray that things will come to an end quickly, and without the loss of too many lives.

As I said, we will have to wait and see.

Until next time.

Matt

Hipe! media

PUBLISHER

Hipe Media

EDITOR

Matt Tennyson

PHOTO EDITOR

Regine Lord

CONTRIBUTORS

Janine Cassidy, Raymond Fletcher, Ryan Murphy, Matt O'Brien, Matt Tennyson.

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.

The views stated in this magazine do not necessary reflect the views of **Military Despatches**, the editor, the staff, or Hipe Media.

email

editor@hipe.co.za

YouTube Channel

Click [here](#) to visit our channel

Back Issues

To view any back issues of Military Despatches, go to www.militarydespatches.co.za or click [here](#).

CONTENTS

Page 66



March in military history

Head-to-Head

42

Sniper rifles

We look at the rifles used in the 10 longest sniper kills, including one from 1848.

Famous Figures

48

Miyamota Musashi

Japanese swordsman, philosopher, strategist, writer and rōnin. Musashi became renowned for his unique double-bladed swordsmanship and undefeated record in his 61 duels.



Forged in Battle

52

Bradley Fighting Vehicle

The Infantry Fighting Vehicle that was forged in battle for the past 40 years.

Battlefield

58

The Siege of Jadotville

The Irish do battle in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as they face overwhelming odds.

Gaming

62

Graviteam Tactics: Mius Front

Refight and rethink Operation Moduler.

Movie Review

64

The Siege of Jadotville

You read the story of the battle, now see the movie. Available on Netflix.

Book Review

65

Journey without Boundaries

The remarkable story of Colonel André (Diedies) Diedericks HCS, HC, SM, MMM.

Front Cover

Russian tanks roll into the Ukraine after Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a full-scale invasion of the country on 24 February 2022. It's something we predicted in our February issue.



Ten longest sniper kills

Snipers have played a role in warfare since the early 1700s. Often a single sniper round has changed the course of a battle, or even a war. We look at the 10 longest sniper kills.

A sniper is defined as a military/paramilitary marksman who engages targets from positions of concealment or at distances exceeding the target's detection capabilities.

Snipers generally have specialized training and are equipped with high-precision rifles and high-magnification optics, and often also serve as scouts/observers feeding tactical information back to their units or command headquarters.

In addition to long-range and high-grade marksmanship, military snipers are trained in a variety of special operation techniques: detection, stalking, target range estimation methods, camouflage, field craft, infiltration, special reconnaissance and observation, surveillance and target acquisition.

The term 'sniper' was first

used in the 1820s and the term 'sniper' was first attested militarily in 1824, becoming common place in the First World War.

Prior to that, specialist marksmen were known as 'sharpshooters', from the German word *Scharfschütze*.

Early forms of sniping or marksmanship were used during the American Revolutionary War.

For instance, in 1777 at the battle of Saratoga the Colonists hid in the trees and used early model rifles to shoot British of-

ficers.

Most notably, Timothy Murphy shot and killed General Simon Fraser of Balnain on 7 October 1777 at a distance of about 400 yards.

During the Battle of Brandywine, Capt. Patrick Ferguson had a tall, distinguished American officer in his rifle's iron sights.

Ferguson did not take the shot, as the officer had his back to Ferguson; only later did Ferguson learn that George Washington had been on the battlefield that day.

During the Boer War the latest breech-loading rifled guns with magazines and smokeless pow-

der were used by both sides. The British were equipped with the Lee–Metford rifle, while the Boers had received the latest Mauser rifles from Germany. In the open terrain of South Africa the marksmen were a crucial component to the outcome of the battle.

During World War I, snipers appeared as deadly sharpshooters in the trenches. At the start of the war, only Imperial Germany had troops that were issued scoped sniper rifles.

Although sharpshooters existed on all sides, the Germans specially equipped some of their soldiers with scoped rifles that could pick off enemy soldiers showing their heads out of their trench.

At first the French and British believed such hits to be coincidental hits, until the German

scoped rifles were discovered.

During World War I, the German army received a reputation for the deadliness and efficiency of its snipers, partly because of the high-quality lenses that German industry could manufacture.

Snipers reappeared as important factors on the battlefield from the first campaign of World War II. During Germany's 1940 campaigns, lone, well-hidden French and British snipers were able to halt the German advance for a considerable amount of time. Apart from marksmanship, British snipers were trained to blend in with the environment, often by using special camouflage clothing for concealment.

During the Winter War, Finnish snipers took a heavy toll of the invading Soviet army. Simo Häyhä is credited with 505 confirmed kills, most with the Finnish version of the iron-sighted bolt-action Mosin–Nagant.

One of the best known battles involving snipers, and the battle that made the Germans reinstate their specialized sniper training, was the Battle of Stalingrad.

Their defensive position inside a city filled with rubble meant that Soviet snipers were able to inflict significant casualties on the Wehrmacht troops.

Because of the nature of fighting in city rubble, snipers were very hard to spot and seriously dented the morale of the Ger-



man attackers.

The best known of these snipers was probably Vasily Zaytsev, featured in the novel War of the Rats and the subsequent film Enemy at the Gates.

Sniping has become an essential part of modern-day warfare. As weapons, ammunition, and aids to determine ballistic solutions improved, so too did the distance from which a kill could be targeted.

In this article we look at the 10 longest confirmed sniper kills on record.

10. Chris Kyle - 1,920 m
Name: Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle.
Nationality: United States of America.
Unit: SEAL Team 3, US Naval Special Warfare Command, United States Navy.
Date: August 2008.
Conflict: Iraq War.
Weapon: McMillan Tac-338.
Ammunition: .338 Lapua Magnum.
Distance: 1,920 metres.

Christopher Scott Kyle was a United States Navy SEAL sniper. He served four tours in the Iraq War and was awarded several commendations for acts of heroism and meritorious service in combat. He had over 150 kills.

He was awarded the Silver Star, four Bronze Star Medals with "V" devices, a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and numerous other unit and personal awards.

Kyle was honourably dis-

charged from the U.S. Navy in 2009, and published his best-selling autobiography, American Sniper, in 2012. In 2014 a movie of the same name was released.

In 2013, Kyle was murdered by Eddie Ray Routh at the Rough Creek Lodge shooting range near Chalk Mountain, Texas.

Routh, a former Marine with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison without parole.

9. Nicholas Ranstad - 2,092 m
Name: Specialist Nicholas Ranstad
Nationality: United States of America.
Unit: 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, United States Army
Date: January 2008.
Conflict: War in Afghanistan.
Weapon: Barrett M82A1.
Ammunition: .50 BMG.
Distance: 2,092 metres.

8. Unknown - 2,125 m
Name: Name withheld
Nationality: South Africa.
Unit: South African Special Forces Brigade, Joint Operations Division, SANDF.
Date: August 2013.
Conflict: United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
Weapon: Denel NTW-14.5.
Ammunition: 14.5×114mm.
Distance: 2,125 metres.



Chief Petty Officer
Chris Kyle

7. Carlos Hathcock - 2,286 m
Name: Gunnery Sergeant Carlos Hathcock
Nationality: United States of America.
Unit: 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, United States Marine Corps.
Date: February 1967.
Conflict: Vietnam War.
Weapon: M2 Browning machine gun.
Ammunition: .50 BMG.
Distance: 2,286 metres.

Carlos Norman Hathcock II was a United States Marine Corps (USMC) sniper with a service record of 93 confirmed kills.

Hathcock's record and the extraordinary details of the missions he undertook made him a legend in the U.S. Marine Corps.

He was honoured by having a rifle named after him: a variant of the M21 dubbed the Springfield Armoury M25 White Feather, for the nickname "White Feather" given

to Hathcock by the North Vietnamese People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN).

6. Brian Kremer - 2,300 m
Name: Sergeant Brian Kremer
Nationality: United States of America.
Unit: 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, United States Army.
Date: October 2004.
Conflict: Iraq War.
Weapon: Barrett M82A1.
Ammunition: Raufoss NM140 MP.
Distance: 2,300 metres.

5. Arron Perry - 2,310 m
Name: Master Corporal Arron Perry.
Nationality: Canada.
Unit: 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, Canadian Armed Forces.
Date: March 2002.
Conflict: War in Afghanistan.
Weapon: McMillan Tac-50.
Ammunition: .50 BMG.
Distance: 2,310 metres.

Perry was a member of a Canadian Forces-led six-man sniper team, operating as part of Canada's contributions to Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan during March 2002. The Canadian sniper cell consisted of two Sniper Detachments of three men each, with soldiers from the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI).

4. Rob Furlong - 2,430 m
Name: Corporal Rob Furlong.
Nationality: Canada.

Unit: 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, Canadian Armed Forces.
Date: March 2002.
Conflict: War in Afghanistan.
Weapon: McMillan Tac-50.
Ammunition: .50 BMG.
Distance: 2,430 metres.

3. Craig Harrison - 2,475 m
Name: Corporal of Horse Craig Harrison.
Nationality: United Kingdom.
Unit: Blues and Royals, Household Cavalry, British Army.
Date: November 2009.
Conflict: War in Afghanistan.
Weapon: Accuracy International L115A3.
Ammunition: .338 Lapua Magnum.
Distance: 2,475 metres.

In November 2009, Harrison consecutively struck two Taliban machine gunners south of Musa Qala in Helmand Province in Afghanistan at a range of 2,475 metres using a L115A3 Long Range Rifle.

In a BBC interview, Harrison reported it took about nine shots for him and his spotter to range the target.

2. Unknown - 2,815 m
Name: Name withheld
Nationality: Australia.
Unit: 2nd Commando Regiment, SOCOMD, Australian Defence Force.
Date: April 2012.
Conflict: War in Afghanistan.
Weapon: Barrett M82A1.
Ammunition: 12.7mm MP NM140F2 Grade A.
Distance: 2,815 metres.

1. Unknown - 3,540 m
Name: Name withheld
Nationality: Canada.
Unit: Joint Task Force 2, CAN-SOFCOM, Canadian Armed Forces.
Date: May 2017.
Conflict: Iraqi Civil War.
Weapon: McMillan Tac-50.
Ammunition: .50 BMG API.
Distance: 3,540 metres.

Honourable mentions
Name: Billy Dixon.
Nationality: USA
Unit: Civilian, buffalo hunter.
Date: June 1874.
Conflict: American Indian Wars.
Weapon: Sharps .50–90.
Ammunition: .50-90 Sharps
Distance: 1,406 metres.

Name: Sergeant Major Herbert Sleigh
Nationality: USA
Unit: American Expeditionary Forces, United States Army
Date: February 1918.
Conflict: World War I.
Weapon: M1903 Springfield.
Ammunition: .30-06
Distance: 1,280 metres.

Name: Unknown.
Nationality: USA
Unit: South Carolina Troops, Confederate States Army.
Date: December 1864.
Conflict: American Civil War.
Weapon: Whitworth Rifle.
Ammunition: .451 caliber hexagonal bullet.
Distance: 1,250 metres.

Special Force Training - US Navy Seals

In our third article on Special Forces selection and training, we look at the United States Navy Seals.

The United States Navy Sea, Air, and Land (SEAL) Teams, commonly known as Navy SEALs, are the U.S. Navy's primary special operations force and a component of the Naval Special Warfare Command.

Among the SEALs' main functions are conducting small-unit special operation missions in maritime, jungle, urban, arctic, mountainous, and desert environments. SEALs are typ-

ically ordered to capture or to eliminate high level targets, or to gather intelligence behind enemy lines.

All active SEALs are male and members of the U.S. Navy. The CIA's highly secretive and elite Special Operations Group (SOG) recruits operators from SEAL Teams, with joint operations going back to the MACV-SOG during the Vietnam War.

This cooperation still exists today, as evidenced by military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Although not formally founded until 1962, the modern-day U.S. Navy SEALs trace their roots to World War II.

The United States Military recognized the need for the covert reconnaissance of landing beaches and coastal defences.

As a result, the joint Army, Marine Corps, and Navy Amphibious Scout and Raider School was established in 1942 at Fort Pierce, Florida.

The Scouts and Raiders were formed in September of that year, just nine months after the attack on Pearl Harbour, from the Ob-

server Group, a joint U.S. Army-Marine-Navy unit.

Since December 2015, women have been eligible to enter the SEAL training pipeline provided they can meet the same acceptance guidelines as men. Women accepted into the program undergo the same training regimen as do the men, although this policy is under review.

The first woman to enter the training pipeline dropped out during the 3-week Indoctrination phase in August 2017 prior to entering BUD/S.

The first woman to complete the screening required to enter BUD/S did so in 2019. She was subsequently assigned to the unit listed as her first choice, which was not the SEALs.

The first female officer to ever pass assessment and screening for the SWCC (Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen) pipeline, did so in September 2021, though afterwards she was not offered a contract.

Selection

Training to become a Navy SEAL is voluntary, and officers and enlisted sailors train side by side. To volunteer, a SEAL candidate must be a US citizen between 18 and 29 years old in the U.S. Navy. Occasionally, personnel from foreign armed forces allied with the United States have been invited to train at BUD/S.

For two years, of seven initially planned, members of

the Coast Guard were allowed to obtain SEAL training, until the program was suspended in 2011.

Waivers are available for 17-year-olds with parental permission, and case-by-case for 29- and 30-year-olds.

Academically, all applicants must have the equivalent of a high school education, have a composite score of at least 220 on the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) and be proficient in all aspects of the English language.

Medically, all potential applicants must have at least 20/70 vision, correctable to 20/25, be able to pass the SEAL Physical Screening Test and have no recent history of drug abuse.

Lastly applicants must have "good moral character" as determined by their history of criminal convictions and civil citations.

Assignment to BUD/S (Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL) is conditional on the SEAL Physical Screening Test (PST). Prospective trainees are expected to exceed the minimums. The minimum requirements are 460 metre swim using breast or combat side stroke in under 12:30 with a competitive time of 9:00 or less, at least 50 push-ups in two minutes with a competitive count of 90 or more, at least 50 sit-ups in two minutes with a competitive count of 90 or more, at least 10 pull-ups from a dead hang (no time limit) with a competitive count of 18 or more, run 2.4 km running in pants and boots (now changed to shorts and sneakers) under 10:30 with a competitive time of 9:30 or less.

Naval Special Warfare Preparatory School (8 weeks)

The training curriculum begins at Naval Special Warfare Preparatory School in Great Lakes, Illinois. Here, aspiring SEALs are given a crash course in the physical standards required to even attempt to become a SEAL.

It starts with the initial Physical Screening Test and ends with a more demanding Modified Physical Screening Test, one that includes a minimum of 70 push-ups in two minutes, a timed 6,4 kilometre run in 31 minutes, and a timed 1,000-metre swim with fins in 20 minutes.

The goal is to increase the SEAL candidates' physical readiness between the two tests so that they are ready to move on to Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) Training.

Those unable to pass the final modified PST test are removed from the SEAL training pipeline and reclassified into other jobs in the Navy.

Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) Training (24 weeks)

BUD/S is a 24-week training course that develops the SEAL candidates' mental and physical stamina and leadership skills.

Each BUD/S phase includes timed physical condition tests, with the time requirements becoming more demanding each week. BUD/S consists of a three-week orientation followed by three phases, covering physical conditioning (seven weeks), combat diving (seven weeks), and land warfare (seven weeks) respectively.

Officer and enlisted personnel go through the same training program. It is designed to develop and test their stamina, leadership, and ability to work as a team.

BUD/S Orientation (3 weeks)

BUD/S Orientation, previously known as Indoctrination, is a three-week course that introduces candidates to the Naval Special Warfare Centre and the BUD/S lifestyle.

Navy SEAL instructors introduce candidates to BUD/S physical training, the obstacle course, swimming and other unique training aspects. This part of training is designed to prepare candidates for day one of the first phase.

Phase 1: Physical conditioning (7 weeks)

The first phase of BUD/S assesses SEAL candidates in physical conditioning, water competency, teamwork, and mental tenacity.

Physical conditioning phase utilizes daily running, swimming, callisthenics, and grows harder as the weeks progress.

Candidates are also divided into "boat crews" consisting of six to seven people with one small inflatable boat known as an IBS, and must paddle out from the shore, through the surf zone, and back again.

Candidates participate in weekly 6,4 km timed runs in boots and pants (now changed to shorts and sneakers) and timed obstacle courses, swim distances up to 3,2 km wearing fins in the ocean and learn small boat seamanship.

Candidates that consistently



do not meet specified time requirements for running and swimming tests are dropped from training. The first three weeks of basic conditioning phase prepares candidates for the fourth week, known as “Hell Week”.

During Hell Week, candidates participate in five and a half days of continuous training. Each candidate sleeps at most four hours during the entire week, runs more than 320 km, and does physical training for more than 20 hours per day. Candidates are not restricted from meals and are fed breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The remaining three weeks involve the acquisition of various methods of conducting hydro-graphic surveys and creating a hydro-graphic chart while still participating in timed runs and swim tests.

Because of its particularly challenging requirements, many candidates begin questioning their decision to come to BUD/S during First Phase, with a significant number deciding to Drop on Request (DOR).

The tradition of DOR consists of dropping one’s helmet liner next to a pole with a brass ship’s bell attached to it and ringing the bell three times.

Phase 2: Combat diving (7 weeks)

The diving phase of BUD/S training develops and qualifies SEAL candidates as competent basic combat swimmers.

During this period, physical training continues and becomes even more intensive. This second phase concentrates on dive physics, underwater skills, and



HELL WEEK: An instructor watches on as candidates hit the surf during ‘Hell Week’. This week is designed to push students to their maximum capability both physically and mentally.

combat SCUBA.

Candidates will learn two types of SCUBA: open circuit (compressed air) and closed circuit. Also, basic dive medicine and medical skills training is provided.

Emphasis is placed on long-distance underwater dives with the goal of training students to become basic combat divers, using swimming and diving techniques as a means of transportation from their launch point to their combat objective.

This is what separates SEALs from all other US Special Operations Forces. By the end of Second Phase, candidates must complete timed 3,2 km swim with fins in 80 minutes, the 6,4 km run with boots in 31 minutes, a 5.6 km and 8,8 km swim.

Successful Second Phase Candidates demonstrate a high level of comfort in the water and the ability to perform in stressful and often uncomfortable environments.

Candidates who are not completely comfortable in the water

often struggle to succeed.

Phase 3: Land warfare (7 weeks)

The land warfare phase teaches the class basic weapons, demolitions, land navigation, patrolling, rappelling, marksmanship, infantry tactics, and small-unit tactics.

During the third phase, the class is taught to gather and process information that will complete the overall mission. There is more classroom work that teaches map, compass, land navigation, and basic weapon skill sets.

These skill-sets allow the class to transition from having novice skills to becoming more comfortable out in the field. Most of this training is new to the class, and the learning pace becomes faster and faster.

For the final five weeks of training, the class goes offshore, about 97 km from Coronado to San Clemente Island. On the island, the class practices the skills they learned in the third



TRIDENT: After successfully completing SEAL Qualification Training, students are awarded the coveted Navy SEAL Trident.

phase.

The days become longer and more work-intensive, set to mirror the work hours spent in the field.

Many students view this as one of the hardest parts of training, as training is conducted seven days a week, with very minimal sleep, all while handling live explosives and ammunition. Interaction with instructors is also never-ending, and punishments are at their harshest levels yet.

By the end of the Third Phase, candidates must complete a timed 3,2 ocean swim with fins in 75 minutes, 6,4 timed run with boots in 30 minutes, and complete a 23 km run.

Parachute jump school (3 weeks)

Upon successful completion of BUD/S, SEAL Candidates go on to receive both static line and free-fall training at Tactical Air Operations in San Diego, CA.

The accelerated three-week program is highly regimented, facilitated by world-class Instructors, and designed to de-

velop safe and competent free-fall jumpers in a short period of time.

To complete the course, Candidates must pass through a series of jump progressions, from basic static line to accelerated free fall to combat equipment – ultimately completing night descents with combat equipment from a minimum altitude of 2,895 metres.

SEAL Qualification Training (SQT) (26 weeks)

SEAL Qualification Training (SQT) is a 26-week course that will take the student from the basic elementary level of Naval Special Warfare to a more advanced degree of tactical training.

SQT is designed to provide students with the core tactical knowledge they will need to join a SEAL Platoon.

The class will learn advanced skill sets in weapons training, close-quarters combat, Small Unit Tactics, land navigation, demolitions, unarmed combat, cold weather training in Kodiak, Alaska, medical skills and maritime operations. Before

graduating, students also attend Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape Training (SERE Training).

Graduation from SQT culminates in the awarding of the coveted Navy SEAL Trident and granting of the Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC) 5326 Combatant Swimmer (SEAL) or 1130 Special Warfare (SEAL) Officer.

New SEALs are immediately assigned to a SEAL Team at Coronado, California or Little Creek, Virginia and begin advanced training for their first deployment.

SEAL Troop (TRP) Training

Following SQT, new SEALs will receive orders to a SEAL Team and assignment to a Troop (TRP) and subordinate Platoon (PLT).

New operators will join their Platoon wherever they are in their deployment cycle. The normal work-up or pre-deployment work-up is a 12 to 18 month cycle divided into three phases.

Individual Specialty Training

Phase one of a work-up is Individual Specialty Training. Individual Specialty Training is six months long where individual operators attend a number of formal or informal schools and courses.

These schools lead to required qualifications and designations that collectively allow the platoon to perform as an operational combat team. Depending on the team’s and platoon’s needs, operators can expect to acquire some of the following skills (Items in parentheses are

Joint SOF Unit Course equivalent):

- SEAL Sniper Course
- USMC Scout Sniper Course
- Advanced Close Quarter Combat/Breacher (Barrier Penetration/Methods of Entry)
- Surreptitious Entry (Mechanical and Electronic Bypass)
- (18D) Special Operations Combat Medic Course
- NSWCF (Naval Special Warfare Combat Fighting Course)
- Advanced Special Operations (MSO)
- Technical Surveillance Operations
- Advanced Driving Skills (Defensive, Rally, Protective Security)
- Climbing/Rope Skills
- Advanced Air Operations: Jumpmaster or Parachute Rigger
- Diving Supervisor or Diving Maintenance-Repair
- Range Safety Officer
- Advanced Demolition
- High Threat Protective Security (PSD) – (US/Foreign Heads of State or High Value Persons of Interest)
- Instructor School and Master Training Specialist
- Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operator
- Language School
- Joint SOF and Service Professional Military Education (JPME)

Unit Level Training

Phase two of a work-up is called Unit Level Training (ULT). ULT is a six month block run by the respective group (NSWG1/NSWG2)



CLASS 234: Watch a six-part documentary on Bud/s Class 234.

training detachment, where the TRP/PLT’s train in their core mission area skills:

- Small unit tactics
- Land warfare
- Close quarters combat
- Urban warfare
- Hostile maritime interdiction (VBSS/GOPLATS)
- Combat swimming
- Long range target interdiction
- Rotary and fixed wing air/surface operations
- Special reconnaissance.

Task Group Level Training

Phase three of a work-up is Task Group Level Training. Task Group Level Training is the last six month block where in a troop conducts advanced training with the supporting attachments/enablers of a SEAL Squadron: Special Boat Teams (SWCC), Intelligence(SI/HI/ETC)Teams, Cryptological Support Teams, Communications (MCT/JCSE) Medical Teams, EOD, Interpreters/Linguist, etc.

A final Certification Exercise (CERTEX) is conducted with the entire SEAL Squad-

ron (SQDN) to synchronize Troop (TRP) operations under the Joint Special Operations Task Force (JSOTF) umbrella. Following CERTEX, a SEAL Team becomes a SEAL Squadron and is certified for deployment.

Once certified, a SEAL Team/Squadron will deploy to a Joint Special Operations Task Force or Area of Responsibility to become a Special Operations Task Force (SOTF), combine with a Joint Task Force (JTF) or Task Force (TF) in support of other National Objectives.

Once assigned, the Troops will be given an Area of Operations (AOR) where they will either work as a centralized/intact Troop or task organize into decentralized elements (PLT-20/SQD-10/TM-5) to conduct operations.

NSW Troops have ranged in size from 60 personnel to over 200 and can consist of SEAL’s and any USSOCOM operational element and enablers. A SEAL Team/Squadron deployment currently is approximately six months, keeping the entire cycle at 12 to 24 months.



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

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

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

Counting the cost

According to official records, 2,573 members of the SADF died while on active service. Yet less than a third of them were killed in action. How did the rest die?

In 1957 the New Defence Act, Act No.44 of 1957 was passed, merging the former Union Defence Force (including Reserves), the Citizen Force, Commandos and South African Permanent Force into the South African Defence Force (SADF), head quartered in Pretoria.

The SADF consisted of a permanent Force, a Citizen Force and Commandos. The three arms of the SADF were the Army, Air Force and the Navy. Later a fourth arm, the South African Medical Services, was formed.

In 1968 conscription was introduced when it was decided that all white South African males would be required to do a period of compulsory military service.

Note carefully the use of the word compulsory. It was not a request, it was an instruction and it was backed up by an act of parliament.

Every white male who was a South Africa citizen or had permanent residence was required to register with the South African Defence Force in the year that he turned sixteen.

Conscription was better known as 'National Service'. At first it was for a period of nine months and was then extended to a period of 12 months. In 1978 national service was increased to 24 months. In 1989 national service was reduced back to one year.

The SADF was disbanded in 1994 and absorbed into the new South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

While the SADF was never involved in any declared war, they were involved in combat in South West Africa (now Namibia), Angola, Rhodesia (now

Zimbabwe), Mozambique, and Zambia.

The undeclared war in South West Africa and Angola became known as the 'Border War'. It lasted from 26 August 1966 to 21 March 1990. A total of 23 years, six months, three weeks and two days. The SADF took part in no fewer than 52 major operations.

In the 37 years that it existed, a total of 2,573 members of the SADF died while on active service.

Considering the fact that the SADF was involved in a 'war' for 23 years, this is not a high figure. Especially when you compare it to the American casualty figures during the Vietnam War, another undeclared war.

The Americans were involved in Vietnam for 20 years. During that time they suffered 58,318 dead and more than 300,000 wounded.

The US had more soldiers killed in action (KIA) in a single year than the SADF had in 23 years.

Even a short war such as the 1982 Falklands War between the United Kingdom and Argen-

tine resulted in the death of 255 British troops and 633 Argentinian troops. And this was in a war that lasted just over two months.

Yet the figure of 2,573 SADF deaths is a misleading one. It would be easy to assume that these people died during the Border War. This, however, is not the case.

In fact only 791 members of the SADF were killed in action or died as a direct result of combat. That is only 30.7 %. So what happened to the remaining 69.3%? How did they die?

The shocking, and sad, fact is that the highest cause of death in the SADF was as a result of motor vehicle accidents.

A total of 844 members of the SADF lost their lives in accidents involving vehicles, both military and civilian. This equates to 32.8 %.

Many troops were killed driving home on a weekend pass, or while returning to their base after a pass.

The driver of a Buffel APC would lose control of the vehicle and it would roll. It was a standing order that troops travelling in the back of the vehicle had to be wearing their seatbelts. Of course some didn't and they would pay the consequences.

The next highest cause of death was as a result of aircraft accidents. These were not as a result of damage to aircraft during combat, but accidents. Many of these accidents took place during pilot training. 241 people died in aircraft accidents.

A total of 236 SADF members lost their lives in shooting accidents. It was not uncommon for there to be accidental discharges (AD). In the majority of cases

no-one would be injured.

This was not, however, always the case. Troops shot either themselves or someone else as a result of an AD.

Naturally other accidents occurred on a frequent basis. People would be electrocuted, struck by vehicles, fatally injured in falls. More than a few died in parachute accidents. 151 people died as a result of accidents.

Another cause of death was drowning. This could have been as a result of trying to cross a river, being caught in a flash flood, or even drowning in the base swimming pool. 97 people died from drowning.

Accidents with explosives resulted in 89 deaths. A mortar bomb falling short during a live fire exercise, troops playing with a hand grenade - these were just some of the causes.

A total of 85 people died as a result of disease or natural causes. These included heart attacks, strokes, asthma attacks and so on.

According to the official records, 24 members of the SADF committed suicide while on active service.

Finally, 15 members of the SADF were killed by wild animals. These included crocodiles, hippo, and elephant.

The unit that suffered the most casualties as a result of being killed in action was not an SADF unit. It was in fact a police unit.

The South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division, better known as Koevoet, lost 127 men killed in action.

The SADF unit with the most killed in action was 32 Battalion. They lost 100 men in battle.

101 Battalion (SWATF) suffered 75 killed in action while 202 Battalion lost 44.

61 Mechanised Battalion Group, better known as 61 Mech, took part in numerous cross-border operations during the Border War. They lost 37 men killed in action.

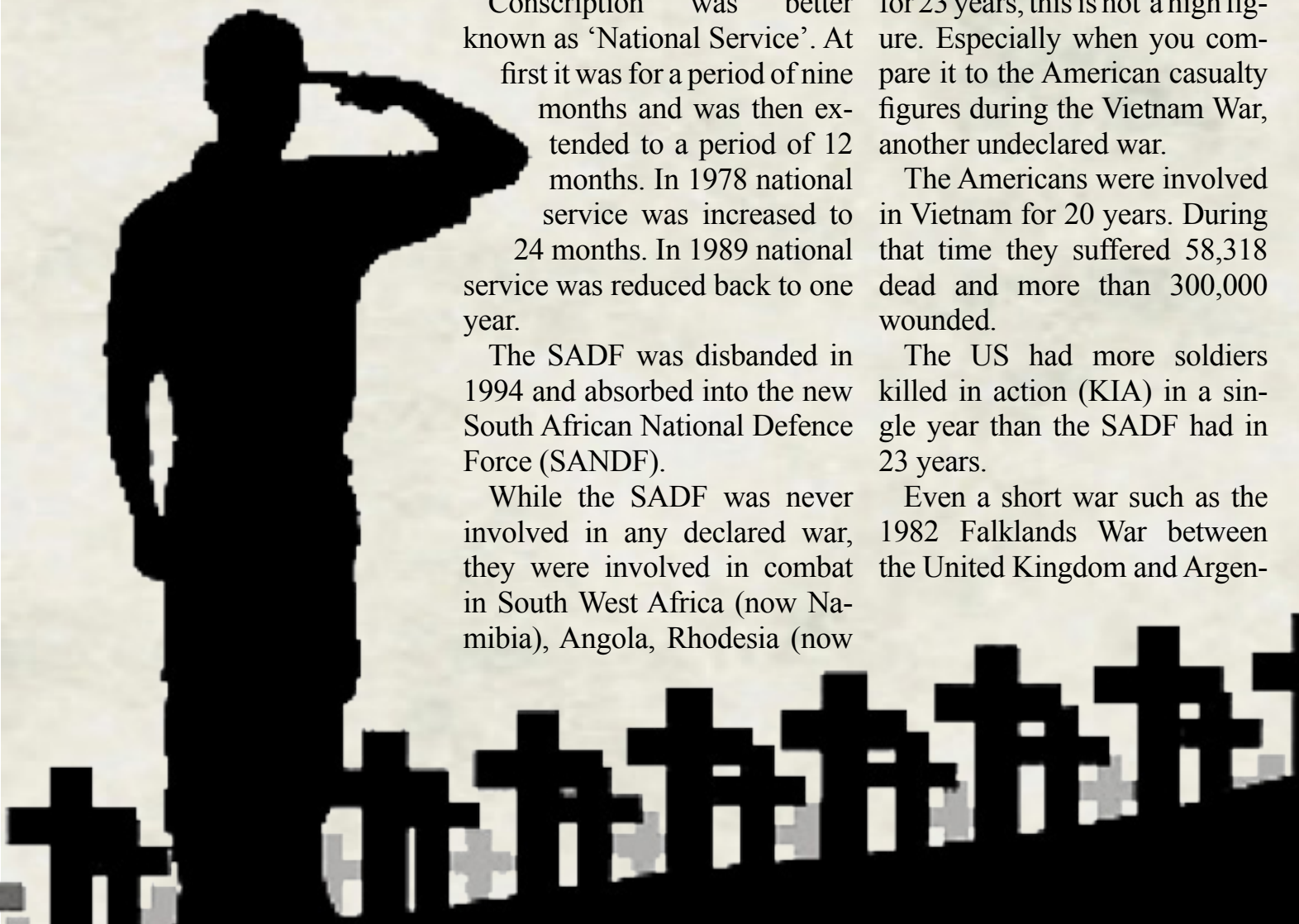
Another unit that lost 37 men was 4 South African Infantry Battalion (4 SAI).

5 Reconnaissance Commando (later 5 Reconnaissance Regiment) lost 33 men.

Below are other units that lost 10 or more men killed in action.

- 5 South African Infantry Battalion (5 SAI) - 22
- 201 Battalion - 22
- 1 Parachute Battalion - 21
- 1 Special Services Battalion (1 SSB) - 21
- 102 Battalion - 21
- 1 Reconnaissance Commando/Regiment - 20
- 6 South African Infantry Battalion (6 SAI) - 16
- 8 South African Infantry Battalion (8 SAI) - 16
- 1 South African Infantry Battalion (1 SAI) - 14
- 3 South African Infantry Battalion (3 SAI) - 12
- 2 South African Infantry Battalion (2 SAI) - 10
- Group 34 - 10

**Authors note: Please note that the figures used in this article are taken from the official figures given. The total number of deaths may have been higher. It also does not take into consideration those wounded, disfigured or permanently disabled. Nor those that suffered from psychological effects.*



Breaking the siege

For decades noblemen would sit safely within their castles, knowing that the high and impenetrable stone walls would protect them. It was up to the attackers to come up with some method of breaking the siege.

In Europe during the Middle Ages, any king, lord or nobleman worth his salt would have at least one castle.

If at any stage they were attacked, they would simply retreat into their castles, raise the drawbridge and sit comfortably behind their impenetrable thick walls.

It was up to the attackers to come up with some method of breaching these thick wall.

Powerful siege engines that could batter fortification walls were developed, allowing besieging armies to breach enemy defences.

The development of gunpowder weapons from the early 14th century onward increased the

psychological aspect of siege warfare - the threat of devastation from this new form of firepower could drastically shorten a siege.

Suddenly castles were not as safe as they once were.

Listed here are some of the siege weapons that changed the way sieges were conducted.

1. Traction Trebuchet

Date 12th century

Origin Eastern Mediterranean

First used in Islamic lands in around the 7th century, traction trebuchets could hurl rocks from a net-like sling.

Although they required large crews to pull down the rotating throwing arm, they were effective against the walls of fortifications.

Counterweight trebuchets appeared in the 13th century, with counterweights of up to 10 tonnes that could hurl a 100kg stone projectile up to a distance of

150 metres.

2. Flemish Bombard

Date Early 15th century

Origin Flanders

Material Forged hoop-and-stave iron

Shot Stone balls

Large medieval siege guns, known as bombards, were muzzle-loaders. The stone balls they hurled were loaded through the muzzle after the powder charge.

Flanders, where this bombard was made, had a strong tradition of gun-casting, particularly under Charles the Bold (1433–77).

3. Mortar

Date 15th–16th century

Origin England

Length 1.25 metres

Calibre 36cm

It was lit by a touch fuse at the end of the barrel, and was used to fire projectiles such as stones or perhaps incendiaries at a steep upward angle.

4. Ballista

Date Medieval

Origin Europe

Based on a weapon first developed in Greek and Roman times, the ballista was a giant crossbow with a bolt that was operated by cranking back a drawstring and then releasing the tension with a lever.



2



3



4



6



5

It was primarily an anti-personnel weapon, rather than one designed to damage fortifications.

5. Ballista Bolt

Date Medieval

Origin Europe

The bolts fired by a ballista catapult travelled with such force that a single bolt could pierce three men at once.

The bolts were not as effective in damaging masonry however. Yet if you were unlucky enough to be hit by one of these bolts, it was game over - no matter what type of armour you were wearing at the time.

6. English Swivel Gun

Date Late 15th century

Origin England

Length 1.36 metres

Calibre 2in

Swivel-loading guns were frequently employed for naval use. The model shown here was mounted on the gunwales of a ship, where the superior arc of fire could be used to rake enemy vessels. Like most swivel guns, it is a breech-loader.

The British were not the only people to make use of the swivel gun. The Swedish swivel gun could fire both cannonballs and grapeshot.

7. Cannonballs

Date 14th–16th century

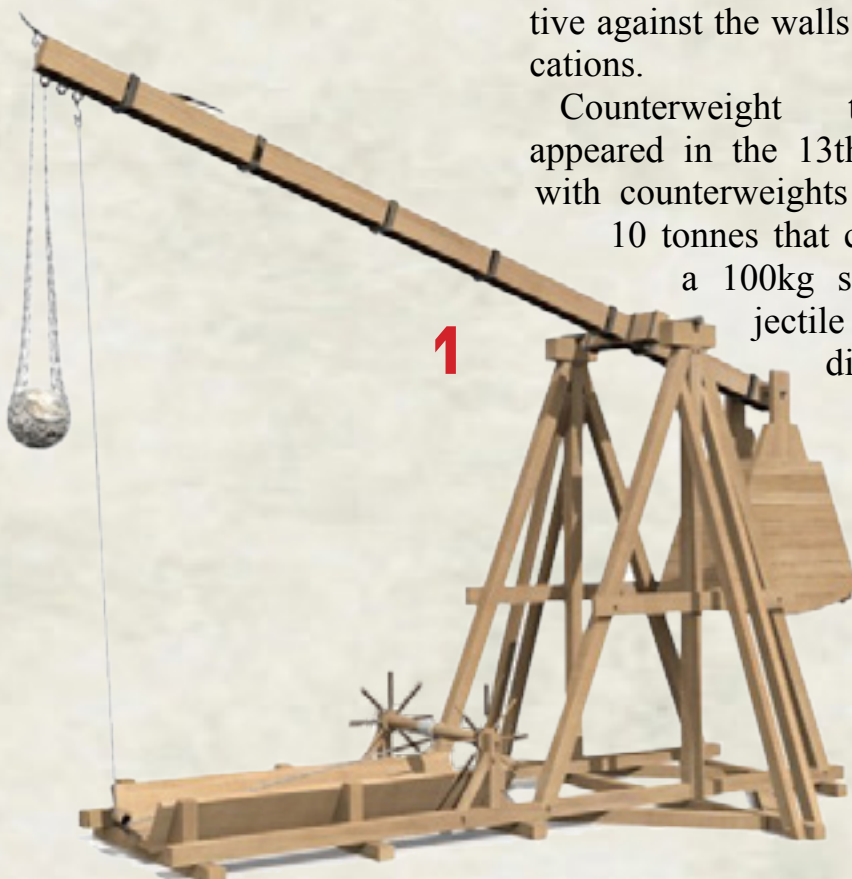
Origin Italy

Material Stone

In the early days of artillery, the most common form of projectile was stone balls.

Cannonballs for the largest bombards could weigh up to 200kg and inflict devastating damage on city walls.

The cast iron cannonball was introduced by a French artillery engineer, Samuel J. Besh, after 1450; it had the capacity to reduce traditional English castle wall fortifications to rubble.



1

8. Mangonel
Date Medieval
Origin Europe

A derivative of the onager (a Roman siege engine), the mangonel hurled large stones or other projectiles.

A rope wound around the arm was winched tight before being released, propelling the projectile through the air.

9. Mons Meg
Date 1449
Origin Flanders
Weight 5.08 tonnes
Length 4.04 metres
Calibre 49.6cm
Range 2.61km

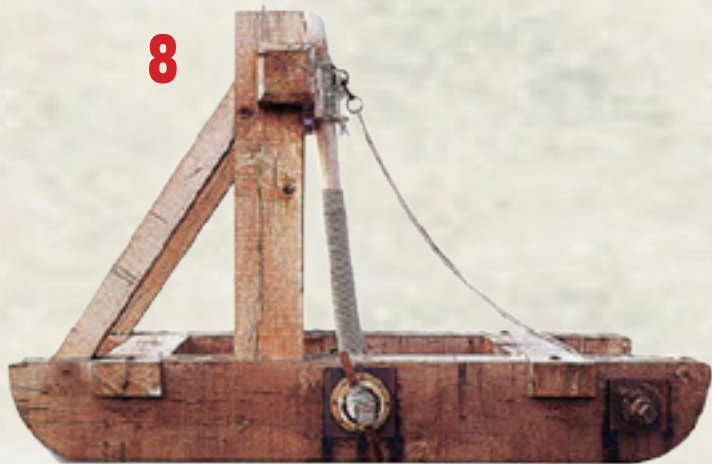
This massive bombard was

presented to James II of Scotland in 1457. It fired stone balls that weighed almost 200kg, but was too cumbersome for regular service because it could be moved only 5km a day.

Trivia

- Siege weapons such as trebuchets and mangonels were sometimes used to hurl more than just large stones at castle walls. A trebuchet was often used to propel the rotting carcasses of dead animals over the wall. Another ploy was to fire wicker baskets filled with live rats over the wall. The basket would burst upon hitting the ground and release the rats. Often rats would carry diseases such as the plague.

- The Siege of Ceuta (1694—1720). can tout itself as the longest siege in recorded history. The first phase of the conflict lasted a staggering 26 years, during which time Moroccan forces fought with the inhabitants of the Spanish-held city on the northern coast of Africa.
- One of the most destructive sieges of modern history was the Siege of Leningrad (1941 - 1944). When they laid siege to Leningrad, the German forces swiftly cut off all remaining road and railway connections. Although German fire led to tens of thousands of civilian fatalities, the more dire threat came from the deliberate starving of its population.



Springbok



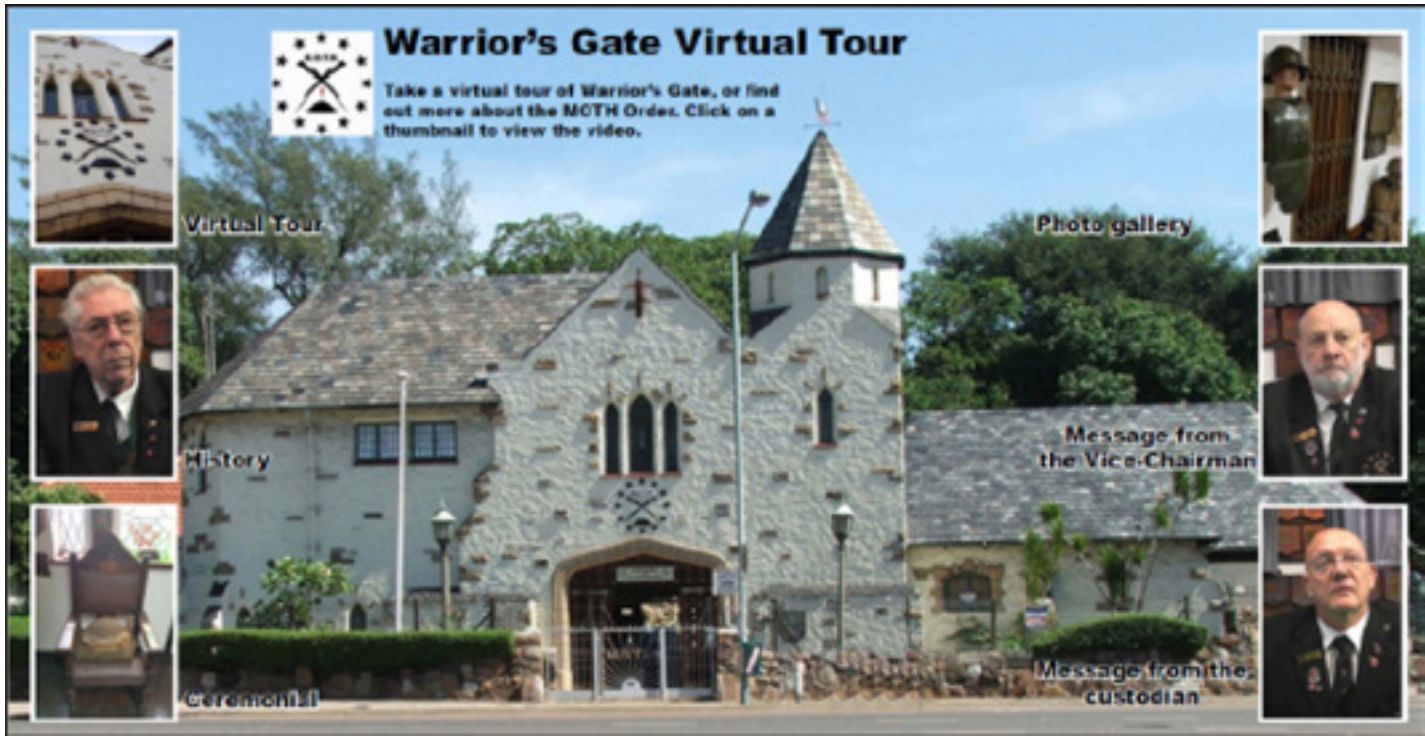
The SA Legion is a national organisation, part of a world-wide family that addresses the needs of ex-service personnel and their dependents by way of housing, pensions, employment and general welfare. It is apolitical, non-sectarian, non-racial, non-sexist and non-partisan.

The Springbok is the official journal of the South African Legion. Read the December 2021 issue of Springbok by clicking on the cover to the left.



Memorable Order of Tin Hats

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



IJA vs IJN - no love lost

When it came to the Imperial Japanese Army and the Imperial Japanese Navy it wasn't merely a question of inter-service rivalry. It went far deeper than that - they hated each other.

Inter-unit rivalry is common in nearly any military organisation around the world.

Your unit had the toughest basic training, they were the fittest unit, and no unit was better in action.

Inter-service rivalry can be even more intense. After all, it goes without saying that the Army was better than any other service. Unless of course you served in the Navy or Air Force. Then you would have a different idea.

Yet inter-service rivalry between the Japanese Army and Navy during World War II took

things to a complete new level.

The Imperial Japanese Army (IJA) of the Second World War had one enemy more cunning than all others, an opponent they had been fighting for more than a decade before the war even started – the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN). It was one of the worst cases of inter-service rivalry the modern world has ever seen.

The Imperial Japanese Army and the Imperial Japanese Navy, despised each other to the point that it heavily compromised their war effort. But how did things get that bad?

As always, the roots of the problem run deep through history. Japan rose meteorically from a reclusive feudal society to become the democratically-governed Asia-Pacific hegemon in the decades preceding the Second World War.

Their crushing victory over the Russians in the Russo-Japanese war had left the IJN as the major naval power in the Pacific.

The IJA has also tested their mettle during the Great War and fought against the Bolsheviks as part of an international coalition during the Russian Civil War.

Both services realised they had the power to massively increase Japan's international reach. The thing is, Japan was a new industrial society. A small island nation, they didn't have seemingly limitless space for

expansion like the Americans, nor dominions rich in resources like the British and French.

The Japanese economic pie wasn't very big, and the Army and Navy were continually fighting for a bigger slice. In pretty much any other circumstance everywhere else, if the Army and Navy can't sort out the military budget, the civilian government steps in and sorts it out for them.

But this couldn't happen in Japan because the civilian government had problems of their own. The economy was dominated by Zaibatsus – effectively

mini national economies.

These were family-run business conglomerates that operated their own central banks, factories, supply chains, and everything else. Japan had four major Zaibatsus that together dominated Japan's civilian and military production.

Two of these Zaibatsus were allied with the Army and two with the Navy, and they were viciously opposed. As they wielded massive economic power, the Army and Navy both managed to purchase seats at the political table.

Each service was represented by a minister in the Japanese cabinet, and these ministers had veto power over new legislation. Appointed by their respective services, these ministers couldn't be removed and only answered to the Emperor himself. This meant they had effective control over Japanese policy.

The only thing that could save this gigantic mess was the alignment of the IJA and IJN's strategic goals. This should have been easy, as both sides needed to secure access to natural resources and a captive market for Japanese goods. The problem was that both services were looking in different directions.

The Navy favoured the "southward drive" – a strategy that involved taking over the European colonies in Asia for their resources, especially Java. In this instance, they forecast their main enemy would be the United States.

The Army, on the other hand, was focused on exploiting turmoil in China and Russia to invade Manchuria and Siberia to the west. They weren't concerned

with the Americans, as their primary enemies were the Chinese and the Soviets.

Right as the Army and Navy were arguing over literally everything, the Great Depression hit and turned what was already a huge mess into a cock-up of legendary proportions. The conservative military ministers had forced the democratically-elected government into supporting only right-wing policy.

Economic hardship also popularised ultra-nationalism, and the country careened towards a crisis point. In 1930, the London Naval Treaty was ratified by Japan, limiting the number of battleships they could have.

The IJN was furious and, in November, a Navy-aligned ultra-nationalist shot the Prime Minister in retribution. The Army struck back with two attempted coups, both in 1931.

They planned to incite riots and then seize power once martial law was declared. Both plans were discovered by the secret police, but the ringleaders weren't punished. In light of these failures, the Army had to secure its position.

To do this, they fabricated a terror attack in Manchuria and invaded without permission from the Government. They ran the region as a military colony.

The navy was being outplayed, so on 15 May 1932, 11 young naval officers assassinated the Prime Minister again and attacked the residences of other important Army-leaning politicians. They weren't punished either.

After several minor events, a faction in the Army launched yet another coup in February 1936. This one had the backing

of three full regiments and yet again, they tried to shoot the prime minister, which probably qualifies as one of the most dangerous jobs in the world.

They didn't get him, but they did kill another two previous prime ministers, bringing the total of dead prime ministers to four.

When word reached the Navy, they went to battle stations and threatened to blow the Army to pieces from the harbour. As shells were being loaded, the Emperor personally stepped in to diffuse the situation. The Army's failed coups and invasion of Manchuria opened the door for the Navy to take over, and Japan was effectively run by admirals.

By 1936, civilian democracy had completely given way to the military. While the Army had been at war with the Chinese and Soviets since the early 30s, the war began for the Navy in December 1941 with the attack on Pearl Harbour.

The petty inter-service rivalry was still going strong, but they knew they had to work together to fight the real enemy, even if they still couldn't agree who that was. To keep things simple, the Army controlled everything that happened on land and the Navy everything at sea.

Both services also had their own air forces, paratroop regiments, and support staff. If an Army plane landed on a Navy base, they wouldn't be repaired or refuelled by the Navy ground crews. Likewise, if Army intelligence knew about an enemy naval attack, telling the Navy about it would be pretty low-priority.



The best example of this dysfunction in Japan was their abysmal record of intercepting bombers. The Army argued that US bombers flew over the ocean – making it a Navy problem. The Navy argued that they bombed ground targets – making it an Army problem.

While their superiors argued, fighter commanders refused to share intelligence and therefore found it impossible to field large numbers of planes against enemy bombers – which as the Germans found, was essential for defence. Only 74 US bombers were lost to fighters over Japan, while thousands were lost over Germany.

Seeing as they couldn't agree on strategies, both services just did what they wanted. The Navy pushed southwards, taking over European colonies in the Pacific, and the Army pushed westwards, fighting the Chinese and Soviets. Cooperation was rare and only seemed to happen when things were going exceptionally well.

Things weren't going well for the Japanese in 1943, during the Guadalcanal campaign, and cracks in Army-Navy cooperation began to show. 36,000 Army troops were fighting on the island and depended on resupply by sea.

This was done in the most inefficient way possible. So much Army equipment was piled on Navy destroyers that they ships couldn't properly defend themselves. If they were attacked, the sailors pushed the supplies off the decks into the sea so they could bring their guns to bear.

When they reached the Army bases, they pushed supplies,



DAY OF INFAMY: The surprise attack on Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941 brought Japan into World War II.

packed in steel drums, overboard without stopping, making the soldiers swim out to pick them up. Three-quarters of the critical rations and ammo would always be lost, but who cares? It was only Army stuff.

US ships were inflicting heavy losses on the IJN during these Guadalcanal supply runs. Consequently, the admirals withdrew to preserve their forces – without telling the Army – and effectively abandoned them.

Orders eventually came from the top demanding the Army be evacuated, but not before they lost over 25,000 soldiers to starvation. It wasn't just the Army who suffered due to this dysfunctional relationship; the Navy did too.

Cemented during the Battle of the Coral Sea, winning the Pacific naval war was all about air power. The Japanese had a lot of high-quality planes, but they were split between the Army and Navy air forces. As they were at the forefront, the Navy took the brunt of plane losses.

What happened when the Navy could no longer launch sufficient planes to defend

themselves? The Army said, "Don't make your problems ours." The best example of this backwards logic was the sinking of the battleship Yamato – one of the most powerful battle-ships ever built.

Having lost command of the air in early 1945, the Navy kept the ship in port. When the island of Okinawa was threatened by Allied invasion, the Army petitioned the Emperor to make the Navy do something. They called the ship "nothing but a hotel for admirals" and the Navy "inept".

To save face, or maybe just to prove a point, the Navy sent Yamato and a surface force on a suicide mission. The mighty ship was crippled and sunk by air attacks, which I suppose proved the Navy right.

With all this infighting going on behind the scenes, it's honestly incredible Imperial Japan managed to fight for as long as it did.

When they surrendered, the Army and Navy argued about who lost Japan the war, but they were probably happy in the end, seeing as neither service won.

Air Forces Army vs Navy

There was very little, if indeed anything that the Japanese Army and Navy could agree upon.

The logical solution would be to have a Japanese Imperial Air Force. This, however, never happened. Each service had their own dedicated air force

- The Japanese Imperial Army Air Service and the Japanese Imperial Navy Air Service.

The Army Air Service operated from land bases and were responsible for any operations that took place on land.

The Navy Air Service were mainly based on aircraft carri-

ers and were responsible for operations at sea.

They couldn't even agree on what fighter aircraft they would use, nor what armament they would carry. This meant that parts and ammunition between aircraft were not interchangeable.

Army



Nakajima Ki-44

- Produced: 1940–1944
- Number built: 1,225
- Manufacturer: Nakajima Aircraft Company
- Crew: One
- Length: 8.84 metres
- Wingspan: 9.45 metres
- Height: 3.25 metres
- Gross weight: 2,764 kg
- Powerplant: 1 × Nakajima Ha-109 14-cylinder air-cooled radial piston engine
- Maximum speed: 605 km/h
- Range: 1,200 km
- Service ceiling: 11,200 metres

Armament

- Guns: 2 × fixed, forward-firing, synchronised 12.7 mm Ho-103 machine guns. 2 × wing mounted 12.7 mm Ho-103 machine guns
- Hardpoints: Two with a capacity of 2 × 130 litre drop tanks

Navy



Mitsubishi A6M Zero

- Produced: 1939–1945
- Number built: 10,939
- Manufacturer: Mitsubishi Heavy Industries
- Crew: One
- Length: 9.06 metres
- Wingspan: 12 metres
- Height: 3.05 metres
- Gross weight: 2,796 kg
- Powerplant: 1 × Nakajima NK1C Sakae-12 14-cylinder air-cooled radial piston engine
- Maximum speed: 533 km/h
- Range: 1,870 km
- Service ceiling: 10,000 metres

Armament

- Guns: 2 × 7.7 mm Type 97 aircraft machine guns. 2 × 20 mm Type 99-1 Mk.3 cannon

Bombs

- 2 × 60 kg bombs

Arbeia Fort

The Roman army built the ancient world’s greatest fortifications. Legionaries were more like combat engineers than ordinary soldiers, being trained in construction as well as the art of battle.

On campaign, a legion made a wooden camp, surrounded by an earth rampart, at every stop. Permanent forts were initially also made of wood and earth, but later ones, like the reconstructed Arbeia, in northeast England, were stone-built.

Used as barracks, administrative centres, and supply depots, they maintained a military presence in potentially hostile territory.

Outposts of Roman civilization, the forts made no concessions to local climates or cultures, displaying similar features across the empire.

Living conditions were basic and cramped - units of eight soldiers called contubernia, or “tent groups,” shared small, two room suites in the barracks.

However, with heated bathhouses and latrines cleaned by running water, hygiene standards were relatively



MODERN DAY
The reconstructed Arbeia fort as it stands today.

Fort Entrance



GATEHOUSE PLAQUE
The plaque states that the fort was built by Legio VI Victrix.



DOORS AND WALLS
Solid stone walls and thick wooden doors would have kept out the bands of tribal fighters who occasionally carried out raids in Roman Britain.



high.
Arbeia was a small fort, housing about 600 auxiliary troops, both infantry and cavalry.
Built in the 2nd century, it was a major supply centre for the troops on Hadrian’s Wall to

the north.
Arbeia was a large Roman fort in South Shields, Tyne & Wear, England, now ruined, and which has been partially reconstructed.
It was first excavated in the

1870s and all modern buildings on the site were cleared in the 1970s.
It is managed by Tyne and Wear Museums as Arbeia Roman Fort and Museum.

Contubernia Suite



BARRACK BLOCKS
Each plastered-stone block housed five contubernia. There were a few small windows, and ventilators were set into the roof.



DORMITORY
The eight soldiers of a contubernium slept in the larger room of their suite, either under woollen blankets on simple beds or on straw-filled mattresses on the floor.



INTERIOR BARRACK WALLS
The internal walls were made of wattle-and-daub.



BATHHOUSE LATRINES
There was also probably a bathhouse for the troops outside the fort. Its communal latrines had high-quality plumbing.

Officer’s House



COURTYARD
The commanding officer lived in a comfortable house within the fort. It had an open courtyard and rooms leading off a colonnaded walkway.



HEATED BEDROOM
The commander’s bedrooms were large, decorated, and warmed by the hypocaust (under-floor heating). Beds were often richly carved or painted.

I wish I had one of those...

Over the last 30 years, technology has changed the way we do things. This is especially true in the military. **Matt O'Brien** is still green with envy.

Many of our readers served in the military during the 1970s and 1980s. At the time we thought that our equipment was pretty good and some of our technol-

ogy was up there with the best.

Today, however, we can look back at what we used then and what is available now and it leaves us with just one thought, "I wish I had one of those back

then..."

And the scary thing is that all of the equipment and technology mentioned in this article are freely available - even to civilians.

Getting your bearings

How many of you remember what fun it was trying to plot where exactly you were, by using a map and compass.

You would look for three distinct features, such as a building, mountain, lake, rock formation - something you could see on your map.

You would take a compass bearing on the feature, orientate your map so that it was facing north, then draw a line on your map along the compass bearing.

You did this three times and where the lines intersected, that was roughly your position on

the map. You could then even work out your grid reference.

Try doing that in a place such as Ovamboland where it was flat and the only features were trees. And let's face it, one tree looked very similar to the next one.

These days a GPS will tell you exactly where you are with no problems. It will even give you directions and satellite imagery if you require. It makes life a whole lot easier.



Communications

I can personally remember when my signaller could get radio comms with someone hundreds of kilometres away, but couldn't get comms with our base which was 20 kilometres away.

These days I wouldn't even bother using the radio. I would just call them on my cellular phone.

If you go one step further and use a satellite phone, you can reach anyone, anywhere.

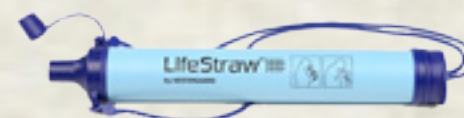
A phone such as a Codex 4 will give you powerful encryption which means that nobody

will be able to listen in on your call.

During the Battle of Bangui in the Central African Republic (CAR) in March 2013, one of the South African soldiers was cut off.

He borrowed a cell phone from one of the locals and called the only number he remembered - his unit, 44 Parachute Regiment in Bloemfontein.

The call was passed through to the force commander at Bangui airport, and a French patrol went out to collect him.



The need for H2O

When you were out on patrol in the bush, there were two things you never wanted to run short of - ammunition and water.

The standard issue SADF water bottle held one litre of water. Not nearly enough if you were out on a four day patrol. So most guys would carry at least four water bottles.

I can remember on a few occasions when a patrol lasted far longer than we anticipated and we ran out of water. It is not the most pleasant experience.

If you are lucky enough to actually find water, it is often dirty and contaminated. You could boil it if you had time or use water purification tablets. Even so, it still tasted terrible.

These days all you need to do is carry something like a "LifeStraw". You put the one end into the water, then suck on the other end, just like a straw. The result - pure, clean water.

I've tested one of these and was really impressed. I stuck it into a pool of green, putrid water that stunk. I sucked on the straw and the water that came out was crystal clear and tasted like expensive bottled water.

You can also get water bottles that you fill with dirty unsafe water and this will filter it. This means you can drink clean, uncontaminated water directly from the bottle.

Talking about carrying extra water bottles, these days its far easier to use a water bladder such as the "Camelbak". It fits on your back and is usually carried under your backpack.

It can carry up to three litres of water and has a pipe that goes over your shoulder. If you want a drink all you need to do is suck on the mouthpiece of the pipe and there you go.

Binoculars

When you needed to take a closer look at something that was some distance away, a good pair of binoculars was what was called for.

They were often used by observation posts or even by someone doing close target reconnaissance. They were not bad at all and they served their purpose.

These days things have been taken to a whole new level. Try a pair of digital binoculars and you will soon see what I'm talking about.

They still work the same as non-digital binoculars. It's just

that they come with a wide range of optional extras.

As you scan with the binoculars a digital reading will show you the exact bearing your binoculars are looking at. You can also frame an object and it will give you the distance that the object is from you.

A click of a button means you can take a high-quality digital photograph or even digital video that is stored on a memory card.

Most of them have advanced night vision. So operating in the dark is not a problem in the least.



Portable drone



You're out on patrol when you're confronted by a thick clump of bush.

You would really love to know what was on the other side of the bush. Is there an enemy ambush just waiting for you to come blundering through the bush?

These days the solution is easy. Just sent up your small, lightweight portable drone.

It's high quality camera will send back live images to your operating device, such as a cell phone and all will be revealed.

Night vision

Throughout history it has always been difficult to fight at night. After all, it's difficult to hit a target if you can't even see the thing.

During the Vietnam War the Americans began using what was known as a "Starlight" scope that could be used as a hand-held device or mounted on a rifle.

It amplified any ambient light, such as the moon or the stars, to present the viewer with a hazy green image.

While it did provide night vision, it would not work in the pitch dark.

Modern night vision goggles are mounted to a troops helmet. They can be lowered to provide the troop with a clear image, although everything is still green.

These night vision goggles means that a troop can literally see in the dark, making it far easier to identify and hit targets that in the past would not even be seen.



New British Military night vision goggles

LifeStraw water filtration



Lap top computers

Okay, the final bit of technology on my list would probably be of no use out on patrol. But it does make a huge difference when you're back in base.

Do you remember sitting and writing letters back home. Maybe to your parents, a friend, but most of all to a wife or girlfriend.

And you couldn't just seal your letter and post it off if you were in the operational area. It would first have to be censored, normally by an officer.

I can remember censoring the letters of one of my troops. He would write these really steamy letters to his fiancé. The thing that always amused me was the fact that he was engaged to four

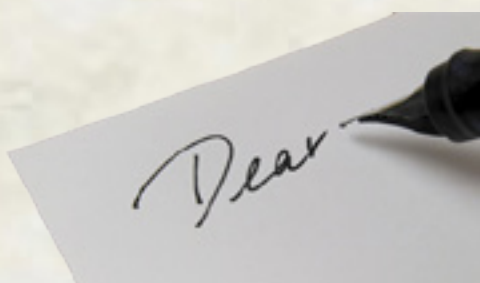
different girls - at the same time.

When I would ask him about it, he would just shrug his shoulders and say, "Hey lieutenant, you only live once."

These days few troops would ever dream of writing a letter to someone. It's far easier just to send an e-mail, or use your cell phone to send an SMS or WhatsApp.

Even better, you can make a Zoom call and chat with your parents, wife, or girlfriend face to face.

When you're off duty you can use your lap top to watch YouTube videos, movies, or even play games.



SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

SAAFA is an all-ranks Association formed to perpetuate a tradition of comradeship, knowing no distinction of rank, race, language, gender or creed, which has developed over the years among members of the South African Air Force.

Click on the logo above to visit the SAAFA website

Hygiene in World War I

Many of our readers will know how difficult it was to keep clean in the bush. So spare a thought to those soldiers that fought in the trenches of World War I. How did they manage to keep clean and healthy - the simple answer is that they didn't.

Many of our readers served in the military during the 1970s and 1980s. And many of them spent time in what was then South West Africa, doing duty on the 'border' - the operational area in the Border War.

One well remembered feature of any bush base was the washing, bathing and toilet facilities. They were rudimentary to say the very least.

Washing of clothes was done by hand, shower were often limited in duration and usually with cold water, and toilets were nothing more than holes

dug in the ground. The photograph on the right should bring back memories.

Yet before we start wailing about how tough it was, let's turn back the clock a few decades and spare a thought for those that fought in the trenches of the 'Great War'.

Ever wonder how soldiers fighting in the trenches during World War I kept themselves clean? Well the short answer is, they didn't.

Lack of plumbing and hot water created such foul conditions that even when circumstances were at their best, maintaining

personal hygiene was mostly a losing battle.

So in this article we're going to take a look at what hygiene was like in the trenches of World War I. Time to look at how great hygiene was during the Great War.

Toilets? Hot water? Not a chance

Imagine you're on the front lines of one of the most bloody and violent conflicts in the history of mankind. And suddenly, you hear nature calling - and it's a number two. What do you do?

In order to go to the bathroom



REMEMBER TO FLUSH: Using the toilets in the bush was an acquired skill. Yet it was a whole lot worse if you were out on patrol.

in the trenches, the men designated specific areas to serve as latrines. Soldiers dug pits anywhere from four to six feet in depth in which to relieve themselves.

And while those holes were usually used as is - after all, you're not going to spend a whole lot of time sprucing up the community bogs - some troops would construct wood boxes around them in an attempt to control the flies.

The job of digging and maintaining the unmentionable holes was so despised that it was often doled out to soldiers as punishment.

The smell was equally as horrifying. And the troops dealt with the odour by attempting to cover it with chloride of lime.

Unfortunately, we don't often get to decide when we need to use the bathroom, which was especially true for soldiers in the trenches, suffering from diarrhoea due to contaminated drinking water.

Those unable to make it to the latrine often made use of

buckets or empty food cans to relieve themselves, and would then simply dump the unpleasant contents outside the trench so that the makeshift bedpan could be reused. Indeed, the Great War was fought on many fronts.

Speaking of contaminated water, one of the most common methods of sterilizing water to make it safe for drinking is to boil it. But that was impossible for soldiers in the trenches, due to the equipment required and the war. You can't exactly call a time-out to bring a pot of water to boil.

Another problem was that if you made a fire at night, your position would become the focus of attention for every mortar or artillery piece within firing range.

To address this, the British army experimented with sterilization equipment and purifying chemicals. But the chemicals made the water taste awful.

They also tried giving their troops acid sodium sulphate tablets to purify an individual

serving of water.

But the chemicals reacted badly with the aluminium of the soldiers' canteens and would burn skin and even clothing if it came into contact with moisture in the air. And let's face it, melting your lips to your canteen is generally something you want to avoid when you're trying to stay hydrated during a historic global conflict.

Understandably averse to the tablets and unable to boil water themselves, soldiers on the front line typically relied on their fellow soldiers to treat water elsewhere and transport it to those in the trenches at night under the cover of darkness.

Unfortunately, the water was often carried in old gasoline canisters, which contaminated it and made it nearly undrinkable. And if active fighting or other circumstances prevented a water delivery from reaching the front lines, soldiers in the trenches found themselves completely without.

This led many desperate troops to drink questionable water, simply because they had no other choice. One soldier recalled instances in which men were so thirsty, they would slurp water out of shell holes, the craters left behind by artillery fire, which could contain anything, including human body parts.

Due to unwashed bodies and clothes, open latrines, piles of trash, and countless nearby corpses, the trenches and all who spent time in them smelt like the inside of a sumo wrestler's jockstrap.

Not only did soldiers in the trenches have pungent body odour, but their infrequent bath-



ing and soiled uniforms fuelled widespread lice infestations.

To combat that problem, units would set up facilities away from the front lines that soldiers could use to be de-loused, launder their clothes, and rest.

There were also communal baths, where soldiers could clean themselves of the odour they'd accumulated while in the trenches.

These facilities helped boost morale and keep many soldiers healthy. But soldiers often had to stay in the trenches for a number of days without bathing or changing their clothes before they were allowed this respite.

As use of chemical weapons became widespread, more and more soldiers carried and used gas masks.

Believing the masks would fit more closely if troops had no facial hair, US forces gave their soldiers shaving kits to carry with them, which is the only reason there are no photographs of World War I soldiers with long flowing beards.

Known as khaki kits, the standard issue shaving sets featured a Gillette safety razor with disposable blades. By forking out a bit of money soldiers or their family members could purchase a fancier version of the kit that came in a metal case with military insignias.

It's unclear how many soldiers opted to pay extra for an upgraded kit. But the ability to shave was likely appreciated.

However, while a shave may have provided those fighting in the trenches with a small feeling of normalcy and possibly help them feel a little cleaner, there was a downside.

Namely, their shaving brushes may have exposed them to anthrax. *Bacillus anthracis*, the naturally occurring bacteria which causes anthrax, can linger in animal hair for years and can be passed on to anyone who uses a shaving brush made from improperly disinfected hair.

It's believed that more than 200 American and British soldiers may have been infected with anthrax while shaving.

Smile

To put it lightly, oral health wasn't a priority during the time of the Great War. Hardly anyone regularly visited the dentist. So many fighting men already had bad oral hygiene before the war began.

And once on the front lines, most soldiers paid no attention to the state of their teeth.

In fact, in 1914, many militias like the British Expeditionary Force thought dentists were totally unnecessary.

After all, you can have a mouth full of cracked vampire teeth or no teeth at all and still shoot people for the king.

It wasn't until General Douglas Haig developed a horrible toothache that the British military began enlisting dentists to help those near the front.

However, despite the lack of emphasis on maintaining a healthy smile on the front lines, the military rejected potential soldiers if their oral hygiene was particularly rough.

This was because the food supplied to soldiers in the trenches required relatively strong teeth to eat.

Food was cold, dirty, and often contaminated

To feed their soldiers, allied troops set up mobile kitchens and transported prepared food to troops on the front line.

However, the food was only edible by the most generous definition of the word. For instance, British soldiers received rations of canned corned beef (known as Bully Beef), hard tack biscuits, and bread made from dried turnip once the wheat ran out.

Sounds more like a recipe for cement rather than a menu, but in the trenches, you took what you could get.

Like the soldiers' rations of sanitized water, the transports often carried meals to the front lines in empty gas canisters loaded with contaminants.

And because it took so long to transport the food to the trenches, meals were cold and often stale.

Further complicating things were ever present swarms of flies drawn to all the corpses on the battlefield. The flies would often land on the soldiers' food, spreading filth and disease.

Rations could also end up caked with dirt due to the weather and transport conditions.

Vermin infestations were a fact of life

Thanks to all the trash, food scraps, and corpses, the trenches were regularly filled with rodents, which often grew unusually large due to the plentiful amount of food.

In addition to being a nuisance, the rats spread infections such as typhus and the plague.



FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD: Meals in the trenches of the Great War were not that great. And the food was often contaminated.

Obviously, having our soldiers at risk of contracting the disease that levelled half of Europe was a concern.

So catching rats became something to pass the time during daylight hours. The military even offered soldiers a reward for slaying the rodents as an incentive to decrease their numbers.

According to one report, troops were so into this new sport that one Army Corps managed to catch 8,000 rats in a single night.

French troops tried to control the rat problem by bringing terriers into the trenches with them. Other soldiers adopted cats instead of dogs. It's believed around 500,000 cats helped out in the trenches over the course of World War I.

Many of the cats and some of the dogs even wound up serving as mascots for troops on the front lines.

Although the animals were presumably exempt from having to stay clean shaven, unfortunately, not every pest encountered was as comparatively easy

to deal with.

Due to the damp waste filled condition of the trenches and the soldiers' inability to frequently bathe, biting insects like fleas and lice flourished.

Not only did they make troops itchy and uncomfortable, these pests allowed disease to run rampant through the front lines.

Bacteria from infected lice spread typhus, which can cause aches, fever, vomiting, and confusion. Lice bites also caused trench fever, resulting in leg pain, dizziness, and headaches.

And although trench fever wasn't fatal, soldiers who contracted it were in no condition to fight, reducing their ranks by a considerable number.

From 1915 to 1918, an estimated 500,000 soldiers in the French, British and Belgian armies contracted the disease. Controlling flea and lice infestations meant diligently washing skin, hair, and clothing. But as we've discussed this simply wasn't possible out in the trenches.

Therefore, soldiers spent much of their downtime pick-

ing lice off their bodies or burning them with candles.

Disease was rampant and difficult to control

To help combat vermin infestations and unsanitary conditions that spread disease, many armies would put a team of soldiers on sanitation duty, which included collecting trash.

The trash produced by troops consisted not only of food scraps, empty containers, and spent shell casings, but also the corpses of both animals and humans.

Dumping areas were set up away from the trenches for sanitation teams to safely dispose of the garbage.

However, despite the efforts of sanitation teams, the amount of trash that piled up was nearly unavoidable.

Not only did removing trash take time, but it could be a dangerous task if there was active fighting.

As the piles of trash decayed, they attracted hordes of maggots and flies, compelling many soldiers to wrap scarves around their faces to keep the pests away from their mouths.

The substandard sanitation and close quarters of the trenches allowed numerous communicable diseases to spread easily among soldiers. Mumps, smallpox, meningococcal meningitis, and tuberculosis travelled through battalions, forcing many to pull back from the front lines or perish.

Severe cases of dysentery were also common among the troops of many countries. Spread by human faeces, the



SPANISH FLU: The Spanish Flu pandemic is believed to have begun in military camps after World War I. It would eventually lead to more deaths than the war did.

disease causes diarrhoea and extreme dehydration. And many of the thousands afflicted in the trenches perished.

Every soldier who travelled to the front lines knew that death was an extreme possibility. But still, violent diarrhoea is a disappointing thing to have chiselled on your tombstone.

It couldn't have been dignifying to have "Here lies Private Joe Bloggs. Shat himself to death for King and Country" inscribed on your tombstone.

The German army in particular, experienced sweeping epidemics of dysentery. At least 155,000 German soldiers spent time in the hospital suffering from the disease.

In contrast, dysentery affected around 6,200 soldiers in the American Expeditionary Force and caused 31 fatalities, meaning that although the conditions in the allied trenches were still

deplorable, they evidently had better sanitation than the Germans.

Researchers believe that in addition to improper sanitation, dysentery disproportionately affected the German troops due to nutritional deficiencies, lack of vaccines, and the limitations of German military hygienists to prevent the spread of disease.

Although most of these conditions are treatable today, at the time, vaccinations had yet to be developed, leaving many soldiers vulnerable to infection. And while the military did screen their soldiers for some diseases like tuberculosis before deployment, close contact with others and lack of knowledgeable treatment allowed illness to flourish.

As World War I wound down in 1918, the transmission of infectious disease among soldiers likely contributed to an

even more widespread disaster – the great influenza epidemic of 1918.

The Spanish Flu, as the pandemic came to be known, is believed to have begun in military camps before spreading to infect much of the world, resulting in more losses than the war itself.

It is estimated that 20 million died during World War I. The Spanish Flu led to between 25 and 50 million deaths.

In other words, the trenches of World War I were so dirty, they may have literally gotten the entire world sick.

Next month we will take a look at hygiene in World War II and see if things had improved by then.

The Battle of Britain - a few facts

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few" - Winston Churchill. We look at a few facts from the Battle of Britain.

By June 1940, Britain was not in a good position. It had all begun when Germany invaded Poland on 1 September 1939. On 3 September 1939 Britain and France declared war on Germany.

For the next eight months, nothing happened. This period became known as the 'Phoney War'. The French called it *Drôle de guerre* and to the Germans it was the *Sitzkrieg*.

During the Phoney War there was only one limited military land operation on the Western Front. In the Saar Offensive in September, the French attacked Germany with the intention of assisting Poland, but it fizzled out within days and they withdrew.

That all changed in May 1940 when Nazi Germany launched a massive blitzkrieg against Western Europe. Hitler's armies overran Belgium, the Nether-

lands and France in only a matter of weeks, leaving Britain as the lone standing Allied power. The Battle of Britain was about to begin.

Here are a few facts about the Battle of Britain that you may, or may not, have known.

It got its name before it started

England now stood alone against the might of the Nazi juggernaut.

The British Expeditionary Force (BEF) had been kicked out of Europe and only the evacuation of 338,000 British and French troops from Dunkirk meant that Britain was still in the fight.

During a June 18 speech, Prime Minister Winston Churchill predicted a showdown with Germany when he said, "The Battle of France is over. I expect the Battle of Britain is about to begin."

And Churchill was right, the Battle of Britain was about to

begin. Yet I sometimes wonder if Churchill had any idea of just how the battle would unfold.

Hitler tried to convince Britain to surrender without a fight

Despite being fresh off his lightning conquest of France, Hitler was wary of invading Britain. The island nation was protected by the English Channel, and its Royal Navy was superior to the German *Kriegsmarine*.

He instead hoped that Britain would acknowledge "her militarily hopeless situation" and sue for peace.

A small contingent of British politicians also favoured a compromise, but Winston Churchill brushed off talk of surrender and announced that Britain was determined to fight on.

He rallied the public by characterizing the coming battle as a struggle for national survival, and when the Nazis dangled





the prospect of a peace treaty in early July 1940, he rejected it outright.

It was only then that Hitler reluctantly approved plans for Operation Sea Lion, an amphibious invasion originally scheduled to unfold in mid-August. Hitler knew that if Operation Sea Lion was to have any chance of success, they would have to have air superiority over the English Channel.

Hermann Göring, chief of the German *Luftwaffe*, assured Hitler that this would not be a problem. The British Royal Air Force (RAF) would be put to the sword.

It was the first battle in history waged almost exclusively in the air

Hitler's plan to invade the British mainland hinged on Germany first annihilating the Royal Air Force and winning air superiority over England.

With this in mind, the fight for Britain transformed into an all-air contest between the *Luftwaffe*'s bombers and Messerschmitt Bf109s and British Fighter Command's Hawker Hurricanes and Supermarine Spitfires.

Luftwaffe commander Hermann Goering initially believed he would easily sweep the RAF aside in just a few days, but the dogfights dragged on for three and a half long months.

By the time the battle ended in late-October, Germany had lost more than 1,700 planes - nearly twice as many as the British.

The battle included one of the earliest uses of radar in combat

While the *Luftwaffe* enjoyed an edge in total aircraft during the early stages of the battle, the RAF had a secret weapon in the form of Radio Direction Finding, better known as radar.

Shortly after the technology was developed in the 1930s, the British built a ring of radar stations along their coastline. These "Chain Home" stations were still primitive - a civilian Observer Corps was required to spot low-flying aircraft - but they nevertheless became a crucial part of Britain's strategy.

By pinging approaching *Luftwaffe* raiders with radio waves, the RAF could pin down their location and scramble fighters to intercept them, thereby robbing the Germans of the element of surprise.

Nazi leaders never appreciated the importance of British radar, and their failure to degrade it allowed the RAF to consistently remain a step ahead of the *Luftwaffe*.

The British had a highly effective air defence network

The British developed an air defence network that would give them a critical advantage

in the Battle of Britain. The Dowding System - named for Fighter Command's Commander-in-Chief Sir Hugh Dowding - brought together technology such as radar, ground defences and fighter aircraft into a unified system of defence.

The RAF organised the defence of Britain into four geographical areas, called 'Groups', which were further divided into sectors. The main fighter airfield in each sector - the 'Sector Station' - was equipped with an operations room from which the fighters were directed into combat.

There were several phases to the Battle of Britain

The Battle of Britain took place between July and October 1940. The Germans began by attacking coastal targets and British shipping operating in the English Channel.

They launched their main offensive on 13 August. Attacks moved inland, concentrating on airfields and communications centres.

Fighter Command offered stiff resistance, despite coming under enormous pressure. During the last week of August and the first week of September, in what would be the critical phase of the battle, the Germans intensified their efforts to destroy Fighter Command. Airfields, particularly those in the south-east, were significantly damaged but most remained operational.

On 31 August, Fighter Command suffered its worst day of the entire battle. But the *Luftwaffe* was overestimating the

damage it was inflicting and wrongly came to the conclusion that the RAF was on its last legs. Fighter Command was bruised but not broken.

'The Few' were supported by many

Many people in addition to Churchill's 'Few' worked to defend Britain. Ground crew - including riggers, fitters, armourers, and repair and maintenance engineers - looked after the aircraft.

Factory workers helped keep aircraft production up. The Observer Corps tracked incoming raids - its tens of thousands of volunteers ensured that the 1,000 observation posts were continuously manned.

Anti-aircraft gunners, searchlight operators and barrage balloon crews all played vital roles in Britain's defence. Members of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) served as radar operators and worked as plotters, tracking raids in the group and sector operations rooms.

The Local Defence Volunteers (later the Home Guard) had been set up in May 1940 as a 'last line of defence' against German invasion. By July, nearly 1.5 million men had enrolled.

All of the RAF helped defend Britain

The RAF was organised into different 'Commands' based on function or role, including Fighter, Bomber and Coastal Commands.

While victory in the Battle of Britain was decisively gained by Fighter Command, defence

was carried out by the whole of the Royal Air Force.

Britain's most senior military personnel understood the importance of the bomber in air defence.

They wrote on 25 May: 'We cannot resist invasion by fighter aircraft alone. An air striking force is necessary not only to meet the sea-borne expedition, but also to bring direct pressure to bear upon Germany by attacking objectives in that country'.

The Royal Air Force's squadrons included many foreign fighter pilots

Of the more than 2,900 RAF pilots who served in the Battle of Britain, only around 2,350 were British. The rest were natives of Commonwealth territories such as Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, as well as expatriates from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Belgium and other countries under Nazi occupation.

There were even a handful of American pilots, most notably Billy Fiske, a 29 year-old sportsman who had previously won a gold medal for bobsledding at the Winter Olympics.

The international contingent proved especially deadly in the cockpit. The Polish No. 303 fighter squadron downed 126 German planes during the battle - more than any Allied unit - and the RAF's top scoring ace in the Battle of Britain was Josef Frantisek, a Czech aviator who single-handedly claimed 17 aerial victories.

Billy Fiske was an American who pretended to be Canadian

in order to join the Royal Air Force.

South African Adolph 'Sailor' Malan led No. 74 Squadron, Royal Air Force and would go on to become a fighter ace during the Battle of Britain.

Pilot exhaustion and personnel shortages plagued both sides

For men on both sides of the Battle of Britain, combat fatigue was as persistent a foe as enemy Spitfires and Messerschmitts.

German morale sank to dangerous lows as the battle wore on, and British airmen were beaten down by gruelling 15-hour shifts and constant Luftwaffe bombing raids on their airfields.

Pilots often flew several missions a day on only a few hours of sleep, and many took amphetamine pills just to keep themselves awake.

In a bid to bolster its used up fighter force, the RAF eventually cut the training time for new pilots from six months to just two weeks.

Some recruits even ended up on the front lines with as little as nine hours' experience in modern fighter planes.

A British pilot famously saved Buckingham Palace

During one of the battle's most frantic periods of fighting over London, RAF Sergeant Ray Holmes spotted a German Dornier bomber headed in the direction of Buckingham Palace.

Holmes had already used up all his ammunition in an earlier

dogfight, but rather than retreating, he steered his Hawker Hurricane straight at the enemy aircraft and rammed it with his wing.

The blow sliced the Dornier's tail clean off and sent it plummeting into nearby Victoria Station. Holmes' Hurricane was also wrecked, but he managed to bail out and land dangling

from the roof of an apartment complex.

The astonishing incident was partially captured on film, and Holmes was hailed as a national hero for having saved the royal residence from potential disaster.

The Spitfire was not Britain's main aircraft

Thanks to its sleek lines and blistering speed, the Supermarine Spitfire has gone down in popular lore as the plane that saved England during the Battle of Britain.

Yet Spitfires only made up a third of the British fighters during the campaign.

The bulk of the RAF force consisted of the less glamorous Hawker Hurricane, an older

wood-and-fabric fighter that was slower than the Spitfire but reportedly sturdier and more forgiving in combat.

While the two planes carried the same armaments, the Hurricane's superior numbers meant that it was responsible for the vast majority of Luftwaffe losses during the battle.

Time over target

German bombers had to take off from bases in France. It took time for bombers to get into

formation before setting off for their targets in England. This of course used fuel and limited both the range of the targets they could attack, as well as their time over the target.

Thanks to radar, the British could plot the build up of bomber formations and then scramble the correct squadrons to intercept the German bombers. This gave the RAF far more time in the air and more opportunity to shoot down the enemy bombers.

Hitler's decision to bomb London turned the battle in Britain's favour

The Luftwaffe's bombing campaigns in England were initially restricted to military and industrial targets, but the strategy changed in September 1940, after the RAF launched a retaliatory raid against Berlin.

The strike sent Hitler into

lieved pressure on the RAF, allowing it to repair its crippled airfields and refresh its pilots. The respite proved critical.

When the Luftwaffe tried to score a knock-out blow with a massive air attack on 15 September, a resilient RAF intercepted them and downed roughly 60 aircraft. Hitler was forced to shelve Operation Sea

lion's first major defeat in World War II, but it didn't mark the end of the Blitz against Britain. The Luftwaffe continued to conduct night time bombing raids over London, Coventry and other cities for several more months in a futile attempt to break Britain's fighting spirit.

By the time the campaign finally ended in May 1941, some 40,000 people had been killed.

The Battle of Britain was a defensive victory for Britain

During the Battle of Britain, the Luftwaffe was dealt an almost lethal blow from which it never fully recovered.

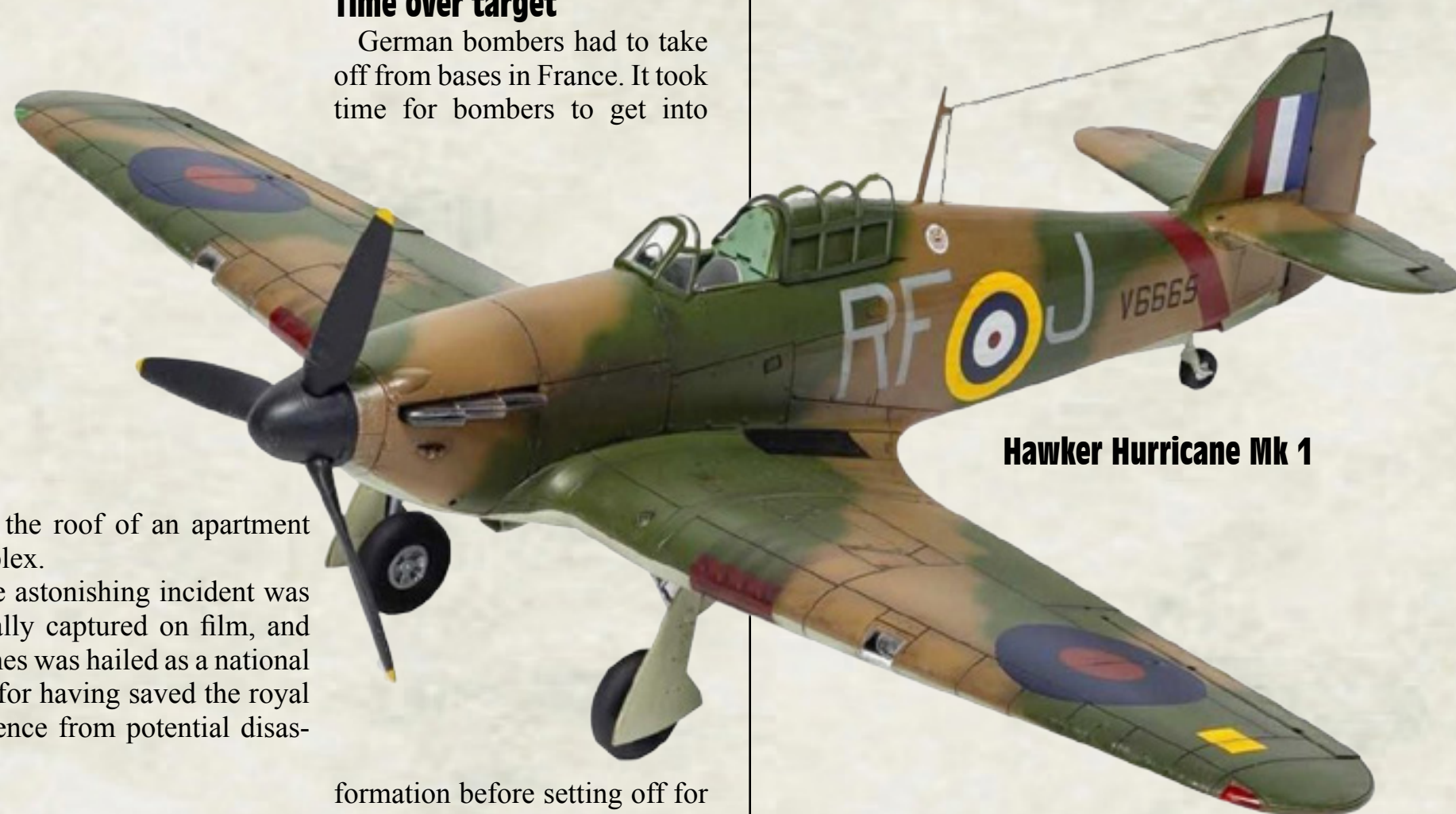
Although Fighter Command suffered heavy losses and was often outnumbered during actual engagements, the British outproduced the Germans and maintained a level of aircraft production that helped them withstand their losses.

The Luftwaffe, with its lack of heavy bombers and failure to fully identify critically important targets, never inflicted strategically significant damage.

It suffered from constant supply problems, largely as a result of underachievement in aircraft production.

Germany's failure to defeat the RAF and secure control of the skies over southern England made invasion all but impossible.

British victory in the Battle of Britain was decisive, but ultimately defensive in nature – in avoiding defeat, Britain secured one of its most significant victories of the Second World War. It was able to stay in the war and lived to fight another day.



Hawker Hurricane Mk 1

a fit of rage. Ignoring the progress the Luftwaffe was making in attacking RAF air bases, he demanded they shift their focus toward "erasing" British cities from the map.

The bombing campaign now known as the Blitz began on 7 September with a raid on London, and dozens more attacks followed over the next several weeks.

While the bombings took a sobering toll on British civilians, they also temporarily re-

Lion only a few days later.

German bombing raids continued long after the battle had ended

The Battle of Britain fizzled out in late-October 1940, when Hitler abandoned his quest for control of British airspace and turned his attention toward attacking the Soviet Union.

The campaign was Germa-

Sniper rifles

In our Top Ten this month we looked at the 10 longest sniper kills. In Head-to-Head this month we look at the rifles used in the 20 longest sniper kills.

It has often been said that any piece of equipment is only as good as the person operating said equipment. If that's the case, then the 20 people involved in the longest confirmed sniper kills were either very lucky or, as is more likely the case, extremely skilled. The earliest of these shots was taken in 1864 and the last was in 2017. Of the 20 people that achieved the longest confirmed sniper kills, 18 were trained snipers.

M24 Sniper Weapon System

The M24 Sniper Weapon System (SWS) or M24 is the military and police version of the Remington Model 700 rifle, M24 being the model name assigned by the United States Army after adoption as their standard sniper rifle in 1988. The M24 is referred to as a "weapon system" because it consists of not only a rifle, but also a detachable telescopic sight and other accessories.

Specifications

- Place of origin: United States
- Designed: 1988
- Manufacturer: Remington Arms
- Weight: 7.3 kg maximum

One, however, was an ordinary infantryman and the other was a civilian. Seventeen of the weapons used were dedicated sniper rifles. One was a falling-block rifle that was standard issue at the time. One of these kills was made using a M2 Browning machine gun. The operator, a trained sniper, fired a single shot from the weapon and hit his target at a distance of 2,286 metres. This made it as the seventh longest confirmed sniper kill.

The record for the longest confirmed sniper kill has now stood for almost five years. With the ongoing development of new and improved optics and ammunition, this record is bound to be broken at some stage in the future. Currently they are working on smart bullets that will be able to track a single target. A total of 11 different rifles were used in the 20 longest confirmed sniper kills and this month those rifles go Head-to-Head.



- weight with day optical sight, sling swivels, carrying strap, fully loaded magazine
- Length: 1,092 mm
 - Cartridge: 7.62×51 mm NATO
 - Action: Bolt-action
 - Rate of fire: 20 rpm
 - Effective firing range: 800 metres
 - Feed system: 5 round internal magazine

Details

- Longest confirmed kill: 1,250 metres
- Date: September 2005
- Conflict: Iraq War
- Operator: Staff Sergeant Jim Gilliland
- Nationality: United States
- Unit: 2nd Battalion, 69th Armour Regiment, United States Army

Whitworth rifle

The Whitworth rifle was an English-made percussion rifle used in the latter half of the 19th century. A single-shot muzzle-loader with excellent long-range accuracy for its era, especially when used with a telescopic sight, the Whitworth rifle was widely regarded as the world's first sniper rifle. The Whitworth rifle saw extensive use with the Confederate sharpshooters in the American Civil War.

Specifications

- Place of origin: United Kingdom
- Designed: 1854
- Manufacturer: Whitworth Rifle Company



- Weight: 4.1 kg
- Length: 1,200 mm
- Cartridge: 11.5 mm
- Action: Percussion lock
- Rate of fire: 2–3 rpm
- Effective firing range: 910 metres
- Feed system: Muzzle-loaded
- 1,271 metres
- Date: December 1864
- Conflict: American Civil War
- Operator: Unknown Confederate Army sniper
- Nationality: United States
- Unit: South Carolina Troops, Confederate States Army

Details

- Longest confirmed kill:

M1903 Springfield

The M1903 Springfield, officially the United States Rifle, Caliber .30-06, Model 1903, is an American five-round magazine-fed, bolt-action service repeating rifle, used primarily during the first half of the 20th century. It remained in service as a sniper rifle during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

Specifications

- Place of origin: United States
- Designed: 1903
- Manufacturer: Springfield Armoury
- Weight: 3.9 kg
- Length: 1,100 mm



- Cartridge: .30-03 Springfield
- Action: Bolt-action
- Rate of fire: 15 to 30 rpm
- Effective firing range: 1,100 metres
- Feed system: 5-round stripper clip
- Date: February 1918
- Conflict: World War I
- Operator: Sergeant Major Herbert Sleigh
- Nationality: United States
- Unit: American Expeditionary Forces, United States Army

Details

- Longest confirmed kill: 1,280 metres

Barrett M82

The Barrett M82 (standardized by the U.S. military as the M107) is a recoil-operated, semi-automatic, anti-materiel precision rifle developed by the American company Barrett Firearms Manufacturing.

Six of the longest confirmed sniper kills were made using variants of the Barrett M82, including the second longest sniper kill.

Specifications

- Place of origin: United Kingdom
- Designed: 1980
- Manufacturer: Barrett Firearms Manufacturing
- Weight: 4.1 kg
- Length: 1,200 mm



- Cartridge: .50 BMG
- Action: Recoil-operated rotating bolt
- Effective firing range: 1,800 metres
- Feed system: 5- or 10-round detachable box magazine
- Conflict: War in Afghanistan
- Operator: Unnamed Australian sniper
- Nationality: Australia
- Unit: 2nd Commando Regiment, SOCOMD, Australian Defence Force

Details

- Longest confirmed kill: 2,815 metres
- Date: April 2012

Trivia

Variants of the M82 were used for the 2nd, 6th, 9th, 13th, 15th and 17th longest sniper kills.

Dragunov sniper rifle

The Dragunov sniper rifle (SVD-63) is a semi-automatic designated marksman rifle chambered in 7.62×54mmR and developed in the Soviet Union.

The Dragunov was designed as a squad support weapon since, according to Soviet and Soviet-derived military doctrines, long-range engagement ability was lost to ordinary troops when submachine guns and assault rifles were adopted.

Specifications

- Place of origin: Soviet Union
- Designed: 1963
- Manufacturer: Kalashnikov Concern



- Weight: 4.40 kg
- Length: 1,225 mm
- Cartridge: 7.62×54mmR
- Action: Gas-operated, rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 800 metres
- Feed system: 10-round detachable box magazine
- Longest confirmed kill: 1,350 metres
- Date: 1985
- Conflict: Soviet–Afghan War
- Operator: Sergeant Vladimir Ilyin
- Nationality: Russia
- Unit: 345th Independent Guards Airborne Regiment, Soviet Army

Details

Sharps .50–90

Sharps rifles are a series of large-bore, single-shot, falling-block, breech-loading rifles, beginning with a design by Christian Sharps in 1848, and ceasing production in 1881. They were renowned for long-range accuracy.

By 1874 the rifle was available in a variety of calibres, and it was one of the few designs successfully to be adapted to metallic cartridge use.

Specifications

- Place of origin: United Kingdom
- Designed: 1848
- Weight: 4.3 kg
- Length: 1,200 mm
- Cartridge: .52-caliber



- 475-grain projectile with 50-grain (3.2 g) cartridge, later converted to .50-70 Government in 1867
- Action: Falling block
- Rate of fire: 8–10 shots per minute
- Effective firing range: 910 metres
- Feed system: Breech-loading

Details

- Longest confirmed kill: 1,406 metres
- Date: June 1874
- Conflict: American Indian Wars
- Operator: Billy Dixon
- Nationality: United States
- Unit: Civilian. He became one of only eight civilians to win the Medal of Honour.

PGW Defence Technology LRT-3

The PGW LRT-3 is the military version of the C14 Timberwolf Medium Range Sniper Weapon System, a bolt-action sniper rifle built by the Canadian arms company PGW Defence Technologies Inc.

The Timberwolf rifle was originally developed as a civilian long range hunting and sport shooting rifle for super magnum cartridges by the Canadian company Prairie Gun Works

Specifications

- Place of origin: Canada
- Designed: 2001
- Manufacturer: PGW Defence Technologies Ltd
- Weight: 7.1 kg



- Length: 1,200 mm
- Cartridge: .338 Lapua Magnum
- Action: Manually operated bolt action
- Effective firing range: 1,500 metres
- Feed system: 5 round detachable box
- 1,700 metres
- Date: January 2016
- Conflict: Yemeni Civil War
- Operator: Saudi Army sniper (name withheld)
- Nationality: Saudi Arabia
- Unit: Royal Saudi Land Forces, Armed Forces of Saudi Arabia

Details

- Longest confirmed kill:

Accuracy International L115A3

The Accuracy International AWM (Arctic Warfare Magnum or AI-Arctic Warfare Magnum) is a bolt-action sniper rifle manufactured by Accuracy International designed for magnum rifle cartridges.

The 3rd and 11th longest confirmed sniper kills were made using the L115A3.

Specifications

- Place of origin: United Kingdom
- Designed: 1996
- Manufacturer: Accuracy International
- Weight: 6.9 kg
- Length: 1,270 mm
- Cartridge: .338 Lapua Magnum



- Action: Recoil-operated rotating bolt
- Effective firing range: 1,100 metres
- Feed system: 5-round detachable box magazine
- Operator: Corporal of Horse Craig Harrison
- Nationality: British
- Unit: Blues and Royals, Household Cavalry, British Army

Details

- Longest confirmed kill: 2,475 metres
- Date: November 2009
- Conflict: War in Afghanistan

McMillan Tac-338

The TAC-338 is the most powerful member of the TAC family as it is chambered for the .338 Lapua Magnum round. This provides a much longer range than the two smaller calibres.

The TAC-338 is available in two versions. The TAC-338A has a detachable magazine and the TAC-338B uses a hinged floorplate.

Specifications

- Place of origin: United States
- Designed: 2005
- Manufacturer: McMillan Tactical Products LLC
- Weight: 5.0 kg
- Length: 1,220 mm



- Cartridge: .338 Lapua Magnum
- Action: Manually actuated bolt action
- Rate of fire: 5 rpm
- Effective firing range: 1,200 metres
- Feed system: 5-round detachable box magazine
- Details
- Longest confirmed kill: 1,920 metres
- Date: August 2008
- Conflict: Iraq War
- Operator: Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle
- Nationality: United States
- Unit: SEAL Team 3, US Naval Special Warfare Command, United States Navy

Denel NTW-20

The NTW-20 is a South African anti-materiel rifle, developed by Denel Mechem in the 1990s. It is intended for deployment against targets including parked aircraft, telecommunication masts, power lines, missile sites, radar installations, refineries, satellite dishes, gun emplacements, bunkers and personnel, using a range of specialised projectiles.

Specifications

- Place of origin: South Africa
- Designed: 1995
- Manufacturer: Denel Land Systems
- Weight: 31 kg
- Length: 1,795 mm
- Cartridge: 20×82 mm



- Action: Bolt action, recoiling barrel
- Rate of fire: 8–10 shots per minute
- Effective firing range: 1,600 metres
- Feed system: 3-round detachable box magazine
- Date: August 2013
- Conflict: United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Operator: Special Forces operator (name withheld)
- Nationality: South Africa
- Unit: South African Special Forces Brigade, Joint Operations Division, SANDF

Details

- Longest confirmed kill: 2,125 metres

McMillan TAC-50

The McMillan TAC-50 is a long-range anti-materiel precision rifle. The TAC-50 is based on previous designs from the same company, which first appeared during the late 1980s.

Three of the longest confirmed sniper kills were made using the TAC-50, and this includes the longest sniper kill on record.

Specifications

- Place of origin: United States
- Designed: 1980s
- Manufacturer: McMillan Firearms
- Weight: 11.8 kg
- Length: 1,448 mm
- Cartridge: .50 BMG



- Action: Bolt action
- Effective firing range: 1,800 metres
- Feed system: 5 round detachable box
- (name withheld)
- Nationality: Canada
- Unit: Joint Task Force 2, CANSOFCOM, Canadian Armed Forces

Details

- Longest confirmed kill: 3,540 metres
- Date: May 2017
- Conflict: Iraqi Civil War
- Operator: JTF-2 sniper

Trivia

Three of the longest sniper kills (1st, 4th and 5th) were made using the TAC-50. All three on the snipers were from Canada.

Miyamoto Musashi

Japanese swordsman, philosopher, strategist, writer and rōnin. Musashi became renowned for his unique double-bladed swordsmanship and undefeated record in his 61 duels.

Miyamoto Musashi, also known as Shinmen Takezō, Miyamoto Bennosuke or, by his Buddhist name, Niten Dōraku, was a Japanese swordsman, philosopher, strategist, writer and rōnin.

Musashi, as he was often simply known, became renowned through stories of his unique double-bladed swordsmanship and undefeated record in his 61 duels (next is 33 by Itō Ittōsai).

He is considered a Kensei, a sword-saint of Japan.

He was the founder of the Niten Ichi-ryū, or Nito Ichi-ryū, style of swordsmanship, and in his final years authored *The Book of Five Rings* (*Go Rin No Sho*) and *Dokkōdō* (*The Path of Aloneness*).

Both documents were given to Terao Magonojō, the most important of Musashi's students, seven days before Musashi's death.

The *Book of Five Rings* deals primarily with the character of his Niten Ichi-ryū school

in a concrete sense, i.e., his own practical martial art and its generic significance; *The Path of Aloneness*, on the other hand, deals with the ideas that lie behind it, as well as his life's philosophy in a few short aphoristic sentences.

The Miyamoto Musashi Budokan training center, located in Ōhara-chō (Mimasaka), Okayama prefecture, Japan was erected to honour his name and legend.

Early life

The details of Miyamoto Musashi's early life are difficult

to verify. Musashi himself simply states in *The Book of Five Rings* that he was born in Harima Province.

Niten Ki (an early biography of Musashi) supports the theory that Musashi was born in 1584: "[He] was born in Banshū, in Tenshō 12 [1584], the Year of the Monkey."

The historian Kamiko Tadashi, commenting on Musashi's text, notes: "Munisai was Musashi's father ... he lived in Miyamoto village, in the Yoshino district [of Mimasaka Province]. Musashi was most probably born here."

Musashi gives his full name and title in *The Book of Five Rings* as Shinmen Musashi-no-Kami Fujiwara no Harunobu.

His father, Shinmen Munisai was an accomplished martial artist and master of the sword and jutte (also known as jitte).

Munisai, in turn, was the son of Hirata Shōgen, a vassal of Shinmen Iga no Kami, the lord of Takayama Castle in the Yoshino district of Mimasaka Province.

Hirata was relied upon by Lord Shinmen and so was allowed to use the Shin-

men name. As for "Musashi", Musashi no Kami was a court title, making him the nominal governor of Musashi Province. "Fujiwara" was the lineage from which Musashi claimed descent.

Musashi contracted eczema in his infancy, and this adversely affected his appearance.

Another story claims that he never took a bath because he did not want to be surprised unarmed.

Duels

"I have trained in the way of strategy since my youth, and at the age of thirteen I fought a duel for the first time. My opponent was called Arima Kihei, a sword adept of the Shinto ryū, and I defeated him. At the age of sixteen I defeated a powerful adept by the name of Tadashima Akiyama, who came from Tajima Province. At the age of twenty-one I went up to Kyōtō and fought duels with several adepts of the sword from famous schools, but I never lost."

- Miyamoto Musashi, *Go Rin No Sho*

According to the introduction of *The Book of Five Rings*, Musashi states that his first successful duel was at the age of 13, against a samurai named Arima Kihei who fought using the Kashima Shintō-ryū style, founded by Tsukahara Bokuden (b. 1489, d. 1571).

The main source of the duel is the *Hyōhō senshi denki* ("Anecdotes about the Deceased Master"). Summarized, its account

goes as follows:

In 1596, Musashi was 13, and Arima Kihei, who was traveling to hone his art, posted a public challenge in Hirafuku-mura. Musashi wrote his name on the challenge.

A messenger came to Dorin's temple, where Musashi was staying, to inform Musashi that his duel had been accepted by Kihei.

Dorin, Musashi's uncle, was shocked by this, and tried to beg off the duel in Musashi's name, based on his nephew's age.

Kihei was adamant that the only way his honour could be cleared was if Musashi apologized to him when the duel was scheduled.

So when the time set for the duel arrived, Dorin began apologizing for Musashi, who merely charged at Kihei with a six-foot quarterstaff, shouting a challenge to Kihei.

Kihei attacked with a *wakizashi*, but Musashi threw Kihei on the floor, and while Kihei tried to get up, Musashi struck Arima between the eyes and then beat him to death.

Arima was said to have been arrogant, overly eager to battle, and not a terribly talented swordsman.

In 1599, Musashi left his village, apparently at the age of 15 (according to the *Tosakushu* Region", although the *Tanji Hokin Hikki* says he was 16 years old in 1599, which agrees time-wise with the age reported in Musashi's first duel).

His family possessions such

as furniture, weapons, genealogy, and other records were left with his sister and her husband, Hirao Yoemon. He spent his time traveling and engaging in duels.

Duel with Sasaki Kojirō

In 1611, Musashi began practicing *zazen* (meditative discipline) at the Myōshin-ji temple, where he met Nagaoka Sado, vassal to Hosokawa Tadaoki; Tadaoki was a powerful lord who had received the Kumamoto Domain in west-central Kyūshū after the Battle of Sekigahara.

Munisai had moved to northern Kyūshū and became Tadaoki's teacher, leading to the possibility that Munisai introduced Musashi to Sasaki Kojirō, another guest of the Hosokawa clan at the time.

Somehow, a duel was proposed between the two; in some versions, Nagaoka proposed the duel, in others with Kojirō proposed it out of rivalry or jealousy.

Tokitsu believes that the duel was politically motivated, as a matter of consolidating Tadaoki's control over his fief.

The duel was scheduled for 13 April 1612, when Musashi was approximately 30 years old. The departure by boat for the duel was arranged for the Hour of the Dragon in the early morning (approximately 08:00) to the island of Ganryūjima, a small isle between Honshū and Kyūshū.

While Hosokawa officials banned spectators, the island



was filled with them anyway.

Kojirō was known for wielding an oversized *nodachi* (Japanese greatsword) called a “laundry-drying pole” for its length, as well as being titled “three-shaku silver blade”.

Using this sword, Kojirō was said to be known for a swift two-stroke sword technique called *tsubame gaeshi*, and he bore the nickname “The Demon of the Western Provinces”.

Kojirō arrived at the appointed time, but was then left to wait for hours; Musashi had overslept. Kojirō sent out servants to retrieve Musashi, who ate a full breakfast, taking his time. In some variants of the tale, Musashi intentionally arrives late as a sign of disrespect.

As he sailed over the Kanmon Straits, Musashi carved a crude oversized *bokken* from one of the ship’s oars with his knife, making an improvised wooden sword, possibly to help wake himself up.

Upon his arrival, an irritated Kojirō chided Musashi’s lateness and dramatically threw his scabbard into the sea, as a sign that he would not stop and would fight to the death.

Musashi responded with a taunt of his own, saying that Kojirō clearly wasn’t confident in himself if he thought he’d never get a chance to use a fine scabbard again.

The two circled each other, and Kojirō leaped toward Musashi with his trademark overhead strike. Musashi, too, jumped and swung his weapon with a shout, and the two sword strokes met.

Musashi’s headband fell off, sliced by Kojirō’s sword, but

somehow, only the headband was cut rather than Musashi’s skull. Musashi’s strike, meanwhile, had struck true, cleaving Kojirō’s skull.

Later life

Six years later, in 1633, Musashi began staying with Hosokawa Tadatoshi, daimyō of Kumamoto Castle, who had moved to the Kumamoto fief and Kokura, to train and paint.

It was at this time that the Hosokawa lords were also the patrons of Musashi’s chief rival, Sasaki Kojirō. While he engaged in very few duels; one would occur in 1634 at the arrangement of Lord Ogasawara, in which Musashi defeated a lance specialist by the name of Takada Matabei.

Musashi would officially become the retainer of the Hosokawa lords of Kumamoto in 1640. The Niten Ki records “[he] received from Lord Tadatoshi: 17 retainers, a stipend of 300 koku, the rank of *ōkumigashira*, and Chiba Castle in Kumamoto as his residence.”

In the second month of 1641, Musashi wrote a work called the Hyoho Sanju Go (“Thirty-five Instructions on Strategy”) for Hosokawa Tadatoshi, this work overlapped and formed the basis for the later The Book of Five Rings.

This was the year that his adopted son, Hirao Yoemon, became Master of Arms for the Owari fief. In 1642, Musashi suffered attacks of neuralgia, foreshadowing his future ill-health. In 1643 he retired to a cave named Reigandō as a hermit to write The Book of Five Rings.

He finished it in the second month of 1645. On the twelfth of the fifth month, sensing his impending death, Musashi bequeathed his worldly possessions, after giving his manuscript copy of The Book of Five Rings to the younger brother of Terao Magonojo, his closest disciple. He died in Reigandō cave around June 13, 1645 (Shōhō 2, 19th day of the 5th month).

The Hyoho senshi denki described his passing:

At the moment of his death, he had himself raised up. He had his belt tightened and his wakizashi put in it. He seated himself with one knee vertically raised, holding the sword with his left hand and a cane in his right hand. He died in this posture, at the age of sixty-two. The principal vassals of Lord Hosokawa and the other officers gathered, and they painstakingly carried out the ceremony. Then they set up a tomb on Mount Iwato on the order of the lord.

Miyamoto Musashi died of what is believed to be thoracic cancer. He died peacefully after finishing the text Dokkōdō (“The Way of Walking Alone”, or “The Way of Self-Reliance”), 21 precepts on self-discipline to guide future generations.

Teachings

Musashi created and refined a two-sword kenjutsu technique called *niten’ichi* (“two heavens as one”) or *nitōichi* (“two swords as one”) or ‘*Niten Ichi-ryū*’ (A Kongen Buddhist Sutra refers to the two heavens as the two guardians of Buddha). In this technique, the swordsman

uses both a large sword, and a “companion sword” at the same time, such as a katana with a wakizashi.

The two-handed movements of temple drummers may have inspired him, although it could be that the technique was forged through Musashi’s combat experience.

Jutte techniques were taught to him by his father - the jutte was often used in battle paired with a sword; the jutte would parry and neutralize the weapon of the enemy while the sword struck or the practitioner grappled with the enemy. Today Musashi’s style of swordsmanship is known as *Hyōhō Niten Ichi-ryū*.

Musashi was also an expert in throwing weapons. He frequently threw his short sword, and Kenji Tokitsu believes that *shuriken* methods for the wakizashi were the Niten Ichi Ryu’s secret techniques.

Musashi spent many years studying Buddhism and swordsmanship. He was an accomplished artist, sculptor, and calligrapher. Records also show that he had architectural skills.

Also, he seems to have had a rather straightforward approach to combat, with no additional frills or aesthetic considerations. This was probably due to his real-life combat experience; although in his later life, Musashi followed the more artistic.

He made various Zen brush paintings, calligraphy, and sculpted wood and metal. Even in The Book of Five Rings he emphasizes that samurai should understand other professions as well.

It should be understood that

Musashi’s writings were very ambiguous, and translating them into English makes them even more so; that is why so many different translations of The Book of Five Rings can be found.

To gain further insight into Musashi’s principles and personality, one could read his other works, such as Dokkōdō and Hyoho Shiji ni Kajo.

Miyamoto Musashi Budokan

On 20 May 2000, at the initiative of Sensei Tadashi Chihara, the Miyamoto Musashi Budokan was inaugurated.

It was built in Ōhara-Cho in the province of Mimasaka, the birthplace of the samurai.

Inside the building, the life and journey of Miyamoto Musashi are remembered everywhere.

Dedicated to martial arts, the Budokan is the source for all of Japan’s official traditional saber and kendo schools.

Practically, historically and culturally it is a junction for martial disciplines in the heart of traditional Japan dedicated to Musashi.

The inauguration of the Miyamoto Musashi Budokan perpetuated the twinning established on 4 March 1999 between the inhabitants of Ōhara-Chō (Japanese province of Mimasaka) and the inhabitants of Gleizé.

It was formalized in the presence of Sensei Tadashi Chihara, guarantor and tenth in the lineage of Miyamoto Musashi carrying a mandate from the mayor of Ōhara-Chō, and in the presence of the mayor of Gleizé Élisabeth Lamure.

“By knowing things that exist, you can know that which does not exist.”



A Book of Five Rings

The Book of Five Rings (*Go Rin no Sho*) is a text on kenjutsu and the martial arts in general, written by the Japanese swordsman Miyamoto Musashi around 1645.

There have been various translations made over the years, and it enjoys an audience considerably broader than only that of martial artists and people across East Asia: for instance, some foreign business leaders find its discussion of conflict and taking the advantage to be relevant to their work in a business context.

The modern-day Hyōhō Niten Ichi-ryū employs it as a manual of technique and philosophy.

The book is divided into five parts:

- The Book of Earth
- The Book of Water
- The Book of Fire
- The Book of Wind
- The Book of the Void

Bradley Fighting Vehicle

Each month "Forged in Battle" looks at weapons, equipment or units that have been tried and tested on the battlefield. This month we look at the Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

The Bradley Fighting Vehicle (BFV) is a tracked fighting vehicle platform of the United States manufactured by BAE Systems Land & Armaments, formerly United Defense. It was named after U.S. General Omar Bradley.

The Bradley is designed to transport infantry or scouts with armour protection, while providing covering fire to suppress enemy troops and armoured vehicles.

The several Bradley variants include the M2 Bradley infantry

fighting vehicle and the M3 Bradley cavalry fighting vehicle.

The M2 holds a crew of three (a commander, a gunner, and a driver) along with six fully equipped soldiers.

The M3 mainly conducts scout missions and carries two scout troopers in addition to the reg-

ular crew of three, with space for additional BGM-71 TOW missiles.

History

One of the early issues that drove the development of the infantry fighting vehicle (IFV) was the need to have a vehicle that could serve in a high-intensity conflict in Europe, which

was feared might include the use of nuclear, biological or chemical (NBC) type weapons.

To work in such an environment, an IFV would have to have a life-support system that protected from outside contaminants while allowing the soldiers to fight from inside the vehicle.

The earliest specification, from 1958, called for a vehicle of no more than eight tons, mounting a turret with a 20 mm auto-cannon and a 7.62 mm

machine gun, with sealed firing ports for five infantry gunners.

The first U.S. Army IFV design was the XM734, a modified version of the M113. A commander's cupola and passenger firing ports were added.

The second design was the XM765 Armoured Infantry Fighting Vehicle, based on the M113A1 chassis. The upper sides of the vehicle were sloped and spaced steel armour plates were added to improve protection.

In addition, firing ports for

the passengers were added and a M139 20 mm cannon was added to the commander's cupola.

In 1963, the U.S. and West German governments began work on the MBT-70 design and an IFV companion project named the Mechanized Infantry Combat Vehicle (MICV-70).

The contract was handed to the Pacific Car and Foundry Company, which delivered the XM701 prototype in 1965.

The prototypes had the following characteristics: weight

of 25–27 tons (depending on an aluminium or steel hull); 425 HP diesel engine; a two-man turret with a 20 mm gun & 7.62 mm MG; crew of three plus nine infantry equipped with firing ports; a built-in toilet; armour that was proof against Soviet 14.5 mm MG fire beyond a certain range; a collective and overpressure CBR system; amphibious.

The filtration system provided a shirt-sleeve environment until the passengers dismounted; after that they could not re-pressurize without fear of contamination, but they could plug their suits into the vehicle's filtration system.

The vehicle was 2.7 metres high, 6.1 metres long, and 3.0 metres wide. After testing, the vehicle was criticized for its poor mobility and excessive weight and size; it could not be carried aboard a C-130 or a C-141 Starlifter. New specifications were written in 1965.

In 1967, the public display of the BMP-1 caused additional interest in the MICV-70 program, which concluded its studies in 1968. However, continued disagreements on specifications continued to slow down development.

At this time, the Army looked at two alternate vehicles that could be fielded more quickly. The FMC Corporation had developed an IFV version of the M113, which had a one-man turret mounting a 25 mm gun, a sealed environment, and firing ports. The vehicle weight was 15 tons.

The U.S. Army rejected it due to limited mobility, which would have prevented it from



M6 LINEBACKER: An air defense variant, these vehicles are modified M2A2 ODSs with the TOW missile system replaced with a four-tube Stinger missile system.

keeping pace with the proposed MBT-70. However, the design was purchased by the Dutch and Belgian governments.

The other alternate vehicle was the West German Marder, which mounted a 20 mm auto-cannon, two 7.62 mm MGs, relatively strong steel armour, and full CBR protection.

The U.S. Army rejected it due to it not being amphibious, too large and heavy for air transport, and too expensive.

The MICV program continued on, and in 1972, a new request for proposals was issued. This was won by FMC, which began construction of the XM723 prototype, which was completed in 1973. The XM723 weighed 21 tons, had spaced aluminium armour proof against 14.5 mm fire, had a crew of three plus eight infantry, firing ports for the infantry, and a one-man turret with a 20 mm gun.

The commander sat inside the

hull. To adapt the XM723 to be usable in a reconnaissance role, as well as an IFV, the turret was replaced in 1976 with a two-man turret mounting a 25 mm Bushmaster cannon and TOW missiles (this was the MICV TBAT-II design).

A two-man turret design put the commander in a position with a better view of the battlefield. The TOW missiles give the vehicle a strong anti-armour capability.

The value of antitank missiles had been well established in the 1973 Yom Kippur war. The added political advantage was that the TOW missiles made it an easier sell to Congress, as it was a new capability not possessed by the M113.

In 1977, the MICV TABA-II was renamed the XM2. The scout version became the XM3. The U.S. Congress was questioning the development of the XM2 due to the high loss-



CLIMB ON BOARD: The interior of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle. It has a crew of three and can also carry six fully-equipped troops.

es incurred by BMP-1s in the 1973 war and suggested the development of a more heavily armoured vehicle. The Army argued against this due to concerns about cost, weight, and development time.

In 1977, Congress ordered two new evaluations of the IFV program, one by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and one by the Department of the Army, under General Pat Crizer. The GAO report was critical of the XM2's height, mobility, complexity, lack of clear doctrinal use, and lack of chemical/biological/radiological protection.

Based upon this criticism, the OMB deleted M2/3 funding from the budget for the 1979 financial year. In 1978, the Crizer report asserted that the basic design was consistent with doctrine and development of an IFV with superior characteristics would be costly and pose

significant developmental risks.

An additional study, the IFV/CFV Special Study Group, evaluated whether an improved version of the M113 could be used instead of the M2/3 IFV. Their conclusion was that extensive redesign would be necessary for even marginal improvements in M113 derivatives. In October 1978, Congress reauthorized procurement funds.

The XM2/3 passed the Army Systems Acquisition Review Council Milestone II review in 1979 and final approval for production came from the Secretary of Defence on 1 February 1980.

In October 1981 the vehicle was named the "Bradley" for World War II Army General Omar Bradley, who had died earlier that year.

In 1993, one of the military inspectors, Col. James G. Burton, released his book *The Pentagon Wars: Reformers Challenge the*

Old Guard, claiming the Army had falsified test results during the development. The book was adapted into the TV movie *The Pentagon Wars* in 1998.

Production history

The Bradley consists of two types of vehicles, the M2 Infantry Fighting Vehicle and the M3 Cavalry Fighting Vehicle. The M3 CFV was originally planned to be named after General Jacob L. Devers, but it was decided the Bradley name would apply to both, since both vehicles are based on the same chassis (they differ in only some details).

The M2 carries a crew of three and a six-man infantry squad. The M3 carries the crew of three and a two-man scout team and additional radios, BGM-71 TOW and M47 Dragon or FGM-148 Javelin missiles.

Even after the troubled development history of the Bradley additional problems occurred after production started as described in a book by Air Force Col. James Burton.

Burton advocated the use of comprehensive live-fire tests on fully loaded military vehicles to check for survivability. The Army and Navy agreed and established the joint live fire testing program in 1984.

When testing the Bradley, however, disagreements occurred between Burton and the Aberdeen Proving Ground's Ballistic Research Laboratory, which preferred smaller, more controlled, "building block" tests.

They claimed such limited (and according to Col. Burton, completely unrealistic) testing would "improve the databases

used to model vehicle survivability”, as opposed to full tests with random shots that would provide a far more accurate picture of its performance under real battlefield conditions, but produce less useful statistical data.

In addition, Burton insisted on a series of “overmatch” tests in which weapons would be fired at the Bradley that were known to be able to easily penetrate its armour, including Russian ordnance. Burton saw attempts to avoid such tests as dishonest, while the BRL saw them as wasteful, as they already knew the vehicle would fail.

The disagreements became so contentious that Congressional inquiry resulted. As a result of the tests, additional improvements to vehicle survivability were added.

The first combat unit to be equipped with Bradleys (four M2s and six M3s), in March 1983, was the 1st Battalion, 41st (Mechanized) Infantry, 2nd Armoured Division.

Several years later, the unit commander, Lt. Col Franklin W. Trappnell, Jr., became the Army’s system manager for the Bradley program.

As of May 2000, 6,724 Bradleys (4,641 M2s and 2,083 M3s) had been produced for the U.S. Army. The total cost of the program as of that date was \$5.7 billion, and the average unit cost \$3.2 million.

Combat history

During the Gulf War, M2 Bradleys destroyed more Iraqi armoured vehicles than the M1 Abrams. A total of 20 Bradleys were lost - three by enemy fire



IRON FIST: M2 Bradleys destroyed more Iraqi armoured vehicles during the Gulf War than the M1 Abrams tank. Of the 20 Bradleys lost in the war, only three were due to enemy fire.

and 17 due to friendly fire incidents; another 12 were damaged.

The gunner of one Bradley was killed when his vehicle was hit by Iraqi fire, possibly from an Iraqi BMP-1, during the Battle of 73 Easting.

To remedy some problems that were identified as contributing factors in the friendly fire incidents, infrared identification panels and other marking/identification measures were added to the Bradleys.

In the Iraq War, the Bradley proved vulnerable to improvised explosive device and rocket-propelled grenade attacks, but casualties were light with the crew able to escape.

In 2006, total losses included 55 Bradleys destroyed and some 700 others damaged.

By 2007, the Army had stopped using the M2 Bradley in combat, instead favouring more survivable MRAPs. By the end of the war, about 150 Bradleys had been destroyed.

Replacement

U.S. Army efforts to replace the Bradley began in the mid-1980s under the Armoured Systems Modernization program. The Army studied creating several vehicle variants under a common heavy chassis to replace main battle tanks and Bradleys. This effort was cancelled in 1992 due to the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The U.S. Army’s began the Future Combat Systems (FCS) Manned Ground Vehicles program in 1999. This family of 18-ton lightweight tracked vehicles centred around a common chassis. It would consist of eight variants, including infantry carriers, scouting vehicles and main battle tanks. FCS was cancelled in 2009 due to budget cuts.

In 2010, the Army began the Ground Combat Vehicle program to replace the M2 Bradley. Entries from BAE Systems and General Dynamics were selected for evaluation.

Concerns grew around the

vehicle’s proposed weight of around 70-tons. GCV was cancelled in 2014 due to sequestration budget cuts.

The Army’s Bradley replacement effort was restarted under the Future Fighting Vehicle (FFV) program.

In May 2015, General Dynamics and BAE Systems, the two prime contractors involved with the GCV, were awarded contracts to develop design concepts for the FFV.

In June 2018, the Army established the Next Generation Combat Vehicle (NGCV) program to replace the M2 Bradley. In October 2018, the program was re-designated as the Optionally Manned Fighting Vehicle (OMFV).

The NGCV program was expanded as a portfolio of next-generation vehicles including tanks and the Bradley-based Armoured Multi-Purpose Vehicle, a successor to the M113 family.

This program placed much of the cost burden of development on contractors, causing many competitors to drop out. In February 2020, the Army restarted the program, promising to take on more responsibility for funding.

Although the Bradley will be replaced it is a fighting vehicle that was a stalwart for the Americans for nearly 40 years.

It was a vehicle that proved its worth and one that was forged in battle.

Bradley Fighting Vehicle



- Type: Armoured fighting vehicle
- Place of origin: United States
- In service: 1981-present
- No. built: 6,724

Specifications

- Weight: 27.6 t
- Length: 6.55 metres
- Width: 3.6 metres
- Height: 2.98 metres
- Crew: Three + variable number of passengers depending on variant
- Armour: Spaced laminate armour: 14.5-30 mm all around AP protection (depending on variant). Explosive reactive armour for RPG protection
- Main armament: 25 mm M242 Bushmaster chain gun. BGM-71 TOW anti-tank missile
- Secondary armament: 7.62 mm M240 machine gun
- Engine: Cummins VTA-903T diesel 600 hp (450 kW)
- Operational range: 400 km
- Maximum speed: 56 km/h

While the Irish enjoy a good punch up, they have always been a neutral country and Ireland has chosen never to be the aggressor. Yet in 1961 a small company of Irish soldiers faced overwhelming odds against battle-hardened troops deep in the heart of Africa.

Ireland has never owned nor tried to conquer a sovereign nation. As a neutral country Ireland has chosen never to be the aggressor.

Yet in September 1961 a company of 155 soldiers from A Company 35th Infantry Battalion of the Irish Army found themselves under attack from an enemy force of between 3,000 and 4,000. The battle became known as the Siege of Jadotville.

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

Joseph Kasa-Vubu became the first president of the Congo and Patrice Lumumba was the prime minister. Mobutu Sese Seko was the army chief of staff.

In the resulting strife and chaos following independence, Moïse Tshombe declared the State of Katanga's secession from the rest of the Congo. The Christian, anti-communist pro-Western Tshombe declared, "We are seceding from chaos."

Favouring continued ties with Belgium, he asked the Belgian government to send military officers to recruit and train a Katangese army.

Naturally Belgium and many western countries had a strong interest in the Katanga Province. Much of the world's supply of copper, cobalt and uranium was to be found there. In fact the uranium for the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima had come from a mine in Jadotville.

The Anglo-Belgian Union Minière du Haut Katanga controlled the mines in Katanga, so it was in their interest to support Tshombe. The last thing they wanted was for their mines to be nationalised by the newly-formed Congo government.

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

Patrice Lumumba requested intervention from UN forces and UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld sent a UN force under the di-

rection of Irish representative Conor Cruise O'Brien.

President Joseph Kasa-Vubu and Mobutu Sese Seko were becoming worried about Patrice Lumumba popularity among the troops. They had him arrested and sent to Katanga where he was executed by a firing squad led by a Belgian mercenary.

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

They had been sent to the mining town, ostensibly to assist in the protection of its citizens. But, when the Irish troops arrived at Jadotville, they were not welcomed by the local people, who were pro-Katangese and anti-UN.

Yet it had been the Belgium foreign minister that had called the UN secretary general, reporting that Belgian settlers and the local population were unprotected, and feared for their safety. It is not clear why the Katangese wanted to isolate the Irish UN troops, although some commentators have suggested that the goal may have been to take the Irish as prisoners for leverage in negotiations with the UN.

The Irish troops had a problem. Not only had none of



DIGGING IN: The Irish troops dig in and prepare fields of fire at Jadotville.

them ever seen combat, they had never even fired a shot in anger. They were also lightly armed with only light personal weapons, a small number of water-cooled Vickers machine guns and 60mm mortars.

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

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

The field commanders were Michel de Clary and Henri Lasimone, both were French with plenty of combat experience.

The overall commander of the Gendarmerie Katangaise was Roger Faulques. He was a highly decorated French army Battalion Chief, a graduate of the École spéciale militaire de Saint-Cyr, and a paratrooper officer of

the French Foreign Legion. He was given leave by French army minister Pierre Messmer, to provide support to the Katanga rebellion.

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

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

Quinlan's instincts proved spot on. While most of his men were at mass on September 13, the Katangans attacked.

The attack was more than likely launched because another UN force had seized Katangan positions in Elisabethville. The operation, named Operation Morthor, was ordered by Conor Cruise O'Brien, probably with the nod from Dag Hammarskjöld.

jöld.

Inexplicably the operation had been kept secret from Quinlan by the UN Command. Another major problem was that the Katangans had also taken a key river crossing which meant that the Irish were completely cut off from Elizabethville.

Expecting to take the men off guard, the first attackers moved in rapidly but were spotted by an alert sentry. A warning shot by Sgt. Billy Ready alerted the company to the threat. The Irish maned their positions and began to return fire. It was the start of a battle that would last six days and five nights.

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

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

Quinlan ordered his signaller to start a radio log. Every message from them to the UN Headquarters was to be logged and vice versa.

Quinlan told headquarters that he was low on both ammunition and water. He also said that they could do with some whiskey.

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

The Katangese asked Quinlan

for a cease-fire to tend to their wounded. During this time they offered Quinlan an opportunity to surrender. An offer which he declined.

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

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

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

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

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

The Irish were taken prisoner of war and held as hostages for about a month. They were used in an effort to extort terms of ceasefire that would have been embarrassing to the UN.

The were eventually exchanged for prisoners held by the Congolese government of Joseph Kasa-Vubu.

After being released A Company returned to Elisabethville and were involved in active combat again. This time with



CALM BEFORE THE STORM: Commandant Pat Quinlan, far left, poses with soldiers of A Company, 35th Infantry Battalion, in Elisabethville, before the siege.

the support of Swedish UN troops.

After weeks of fighting their six month tour of duty came to an end and they were rotated out of the battle zone and returned to Ireland that December.

On their return to Ireland Quinlan recommended a number of his men for the Military Medal for Gallantry (MMG), Ireland's highest award for military valour, for their actions during the battle.

But there was to be no hero's welcome. The surrender of A Company was seen by some as a national embarrassment which overshadowed the men's courage and competence. Some even thought of them as cowards. The term "Jadotville Jack" was sometimes applied as a term of derision about the Irish Defence Forces.

The veterans of Jadotville were dissatisfied that the Defence Forces refused to acknowledge the battle and that there was an implied black mark on the reputation of their commander. Quinlan, who died in 1997, had his public reputa-

tion restored nine years after his death.

The veterans of A Company reportedly regarded him as an exceptional officer who had saved the lives of his men by ordering them to dig in, and who successfully led his company against an overwhelming enemy force. He was forced into an impossible situation by the apparent failings of the UN leadership. Against the odds, he had saved the lives of each of his men in a battle they had not expected nor planned for.

In 2004 Irish Minister for Defence Willie O'Dea agreed to hold a full review of the battle. A Defence Forces inquiry cleared Quinlan and "A" Company of allegations of soldierly misconduct.

A commemorative stone recognising the soldiers of "A" Company was erected on the grounds of Custume Barracks in Athlone in 2005. A commissioned portrait of Quinlan was installed in the Congo Room of the Irish Defence Forces' UN School.



General Knowledge

This month we're testing your military general knowledge. We give you 00 questions and you give us the answers. Some of these are easy, some of them not so easy. See how many of these you know. The answers are on page 86.

1. Where was the first place ever bombed by the South African Air Force?
2. How many South Africans were awarded the Victoria Cross during World War II?
3. By what name was the German Panzerkampfwagen V better known as?
4. What was the nickname given to Britain's Home Guard during World War II?
5. What does the AK stand for in AK-47?
6. How many women have been awarded the Victoria Cross?
7. By what name are the Russian Special Forces commonly known as?
8. Who was South Africa's leading air ace during World War I?
9. What does the American nickname GI stand for?
10. Who was the first person to be awarded the Honoris Crux?
11. What were the code-names for the five beaches on D-Day?
12. Which former heavyweight boxing champion was a paratrooper during World War II?
13. Which Rhodesian unit was known as "The Saints"?
14. Who wrote 'The Charge of the Light Brigade' about an event in the Crimean War?
15. Which South African army unit was based at Nduku-duku in Zululand?
16. During the Vietnam War, who was known as Hanoi Jane?
17. Which big band leader disappeared over the English Channel on 15 December 1944?
18. How long did the 100 year war last?
19. Lord Haw-Haw broadcast Nazi propaganda to Britain from Germany during World War II. What was his real name?
20. Which Academy Award winning movie featured the memorable Colonel Bogey March?
21. Who was the only member of the South African Air Force to become Chief of the SADF?
22. During what war did Florence Nightingale help to found modern nursing?
23. Which World War II tank was nicknamed the 'Ronson'?
24. What was the nickname given to the Bell UH-1 Iroquois helicopter?
25. What was the NATO code-name for the Russian Mig-21 fighter jet?





MATT O'BRIEN *squeezes into his old browns (they just fit) and gets to grips with a game that feels a little too close to home.*

At last, Joy to the World, a game that focuses on our very own Border War.

Over the years I've played games that focus on just about every war, ranging from medieval times to both World Wars, from Vietnam to Korea, from the American Civil War to a whole lot of other wars.

Yet I've always been looking for a game that features on the South African Border War. And at last I've found it. But wait, there is a bit of a catch.

You first need to buy a game called Graviteam Tactics: Mius-Front. The game is a tactical battalion level combat simulation. Action takes place in the summer of 1943 at Mius river and Saur-Mogila tumulus area of over 140 sq. km. Four large-scale operations for the Red Army and Wehrmacht. You can buy it on Steam for R205.

Once you have Mius-Front installed, you can then purchase DLC (downloadable content) for the base game.

There are no fewer than 23 DLC available. But you want to focus on three of them. These are Operation Moduler (R105), Leopard's Leap (R79) and Day of the Olifant (R105). These are the three DLC that deal with the Border War.

Operation Moduler deals with

the events of September/October 1987. FAPLA forces would move from Cuito Cuanavale to the South and South-East towards the Lomba river, cross it and occupy the town Mavinga.

From there they would advance on Jamba, UNITA's HQ. Once Jamba fell, the expectation was UNITA would be finished.

For the 1987 offensive, FAPLA employed a total of eight brigades. Four acted as the garrison and escort, the other four formed the hammer fist of the offensive. This force comprised about 6,000 men and 80 tanks, plus artillery, augmented with air support. 47th Brigade being the strongest of the four attacker FAPLA brigades on the front line.

The SADF sent 20th SA Brigade under the command of Colonel Deon Ferreira to support UNITA. It comprised 61st Mechanized Battalion Group, two motorised infantry companies from 32nd Battalion and AT squadron, as well as two motorised infantry companies from 101st Battalion. There were also three artillery batteries.

You can either play as FAPLA (Operation Saludando a Octubre) or as the SADF (Ops Moduler).

The first thing that blew me

out of the water was the map. It is a precisely recreated area confluence of Cuzizi and Lomba rivers and is 144 square kilometres. One again it has been created using topographical maps, satellite imagery and photographs.

All of the weapons, equipment, vehicles and aircraft that took part in the battle are there. It is a historical organisational structure of units at the time of the operations *Saludando a Octubre* (FAPLA) and Moduler (SADF).

Leopard's Leap focuses on the first major battle of Operation Moduler with the SADF facing off against the 21st FAPLA MRBde. It also features the first combat use of the Ratel ZT3 ATGM.

Day of the Olifant focuses on the halting of the FAPLA attack on the Lomba River. It features the first combat use of the "Olifant" MkIA tank.

Another thing that really impressed me was the AI (Artificial Intelligence). In most simulation games the AI is based on a script and can become very predictable. If this happens, do that or do this.

In this game, however, the AI chooses the best strategy based on behaviour rather than a script. Scenarios can be replayed using different tactics,



as though playing against a human opponent.

The AI is based on real soldier behaviour. Every soldier has several basic parameters, such as experience level, fatigue, and morale, which affect their behaviour and effectiveness.

The weapons are accurately recreated and they sound like they do in real life. The ballistics are spot on and bullets and projectiles follow accurate trajectories.

There is a comprehensive vehicle damage system - engine, suspension, weapons, and aiming mechanisms can all be damaged separately, affecting the combat capabilities of the vehicle.

In many games when troops are killed or vehicles destroyed, they disappear from the map after a short while. In this game, all traces of previous battles remain on the battlefield. Bodies will lie where they have fallen and vehicles will burn out.

There is a dynamic day/night cycle as well as weather effects. All of which affect combat through terrain, battlefield visibility, hidden force capabilities, and more.

Line of sight plays an important role in the game. Often you can hear the enemy, but you can't see them. You will see incoming tracer rounds but not have the enemy in direct sight.

The game also comes with a full encyclopedia with 3D model viewer and detailed data on all units, describing their historical and in-game characteristics.

The game is detailed and not something that you can just pick up and, with a few clicks of the mouse, achieve victory. There is a decent learning curve. If you use stupid tactics then you're going to get slaughtered.

The first time I tried the game I played the part of FAPLA. I had a decent sized force with

some T55/62 tanks and plenty of armoured personnel carriers. I got my butt kicked.

These are games that I highly recommend, and if you were there, they will bring back memories



Publisher - Graviteam

Genre - RTS

Score - 9/10

Price - Check prices on Steam



The Siege of Jadotville

Released: 2016

Running time: 108 minutes

Directed by: Richie Smyth

When Richie Smyth first read the book *Siege at Jadotville*: The Irish Army's Forgotten Battle, he was in his own words, "blown away by the fact the he had never heard this story."

The book was written by Declan Power, one of the Irish soldiers that had taken part in the battle.

"Once I started to learn more, I knew that I had to make this movie," says Smyth.

He secured the rights to the story and penned a script based on it.

The film is about an Irish army unit's role in the UN peacekeeping mission in the Congo in September 1961.

The film opens with the assassination of left-wing Congolese Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba and the outbreak of civil war. As the mineral rich State of Katanga secedes under the leadership of Moïse Tshombe, United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammerskjöld assigns Conor Cruise O'Brien to head up a UN peacekeeping mission. Privately, Hammerskjöld tells O'Brien that the Katanga crisis could trigger World War III and orders the Irish diplomat to take offensive action.

Meanwhile, Irish Army Commandant Pat Quinlan commands an infantry company of Irish peacekeepers who arrive at the UN compound near Jadotville. After examining the compound, Quinlan decides that it is wide open to attack and orders his men to dig trenches.

While buying food in the nearest town, Quinlan meets French mercenary René Faulques, who has been hired by the mining companies allied to Tshombe's Government. Afterwards, he visits the estate of a Belgian colonist, Madame Lafongagne, who tells him that Jadotville contains the world's richest uranium deposits.

Meanwhile, O'Brien orders UN forces to launch an attack against Government buildings held by the Katangese in Elizabethville. While Indian peacekeepers are attempting to seize the city's radio station, thirty unarmed Katangese are killed by gunfire and grenades. O'Brien orders the incident to be swept under the rug.

In retaliation, Faulques receives orders to attack Jadotville. Katangese forces and mercenaries under Faulques, attack and besiege the Irish. During a brief ceasefire, Faulques vainly demands Quinlan's surrender.

Quinlan refuses, and his company is attacked repeatedly in separate waves by the Katangese/mercenary forces. They kill a total of 300 enemy soldiers, and wound 1,000 enemy soldiers, with zero Irish deaths and only 16 Irish wounded.

After many extended waves of battle, the Irish company is forced to surrender to Faulques's troops after running out of ammunition. They are held in a Katangese prison for about a month, then are freed in a prisoner exchange deal and are allowed to go home.

The film was shot near Johannesburg, South Africa and it was released at the 2016 Galway Film Festival where it won a number of awards. Afterwards it was released for worldwide distribution on Netflix.

Jamie Dornan stars as Commandant Pat Quinlan and Jason O'Mara plays the role of Sergeant Jack Prendergast.

If you belong to Netflix this is a movie I strongly recommend.

To watch the official trailer of the film, click on the poster below.



Journey Without Boundaries

Book Review

This is the extraordinary tale of an extraordinary man. An honestly told story of his military career, of a man who was twice decorated for valour, who pioneered and developed the concept of "small team reconnaissance" within the South African Special Forces.

He was a consummate warrior and gentleman and has told his story with humility and a disarming sense that what he did was simply the job he was given, when even the most cursory reading will show that it was anything but simple or easy.

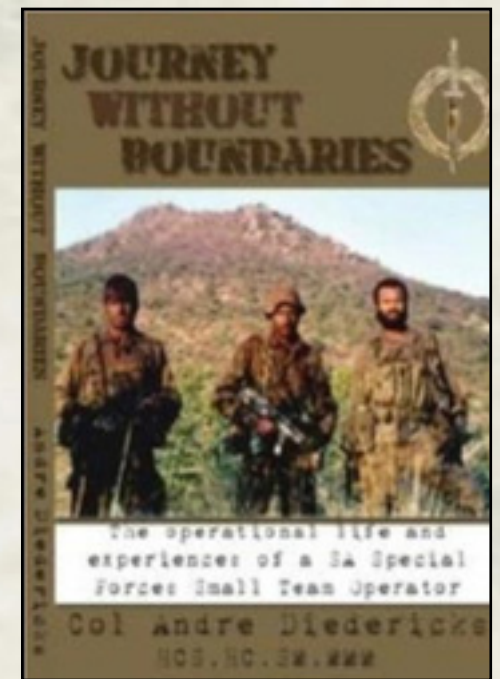
André (Diedies) Diedericks was born in Pretoria on 7 December 1955, the youngest of four children. He reported for compulsory National Military Service on

7 January 1974 and within a few weeks he volunteered for Special Forces selection, a course that he would successfully complete.

Andre would eventually serve in the Special Forces for two decades and would also pioneer the concept of small team operations. He rose to the rank of Colonel within the SADF and was also decorated twice for valour.

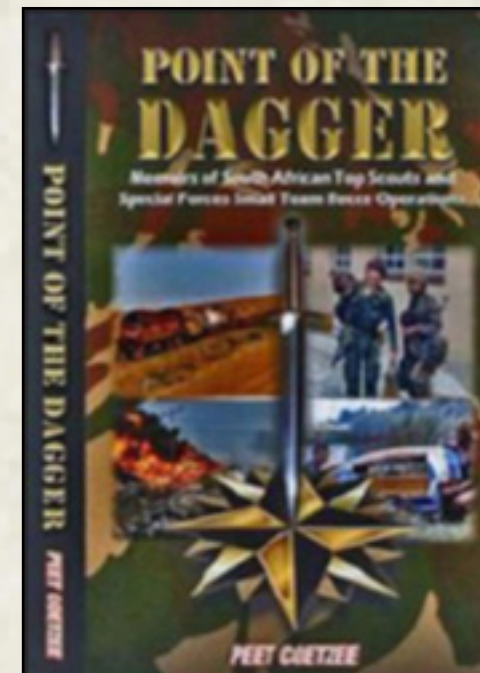
Suffering from terminal cancer, Diedies passed away on 7 May 2005.

During his service he was awarded with the Honoris Crux Silver (HCS); Honoris Crux (HC); Southern Cross Medal (SM); Military Merit Medal (MMM); Pro Patria Medal with Cunene clasp; Southern Africa Medal; General Service Medal;



Unitas Medal; Good Service Silver (20 years) & Good Service Bronze (10 years).

Softcover, 212 pages
Cost: R325



Point of the Dagger
R275



First In, Last Out
R400



Dirty War
R550

All books are available from [Bush War Books](http://bushwarbooks.com)

Some of the significant military events that happened in March. Highlighted in blue are the names of those members of the South African Defence Force (SADF) that lost their lives during the month of March.

1 March

- **1896** - Ethiopian forces defeat Italians at Adwa, northern Ethiopia, ending Italy's quest to create a substantial African colony.
- **1941** - German troops enter Bulgaria.
- **1951** - Pilots Doug McKellar and "Dizzy" Deans of the SA Air Force's No 2 (Flying Cheetah) Squadron, assisting the UN in the Korean War, locate seven trucks hidden in hilly terrain and strike target dive-bombing with napalm a procedure used for the first time by the squadron.
- **1954** - Bikini: US detonates 15 megaton hydrogen bomb.
- **1981** - Rifleman Peter Hall from 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was accidentally killed during anti-insurgent operations in the Eenhana Area. He was 19.
- **1988** - Special Constable Thomas Kanitus 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 23.
- **1990** - State President F.W. de Klerk announces plans to bring covert operations by government agents under Cabinet control.
- **1990** - Two members of the

SADF were killed while traveling as passengers in a military minibus vehicle when the vehicle was involved in a head-on collision with a truck on the Pretoria-Potchefstroom Road. They were: Private Gerhardus Stephanus De Bruin (22) from Danie Theron Combat School. Gunner Jaques Terblanche (19) from 10 Artillery Brigade.

2 March

- **1900** - A council of war at Poplar Grove, OFS, gives Danie Theron permission to form a Scout Corps consisting of about 100 men.
- **1938** - Stalin initiates the Purges.
- **1943** - During World War II in the Pacific, a Japanese convoy was attacked by 137 American bombers as the Battle of Bismarck Sea began.
- **1945** - Philippines: Japanese resistance on Corregidor ends.
- **1951** - Two pilots of the SA Air Force's Cheetah Squadron, Lieutenant D.A. Ruiter and Captain W.J.J. Badenhorst, are killed in action while assisting the United Nations in the Korean War.
- **1955** - Egypt and Syria sign a defensive alliance.
- **1962** - Coup in Burma initiates an ongoing military regime.

- **1982** - Rifleman Lewis Francesco from 31 Battalion (201 Battalion SWATF) Died of Wounds accidentally sustained in an explosion inside an ammunition bunker at Omega Base. He was 22.
- **1984** - Rifleman Hendrik Francois van der Merwe from the Vanderbijl Park Commando apparently drowned in unknown circumstances. He was officially declared dead by the State President in 1986. He has no known grave and remains unaccounted for. He was 25.
- **1985** - Rifleman Hilton Isaac Jacobs from the South African Cape Corps was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Kuils River. He was 20.
- **1986** - Sapper Daniel Wilhelmus van Schalkwyk from 11 Field Engineer Regiment was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Messina. He was 22.
- **1988** - Special Sergeant Hepute Wakumbilwa 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.
- **1999** - Eight foreigners die in a shoot-out in a Ugandan

game reserve as soldiers try to free fifteen tourists who were kidnapped by Rwandan rebels.

- **2005** - At least fifty Congolese militiamen are killed by South African and Pakistani United Nations peacekeeping troops in a bloody gunfight in the Congolese district of Ituri. Several South African soldiers of 12 SA Infantry Battalion (12 SAI) are slightly hurt in the action.

3 March

- **1901** - The Battle of Lichtenburg takes place. The British soldiers move their horses into the Dutch Reformed Church building to shelter them from the fire of General De la Rey's troops.
- **1918** - Russia withdraws from WW I, signs Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Germany.
- **1945** - RAF bombs The Hague in error, 511 die.
- **1964** - Rifleman Brian Ivan Dummer from the Tygerberg Commando was killed in a military vehicle accident at Bethlehem. He was 19.

- **1976** - President Samora Machel of Mozambique closes his frontier with Rhodesia, seizes all Rhodesian assets in the country and places Mozambique on a war footing as a result of a "hot pursuit" attack by Rhodesian security forces during the previous week in which twenty-four guerrillas were killed inside Mozambique.
- **1976** - US government under President Gerald Ford discloses that it has decided to sell weapons to Egypt.
- **1980** - Rifleman Manuel Yenga from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action when he triggered a Soviet POM-Z2 Anti-Personnel Picket Mine inside an enemy bunker near Naulila during Operation Makalani. He was 25.
- **1983** - Special Constable Sam Iyambo 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 26.
- **1988** - The South West Afri-

ca Territory Force claims to have killed sixty Swapo insurgents in various skirmishes in the previous month, bringing the total this year to eighty-six. According to the SWATF, the security forces suffered no losses.

- **1991** - Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) chief-of-staff Chris Hani says as long as the SADF continues recruitment and training, his organisation will continue recruiting members and building underground structures.
- **1993** - An American soldier is killed by a land mine in Somalia and a second dies in a truck crash, bringing to six the number of Americans killed in Operation Restore Hope.
- **2004** - Angered by the way President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was forced to flee his country, the 15-nation Caribbean Community says it will not provide troops for the UN peacekeeping force to Haiti. Aristide claimed that he was abducted at gunpoint by US Marines and sent into exile in South Africa.

4 March

- **1900** - Boers are defeated by Lord Roberts at Driefontein in the Free State.
- **1945** - US Army Air Force B-24s accidentally bomb Zurich.
- **1945** - Finland declares war on Nazi Germany.
- **1968** - Leading Air Mechanic James Ross Brum-



Chris Hani

mer from Air Operations School Langebaanweg was accidentally killed while mounting a radio antenna on the roof of a hanger at AFB Langebaanweg. The asbestos roofing gave way and he fell to his death. He was 24.

- **1970** - French submarine 'Eurydice' explodes while submerged in the Mediterranean, 57 die.
- **1981** - Rifleman Frans Karel Petrus Burger from the Cape Town Highlanders was Reported Missing while crossing a river when on a patrol near Ruacana. He disappeared under the water and despite an intensive search, his body was never located. He was 22.
- **1982** - Two members of 31 Battalion (201 Battalion SWATF) were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-line. They were: Rifleman Mahorison Rodriques (21). Rifleman Llewellyn Verwey (20).
- **1983** - Two members from 32 Battalion were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola during Operation Snoek. They were: Sergeant Augusto Mande (30). Rifleman Joao Daniel Kativa (26).
- **1984** - Rifleman Patrick Kudumo from 902 Battalion SWATF was accidentally shot dead by a fellow soldier while on duty in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
- **1986** - Private Petrus Dolf

from the Army Catering Corps was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident, at Os-hakati. He was 24.

- **1986** - Rifleman Benjamin Tjenda from 201 Battalion SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 19
- **1990** - Ciskei's President Lennox Sebe is overthrown in a coup. The homeland's new military leader, Brigadier Oupa Gqozo, announces that his government's ultimate goal is reincorporating the territory into South Africa. Looting and burning continue for two days and about twenty-seven people die in violence.

5 March

- **1916** - SA troops led by General Jan Smuts invade East Africa in their confrontation with German forces in World War I.
- **1936** - Maiden flight of the prototype Supermarine Spitfire.
- **1942** - Burma: British appoint Sir Harold Alexander Commander-in-Chief.
- **1942** - The US Navy Seabees are established.
- **1945** - US VII Corps captures Cologne.
- **1953** - Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin dies at the age of 73.
- **1968** - Rifleman Cornelius Andre Grobler from 6 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident in Grahams-town. He was 20.

- **1974** - Rifleman Gerhardus Johannes Jacobus van Rhyn from 6 SAI died from gunshot wounds accidentally sustained at Bwabwata, Western Caprivi. He was 18.
- **1980** - Rifleman Johannes Jacobus Maass from Regiment Erongo was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 24.
- **1980** - Rifleman Eric Norman van Reenen from 52 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-line in Northern Owamboland. He was 29.
- **1990** - SA sends troops to Ciskei to suppress mob attacks on factories and shops after military coup under Brigadier Gqozo ousted authoritarian President Sebe.
- **1993** - Lance Corporal Sydwell Boer from 3 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident on the N3 at Keyridge. He was 25.

6 March

- **1836** - Fort Alamo fell to Mexican troops led by General Santa Anna. The Mexicans had begun the siege of the Texas fort on 23February, ending it with the killing of the last defender. "Remember the Alamo" became a rallying cry for Texans who went on to defeat Santa Anna in the Battle of San Jacinto in April.
- **1881** - Armistice negotia-

tions are concluded during the First Anglo-Boer War.

- **1944** - USAF begins daylight bombing of Berlin.
- **1971** - Private Francois Nel from the Army Service Corps was killed in a private motor vehicle accident in Pretoria. He was 16.
- **1976** - Sergeant Trevor Walter August Booysen from Regiment Westelike Provinsie was accidentally killed at Ruacana when he fell off the back of a moving vehicle. He was 29.
- **1980** - Lance Bombardier Matthew Johannes Naus from 14 Artillery Regiment died from a gunshot wound that was apparently self-inflicted. He was 19.
- **1983** - Two members from 1 Medium Battery, 4 Artillery Regiment that were attached to 61 Mech Battalion, were Killed in Action while on guard duty on a farm near Tsumeb that was located well below the "Red Line". A small group of SWAPO/PLAN insurgents attacked the farm and shot them both at point blank range. The casualties were: Gunner Christo Francois Bezuidenhout (20). Gunner Jameson Bosse (19).
- **1984** - Martin Niemöller, WW I U-boat skipper, anti-Nazi clergyman, at 92.
- **1985** - Special Constable Matheus Oukongo from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action dur-

ing a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 28.

- **1986** - Private Dawid Johannes Retief from 6 Maintenance Unit accidentally drowned in the operational area when his Military vehicle skidded off the road and landed in a river, leaving him trapped inside the vehicle. He was 19.
- **1986** - Corporal Pieter Jeremias Smith from the Specialist Unit died in the Tygerberg Hospital from multiple shrapnel wounds sustained in an accidental mortar bomb explosion. He was 21.
- **1993** - Unita rebels capture Angola's second largest city, Huambo, after a two-month battle with government troops.

7 March

- **1876** - During the second invasion of Abyssinia by Egypt, the Egyptian forces are defeated at Gura by the Ethiopians under King Yohannes.
- **1900** - The Battle of Poplar Grove (or Modderivierspoort) takes place. President Paul Kruger escapes with the help of General De Wet.
- **1902** - General De la Rey defeats and captures General Methuen in the Battle of Tweebosch (or De Klipdrift) in Western Transvaal, the last important battle won by the Boer forces. Methuen

and more than 870 soldiers are captured.

- **1936** - Hitler breaks the Treaty of Versailles, sends troops into the Rhineland, and the Allies fail to act.
- **1941** - WWII: British troops invade Italian-occupied Abyssinia, now Ethiopia.
- **1941** - Gunther Prien, daring submarine captain of 'U-47', is killed in action at the age of 34.
- **1942** - First black cadets graduate from the USAAF flying school at Tuskegee.
- **1943** - Japanese refuse a German request to join war against Russia.
- **1945** - Troops of the US 9th Armored Div, commanded by German-born Lt. Karl Timmerman, capture the Ludendorff Bridge over the Rhine at Remagen.
- **1952** - Job Masego, WW2 veteran who sunk a German supply boat while a prisoner of war after the capture of Tobruk, dies in Springs, Tvl. A street and a school in Kwa Thema have been named after him and in 1997 the SAS Kobie Coetzee was renamed SAS Job Masego.
- **1977** - The Defence Amendment Bill, first published on 31 January 1977, becomes law. Under it the State President is empowered to invoke powers of censorship and of commandeering premises. Service in defence of the Republic now includes anti-terrorist operations as well as the prevention and suppression of internal dis-

order and there can be greater flexibility and speed in mobilisation.

- **1980** - Three members from 13 Field Engineer Squadron were Killed in Action at the Chandelier near Elundu when a booby-trapped landmine coupled together with other improvised explosive devices, exploded while they were in the process of defusing it. The casualties were: Sergeant Deon van der Vyver (21). Corporal Antonie Oberholzer (22). Sapper Willem Johannes Steenkamp Prinsloo (22).
- **1982** - Six Front Line States meet in Maputo and decide to coordinate further their military and economic policies to counter South Africa's economic and military aggression.
- **1983** - Lance Corporal Owen Christopher Williams from 5 SAI, attached to 101 Battalion Romeo Mike was accidentally killed in a Rifle Grenade explosion while on operations in Southern Angola. He was 21.
- **1985** - Corporal Deon van Niekerk from the Northern Transvaal Command Provost Unit was Reported Missing in Clubview, Pretoria while on official traffic control duty during a military exercise. A large truck filled with tons of builders gravel jack-knifed on the Old Johannesburg Road and overturned in the area where he had been doing duty. His body was only dis-

covered two days later when the builders gravel was removed. He was 20.

- **1986** - The State of Emergency imposed on 21 July 1985, is lifted.
- **1991** - 2nd Lieutenant Steven van Rooyen from the Dog Training Centre accidentally drowned in the Blyde River at Belvedere. He was 19.
- **1993** - Angola says its troops have withdrawn from Huambo after two months of fighting with rebels that left 10,000 dead.
- **1993** - The SADF's 31 Battalion, composed primarily of the San (Bushmen) battalion who fought in the war in Namibia and has lately been deployed in South African townships, is disbanded at a public ceremony in the Cape province. The 1,000 soldiers will be transferred to other units in the northern Cape and will help patrol the border to Namibia.
- **1994** - Multinational African army installs new government in Liberia.
- **2004** - Zimbabwe seizes a US-registered cargo plane carrying sixty-four suspected mercenaries and military equipment. Simon Mann, of the mercenary outfit Executive Outcomes, is arrested along with five others on the tarmac, after the Zimbabwean authorities have been tipped off by the SA government.

8 March

- **1902** - General De la Rey releases General Lord Methuen after his wounds are treated.
- **1916** - Battle of Dujaila: The Turks beat off a British attempt to relieve the siege of Kut.
- **1942** - Netherlands Indies surrender to the Japanese.
- **1950** - USSR announces they have developed the atomic bomb.
- **1963** - Air Mechanic Pieter Jacobus Hattingh from 35 Squadron was killed in a Ferret Armoured car accident while carrying out in-lying Picket duty patrol of the Security Fence at Air Force Base Ysterplaat. He was 20.
- **1964** - General of Infantry Paul Emil von Lettow-Vorbeck, dies aged 83.
- **1965** - First US combat troops (3,500 Marines) arrive in Vietnam.
- **1972** - Trooper Hubert Terrance Caddy from 1 Special Service Battalion was killed at Zeerust when his Eland Armoured Car overturned during a training exercise. He was 20.
- **1973** - Maritime headquarters at Silvermine is opened.
- **1977** - Corporal Abraham Liebergh Pelser from 7 SAI saved the lives of his fellow soldiers on the afternoon of 08 March 1977. Some of the troops used to straighten the pins on the hand grenades, making them easier

to extract and then hook the grenades into their webbing via the grenade handle. Unfortunately, when Abraham took off his webbing after returning to Nkurukuru Base from a patrol, his thumb caught on the grenade pin and pulled it out. The armed M26 grenade fell onto the floor in the middle of the tent and without hesitation, he dived onto the grenade and absorbed the full force of the explosion that killed him instantly but saved the lives of all the others in the tent. He was 21.

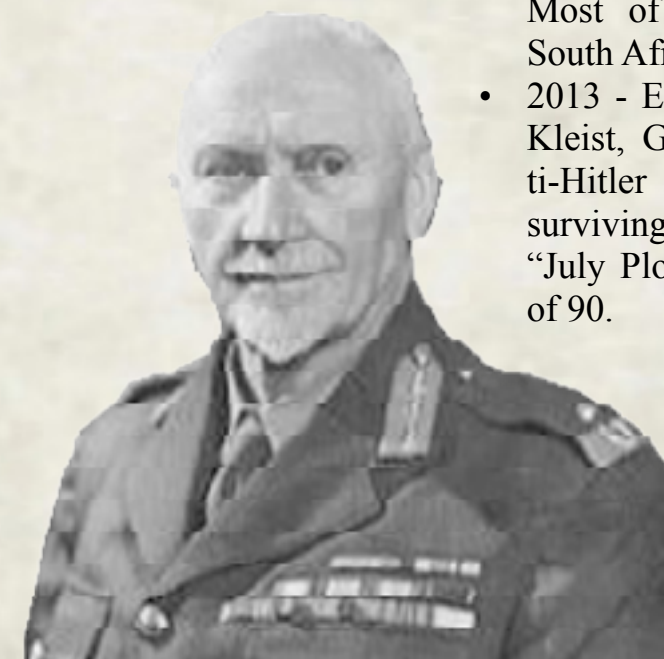
- **1983** - Rifleman Adriaan Jacobus Booysen Thirion from the Boksburg Commando was accidentally killed in a mortar bomb explosion in Southern Angola. He was 24.
- **1987** - Two members from 54 Battalion were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents at Elundu. They were: Corporal Irvine Manuel Daniels (28). Rifleman Henry Jo-

hannes Metcalfe (27).

- **1987** - Private Allen Alberto Mariano from 101 Field Workshops was accidentally killed at Omauni in Owamboland while loading a damaged vehicle onto a low-bed. The crane lift chain broke and the vehicle fell onto him, killing him instantly. He was 19.
- **1988** - Trooper Mark Steven Bannell from 1 Special Service Battalion was killed whilst doing riot patrol on the outskirts of East London when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned. He was 19.
- **1994** - President Lucas Mangope calls out troops as unrest flares in Bophuthatswana.
- **1996** - Lt Col John "Mad Jack" or "Fighting Jack" Churchill, DSO, MC, who fought WW II with a longbow, claymore, & bagpipes, dies at the age of 89.
- **2004** - Fifteen suspected mercenaries are arrested in Equatorial Guinea, including the alleged leader of the advance party, Nick du Toit. Most of the suspects are South African.
- **2013** - Ewald-Heinrich von Kleist, German officer, anti-Hitler conspirator, last surviving veteran of the "July Plot", dies at the age of 90.

9 March

- **1831** - The French Foreign Legion is founded in Algeria to serve in the French colonies in Africa.
- **1864** - Ulysses S. Grant was commissioned as a Lieutenant General and became commander of the Union armies.
- **1916** - Germany declares war on Portugal.
- **1922** - General Jan Smuts declares martial law in the Transvaal after mobilising the active citizen force in a bid to quell the dispute of striking mineworkers.
- **1945** - US B-29s drop 1,665 tons of incendiaries on Tokyo, creating a firestorm; by dawn on the 10th between 80,000-120,000 have died, the highest toll in a single air raid, exceeding even the atomic bombs
- **1969** - Lt General Moneim Riad, chief of staff of Egypt's armed forces, is killed during Israeli-Egyptian gun battle across Suez Canal.
- **1977** - Lieutenant Gerrit Keulder from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action whilst on patrol in Henombe area of Southern Angola. He was 21.
- **1977** - Rifleman P. Katanga from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a Contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 19.
- **1982** - Lance Corporal Errol Carl Moolman from the



Jan Smuts

Rand Light Infantry was accidentally drowned in a rowing boat accident while serving in the Operational Area. He was 20.

- **1982** - Rifleman John Verrooy from the South African Cape Corps attached to Wenela Base was accidentally drowned when he fell off a pont near Wenela Base in Eastern Caprivi. He was 21.
- **1984** - Rifleman W.K. Matende from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 20.
- **1985** - Two members from 6 SAI were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Grahamstown. The casualties were: Rifleman Shaun Patrick Atkins (21). Rifleman Orlando de Portugal Goncalves (19).
- **1985** - Rifleman Eduardo Jonas from 101 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents. He was 23.
- **1987** - Corporal Matthew William Wallace McGregor from 2 Field Engineer Regiment attached to 25 Field Squadron was critically wounded in Action during operations in South Western Angola.
- **1988** - Special Constable Fransiskus Lukas 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.

- **2007** - Chief of the SA Air Force (SAAF) Lieutenant-General Carlo Gagiano announces Waterkloof air force base the country's most prominent air force base is closing for all flying operations for eighteen months in order to upgrade the base's main runway. Work is to start in July and should last about eighteen months.

10 March

- **1880** - The Salvation Army was founded in the United States. The social service organization was first founded in England by William Booth and operates today in 90 countries.
- **1900** - The British under Lord Roberts defeats the Boers in the battle of Driefontein.
- **1922** - Angry White workers, on strike since 28 December, storm and occupy police stations, railway installations and mines on the Rand. They also attack the city's main post office and power station in a mass protest that has, in a few hours, turned into open rebellion against the state. Within four days the revolt is crushed. 153 people, including 72 of the state forces, lie dead, 534 are injured.
- **1944** - Severe restrictions

are imposed on all private travel in the UK, in preparation for D-Day.

- **1964** - US begins reconnaissance flights over East Germany.
- **1966** - North Vietnamese capture US Green Beret Camp in the Ashau Valley.
- **1970** - Corporal Hermanus Stephanus van der Merwe from Northern Air Defence Sector, Devon was killed while travelling in a military bus as part of a convoy en route to Devon. He was 18.
- **1982** - Rifleman Joao Baptista from 32 Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident near Rundu. He was 26.
- **1982** - The trial begins in the Natal Supreme Court of the mercenaries accused of hijacking an airliner to flee from the Seychelles after a failed coup on 25-26 November 1981.
- **1986** - Rifleman Pinecas Amupolo from 101 Battalion SWATF Died of Wounds received when his Samil 100 Kwevoel vehicle was hit by a Soviet RPG-7 anti-tank rocket. He was 25.
- **1988** - Rifleman Lodewickus Johannes Moolman from Regiment Bloemspruit was killed when he was attacked and trampled to death by an elephant during a patrol near the Nwamedzi Base in the Kruger National Park. He was 29.
- **1997** - South African arms manufacturer Denel an-

nounces that it will unveil six new products at a United Arab Emirates weapons exhibition to increase its sales, especially in the Middle East.

11 March

- **1779** - The US Army Corps of Engineers is established.
- **1941** - During World War II, the Lend-Lease program began allowing Britain to receive American weapons, machines, raw materials, training and repair services. Ships, planes, guns and shells, along with food, clothing and metals went to the embattled British while American warships began patrolling the North Atlantic and U.S troops were stationed in Greenland and Iceland.
- **1942** - Paris: First deportation train leaves for Auschwitz.
- **1945** - 1,000 Allied bombers drop over 4,000 tons of bombs on Essen.
- **1979** - Rifleman Paul William Ernest Carroll from 7 SAI was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 20.
- **1984** - Staff Sergeant David John Ward from 101 Battalion SWATF was critically wounded in the hip when his team was ambushed by SWAPO/PLAN and FAPLA forces in Southern Angola. He died from blood loss be-

fore he could be evacuated. He was 24.

- **1985** - Rifleman K. Iyango from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN and FAPLA forces in Southern Angola. He was 24.
- **1987** - Rifleman E. Nangula from 101 Battalion Romeo Mike Team 901 SSC-RM-3 SWATF was Killed in Action in Southern Angola after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds when he triggered a Soviet POM-Z2 Anti-Personal Picket Mine. He was 22.
- **1988** - Rifleman Piet-er Leon Hendrik van Dyk from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned during anti-crime operations in Mamelodi Township. He was 18.
- **1994** - Three AWB members shot and killed during the invasion of Bophuthatswana.
- **1879** - A convoy of the British 80th Regt. is over-run at Ntombe River, northern Zululand by a force of 2 000 Zulus. Of the sixty men in the camp, only fifteen escape.
- **1918** - The British submarine 'D-3' is sunk off the French coast, by a French airship which mistook her for a U-boat.
- **1938** - Nazis invaded Austria, then absorbed the country into Hitler's Reich.

12 March

- **1945** - Anne Frank, dies in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp of typhus. She was 14.
- **1951** - North Korean/Red Chinese troops driven out of Seoul.
- **1962** - Defence Minister J.J. Fouché outlines the basic principles of South Africa's defence policy and gives details of measures being taken to build up the Defence Forces and to make South Africa self-supporting in military equipment.
- **1963** - Major Anthony Dennis Michael Lawrenson AFC from Air Force Base Waterkloof was killed when his Dornier Do-27A, Serial No. 5431 crashed near Belfast while on a training flight. He was 43.
- **1968** - P.W. Botha, the Minister of Defence, reports to the Senate on the progress of the Arms Industry and defines the main aims of South Africa's defence policy.
- **1975** - Lieutenant Christopher Stuart Franklin from 7 Squadron was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed near Oudtshoorn. He was 21.
- **1984** - Rifleman L. Dala from 31 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents. He was 22.
- **1987** - Rifleman J.W.L. Johannes from 5 Recce Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy

- forces. He was 24.
- **1987** - Rifleman Faustino Sikote from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with FAPLA forces near Evale in Southern Angola during Operation Kakebeen. He was 27.
 - **1987** - Special Constable Simon Venusiu 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.
 - **1988** - Rifleman Stephen Ebenezer Futchter from 32 Battalion was Reported Missing after he disappeared in the Okavango River one night while swimming behind the Pont near Buffalo Base. It is suspected that he was either taken by a crocodile or a hippo. His body was never located despite an intensive search. He remains unaccounted for. He was 20.
 - **1989** - Rifleman Thulani Maxwei Khuluse from 121 Battalion was killed in a shooting incident in the Community Hall at Verulam. He was 25.
 - **1999** - Poland, Hungary, & the Czech Republic join NATO.
- Goebbels Minister of Information.
- **1942** - Julia Flikke, of the Nurse Corps, becomes the first woman colonel in the US Army.
 - **1942** - The U.S. Army K9 Corps is established.
 - **1943** - A plot to kill Hitler by German army officers failed as a bomb planted aboard his plane failed to explode due to a faulty detonator.
 - **1954** - General Giap's Viet Minh attack That Bien Phu.
 - **1977** - Rifleman Jacobus Frederick Steyn from 5 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident at the Kongola Bridge. He was 19.
 - **1982** - Three members of 32 Battalion were Killed in Action during Operation Super in Southern Angola. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant Petrus Johannes Stephanus Nel (HC Posthumous) (19). Corporal Phillip Thomas Stewart (23). Corporal Yombi João (32).
 - **1983** - Rifleman Andrew Matthews Smit from 5 SAI was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion in Southern Angola. He was 18.
 - **1986** - Corporal Victor Rodrigues Pedro from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment accidentally drowned in Durban during a training exercise. He was 31.
 - **1988** - Private Carel Johannes Beneke from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed when his military vehicle

13 March

- **1900** - British forces under Lord Roberts take Bloemfontein.
- **1933** - Hitler makes Josef

- overtaken near Buffalo. He was 18.
- **1988** - Lieutenant (Doctor) Herman Jan Roelof Gerding from the SA Medical Corps Headquarters was killed while travelling as a passenger in a military ambulance. He was 35.
- **2002** - The Angolan government announces a unilateral ceasefire in its 27-year civil war against Unita, to begin the next day.

14 March

- **1915** - German cruiser 'Dresden' scuttled off Chile.
- **1933** - Winston Churchill calls for better air defensive of Britain.
- **1941** - German Air Raid on Clydbank: After two night of bombing nearly every building the town is damaged or destroyed, more than 500 are dead, and over 50,000 homeless.
- **1961** - Two members from Air Force Base Zwartkop were killed when their Ferret Scout Car overturned while on a night Base Perimeter Patrol. The casualties were: Air Sergeant James George McKelvey (30). Air Sergeant Nicolaas Jacobus Neveling (23).
- **1979** - Two members of 12 Squadron deployed to Grootfontein for Operation Rekstok and Safraan were killed in action. They were: Lieutenant (Pilot) Dewald Wally Marais (24). 2nd Lieutenant (Navigator)

- Owen John Doyle (21).
- **1980** - 2nd Lieutenant Phillipus Jacob Rudolph Oosthuizen from 5 SAI was Killed in Action after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds during an ambush on the Chandelier Road, about 10km from Nkongo Base when a Soviet 82mm High Explosive mortar bomb exploded next to him. He was 20.
- **1984** - Lieutenant Stanley Saillard Ponder from the South African Medical Corps, a Dental Practitioner attached to 2 Field Engineer Regiment, was killed at Grootfontein when his vehicle was involved in a head-on collision with a police vehicle while he was traveling to a nearby clinic. He was 25.
- **1985** - 2nd Lieutenant Guy Claude Udo Winsto Mogens De Beurges from 121 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy



- forces in Southern Angola. He was 20.
- **1985** - Special Constable Joans Andungi 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 23.
- **1987** - Special Constable Ndjendjela Vilho 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 26.
- **1988** - Rifleman Zwelithini Andrias Lukhelo from 121 Battalion was killed while on patrol in the Tembe Elephant Park when he was trampled to death by an enraged elephant. He was 32.
- **1992** - Rifleman Marius Gottfreidt Uitenweerde from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed in a private motor vehicle accident near Benoni. He was 26.

15 March

- **1900** - Lord Roberts issues his first proclamation, offering amnesty to burghers, except for the leaders.
- **1922** - The artillery bombards the strikers' strong-

Josef Goebbels

- hold at Fordsburg Square during the Rand Revolt and it falls to the government. Before presumably committing suicide in this building, the two communist leaders, Fisher and Spendiff, left a joint note: 'We died for what we believed in the Cause'.
- **1943** - Third Battle of Kharkov: Germans under Manstein retake the city from the Soviets.
- **1944** - The ancient Abbey of Monte Cassino is destroyed by Allied bombing and shelling.
- **1957** - Britain becomes the third nation to detonate a nuclear bomb.
- **1972** - Rifleman Werner Albrecht from the Technical Service Corps attached to 1 Field Ambulance Unit was accidentally killed when a steam pressure cooker exploded at Elandsfontein. He was 19.
- **1982** - Rifleman Johannes Jasva from Northern Transvaal Command was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 18.
- **1986** - Special Constable Ernesto Hishidivali 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.
- **1988** - Angola releases the bodies of two SA Defence Force commandos killed in

a raid on Cabinda oil depots in 1985, and the SADF repatriates twelve captured MPLA soldiers.

16 March

- **1802** - The U.S. Military Academy at West Point opens its doors on this day.
- **1916** - The new Dutch passenger liner 'Tubatina' is torpedoed off the Netherlands, Germany denies responsibility despite recovery of portions of the torpedo.
- **1935** - Hitler announces German rearmament, after years of covert efforts under the Weimar Republic, in violation of the Treaty of Versailles.
- **1968** - During the Vietnam War, the My Lai Massacre occurred as American soldiers of Charlie Company murdered 504 Vietnamese men, women, and children. Twenty-five U.S. Army officers were later charged with complicity in the massacre and subsequent cover-up, but only one was convicted, and later pardoned by President Richard Nixon.
- **1983** - Chief Petty Officer Nadiem Mooi from the South African Navy Provost Unit was accidentally killed while attached to 102 Battalion SWATF. He was 34.
- **1984** - Two members of the South African Cape Corps and one from the Army Catering Corps were killed after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in an accidental mortar bomb ex-

plosion at Ruacana. They were: Corporal Theo Christopeus Noel Maseti (Army Catering Corps) (21). Rifleman Charles Johannes Coram (19). Rifleman Willem Swartz (22).

- **1984** - Rifleman P. Hauptindi from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 20.
- **1984** - Prime Minister P.W. Botha and President Samora Machel of Mozambique sign the Nkomati Accord at the common border on the banks of the Komati River a step hailed as a major move towards peace, stability and international co-operation in Southern Africa.
- **1987** - Two members from 5 SAI were killed when their Samil 50 vehicle overturned 10km east of Colenso while ferrying troops from Durban Airport to the 5 SAI Base at Ladysmith. They were: Rifleman Gavin Gainsford (18). Rifleman John Adriaan Marlow (18).

17 March (St Patrick's Day)

- **1900** - President Kruger and President Steyn appoint Count Georges de Villebois-Mareuil as general in Kroonstad during the South African War. He is killed three weeks later in combat in Boshof, Free State.
- **1900** - A Great combined Republican Council of War is held at Kroonstad, attended by both presidents and com-

manders of the Boer forces, during which far-reaching tactical decisions are taken about the future conduct of the war.

- **1916** - The Imperial Japanese Naval Air Service is established.
- **1942** - Belzec Concentration Camp opens.
- **1966** - US mini-sub locates a missing H-bomb in the Mediterranean off Palomares, Spain.
- **1977** - Sapper Christo Kemp from 14 Field Regiment was Killed in Action during mine clearing operations. He was 23.
- **1977** - Angolan troops invading Zaire take important copper-mining centre of Kolwezi.
- **1981** - Rifleman Petrus Jacobus Viljoen from the Pietermaritzburg Commando was Killed in Action during a skirmish with FRELIMO troops near Ponta do Ouro. He was 23.
- **1984** - A Defence Force spokesman confirms in Cape Town that South Africa is to stop supplying the United States and Britain with intelligence reports on the movements of Soviet warships around the Cape by the end of the year.
- **1987** - Two members from 101 Battalion SWATF were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents in Southern Angola just north of the Cutline. The Casualties were: Rifleman Craig Douglas

Wetton (19). Rifleman M. Moses (20).

- **1997** - Denel says no deal has been reached over the sale of arms to Syria.

18 March

- **1915** - British & French lose six ships attempting to force the Dardanelles.
- **1917** - French battleship 'Danton' is sunk off Sardinia by a German u-boat, 296 die.
- **1922** - The strike by mine-workers on the Witwatersrand, also known as the Rand Revolt, ends. More than 200 people were killed during the strike, which put thousands out of work and caused a devastating loss in coal and gold production.
- **1940** - Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini hold a meeting at the Brenner Pass during which the Italian dictator agrees to join in Germany's war against France and Britain.
- **1944** - German troops seize control of Hungary.
- **1949** - The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is founded.
- **1952** - Communist offensive in Korea begins.
- **1963** - War of independence is launched against Portugal in Guinea-Bissau.
- **1969** - Minister of Defence, P.W. Botha, attends the launching in France of the first of three Daphne class submarines being built for the South African Navy.
- **1975** - Herbert Chitepo, 52,

ZANU leader, is killed in Lusaka when his car blows up in an explosion.

- **1986** - Warrant Officer Class 1 Frederick Petrus Johannes Cornelius from 5 Maintenance Unit was critically wounded in Northern Owamboland when his vehicle detonated a landmine. Evacuated back to the RSA, he succumbed to his wounds in 1 Military Hospital later that evening. He was 31.
- **1987** - Israel freezes military contracts and imposes cultural and tourism sanctions on South Africa.

19 March

- **1858** - War against the Basuto is declared in Bloemfontein.
- **1945** - Adolf Hitler orders total destruction of German infrastructure.
- **1979** - Private Louis Gerhard Nel was critically injured in an aircraft ejection seat accident on the Squadron and succumbed to his injuries in 1 Military Hospital. He was 20.
- **1981** - Gunner Cornelius Johannes Janse van Rensburg from 14 Field Regiment died in 1 Military Hospital after being diagnosed with a brain tumour. He was 19.
- **1988** - Major Jan Willem van Coppenhagen from 1 Squadron was Reported Missing in Action in Southern Angola when his Dassault Mirage F1AZ failed to return from a low level night diversion strike on enemy

installations at Baixa Longa in Angola with radio silence being enforced. After an intensive search, the wreckage of the aircraft together with the body of the pilot were located inside Angola, not far from the Cut Line. He was 33.

- **1989** - Maiden flight of the Boeing V-22 Osprey VTOL aircraft.
- **1994** - Rifleman Phethiso Simeon Makhatha from 115 Battalion was killed after suffering multiple head injuries when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned while on Township Patrol. He was 27.
- **2003** - The United States launched an attack against Iraq to topple dictator Saddam Hussein from power. The attack commenced with aerial strikes against military sites, followed the next day by an invasion of southern Iraq by U.S. and British ground troops.

20 March

- **1896** - The second Matabele war breaks out.
- **1902** - In the British House of Commons David Lloyd George suggests that there are as many as 30 000 armed Blacks in British military employ in South Africa.
- **1933** - The Nazis open their first concentration camp, at Dachau, near Munich.
- **1942** - General Douglas MacArthur vows "I shall return".
- **1981** - Seaman Derek Jerome Meyer of the 1st Ma-

- rine Brigade, South African Marine Corps, was killed instantly in a shooting incident while participating in military exercises being held near Vryburg. He was 19.
- **1982** - Rifleman Dumba Katibelo from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action near the Cut-Line during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents. He was 23.
 - **1983** - Special Sergeant Atytale Amalua 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 32.
 - **1984** - Gunner Joachim Jacobus Badenhorst from 61 Mechanised Battalion was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned on a wet road at Tsumeb. He was 19.
 - **1985** - Rifleman Jan Andries Coetzee from 7 SAI was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident on the Witbank Highway. He was 20.
 - **1988** - Corporal Gregory MacKenzie Steward from 44 Parachute Pathfinder Company was called up for a three-month camp in March 1988. He was officially Reported Missing after participating in a Sunday night practice parachute jump at Murray Hill just north of Pretoria. An intensive search was launched
- and his body was located an hour later and recovered. He was 20.
- **1989** - Lance Corporal Philip Swartz from 52 Battalion was killed in a motor cycle accident at Oshakati. He was 28.
 - **1999** - The African People's Liberation Army (APLA), armed section of the PAC, is disbanded in the Umtata stadium by Dr Stanley Mogoba.

21 March

- **1918** - During World War I, the Second Battle of the Somme began as German General Erich von Ludendorff launched an all-out drive to win the war.
- **1943** - A suicide/assassination plot by German Army officers against Hitler failed as the conspirators were unable to locate a short fuse for the bomb which was to be carried in the coat pocket of General von Gersdorff to ceremonies Hitler was attending.
- **1945** - Okinawa: Japanese use Okha suicide planes for the first time.
- **1946** - The US Strategic Air Command is established.
- **1966** - Two members from Central Flying School Dunottar were killed when their AT-6 Harvard crashed near Eendrag during a routine training flight. They were: Lieutenant (Pilot Instructor) Johannes Nicolaas Taljaard (22). Candidate Officer (Pupil Pilot) Ian Ashton Fraser

(19).

- **1975** - Two members from 17 Squadron were killed when their Alouette III, Serial Number 23 struck power lines 7km North of Windhoek and caught fire. The Crew and civilian passengers were killed during the subsequent emergency landing. The Crew were: Lieutenant (Pilot) Geoffrey Herbert Clark (28). Sergeant (Flight Engineer) Christiaan Hermanus Pretorius (29).
- **1976** - Warrant Officer Class II Keith Hugh Hamilton from 250 Air Defence Artillery Group, South African Air Force died in 1 Military Hospital after developing blood clots on the lungs. He was 30.
- **1979** - Lance Corporal Johannes Gerhardus Olivier from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in South Eastern Angola near the Kavangoland Border. He was 22.
- **1979** - Rifleman John Henry van Drutten from the Lydenburg Commando collapsed and died from heat exhaustion during a Route March at Phalaborwa. He was 23.
- **1980** - Rifleman Carlos Conceicao Da Trindade from 32 Battalion Died of Wounds in the Grootfontein Hospital after being critically wounded on 13 March 1980 during Operation Makalani in Southern Angola. He was 20.

- **1981** - Major Carel Arnold Briers from 101 Battalion Romeo Mike was accidentally electrocuted at the Miershoop training base just south of Okatope. He was 27.
- **1984** - Rifleman Eugene Cedric Terblanche from 6 SAI contracted malaria and was admitted to the Grahamstown Provincial Hospital where he died on 21 March 1984. He was 19.
- **1984** - Soviet sub collides with USS 'Kitty Hawk' (CV-63) off Japan.
- **1990** - Authorities ordered an inquiry into the funding of the Civil Co-operation Bureau, a secret military unit, accused of political assassinations.
- **1997** - South African mercenaries, hired by the Papua New Guinea government to help crush a separatist rebellion, arrive back in South Africa. Executive Outcomes say that the men should not be seen as mercenaries, but as consultants.

23 March

- **1881** - During the First Anglo-Boer War a peace agreement between the Transvaal Republic and England is ratified and the final agreement is incorporated into the Pretoria Convention, which was signed on 3 August 1881.
- **1881** - The 3-months siege of British soldiers in the Old Fort in Potchefstroom ends amicably with Boer leader Piet Cronje inviting the British officers to dinner at the Royal Hotel. Twenty-five British soldiers and six Boer soldiers died during the siege.
- **1918** - Paris is shelled by German very-long range artillery.
- **1944** - RAF Flight Sergeant

Nicholas Alkemade survives a 5,500 m fall without a parachute after his Lancaster is hit near Berlin.

- **1962** - French government uses fighter planes and tanks in attempt to end insurrection by European rightists in Algeria.
- **1965** - Two SAAF members, one from 7 Squadron and one from 8 Squadron were killed when their AT-6 Harvard crashed near Bloemfontein during a night cross country exercise. It appears that the crew may have become disorientated as the aircraft flew vertically into the ground while still under full power. The crew were: 2nd Lieutenant (Pilot Instructor) Jacobus Johannes le Roux (22). Candidate Officer (Pupil Pilot) Robin Leslie Jarman (21).
- **1965** - Gunner Leonard Edward Parsons from Eastern Province Command was accidentally electrocuted. He was 18.
- **1980** - Corporal Renier Stephanus van Zyl from Regiment Namutoni SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 24.
- **1980** - Rifleman Robert Frederick McShane from the Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg was critically injured in a hit-and-run accident just outside Hoopstad on 18 November 1979 while hitch-hiking home to Cape



**George S
Patton**

Town on weekend pass. He succumbed to his injuries in hospital on 23 March 1980. He was 19.

- **1982** - Rifleman Johannes Dimbo from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds from a Soviet 60mm mortar bomb explosion during a SWAPO/PLAN insurgent attack near Nkongo. He was 22.
- **1982** - South Africa is to expand its military call-up to include all White men aged between seventeen and sixty-five, almost doubling the size of its forces. Commando units are to be strengthened.
- **1985** - 2nd Lieutenant Delarey Matthee from 3 SAI was accidentally shot and killed by own forces in his own ambush at Kamanjab. He was 24.
- **1988** - Constable Jacobus Ignatius van Zyl from the SWA Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action when his Z4S Casspir was hit by a Soviet RPG-7 Anti-Tank Rocket during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1990** - Commandant Henry Walter Venter from 4 Vehicle Reserve Park was killed in a military vehicle accident on the Old Warmbaths Road near Pretoria. He was 40.
- **1997** - The first wave of a US military task force moves

cautiously into central Africa, preparing for a possible evacuation of Americans from Zaire.

- **2006** - Desmond Doss, conscientious objector who had earned a Medal of Honour as a medic on Okinawa, dies at the age of 87.

24 March

- **1900** - Newly appointed Combat General Count Georges de Villebois-Mareuil leaves Kroonstad with a 'flying column' consisting of fifty Dutchmen, twenty-five Frenchmen and eleven Afrikaners, aiming to blow up the railway line south of Kimberley to disrupt British lines of communications.
- **1941** - Donald Duck enlists in the US Army, for the first of six war cartoons.
- **1944** - The Great Escape: 76 Allied officers flee Stalag Luft 3.
- **1945** - Operation Varsity: Allied airborne crossing of the Rhine.
- **1951** - Two pilots of SA Air Force's No 2 (Flying Cheetah) Squadron, assisting the United Nations in the Korean War, blast a convoy of twelve stationary and camouflaged trucks with rocket-fire and destroy ten. In another operation, two "Flying Cheetahs" wipe out nine trucks.
- **1963** - Five members of the South African Defence Force were killed when the military vehicle in which

they were traveling as passengers, overturned at Voortrekkerhoogte. They were: Private Jacobus Gerhardus Roos Runkel (18). Signaller Ivan Leslie Taylor (19). Signaller Ulrich Andre Mulder from 2 Signal Regiment (18). Signaller Jacobus Johannes Helberg (17). Signaller Abraham Lodewicus Botha (20).

- **1972** - Private Leon George Muller from the Air Force Gymnasium died from heat exhaustion in 1 Military Hospital. He was 19.
- **1974** - Uganda crushes a coup attempt against President Idi Amin.
- **1975** - Rifleman Peter John van der Walt from 4 SAI died from a gunshot wound as a result of the accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while stationed in the Caprivi Strip. He was 18.
- **1976** - Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, British field marshal during World War 2 and commander of the Eighth Army in North Africa, dies at the age of 88.
- **1982** - Rifleman Gringo Jose' Manuel from 32 Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident at Buffalo. He was 23.
- **1986** - Commandant Charles Vernon Hochapfel from the South West Africa Gymnasium attached to 101 Battalion SWATF, died in 1 Military Hospital from Wounds received during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 44.

25 March

- **1858** - The battle of Koranaberg takes place during the Orange Free State-Basuto War.
- **1915** - First USN submarine disaster: USS 'F-4' sinks off Hawaii, 21 die.
- **1945** - US First Army breaks out of the Remagen bridgehead.
- **1966** - Lieutenant Francois Theron Mentz from Central Flying School Dunnottar was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed after flying into rising ground during low level flying near Middelburg. He was 22.
- **1976** - Trooper Reginald Edward Smith from the Natal Mounted Rifles died in Northern Owamboland from a gunshot wound as a result of an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 23.
- **1976** - Lance Corporal Willem Christoffel Swanepoel from 2 Parachute Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents north of Oshikango. He was 30.
- **1977** - Five members from Regiment Westelike Provinsie were killed and 71 injured on when a goods train loaded with iron ore collided with their stationary troop train at the Keetmanshoop station. The Casualties were: Rifleman Gary Albert Bricknell (22). Rifleman Petrus Johannes Jacobus Holtzhausen (27). Rifleman Wilhelm Hugo (26). Rifleman Hermanus Johannes Uys (25). Rifleman Paul Kady Donovan van Zyl (24).
- **1978** - Rifleman R. Desenga from 31 Battalion was accidentally shot and killed by a fellow soldier in Northern Owamboland. He was 20.
- **1980** - Two members from 42 Squadron were killed when their AM-3C Bosbok, Serial No. 923 crashed near Potchefstroom while carrying out low level flying. The crew were: Lieutenant Edwin Johannes le Roux (20). Lieutenant Pieter Frederick Smit (22).
- **1980** - Two crewmembers from 44 Squadron and a SAAF female Personnel Officer (passenger), were killed when their C-47 Dakota, based at Air Force Base Grootfontein, crashed between Tsumeb and Grootfontein while carrying out unauthorised low level flight. The casualties were: Lieutenant Johan Heinrich Leeuw (22). Lieutenant Cornelis Johannes Wessels (21). Candidate Officer (Miss) Elna Susan Swart (23).
- **1982** - Two members of Witwatersrand Command Headquarters were killed in a Military Vehicle Accident in Houghton. They were: Rifleman Johannes Theodorus Lombard (21). Rifleman Ivan John van Heerden (20).
- **1982** - In announcing the 1982 Defence Budget, Owen Horwood reaffirms

that the government's highest priority remains that of giving South Africa an effective defence capability and a self-sufficient arms industry.

- **1985** - Rifleman Colin Graham Dockerill from 6 SAI, detached to the Equestrian Centre, was killed instantly in Northern Owamboland while returning from a waterhole when he fell off his galloping horse and hit a tree trunk, breaking his neck. He was 20.
- **1988** - Rifleman Nicolaas Jacobus Vermeulen from 54 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 23.
- **1988** - Rifleman Simon Haindula from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 22.
- **1994** - Lance Corporal Phiti Joel Mokgolo from 7 SAI was killed in a motor vehicle accident near Rustenburg. He was 27.
- **1994** - American troops withdraw from Somalia after a 16-month humanitarian mission marred by fighting with the Somalis.

26 March

- **1917** - First Battle of Gaza: The Turks hold the British.
- **1945** - Seventh Army attacks Worms on the Rhine.
- **1957** - Two members from Central Flying School Dun-

nottar were killed when their Harvard flew into rising ground near Trichardt during a night cross country flight. The aircraft disintegrated on impact and burnt out. The crew were: Lieutenant Andre Dewald de Klerk (25). 2nd Lieutenant Neil Rhodes Edward Ken-naugh (23).

- **1965** - Rifleman Andrew Mark Newton-Thompson from 1 SAI collapsed from heat exhaustion while on a cross country run and died in the Groote Schuur Hospital. He was 21.
- **1965** - Rifleman Johannes Rudolf Fourie from 5 SAI died from a gunshot wound resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle during a training exercise at Ladysmith. He was 18.
- **1976** - Rifleman Hermanus Stephanus Lombard Moss from the Kaffrarian Rifles was Killed in Action when his Unimog detonated a landmine just north of Ondangwa in Northern Owamboland. He was 23.
- **1977** - Rifleman Joao Antonio from 32 Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident at Buffalo while delivering supplies to the Base. He was 27.
- **1978** - Corporal Nicolaas Johannes Koekemoer from the Johannesburg Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Rhodesia. He was 24.
- **1979** - Camp David peace

treaty is signed, ending 30 years of war between Egypt and Israel.

- **1980** - Rifleman John Stephen Botha from 32 Battalion died at Buffalo Base from a gunshot wound apparently accidentally self-inflicted. No foul play was suspected. He was 19.
- **1984** - Lieutenant Hendrik Hans Jacob Maree from the South African Medical Corps attached to 202 Battalion SWATF was killed in a motor vehicle accident at Rundu. He was 23.
- **1991** - Soldiers overthrow Mali's military dictator after days of rioting and protests that leave dozens dead.

27 March

- **1881** - A Boer force of 150 men storms Majuba and drives out 400 British troops in the decisive battle of the Anglo-Transvaal War.
- **1900** - General Piet Joubert, commandant-general of the Boer forces and vice-president of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek, dies of gastritis in Pretoria.
- **1933** - Japan leaves the League of Nations.
- **1941** - Himmler orders building of the Auschwitz concentration camp.
- **1945** - The last German V-2 rocket attack on Britain: 134 people, many of them Jewish, are killed Whitechapel, London.
- **1964** - UN peacekeeping troops arrive on Cyprus.

• **1968** - Captain Andries Jacobus Mouton from Air Operations School was killed when his De Havilland Vampire T-55 Mk II was involved in a mid-air collision with a Canadair C13L Sabre piloted by Lt Liebenberg of 1 Squadron near Pietersburg. He was 29.

- **1975** - Minister of Defence P.W. Botha presents a White Paper outlining defence policy and justifying the increased expenditure which now accounts for one-fifth of the country's revenue budget.
- **1979** - Rifleman Dixon Njunge from 201 Battalion SWATF was accidentally shot dead by a fellow soldier during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1981** - Rifleman Daniel Johannes Louw from the South African Cape Corps killed at M'pacha after suffering a fatal gunshot wound as a result of an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 20.
- **1983** - Three members from the 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: Special Sergeant Edward Mutuku (29). Special Constable Matheus Funet (24). Special Constable Johannes Muyongo (25).

- **1987** - Rifleman Manuel Maundu from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 22.

28 March

- **1879** - Nearly one hundred officers and men of Wood's column are killed in a desperate fight against a Zulu impi on Hlobane Mountain during the Anglo-Zulu War.
- **1915** - German submarine 'U-28' torpedoes the British liner 'Falaba' in St. George's Channel, 104 die.
- **1942** - Operation Chariot: Nocturnal Royal Navy/Royal Marine commando raid blocks the 'Normandie' dock in Nazi-occupied St Nazaire. Five VCs are awarded as a result of the raid.
- **1945** - Last V-1 buzz bomb attack on London.
- **1969** - Dwight D. Eisenhower, US President, 5-star general and Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in Europe, dies at the age of 78.

• **1978** - Sapper Michael Andries Stephanus Nel from 101 Field Engineer Regiment was Reported Missing while swimming in the Okavango River after he was attacked by a crocodile. He has no known grave and remains unaccounted for. He was 19.

- **1979** - The World Campaign against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa is launched in London, with the support of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid. Several Heads of State and Government are its patrons and Abdul S. Minty its Director.
- **1979** - Sergeant Robert Daniel Burt from Sector 70 Headquarters SWATF was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 26.
- **1979** - Rifleman Dennis Colin Golden from 1 Parachute Battalion was accidentally killed by own forces near Otavi. He was 19.
- **1979** - Rifleman Nikos Pavlakis from Infantry School Died of Wounds when his patrol, while moving along the Cut-line, was ambushed by a numerically superior force of SWAPO/PLAN insurgents between Beacon 11 and Beacon 12. He was 20.
- **1980** - Trooper Leon Oosthuizen from 1 Special Service Battalion was killed after suffering multiple shrap-

nel wounds in an accidental hand grenade explosion at the General De Wet Training Area. He was 18.

- **1981** - Three members of 1 Parachute Battalion died of multiple shrapnel wounds at the Barracks in Bloemfontein. The casualties were: Rifleman Petrus Jacobus Pieterse (18). Rifleman Johannes Daniel van der Westhuizen (19). Rifleman Elias Jacobus Nicolaas Beukes (18).
- **1982** - ARMSCOR's Chairman announces that South Africa has produced a world-beating 155-millimetre artillery system the G5 gun.
- **1983** - Special Constable Ng-hiwaniva Nghiyayela 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 26.
- **1985** - Rifleman Kleopas Mbango from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut Line. He was 23.
- **1987** - Special Sergeant Martin Lukas 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 32.



V1
'Buzzbomb'

- **1988** - Special Constable Manuel Sevelenu 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.
- **1990** - Commandant John Orr, Officer Commanding 2 Squadron returned from a training sortie in his Mirage IICZ and while debriefing at the Squadron, he suddenly collapsed. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria where he succumbed. He was 37.
- **1977** - Staff Sergeant Gert Jacobus Voges from 29 Field Workshops died from injuries sustained in a military vehicle accident at the Otavi-Tsumeb crossroads. He was 39.
- **1988** - Gunner Hendrik Jacobus van der Westhuizen from Regiment Potchefstroom University was killed when he accidentally shot himself in Southern Angola during operations against FAPLA Forces near Cuito Cuanavale. He was 33.
- **1994** - Cease-fire ends Serbo-Croat War.

30 March

- **1945** - Soviet troops enter Austria.
- **1945** - The Red Army captures Danzig.
- **1972** - Private Sydney Eric Wienand from the Air Force Gymnasium was killed in a military vehicle accident in Pretoria. He was 19.
- **1973** - Private Andrew James MacPherson from Natal Command Headquarters was killed in a military vehicle accident in Durban. He was 18.



**M1911
.45 ACP
Pistol**

29 March

- **1879** - The battle of Kambula during the Anglo-Zulu War, takes place.
- **1911** - The U.S. Army adopts the M1911 .45 ACP pistol as its official sidearm.
- **1962** - The minister of defence, J.J. Fouché, discloses that South Africa is buying supersonic Mirage III jet fighters from France, and that South African forces are being equipped with French alouette helicopters.
- **1971** - 1st Lt William L Calley Jr found guilty in the My Lai massacre.
- **1973** - Private Johan Marthinus Kruger from 2 Mobilisation Centre was killed in a military vehicle accident at Petrusburg. He was 18.
- **1973** - Last US troops leave Vietnam, nine years after the Tonkin Gulf Resolution.

- **1984** - Four members from the Congella Regiment and one member from Group 10 attached to the Regiment were killed and one critically injured when their Military Landrover Vehicle was struck and flattened by an articulated vehicle loaded with logs that jack-knifed across the road approximately 9 km outside Richmond. The casualties were: Staff Sergeant Kevin Ernest Parker (37). Lance Corporal Roderrick William Bekker (28). Rifleman Winston Churchill (25). Rifleman Stefan Henry Conrad (27). Rifleman Grant Edward Brierley (27) died from his injuries on 31 March 1984.
- **1984** - Corporal Daniel Matsetse from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with

SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 24.

- **1987** - Sergeant (Flight Engineer) Daniel Lan from 16 Squadron was Killed in Action after being hit by enemy small arms fire while acting as door gunner in Alouette III 624 during a close-air support operation against SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in the Oshivello area. He was 27.

31 March

- **1900** - General Christiaan de Wet and his men, in a battle that marks the first of the guerrilla phase of the Second Anglo-Boer War, clash with British forces under General R Broadwood and capture 421 men, seven guns and 83 wagons. The battle is fought at Sannaspost (Sannah's Post), east of Bloemfontein.
- **1921** - The Royal Australian Air Force is established.
- **1941** - Germans launch a counter-offensive in North Africa in World War II.
- **1943** - USAAF accidentally bombs a residential area of Rotterdam, 326 die.
- **1954** - USSR offers to join NATO.
- **1960** - Four more regiments

of the Citizens' Force are mobilised. Legal authorities in Johannesburg state the emergency regulations create a situation of virtual martial law.

- **1970** - Marshal of the Soviet Union Semion Timoshenko dies at the age of 75.
- **1977** - A Defence White Paper analyses South Africa's defence requirements in the context of the Soviet and Cuban intervention in Angola. South Africa is to be placed on a war footing.
- **1977** - Private Wilhelm Jacobus Johannes van Nieuwenhuizen from 32 Field Workshop Squadron was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 28.
- **1989** - Johan Papenfus, a SA Defence Force rifleman captured in Angola nearly a year previously, returns to South Africa from Cuba. His return is part of an exchange for prisoners held by Unita.
- **1992** - UN Security Council votes to ban flights and arms sales to Libya, branding it a terrorist state for shielding six men accused of blowing up Pan Am Flight 103 and a French airliner.
- **1994** - South African President F.W. de Klerk declares a state of emergency in Natal and orders the army into the Zulu stronghold.



**Semion
Timoshenko**



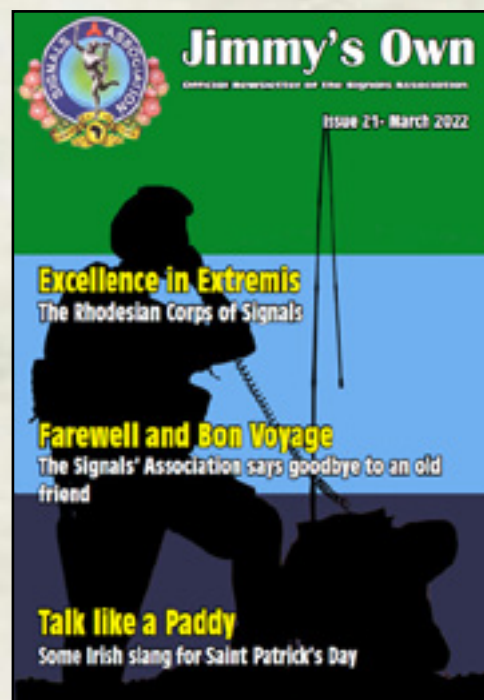
General Knowledge

1. Brixton Ridge in Johannesburg. It was during the Rand Rebellion in 1922.
2. Five. George Gristock, John Nettleton, Gerhard Norton, Quentin Smythe, and Edwin Swales.
3. The Panther.
4. Dad's Army.
5. Avtomat Kalashnikova.
6. None.
7. Spetsnaz.
8. Anthony Beauchamp-Proctor.
9. Government Issue.
10. Cpl Pieter Arnoldus Swane-poel, 2 SAI, HCS, 11 November 1975.
11. Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword.
12. Max Schmeling. He was a Fallschirmjäger with the German Luftwaffe.
13. Rhodesian Light Infantry (RLI).
14. Alfred Lord Tennyson.
15. 5 Reconnaissance Commando. They only became 5 Reconnaissance Regiment after they moved to Phalaborwa.
16. American actress Jane Fonda.
17. Glenn Miller.
18. 116 years.
19. William Joyce.
20. The Bridge on the River Kwai.
21. General Rudolph Hiemstra.
22. The Crimean War.
23. The American Sherman tank. They used petrol instead of diesel and were notorious for their flammability. Shermans were nicknamed "Ronsons" after a lighter with the slogan "lights every time."
24. The Huey.
25. Fishbed.

Useful links

Every month we feature a few useful links to military websites, newsletters and online magazines. Stuff that we think our readers will appreciate.

Here are two of our favourites. The first one is Nongqai, the unofficial police newsletter for veterans of the former South African Police Force and for those interested in Police History. The second is Jimmy's Own, the official newsletter of the South African Signals Association. Click on the magazine covers to go to the respective websites.



Military Despatches Website

For the past few months we have had a problem updating the website. For some reason the changes are not being uploaded to the website.

We have spent hours and hours, working with our website hosting company and their technical staff trying to resolve the issue. The eventual conclusion - eish.

What we now have to do is de-register our URL www.militarydespatches.co.za and take down the website. Then we have to pay to re-register the URL and rebuild the website from scratch.

As you can imagine, this is not only time consuming but frustrating to say the least. We will inform our readers when the site is up and running again.

In the meantime you can still find the magazine at www.hipe.co.za and you will also find all back issues of Military Despatches there.

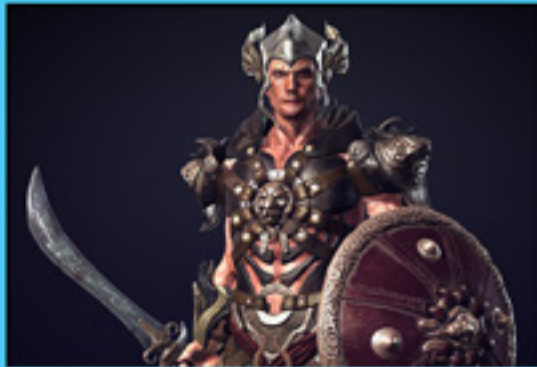
Hipe! media

E-mail
editor@hipe.co.za



Online Magazines

Flip book magazines with pages that can be turned.



E-books

Produced in any electronic format required.



2D & 3D Animation

Produced in any video format.



Video Production

Scripting, storyboard, filming and editing done to any video format required. We also do aerial and underwater video and stills.



Still Photography

If you're thinking digital media then think Hipe Media.