



Military Despatches

Vol 58 April 2022

Operation Barbarossa

The German invasion of the Soviet Union

Hygiene in World War II

What had changed since World War I



Military Fair

The Pro Patria Museum Military Fair in May

Otto Skorzeny

The most dangerous man in Europe

For the military enthusiast



Military Despatches YouTube Channel



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Paratrooper Wings Quiz

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

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

Army Speak 101

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

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



New videos each week

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

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



Military Firearms Quiz

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



Elite Military Units Quiz

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

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



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Please remember to subscribe to our channel.

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



Editor's Sitrep

Well another March is done and dusted and another St. Patrick's Day is behind me.

I had a pretty good St. Paddy's day, or so I've been told. I went out to supper and actually managed to find a place where I could get a green hamburger. It did my Irish heart good - as did the numerous glasses of Bushmills.

I've been following the situation in Ukraine with great interest. I'm in the fortunate position that I have a number of former colleagues who are actually in Ukraine covering the ongoing story. So I am able to get more accurate information than one normally finds on the various media platforms.

By all accounts, things are not going as well as the Russians expected. They are facing a number of problems, including fierce resistance from Ukrainian forces.

There are a few lessons that the Russians should have learnt from history, and history that they should know all too well.

When Russia was invaded by Germany back in June 1941, the Nazis penetrated deep into Russian territory, capturing vast areas of land.



Yet the further an army advances, the longer the supply lines become. Vehicles need fuel and ammunition and troops need to be fed and resupplied. The longer the supply lines, the easier it is to cut them off.

On a different note, I am thrilled to see that the Pro Patria Museum is holding a Military Fair at the Voortrekker Monument on 2 May.

The Pro Patria Military Fair's main objective is to educate the public and promote awareness about Southern African Military Heritage.

If you can get there, please do. I would love to attend, but it's in Pretoria and I'm in Cape Town. Well, we'll do a full article in the June issue.

Until next time.

Matt

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German Panzers advance into Russia at the start of Operation Barbarossa in June 1941.

Although the German achieved initial success, it marked the beginning of the end for Nazi Germany.



Ten best American generals

Generals can often win or lose a battle, or even an entire war. In this month's Top Ten we look at who were regarded as the best American generals in history.

Compiling any sort of a 'Top Ten' list is often not that difficult. It depends what criteria you are using to put the list together.

For example, if I were putting together a list of the fighter pilots of World War II with the most confirmed kills it would not be that hard. After all, the information is readily available.

If, however, I was doing a list on the ten best fighter pilots of World War II, it would be a different story. What criteria would I use to determine who were the top ten pilots?

Would I base it on their number of kills, the number of combat missions they flew, the total number of flying hours they logged up?

So putting together a list of the Ten best American generals is not that easy. Ask ten different people and you will get ten different ideas.

What I did was look at various sources in an attempt to put together a list that most historians and researchers seemed to agree on.

Some generals such as John J. Pershing, Omar Bradley and William Westmoreland were mentioned, but failed to make the final cut.

Here then is the list of who American historians believe to be the top ten generals in American history.



10. Winfield Scott

Scott was an American military commander and political candidate. He served as a general in the United States Army from 1814 to 1861, taking part in the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the early stages of the American Civil War and conflicts with Native Americans.

Scott was the Whig Party's presidential nominee in the 1852 election, but was defeated by Democrat Franklin Pierce.

He was known as Old Fuss and Feathers for his insistence on proper military etiquette, as well as the Grand Old Man of the Army for his many years of service.

He rose to fame as the man who defeated Mexico in a brilliant amphibious campaign far ahead of its time, followed by

an audacious march on Mexico City.

He also devised the "Anaconda Strategy" that helped to strangle the Confederacy and helped the Union to win the Civil War.

In his day no less an expert than the Duke of Wellington called him the greatest living general.



9. Dwight D. Eisenhower

Dwight David "Ike" Eisenhower was an American military officer and statesman who served as the 34th president of the United States from 1953 to 1961.

During World War II, he served as Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force in Europe, and achieved the rare five-star rank of General of the Army.

He planned and supervised the invasion of North Africa in Operation Torch in 1942–1943

and the invasion of Normandy from the Western Front in 1944–1945.

Ike was the archetype of the modern "political general" in the age of coalition warfare.

His primary mission was to keep the various allies happily working in concert to defeat the Axis Powers. And this had to be achieved while working with some difficult characters.

No general in history has commanded a larger force on land, sea, and air.

He managed to win the war with minimal casualties and no major defeat (though several severe embarrassments). In all, he was the consummate professional soldier.



8. Douglas MacArthur

MacArthur was an American military leader who served as General of the Army for the United States, as well as a Field Marshal to the Philippine Army.

He was Chief of Staff of the United States Army during the 1930s, and he played a prominent role in the Pacific theatre

during World War II.

MacArthur received the Medal of Honour for his service in the Philippines campaign. This made him and his father Arthur MacArthur Jr. the first father and son to be awarded the medal.

He was one of only five to rise to the rank of General of the Army in the U.S. Army, and the only one conferred the rank of field marshal in the Philippine Army.

He was known for often being over dramatic. In fact Dwight Eisenhower, who served as his aid in the 1930s, once quipped, "I studied dramatics under MacArthur"

MacArthur was the epitome of the heroic general at a time when America needed one. He successfully led the southern theatre of the Pacific Campaign, and presided over the surrender of Japan.

In Korea in 1950 his audacious strategy of landing massive forces behind the North Koreans at Inchon was a masterpiece, driving the North Koreans out of the South and back to the Chinese border

His disagreement with the Joint Chiefs and President Truman over how to deal with the Chinese situation led to him being fired.

His "Old soldier's never die" speech is perhaps the greatest farewell speech in American military history.



7. Ulysses S. Grant

Ulysses S. Grant (born Hiram Ulysses Grant) was an American military officer and politician who served as the 18th president of the United States from 1869 to 1877.

As president, Grant was an effective civil rights executive who created the Justice Department and worked with the Radical Republicans to protect African Americans during Reconstruction.

As Commanding General, he led the Union Army to victory in the American Civil War in 1865 and thereafter briefly served as Secretary of War.

Regarded by many as the model for the modern American general, Grant was fearless, aggressive, determined, and famously phlegmatic.

Grant was a determined, dogged commander who never lost heart, despite hideous casualties. After taking a beating during the first day at Shiloh, he merely shrugged and said, "We'll lick 'em tomorrow"

and he did.

There was a move to relieve him after this most sanguine battle. But Lincoln overruled Grant's detractors: "I can't spare this man; he fights."

His army followed him confidently and loyally, and knew their general never spared himself the hardships he demanded of them. He wore no better clothes than they, and often ate no better food.



6. Robert E. Lee

Robert Edward Lee was an American Confederate general best known for his service to the Confederate States of America during the American Civil War, during which he was appointed the overall commander of the Confederate States Army.

He led the Army of Northern Virginia, the Confederacy's most powerful army, from 1862 until its surrender in 1865.

During the war, Lee earned a solid reputation as a skilled tactician, for which he was revered by his officers and men as well

as respected and feared by his Union Army adversaries.

Many would place Lee at the top of this list, but he made grave tactical and strategic mistakes (particularly at the Battle of Gettysburg), and was greatly aided by the help of such able sub-commanders as Jackson and Longstreet.

His two invasions of the North were well-conceived and had every chance of succeeding. The first was thwarted in part by lost orders falling into his enemy's hands, resulting in McClellan being able to concentrate his forces against Lee's at Antietam.

At Gettysburg, a campaign which was initially even more successful, he may have been suffering from a mild heart attack (this would explain his lethargy and lack of imagination during the battle).

Lee was gracious, gentlemanly, and worshipped by his soldiers.



5. William T. Sherman

William Tecumseh Sherman was an American soldier, busi-

nessman, educator, and author.

He served as a general in the Union Army during the American Civil War (1861–1865), achieving recognition for his command of military strategy as well as criticism for the harshness of the scorched earth policies that he implemented against the Confederate States.

British military theorist and historian B. H. Liddell Hart declared that Sherman was "the first modern general".

Hated in the South to this day for the devastation he brought them, Sherman stands out as the most clear-sighted strategist of the Civil War.

He understood that to break the Confederacy's indomitable will he had to make war too terrible to bear. His concept of "tough war" presaged the "total war" concept unleashed in the 20th century.

Sherman achieved his famous "March to the Sea" by an advance that constantly threatened multiple objectives, keeping the Confederate defenders off balance. Only Jackson and Forrest marched armies faster, and no one marched one further than Sherman.

Unlike Grant, he seldom threw his men away attacking heavily defended places or entrenched enemies; instead obtaining his objective by manoeuvre. He made war hell for his opponents, not his own soldiers.



4. George Washington

George Washington was an American military officer, statesman, and Founding Father who served as the first president of the United States from 1789 to 1797.

Appointed by the Continental Congress as commander of the Continental Army, Washington led the Patriot forces to victory in the American Revolutionary War, and presided at the Constitutional Convention of 1787, which established the Constitution of the United States and a federal government.

Washington has been called the "Father of the Nation" for his manifold leadership in the formative days of the country.

And let's be honest here - if Washington had failed we probably wouldn't be doing this list of the greatest American generals.

He was a master of guerilla warfare, using manoeuvre and audacity both to preserve his inferior army and to defeat British forces where possible.

And let's not forget that he was going up against the great-

est military power of the age - Great Britain.

He was an inspiration to his troops, sharing their terrible privations and always placing himself at the point of maximum danger in battle. His seeming invulnerability in battle became a thing of legend.

Tactically Washington was solid if not overly imaginative. But as a strategist, he ran circles around nearly every commander the British sent against him.

His boldness was perfectly matched with prudence, a combination necessary for a general fighting with limited resources against an enemy with control of both the land and the sea.

Despite the odds against him, he seldom lost a battle and always succeeded in extricating his army to fight another day.

In the end, he understood how to win the war he was fighting, and in so doing birthed the United States of America.



3. Nathan Bedford Forrest

Nathan Bedford Forrest was a prominent Confederate Army general during the American Civil War and the first Grand

Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan from 1867 to 1869.

Before the war, Forrest amassed substantial wealth as a cotton plantation owner, horse and cattle trader, real estate broker, and slave trader. In June 1861, he enlisted in the Confederate Army and became one of the few soldiers during the war to enlist as a private and be promoted to general without any prior military training.

An expert cavalry leader, Forrest was given command of a corps and established new doctrines for mobile forces.

He used his cavalry troops as mounted infantry and often deployed artillery as the lead in battle, thus helping to "revolutionize cavalry tactics", although the Confederate high command is seen by some commentators to have under appreciated his talents.

Perhaps the most feared general in American history, and was known as "that Devil Forrest".

His campaigns were (allegedly) studied by German proponents of the blitzkrieg and compare favourably to those employed by Rommel and Guderian.

Though often considered a "cavalry leader" (he was probably the finest in American history), his task-forces were actually well-balanced mobile arms combat teams of cavalry, mounted infantry, and horse artillery.

He also has the distinction of personally killing with his own hands some 30 union soldiers

TOP TEN

(and losing 29 horses in the process!).

Forrest was dubbed “The Wizard of the Saddle,” but he was in truth a wizard (and prophet) of modern warfare.



2. Stonewall Jackson

Thomas Jonathan “Stonewall” Jackson served as a Confederate general (1861–1863) during the American Civil War, and became one of the best-known Confederate commanders after General Robert E. Lee.

Jackson played a prominent role in nearly all military engagements in the Eastern Theater of the war until his death, and had a key part in winning many significant battles.

He distinguished himself commanding a brigade at the First Battle of Bull Run in July, providing crucial reinforcements and beating back a fierce Union assault. In this context Barnard Elliott Bee Jr. compared him to a “stone wall”, hence his enduring nickname.

But this nickname belies the aggressiveness and rapidity of movement that became his hallmark on the battlefield.

During the Valley Campaign,

Jackson marched his infantry brigades so quickly and covered so much ground that they came to be known as Jackson’s “Foot Cavalry.”

Brave, eccentric, religiously upright, and bold, Jackson was at his best when given independent command, perfectly complimenting his commander-in-chief, Lee, as a Corps commander.



1. George S. Patton

George Smith Patton Jr. was a general in the United States Army who commanded the Seventh United States Army in the Mediterranean theatre of World War II, and the Third United States Army in France and Germany after the Allied invasion of Normandy in June 1944.

No general was more controversial - or effective - during WWII than old “Blood-and-Guts.”

The only American commander admired and feared by the German high command, Patton was the ultimate progenitor of mobile combat.

Like Forrest, he was a prophet of mobile warfare and advocated using every vehicle in his Third Army - artillery caissons to supply trucks to the backs of tanks - to transport his infantry so that they could keep up with the relentless pace he set for his armour.

The ultimate warrior, he was the U.S. Army’s Master of the Sword and an Olympic competitor (1912, in the Military Pentathlon).

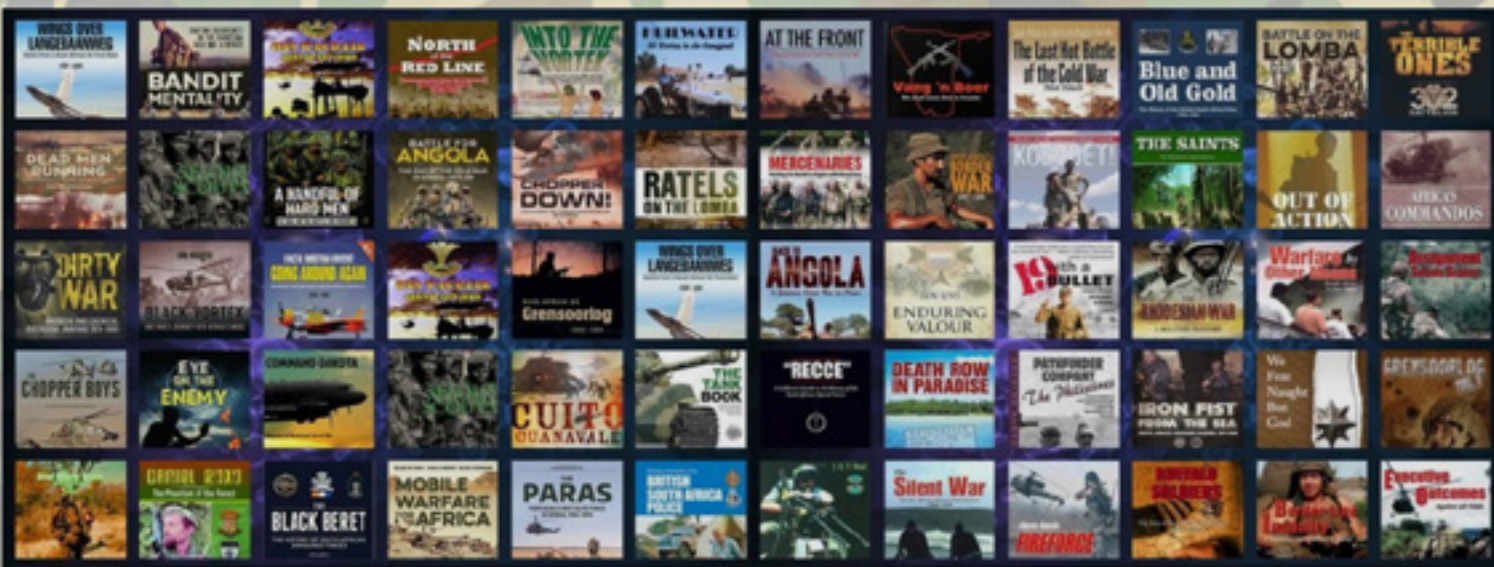
As a young cavalry officer, he chased Pancho Villa into Mexico. (During this campaign, he got into an Old West style gunfight with two of Villa’s lieutenants, killing them both!)

He created and led America’s only armoured brigade during the First World War. Before the Second World War, he was the primary exponent of armoured warfare and quickly became America’s foremost “tank man” during the war.

In Sicily at the head of 7th Army and in Europe leading 3rd Army he consistently displayed a boldness and aggressiveness that are the hallmark of great commanders throughout history.

He combined the fearlessness of Grant with the aggressiveness of Jackson, and created in Third Army a force as mobile as that of Forrest’s.

Nearly as theatrical as MacArthur, he is the general against which nearly every American general since has measured himself and sought to emulate.



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

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

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

Special Force Training - Delta Force

In our fourth article on Special Forces selection and training, we look at Delta Force.

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

The unit's missions primar-

ily involve counter-terrorism, hostage rescue, direct action, and special reconnaissance, often against high-value targets. Delta Force and its Navy and Air Force counterparts, DEVGRU and the 24th Special Tactics Squadron, are among the U.S. military's "tier one" special mission units tasked with performing the most complex, covert, and dangerous missions directed by the National Command Authority.

Delta Force operators are selected primarily from the United States Army Special Operations Command's elite 75th Ranger Regiment and Special Forces, though members can be selected from other special operations units and conventional forces across the Army and sometimes other military branches.

History

Delta Force was created in 1977 after numerous well-publicized terrorist incidents led the U.S. government to develop a full-time counter-terrorism unit.

Key military and government figures had already been briefed on this type of unit in the early 1960s.

Charlie Beckwith, a Special Forces (Green Berets) officer and Vietnam War veteran, served as an exchange officer with the British Army's 22nd Special Air Service Regiment

during the Malayan Emergency.

On his return, Beckwith presented a detailed report highlighting the U.S. Army's vulnerability in not having a SAS-type unit.

U.S. Army Special Forces in that period focused on unconventional warfare, but Beckwith recognized the need for "not only teachers, but doers."

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

He briefed military and government figures, who were resistant to creating a new unit outside of Special Forces or changing existing methods.

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

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

The initial members of the unit were screened from volunteers and put through a specialized selection process in early 1978, involving a series of land navigation problems in mountainous terrain while carrying increasing weight. The purpose was to test candidates' endurance, stamina, willingness to endure, and mental resolve.

The first training course last-

ed from April to September 1978. Delta Force was certified as fully mission capable in fall 1979, right before the Iran hostage crisis.

Pre-selection

Delta Force soldiers are selected for training based on their prior military performance. There are no volunteers.

Training places high emphasis on the candidate being able to operate under conditions of constant isolation.

Unlike the US Navy SEALs, who are very open and frank about their selection and training process, Delta refuses to even discuss its requirements.

What is known about Delta is that twice a year, representatives from the unit make a trip to the Army's main personnel centre in St Louis, Missouri, to examine soldiers' military records.

Their mission is to find those outstanding captains and sergeants among the Green Berets and Rangers who have skills that are of interest to Delta.

They then send a letter, telling them that Delta is interested. If the feeling is mutual, there is a telephone number to call. If not, there are instructions to destroy the letter.

For those that make the call, an interview follows which quickly weeds out unsuitable candidates. Potential candidates are then subjected to a tough PT test, which is more demanding than the normal Army test.

Those that pass who are not already parachute qualified must undertake a course at an airborne school before they can go further.

Before commencing selection, each soldier is put through an intensive week of PT that involves running, swimming and forced marches with heavy packs.

The idea behind this PT week is that it gives candidates a chance to improve their physical fitness and also highlights any injuries or medical issues that need to be addressed before selection begins in proper.

Once past these initial hurdles, the candidates go to Camp Dawson, an Army National Guard post in West Virginia's Appalachian Mountains, for a one month assessment phase.

This part of the course is very similar to that of the British SAS, as Delta's founder Colonel Charles Beckwith feels that it was the best in the world for sorting the wheat from the chaff. Like SAS selection, only a small percentage of each intake passes. This number rarely reaches double figures.

During selection, candidates are subjected to long marches with heavy packs over areas that are both mentally and physically demanding.

They are never given timings or any information regarding their progress, and they learn from day to day whether they are in or out.

The Psychology Test

One of the most interesting and controversial aspects of Delta's selection process is the psychological examination that each candidate must undergo before being considered as a potential operator, or 'D' man.

During the psychological phase, candidates are subjected

to a barrage of questions from a number of different doctors.

These could include questions such as: describe your relationship with your family; do you like foreigners; do you do drugs; are you running away from something; how do you feel about gays in the army; do you feel that you are ugly; do you look in the mirror and see Rambo; are you scared of the dark; and so on.

The questioning is relentless because the doctors want to build up a detailed psychological profile on each candidate and weed out any potential psychopaths.

The ideal candidate is a stable individual who as an emotional anchor in life, such as a family or religion. What Delta does not want are loner types or misfits, and definitely no one with criminal tendencies.

The other key area of a candidate's profile relates to the ability to handle extreme stress which carrying a gun.

What Delta is looking for is a fine balance – someone who is not too ready to pull a trigger, but not too hesitant either.

Selection

Although Delta's original selection course was modelled on that of the British SAS, it has been slightly altered over the years to better reflect American requirements for course health and safety issues.

One of the toughest aspects for all the candidates is the isolation factor, as they have little contact with anyone, apart from the instructors. Many candidates adjust to this only with difficulty because they are used



to working as part of a team, and the whole idea of being a loner goes against the grain.

Testing this is exactly the purpose of the exercise because Delta wants operators who can react quickly to change.

After the psychological evaluation is completed, each candidate is asked to write a short autobiography, which must be frank and honest.

During the second week of the pre-selection phase, candidates are physically worn down by seemingly endless forced marches, which eventually end with a tough 29 kilometre march at night through dense woodland.

The idea behind this phase is to exhaust candidates before they begin the next 18 days of formal selection.

At the beginning of this formal part, candidates are given a number and a colour. The number identifies the individual and the colour designates their squad.

They are not allowed to talk to other candidates, and the Delta instructors say little to them as individuals. When addressing candidates, the instructors are very matter-of-fact and do not engage them in conversation not give them any clue as to how they are doing.

The instructors never shout at the candidates, but they never praise them either; the neither frown nor smile, which often unnerves the candidates, who have no idea of their progress at any given time.

A typical day begins with a self wake-up at 06h00 – there is no reveille. Within each barrack room is a blackboard with the

day's instructions written on it.

For example, "Red Three report to vehicle six at 07h00 with full kit and an 18kg pack. No two days are alike – the reporting times differ, as do the weights of the packs.

During the day itself, the weights can be changed, sometimes in the candidates favour, but mostly not. Any candidates found with underweight packs are punished on the spot by instructors who give them a heavy rock to carry.

Generally, candidates receive two hot meals a day, one in the morning and one at night. At some point, however, they will receive nothing because the instructors want to see which candidates have prepared for such an event.

A typical candidate's march will start with a truck picking him up shortly after breakfast and dropping him off on a back road somewhere in the forest as part of a four-man group.

He will then be given a point on a map and told to make his way to it as quickly as possible. As he makes his way towards the checkpoint, he has no idea of what the expected time is, and this will play on his mind throughout the journey.

Once he arrives at the checkpoint, he will be tired and blistered, and also anxious, not knowing if he has passed or failed this particular exercise.

The impassive instructors give nothing away as they mark their notebooks and speak only to advise the candidate on his next checkpoint.

The candidate has to keep going until he reaches the next checkpoint, where he will hope-



Delta Force insignia

fully receive some food and rest.

Before bedding down, he will be given a time for meeting up with the rest of his squad the next morning. If he oversleeps, however, there will be nobody to take him up, which means he will miss the truck and fail selection.

Throughout the next few days, the routine varies from eight hours of marching with three MRE (Meals Ready to Eat) packets, to 36 hours of marching with only one MRE.

To disorient the candidate, his number and colours are changed on a frequent basis so that he never feels safe or secure.

At any point, he can be stopped by an instructor and ordered to strip and reassemble a foreign weapon, while being asked to solve difficult mathematical questions.

On occasion, he will be approached by doctors, who briefly observe and scribble notes without saying a word.

Little does the candidate know that he will also be photographed by Delta instructors, who want to make sure that he



TARGET LEFT: The trainees shoot without aiming at stationary targets at close range until they gain almost complete accuracy, then progress to moving targets

is making his way through the woodland and not cheating by using the paths.

If caught once by the instructors on a path or road, he will receive an official warning; caught twice and he is out.

For many of the candidates, the stress is just too much and they quit, while others have already failed, but do not know it yet.

To help sow further confusion in the group, instructors often place failed candidates within their ranks so that they have no way of accurately gauging the general standards of the other candidates.

Every candidate is allowed a number of lives, but they are never told how many of them they have left or indeed how many they had when they began.

If a soldier drops out or is failed during selection, he receives a pep talk from the Delta instructors, who praise his efforts and point out his good points, as well as his bad ones.

They try to let the failed candidate down as softly as possible, anxious not to damage his confidence or future career.

In addition, Delta also makes a point of writing to the candidate's parent unit, thanking them for providing a good soldier who is a credit to his unit.

This process may seem a little over the top, but it is done for the very good reason that one day Delta may need the support of this soldier during an operation, and they want no ill feelings, which could cause friction.

Final phase

When a candidate is failed during selection, he is whisked away very quietly, without a scene, and the remaining candidates are never told why.

For them, each day that goes by is a victory, leaving only about 20 per cent of the original intake for the final phase of selection.

The last phase of selection involves a 64km march in two

days along the open and winding Appalachian Trail with full kit.

It is a difficult, gruelling march which breaks many of the candidates. For those that pass, a hot meal and a warm shower awaits them at the base camp.

Once back at the barracks, the remaining candidates are told to read a number of books, all of which are intellectually challenging. They then have just 18 hours to write a detailed report on the contents of each book.

The instructors set this exercise as a means of evaluating how alert candidates are after two days without sleep.

After handing in their reports, the candidates are then subjected to a further series of interviews in which they have to answer numerous questions on their childhood, family, military career and the selection course itself.

Those that survive this interview move on to the final hurdle – the commander's board.

During this interview, the candidate sits in a chair surrounded by Delta's commander and his five squadron leaders.

The board reads through all of the candidate's psychiatric reports and starts asking difficult questions: would you be prepared to give up your child's life for your country; on a mission, would you be prepared to kill a young shepherd who has stumbled across your hide; would you be willing to obey and order from the President to kill one of his political rivals?

The idea behind such questioning is to see how a candidate reacts to pressure from a

higher authority – is he easily flustered; does he panic while under pressure; can he be trusted with secret information?

On some occasions, a candidate will be asked if he cheated at any point on the course by using roads or paths. If he did so and admits to it, he may be kept on. If he lies, however, photographic proof will be shown to him, and this will result in his instant dismissal.

After the candidate's interview is over, the senior Delta officers meet in private to discuss him.

All aspects of the candidate's performance throughout selection are evaluated. If there are any lingering doubts about a candidate at this stage, he will be rejected.

In theory, Delta's commander can overrule any rejection decision. However he rarely does. The decision to accept a candidate is made by majority vote only.

Once a candidate is accepted into Delta, his selection and assessment reports are sealed for eternity.

Nobody, including the candidate himself, is allowed to see the scores or even know what the pass mark was on this selection course.

OTC

After passing this phase, the candidate is sent on the Operators Training Course (OTC), which consists of six months of instruction in covert operations, commando assaults, close quarter battle, and sniping.

The pace of the OTC is relaxed compared to that of selection, although all new students

are on probation for the first year. A typical training course sees students spending more than 1,000 hours in the Delta shooting house alone, where they will learn about every aspect of combat shooting until it becomes second nature.

In addition to the practical exercises, students attend numerous lectures on subjects such as psychology, combat theory, world politics and terrorism.

They also receive detailed instruction on clandestine operations and image projection – in other words, how to dress while working undercover. But it's not all just theory. They learn how to ride motorcycles as part of vehicle familiarization training.

After this phase is over, the move on to what Delta Force is all about. They are now trained operators. They will, however, receive additional training in subjects such as explosive ordnance demolition (EOD), scuba and HALO/HAHO parachute infiltration.

Training

According to Eric Haney, a retired member of Delta Force, the unit's Operator Training Course is approximately six months long. While the course is constantly changing, the skills taught broadly to include the following:

Marksmanship

- The trainees shoot without aiming at stationary targets at close range until they gain almost complete accuracy, then progress to moving targets.
- Once these shooting skills

are perfected, trainees move to a shooting house and clear rooms of "enemy" targets – first one only, then two at a time, three, and finally four. When all can demonstrate sufficient skill, "hostages" are added to the mix.

Demolitions and Breaching

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

Combined skills

The FBI, FAA, and other agencies were used to advise the training of this portion of OTC.

- The new Delta operators use demolition and marksmanship at the shoot house and other training facilities to train for hostage and counter-terrorist operations with assault and sniper troops working together. They practice terrorist or hostage situations in buildings, aircraft, and other settings.

- All trainees learn how to set sniper positions around a building containing hostages. They learn the proper ways to set up a TOC and communicate in an organized manner. Although Delta has specialized sniper troops, all members go through this training.
- The students then go back to the shoot house and the "hostages" are replaced with other students and Delta Force members. Live ammunition is known to have been used

in these exercises, to test the students, and build trust between one another.

Tradecraft

- Students learn different espionage-related skills, such as dead drops, brief encounters, pickups, load and unload signals, danger and safe signals, surveillance and counter-surveillance.

Executive Protection

During the first OTCs and creation of Delta, the U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Security Service and the United States Secret Service advised Delta.

- Students take an advanced driving course to use a vehicle or many vehicles as de-

fensive and offensive weapons.

- They then learn techniques for VIP and diplomatic protection developed by the Secret Service and DSS.

Culmination Exercise

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

Delta Force trains with other foreign special operations units to improve tactics and increase relationships with them. Among these units are the British Special Air Service and Special Boat Service, Australia's Special Air Service Regiment, Canada's Joint Task Force 2 and Israel's Sayeret Matkal.

Uniform

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

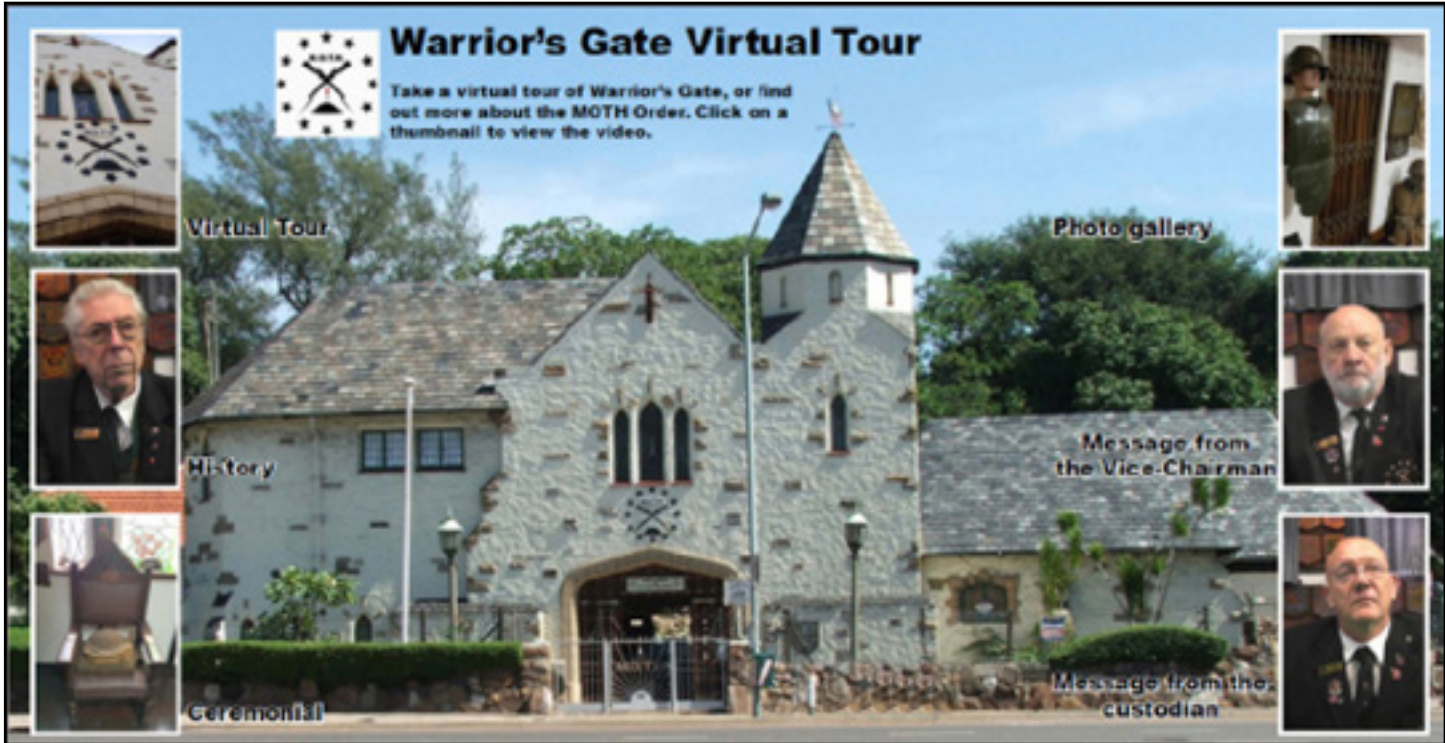
Delta operators are granted an enormous amount of flexibility and autonomy during military operations overseas. Civilian hair styles and facial hair are allowed to enable the members to blend in and avoid recognition as military personnel.

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



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.



They named a what after me?

Ever wonder how many tanks were named after famous generals or military leaders? Well so did we, and we came up with a list of 15 tanks.

While writing the article “Ten best American generals”, featured earlier in this edition of the magazine, I noted that no fewer than five of them had tanks named after them.

This led me to wonder how many other tanks were named after famous people. These are the 15 tanks that I was able to find. If you know of others, drop me an e-mail and let me know.

Let's start off by looking at the five generals featured in the article on the ten best American generals.

It is interesting to note that all but five of these tanks were American.

The M3 Grant, officially Medium Tank, M3, was an American medium tank used during World War II. The turret was produced in two forms, one for US needs and one modified to British requirements to place the radio next to the commander.

The M3 with the British style turret was known as the M3 Grant, named after Union General Ulysses S. Grant.

The other version of the M3 was the M3 Lee, with the turret configured for American requirements.

Both the Stuart and the Lee were armed with a 75mm gun in the hull, and a 37mm gun in the turret. Both used the Wright (Continental) R975 EC2 400 hp engine, capable of a road speed of 42 km/h, an off-road speed of 26 km/h, and an operational range of 193 km.

It was named after Confederate General Robert E. Lee.

M3 Grant



M3 Lee



The M36 tank destroyer, formally 90 mm Gun Motor Carriage, M36, was an American tank destroyer used during World War II.

The vehicle is also known under the unofficial nickname Jackson, named after General Thomas Johnathan ‘Stonewall’ Jackson, but this designation appears to be a postwar invention that was never used by the US Army.

M36 Jackson



M4 Sherman



The M4 Sherman, officially Medium Tank, M4, was the most widely used medium tank by the United States and Western Allies in World War II.

The M4 Sherman proved to be reliable, relatively cheap to produce, and available in great numbers.

The tank was named by the British for the American Civil War general William Tecumseh Sherman.

The M60 is an American second-generation main battle tank (MBT). It was officially standardized as the Tank, Combat, Full Tracked: 105-mm Gun, M60 in March 1959.

Although developed from the M48 Patton, the M60 tank series was never officially christened as a Patton tank. Yet most knew it as the M60 Patton, named after US World War II General George S. Patton.

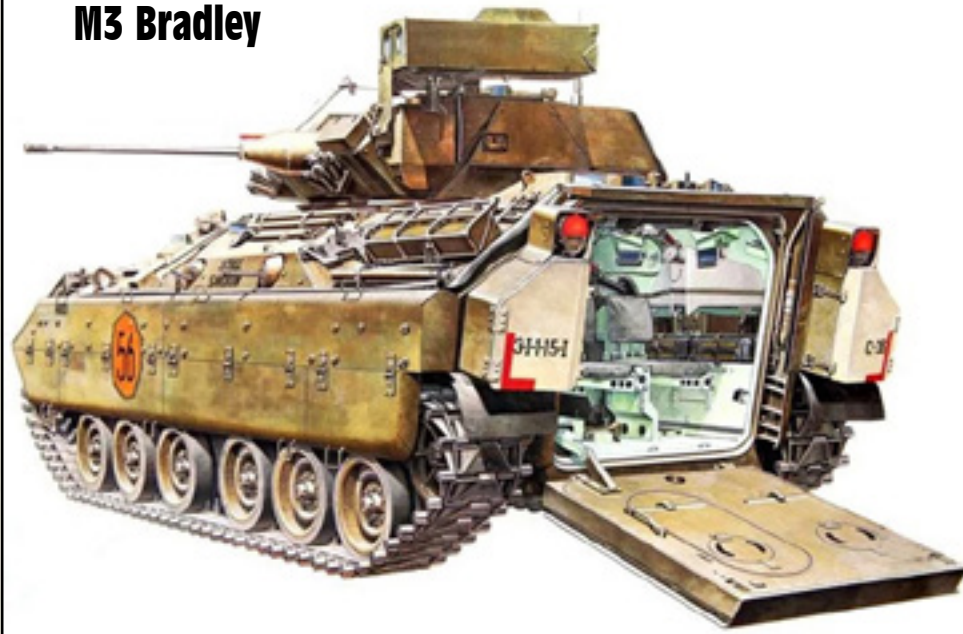
M60 Patton



The M3 Bradley Cavalry Fighting Vehicle (CFV) is an American tracked armoured reconnaissance vehicle manufactured by BAE Systems Land and Armaments (formerly United Defense). A member of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle family, the M3 CFV is used by heavy armoured cavalry units in the United States Army.

It was named after US World War II General Omar Nelson Bradley.

M3 Bradley



M41 Walker Bulldog



The M41 Walker Bulldog, officially 76-mm Gun Tank, M41, was an American light tank developed for armed reconnaissance purposes.

It saw service between 1953 and 1969. It was named after Major General Edwin Anderson Walker, a World War II and Korean War veteran.

He became the only U.S. Army general officer in the 20th century to resign his commission amid his tour of duty.

M24 Chaffee



The M24 Chaffee was a light tank used during the later part of World War II; it was also used in post-World War II conflicts, including the Korean War, and by the French in the War in Algeria and the First Indochina War.

In British service it was given the service name Chaffee after the United States Army General Adna R. Chaffee Jr., who helped develop the use of tanks in the United States armed forces.

Chaffee was called the “Father of the Armoured Force”.

The M26 Pershing was a heavy tank/medium tank of the United States Army.

The tank was named after General of the Armies John J. Pershing, who led the American Expeditionary Force in Europe in World War I.

It was used in the last months of World War II during the Invasion of Germany and extensively during the Korean War.

M26 Pershing



The M1, M1A1, and M1A2 are third-generation American main battle tanks currently in service with the US Armed Forces. The Abrams is regarded by many as the best MBT in the world.

They were named after General Creighton Williams Abrams, Jr. He was a United States Army general who commanded military operations in the Vietnam War from 1968 to 1972.

M1A2 Abrams



AMX 50 Foch



The AMX 50 was a French heavy tank designed in the immediate post Second World War period.

It was cancelled in the late 1950s however, due to unfavourable economic and political circumstances after serious delays in development.

It was named the AMX 50 Foch after French World War I General Ferdinand Foch. He served as the Supreme Allied Commander during World War I.

The Leclerc tank is a main battle tank built by Nexter Systems of France.

It was named in honour of General Philippe Leclerc de Hauteclocque, who led the French element of the drive towards Paris while in command of the Free French 2nd Armoured Division (2e DB) in World War II.

The designation “AMX-56” – while very popular – is incorrect.

Leclerc tank



IS-2



The IS tanks were a series of heavy tanks developed as a successor to the KV-series by the Soviet Union during World War II.

They were named after Russian leader Joseph Stalin. The IS acronym is the anglicized initialism of Joseph Stalin (Iosif Stalin).

Eight different versions of the tank were eventually produced - IS-1 to IS-8.

The Tank, Infantry, Mk IV (A22) Churchill was a British infantry tank used in the Second World War, best known for its heavy armour, large longitudinal chassis with all-around tracks with multiple bogies, its ability to climb steep slopes, and its use as the basis of many specialist vehicles.

It was one of the heaviest Allied tanks of the war and several variants were produced. It was named after British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

Churchill Mk IV tank



Cromwell tank



The Cromwell tank, officially Tank, Cruiser, Mk VIII, Cromwell (A27M), was one of the series of cruiser tanks fielded by Britain in the Second World War.

Named after the English Civil War-era military leader Oliver Cromwell, the Cromwell was the first tank put into service by the British to combine high speed from a powerful, reliable engine (the Rolls-Royce Meteor) and reasonable armour.

While researching this article, I also looked for any military aircraft named after famous people. To be honest, I couldn't find any.

Yet I did find a number of naval vessels named after famous people.

The three SA Navy Daphne-class submarines were named after famous women in South African history.

These were the SAS Maria van Riebeeck, SAS Emily Hobhouse, and SAS Johanna van der Merwe. They were later renamed SAS Spear, SAS Um-

khonto, and SAS Assegaai respectively.

Likewise, the SA Navy Minister-class strike craft were all named after former South African politicians, such as SAS Jan Smuts, SAS Jim Fouché, SAS Oswald Pirow, and SAS Kobie Coetsee.

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.

Bodiam Castle

Europe's larger medieval castles were military strongholds and centres of administration. Smaller castles, such as Bodiam in southern England, were the homes of wealthy knights, built in martial styles.

Early European castles were built of wood and earth. With the adoption of stone as a construction material in the 11th century, castles became more expensive to build, but also longer lasting and more immune to fire and rot.

The first stone castles had a central tower, or "keep," encircled by a defensive wall. By the time Sir Edward Dallingridge built Bodiam in 1385, towers had been integrated into the

walls and the gatehouse had become the most strongly defended part of the castle.

A castle was a statement of the owner's wealth, power, and prestige, but it was also skillfully designed to give its occupants the best chance of fending off an enemy.

Its walls and towers thus had to be resistant to stone-throwing siege engines and difficult for tunnel-digging engineers to undermine.

However, the increasing use of gunpowder and cannon in the 15th century eventually made the stone walls of the medieval castle obsolete, for they could not withstand battering by powerful artillery.

Battlements

Supported by projections called corbels, the castle's battlements have crenels (gaps) through which archers could take aim at attackers below.

Corner tower

The round towers were excellent vantage points from which to keep watch over the surrounding land. Their curved surfaces deflected missiles hurled by siege engines.

Surrounded by water

The moat forced attackers to approach the castle by the causeway at the front or a wooden bridge at the rear.

With the drawbridge raised it was difficult for attackers to get to the walls or main gate.

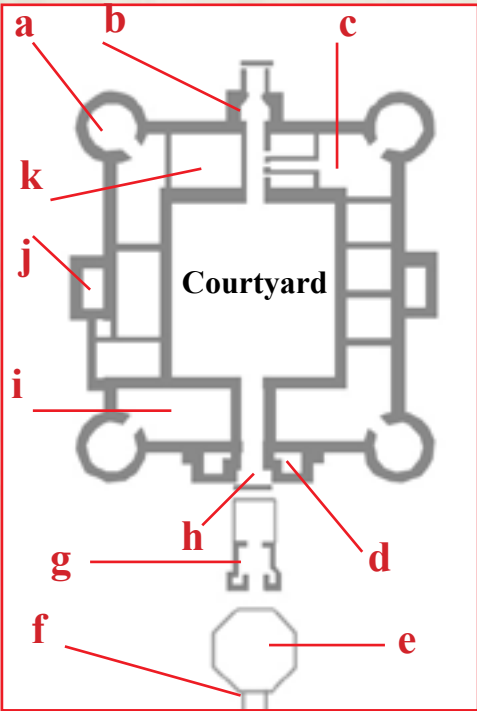
Main gate

A potential weak point, vulnerable to a battering ram, the gate could be protected by low-

ering the iron portcullis.

Loopholes

The walls are dotted with loopholes and arrow-slits that enabled the defenders to shoot outward.



Legend (from top, clockwise)

- a. Round corner tower
- b. Rear gatehouse
- c. Kitchen
- d. Front gatehouse
- e. Outwork
- f. Causeway
- g. Barbican
- h. Drawbridge
- i. Chapel
- j. Square side tower
- k. Great hall



Well deserved 10 year Sea Cadet award

Ens Stuart McNaughton (Ret) was presented with a well-deserved 10 Year Sea Cadet award. By Lt Cdr Anthony-Glenn von Zeil, SA Naval Reserves.

A small but intimate parade took place at TS Woltemade Sea Cadet unit in Lakeside on Saturday 5 March 2022, to celebrate the many years of involvement of Ens (SCC) Stuart McNaughton in the unit.

He was born in Cape Town on 29 July 1956 to Capt James Arthur David McNaughton and Pat Margaret (nee Hockey).

Capt James McNaughton's sword hangs proudly in the SA Naval Museum after it was donated by the family. Ens McNaughton has taken pride in telling the story of his fathers sword to the generations of Sea Cadets who visited the SA Naval Museum.

His wife, Mrs Ann McNaughton (nee Press), accom-

panied him and expressed her "pleasure at seeing him receive recognition for 10 years service to the Sea Cadets". Both love the sea and nature and were married in 2005.

The event was attended by Adm (JG) Koos Louw (Ret) as Chairman of the board of the Sea Cadets, Capt (SCC) Paul Jacobs, Senior Officer Sea Cadets, Lt (SCC) Gaylene Pillay, Commanding Officer TS Woltemade, all of her officers, whilst the family were represented by his younger brother Peter McNaughton and Sarah Beamish.

The Sea Cadets paraded and put on a precision drill and semaphore display as part of the celebrations. As the adults attending are aware the Sea

Cadets spend hours planning, training, and executing these manoeuvres.

Ens McNaughton worked for the SA Navy as a civilian for 36 years before his retirement. He held various positions including in the sail training centre. It was his seamanship and especially knotting skills which he shared with the Sea Cadets at TS Woltemade.

Ens Mc Naughton has many stories to tell, however chose to share the following memories from each area of his life.

"Whilst serving as a radio operator at Lion's Head Commando the late State President Nelson Mandela was released followed by the 1994 democratic elections. "I was able to get a

birds eye view of the events and see the various changes as these manifested," he indicated.

He enjoyed seeing the various SA Naval ship's going to sea and returning safely. The SA Navy festival was an annual highlight as he was able to show case the Navy to his friends and their families. "I wish that the SA Navy would reinstate this festival as it attracts thousands and was a means of advertising the People's Navy."

The annual Knysna Festival was a high light as it brought together his interest in the SA Navy and involvement in the Sea Cadets. He has fond memories of the Heuvel twins from Knysna at the Knysna Festival introducing him to the age old tradition of "splicing the main brace".

Ens Stuart McNaughton has been the recipient of the following medals during his service to the Defence Force and Sea Cadets:

- General Service Medal

- Unitas Medal
- John Card Medal (crossed swords depicting SA Army service)
- Sea Cadet 10 year Long Service Medal
- Sea Cadet Centenary (1905-2005) Medal

Captain Paul Jacobs, Senior Officer Sea Cadets, thanked Ens McNaughton for volunteering his time to share his seamanship skills with the youth and wished him well in his retirement.



GUESTS OF HONOUR: RAdm (JG) Koos Louw (Ret) PG PS SM & Bar MMM, Mr Peter McNaughton, Ens (SCC) Stuart McNaughton (Ret) and his wife Ann



PAYING RESPECT: Ens (SCC) Stuart McNaughton and his wife, Ann, with a selection of Sea Cadets from TS Woltemade who put on a medal parade in his honour.



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

Naval guns and kit

By the 18th century warships would be heavily armed with muzzle-loader cannons. Yet how exactly did these cannon work?

Naval cannon first appeared in the mid-14th century in the form of wrought-iron breech-loaders. Cast-bronze muzzle-loaders were developed in the 16th century, and by the 18th century all European navies were widely using cast-iron muzzle-load-

ers, such as the British versions shown here. To charge muzzle-loaders of this type, a fabric powder cartridge was loaded down the muzzle and into the chamber, followed by a rope wad to hold it in place, the shot, and a second rope wad. The

charge was pricked by inserting a wire pricker into the vent, then the gunpowder was poured in. Either a gunlock or a slow match held at the vent hole was used to fire the gun.



Cartridge

Paper, canvas, or parchment were sewn into different size cylinders as gunpowder containers. A precise amount of gunpowder was used depending on the gun and the type of charge.



Cartridge case

To prevent accidental explosions, cartridges had to be carried with great care from the magazines to the guns. A lightweight wooden cylinder was used to protect and carry each cartridge.

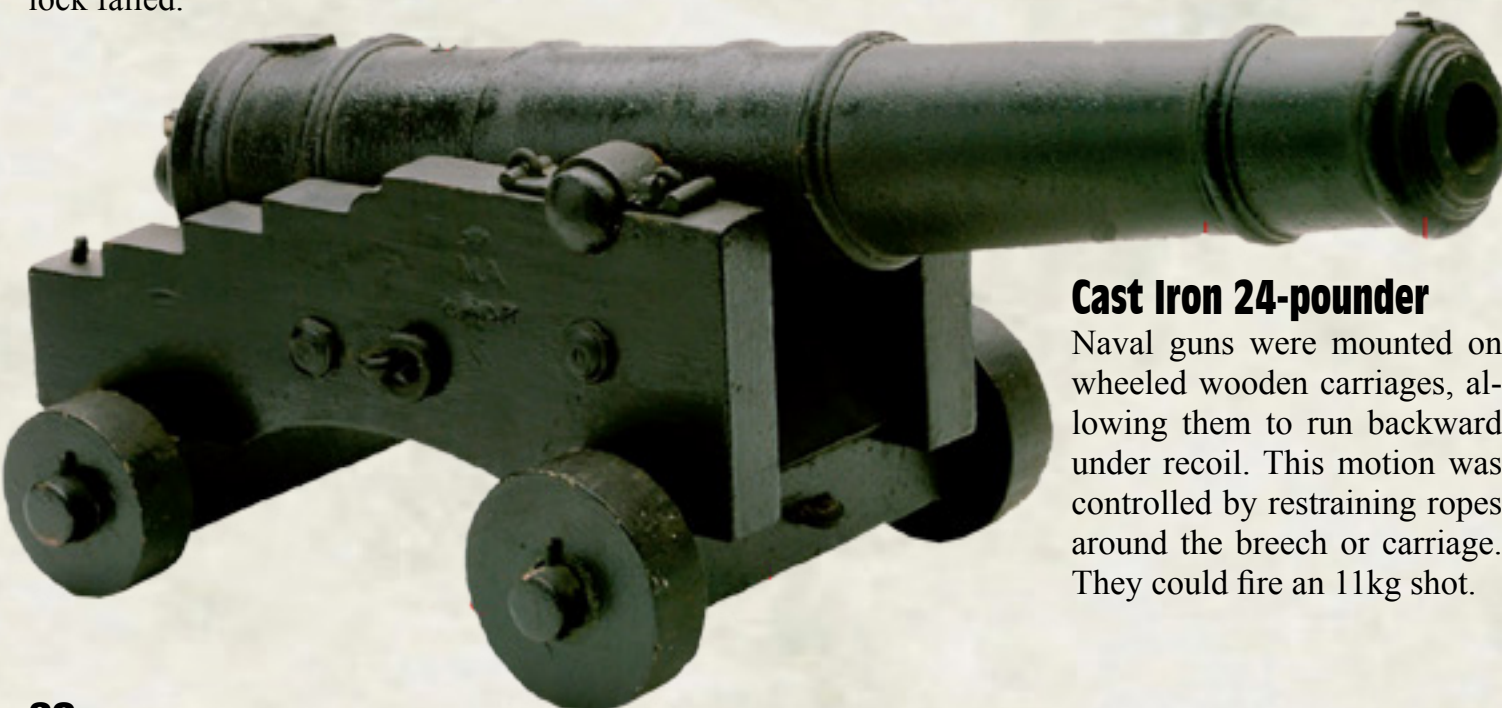
Match tub and slow matches

A slow match was lit at the start of the battle and placed in the match tub. It kept burning and was used to ignite the charge if the gunlock failed.



Rope wad

Oddments of rope and rope fibre (oakum, or "junk") were used to make wads, which were rammed down the barrel of the gun to hold the charge and shot in place.

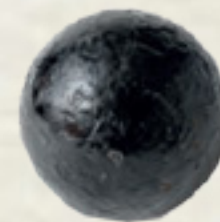


Cast Iron 24-pounder

Naval guns were mounted on wheeled wooden carriages, allowing them to run backward under recoil. This motion was controlled by restraining ropes around the breech or carriage. They could fire an 11kg shot.

Round shot

An accurate and long-range type of munition, round shot was used for its penetrating effect against a ship's hull.



Grapeshot

Grapeshot consisted of balls of metal housed within a tin or a canvas bag. The container shattered when a gun was fired, producing a shotgun-like effect against an enemy crew.



Chain shot

The chain shot - two or more cannonballs linked by a chain - could scythe down enemy crew on an exposed deck.

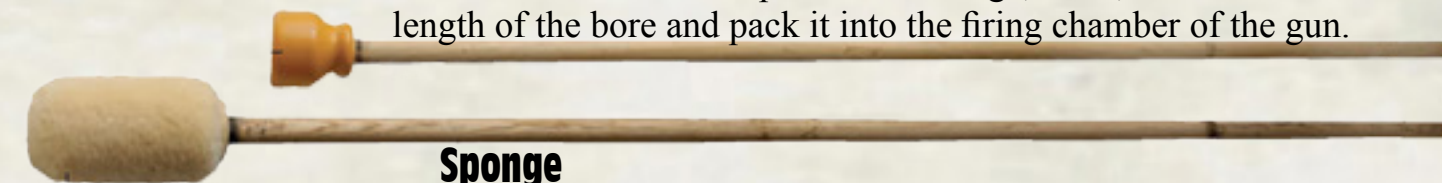
Bar shot

The bar shot was made by linking two or more shot pieces by a fixed bar or extendible bar sections. It was designed to hack away at lines and rigging as it flew over the top of the ship's deck.



Rammer

The rammer was used to push the cartridge, wads, and shot down the full length of the bore and pack it into the firing chamber of the gun.



Sponge

A damp sheepskin sponge was pushed down the barrel after every shot had been fired to extinguish residual burning embers.

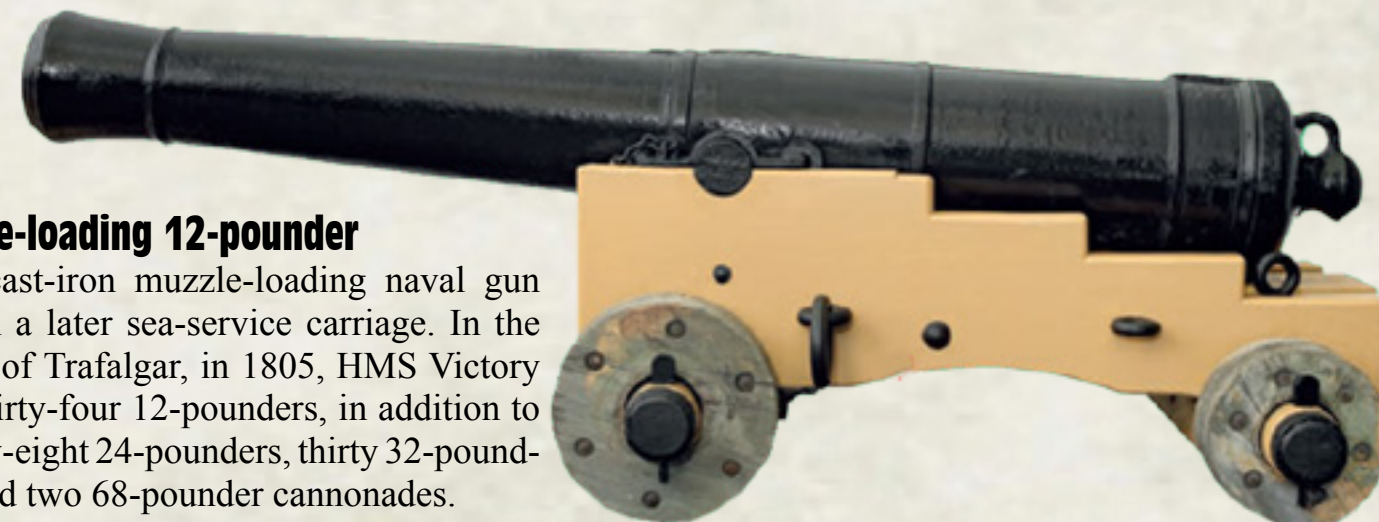
Cast iron 3-pounder

Cast-iron guns were much cheaper to make than bronze guns and gradually replaced them during the 17th and 18th centuries. They were cast solid and bored out. The rear-chock carriage lessened recoil when the gun was fired.



Muzzle-loading 12-pounder

This cast-iron muzzle-loading naval gun sits on a later sea-service carriage. In the Battle of Trafalgar, in 1805, HMS Victory had thirty-four 12-pounders, in addition to twenty-eight 24-pounders, thirty 32-pounders, and two 68-pounder cannonades.



Jimmy's add pedal power

For the third year running the South African Signals Association were invited to assist as Start-Up Marshals at the Cape Town Cycle Race. Article by Robbie Roberts.

In 2020, a week before our country's first lockdown due to Covid-19, we were invited by the Rotary Club of Claremont to assist as Start-Up Marshals at the Cape Town Cycle Race, formerly the Argus Cycle Tour.

We must have proven ourselves capable of handling our allocated tasks as were once again asked to assist in 2021, this time as perimeter Marshalls, where we, with our military experience as radio operators, and practising sound voice procedures, could perform crowd control positioned at various vantage and "hot" spots around and close to the city's Grand Parade.

This year we have been invited for the third time to again do perimeter duties as we did in 2021.

This event is one of the most popular cycle races in the world and is now in its 44th year, having been going since 1978.

Annually, cyclists from all over South Africa and abroad, gather in Cape Town to participate in this world famous event. This year 22,500 cyclists enrolled, whereas normally about 35,000 cyclists enter.

This year it took place on Sunday, 13 March 2022 when 16 of our members and friends participated as "watchdogs" and radio operators from the corner of Adderley and Strand Streets. Then into Stand Street, right into Plein Street, left into Darling Street and left into



BEFORE THE CRACK OF DAWN: The 16 members and friends of the Signal's Association that took part.

Buitenkant Street up to the Starting line at the Castle on the corner of Buitenkant and New Market Streets, from where the cyclists took off over on the Eastern Boulevard all the way to Cape Point and back along the Atlantic sea board behind table mountain, via Sea Point and Mouille Point to the Finish line at the Cape Town Stadium.

We feel proud of once again being invited by the organisers in assisting with this huge event and wish to thank them for placing their trust in us.

Our members seem to thoroughly enjoy being part of the excitement that goes with being a cog in the wheel of such a huge event, seeing so many cyclists verging into the city centre from all corners in Cape Town. It is adrenalin pumping stuff and each year we seem to have more and more individu-

als volunteering to help keep our name in high esteem.

The following of our Management Committee and members did us the honours: Geoff Laskey (Vice Chairman) who headed our participating team; Robbie Roberts (Chairman); Ian Robertson (Member of Manco and also member of the Rotary Club of Claremont); Howard Shagom (Secretary General); Wilna Bekker (Treasurer); Pierre Fourie (Public Relations Officer); Piet Jordaan (Member of Manco); Alfred de Vries (Member of Manco); Fahmy Rhode (Member of Manco); Adi Fourie (Member); Jeffery Marcus (Member); TracyLee Downing (Member); Jessy Marcus (Friend of the Association); Joseph Zegal (Member); Kevin Whistler (Friend of the Association); and JJ Bekker (Friend of the Association).

The Tin Hat

Putting your thinking helmet on because this month our quiz is about exactly that - helmets. We show you 15 helmets, you tell us what they are. You'll find the answers to the quiz on page 88.

1 	2 	3 
4 	5 	6 
7 	8 	9 
10 	11 	12 
13 	14 	15 

Hygiene in World War II

Those who served in WWII benefited from post-WWI research and concern for personal hygiene, sanitation, and overall cleanliness, allowing for a cleaner wartime experience. Yet exactly what improvements had been made, and did they work?

There were a lot of lessons that came out of World War I, including many related to hygiene during armed conflicts. World War II also saw innovations that included everything from chemicals to prevent infestation to footwear designed to keep feet dry and clean and strict regulations about water latrines and food some of these efforts were more successful than others and of course mud bugs and disease and filth were still problematic.

Last month we looked at hygiene in World War I. In this ar-

ticle we're going to take a look at what hygiene was like, mainly for US soldiers, in World War II.

The US Army sprayed DDT on soldiers

Wartime conditions invariably attract insects and those insects spread disease. To counteract that spread the national institute of health in United States and its global counterparts took steps to prevent potential epidemics.

During the late 1930s Swiss

scientists at the Geiger Company developed an insecticide called Dicorodiphenyl Trichloroethane, which is better known as DDT.

The chemist who came up with the concoction, Paul Muller, even won a Nobel Prize for medicine and physiology in 1948 for his efforts.

DDT was soon sent to the United States where an epidemiologist named Dr Fred Sober became one of its biggest proponents, even persuading the Egyptian government to use it to fight a malaria outbreak in



JUST SAY NO: Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) were widespread and troops were instructed not to sleep around.

1943 and 1944.

With additional support from the Rockefeller Foundation and other Allied countries, DDT was being dropped directly on millions of civilians and servicemen alike in the Mediterranean and Southeast Asia by 1944.

The thing about DDT was that it was easy to manufacture, affordable and effective. The colourless nearly odourless chemical wiped out lice, mosquitoes, mites and other bugs, exponentially decreasing the diseases such as malaria and typhus.

The immediate success of DDT saved millions of lives and was touted as a solution to typhus, the dreaded plague that had followed in the wake of every great war in history. DDT's success in the field resulted in widespread demand for the product which became available to the public during the late 1940s.

Everyone from governments to farmers to backyard gardeners used DDT in abundance, spraying it in the direction of people, plants, and animals. While the public was warned of its potential to upset the balance of nature, the long-term consequences of DDT remained unknown.

Mobile bathing and laundry stations

In the years after the First World War, the United States government established permanent laundries and dry cleaning facilities at many of its bases around the country and once World War II broke out, laundry services were extended overseas.

At Camp Lee in Virginia, troops were trained to use mobile laundry machines over 12 weeks. After completing the training laundry units made up of three officers and 85 enlisted men were dispatched.

From 1940 forward mobile laundries resembling semi-trucks contained as many as six units and could wash roughly 125 pounds of clothes each hour.

Officers, enlisted men, and some civilians could pay to have their clothes washed, although the former received preference. Men paid 50 cents per bundle as legislation to have laundry service free of charge failed to come to fruition. That's right – they charged their own soldiers to wash their clothes.

Servicemen also had access to public shower facilities. Much like laundries, showers were intended to keep them clean.

In the interest of combatting lice and other infestations while simultaneously boosting morale, shower facilities could have between eight and 24 shower heads, with additional fumigation areas available.

Concerted effort to prevent troops from getting STDs

Venereal disease was widespread during World War II and many veterans brought syphilis and gonorrhoea home with them.

As a result US officials made concerted efforts to help servicemen make sound decisions, to conduct medical tests and to keep detailed records of venereal disease outbreaks.

The more active approach, called the eight-point agreement helped make solicitation in the proximity of bases a federal offense, established rapid treatment centres for venereal disease and fostered strategies for treating disease while allowing men to stay on active duty.

Servicemen also gained access to penicillin a relatively new drug purported to have vast success against venereal diseases alongside standard arsenic and sulphur treatments.

The United States War Department, for their part, started distributing pamphlets with much more with much more explicit information than had ever been extended to men in service.

Men were instructed on how to clean themselves, informed about prophylaxis options and told how to seek treatment immediately should symptoms of



a venereal disease arise.

The soldiers were also told that at the end of the day the best way to avoid venereal diseases was just to stay away from women. Hard to argue with that logic. Yet it was a rule not always easy to follow.

As one US veteran recalls, "When we started to liberate villages and towns in Italy we had beautiful young girls throwing themselves at us. I was 20 years old and I knew that I could be killed at any time. I was determined that I wasn't going to die a virgin."

These boots were made for walking

Trench foot is a serious condition that results from a person's feet being wet for long periods of time. And because it had been such a big problem during World War I, the military wanted to give men a way to keep their feet dry and warm.

Women in Britain were encouraged to make socks for servicemen while textile factories shifted production to accommodate the need.

In the United States the 'Shoe Pack' system was implemented in 1944, giving men a waterproof lined boot. The shoe pack included rubber and leather layers with felt on the inside of the shoe to maintain warmth.

Shoe packs were made by L.L. Bean, a variation of its main hunting shoe. There weren't always enough shoe packs to go around and sometimes the sizes didn't match the need, but they proved effective as long as men wore wool socks and changed them regularly.



SHOE PACK: While still not ideal, US Army boots issued during World War II were far better than those used during the Great War.

The lack of ventilation in the shoe pack necessitated the frequent changing of socks lest the owners develop macerated feet or 'shoe pack foot' with the skin on the bottoms of their feet resembling wet blotting paper.

The military also established shoe repair teams giving servicemen an opportunity to have quality fixes on their footwear whereas during World War I the men had to rely on local contractors who often provided sub-quality work with inadequate materials.

Soldiers were equipped with a hygiene kit that promoted oral health

Keeping men clean, tidy and presentable according to the regulations of the War Department in 1942 meant teeth had to be brushed at least once a day.

Necrotizing ulcerative gingivitis was a common affliction during World War I and it re-

mained common and it remained common in World War II.

Caused by stress, a lack of dental care, and malnutrition, trench mouth resulted in bleeding, pain and gum decay. There were numerous efforts to try and combat trench mouth.

Tooth powder became a regular feature in hygiene kits and the men were continually ordered to brush their teeth every day a practice many continued after they returned home.

Troops were also given toothpaste, something that had previously been a luxury item. In fact after its dissemination during World II, toothpaste became much more popular among all social classes.

Additional items in hygiene kits included a toothbrush, razor blades, toilet soap and shaving cream.

Men were also given chewing gum, candy, tobacco, matches and cigarettes - another item that unfortunately became a



KEEP IT CLEAN: Click above to watch a World War II animated Hygiene Training clip featuring Private McGillicuddy.

habit that many soldiers took home with them.

Animation to train hygiene habits to new recruits

During World War II the same regulations were in place for personal hygiene that had been present in earlier decades, but the techniques used to teach those regulations varied significantly.

When servicemen began their hygiene training they watched a film that showed them how to clean themselves in hopes of promoting a sense of personal and unit hygiene.

Once units received their orders and knew their destination they were then given site-specific hygiene training.

Troops going to Europe for example were given information about typhus and trench foot through a series of visual aids, while those bound for the Pacific theatre were informed about malaria, water safety and parasites.

The use of visual media to promote public health wasn't an innovation by the military, as posters, pamphlets and displays were used in abundance during the 1930s.

However the outbreak of World War II brought motion picture companies and the Armed Forces together.

The US Army even took over Kaufman Astoria films in New York, making training films and propaganda pictures, while the Air Force used Hell Roach Studios in California.

The film clips were both comically entertaining and informative. Characters like Private Snafu and Private McGillicuddy offered commandments for cleanliness and health alongside cautionary tales of what could go wrong.

The War Department did not hold back on using motion pictures to educate about venereal diseases either. The STD film, explicit in content, offered a simple and straightforward ac-

count of the effects of venereal which may result from intercourse.

Servicemen were told they needed to watch, understand, and internalise the film "If our country is to successfully defend our right to live the American way."

Troops were cautioned about using available water

There were mixed messages for United States personnel during World War II, especially when it came to water, with repeated instruction to stay clean.

Servicemen used local water sources to wash themselves and their clothing when the opportunity arose. This wasn't without risks however.

Local water use often resulted in parasites, skin infections, and other health problems. On the island of Leyte in the Philippines for example, men were told to avoid fresh water for swimming and washing clothes due to the high risk of schistosomiasis, also known as Snail Fever.

Schistosomiasis, also seen in troops in North Africa, was caused by a parasitic flatworm infiltrating the urinary or digestive systems, which is not fun to think about.

As a result of schistosomiasis outbreaks, the military tightened restrictions on water use, issuing orders that all water used by troops would be obtained from approved water points to include water used for drinking, bathing, laundry, washing of vehicles or floors.

Wading, bathing and washing of clothing by troops in any

fresh water river, swamp, pool or rice field was prohibited.

The military also issued rubber boots and protective gear for engineers and soldiers serving in at-risk areas in line with other educational programs.

At the time they also put out cartoons emphasising the need for prevention of snail fever.

Food preparation personnel were expected to keep clean

In terms of keeping food preparation as clean as possible there were regulations against taking food from civilians and from eating at certain restaurants in the United Kingdom.

For example, American troops could buy food from public restaurants but this was prohibited on the continent.

That being said, keeping sanitary standards up while away from camp was difficult to say the least.

Commanders knew that enlisted men obtained food and water from unauthorised sources even though this was strictly prohibited.

This was especially true as rations featured fewer meats, fruits, and overall variety later into the conflict to increase the standards of food quality and cleanliness.

Kitchen personnel were trained at special schools before being sent to overseas camps. A group of sanitation experts made regular visits to mess halls to ensure cooks and those that handled food kept themselves and the food clean.

Officials took great care developing effective and efficient techniques to streamline cafete-



GRUBS UP: Close attention was paid to hygiene at kitchens. Especially those in the field.

ria lines.

Orders were dispatched with respect to how to use and place utensils and medical personnel had the authority to conduct extra examinations of food handlers as needed. How effective all these precautions against food-borne contaminants were is a matter of debate.

Over the course of the war there were 190 recorded outbreaks of food poisoning reported involving over 22,000 individuals.

Choosing between shaving, washing or drinking water rations

Throughout the war the general standard for servicemen was to bathe daily while in garrison and in the field at least once weekly. Hair would be kept short and the beard neatly trimmed.

This posed a difficult choice for many, especially in places where water was limited, such as North Africa.

As one veteran of the desert campaign said, "The choice of whether to wash, shave or drink your water ration was an easy one. I would rather go unwashed and unshaven than go thirsty."

For the British troops the choice of what to with water was to make a pot of tea.

German troops in North Africa were given a gallon each day, an insufficient amount during hot summer months.

American troops, like many of their international counterparts were given razors and shaving cream with their hygiene kits, items they may have carried around in a cigar box or some comparable container.

Military barbers used supplies as they became available, sometimes resorting to using the equipment family members sent from home.

Men could visit local barbers, but the US Military tried to prevent them from getting haircuts or shaves from facilities deemed unsanitary.

Operation Barbarossa - a few facts

More than three million men attacked along a 2,900 km front, making it the largest military invasion in human history. We look at a few facts about Operation Barbarossa.

Operation Barbarossa (*Unternehmen Barbarossa*) was the code name for the invasion of the Soviet Union by Nazi Germany and most of its Axis allies, which started on Sunday, 22 June 1941, during World War II.

The operation was named after Frederick Barbarossa ("red beard"), a 12th-century Holy Roman emperor and German king.

The operation put into action Nazi Germany's ideological goal of conquering the western Soviet Union to repopulate it with Germans.

The German *Generalplan Ost* aimed to use some of the conquered people as forced labour for the Axis war effort while acquiring the oil reserves of the Caucasus as well as the agricultural resources of various Soviet territories.

Their ultimate goal was to create more *Lebensraum* (living space) for Germany, and the eventual extermination of the indigenous Slavic peoples by mass deportation to Siberia,

enslavement, and genocide.

In the two years leading up to the invasion, Germany and the Soviet Union signed political and economic pacts for strategic purposes.

Following the Soviet occupation of Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina, the German High Command began planning an invasion of the Soviet Union in July 1940 (under the codename Operation Otto), which Adolf Hitler authorized on 18 December 1940.

Over the course of the operation, over 3.8 million personnel of the Axis powers - the largest invasion force in the history of warfare - invaded the western Soviet Union along a 2,900-kilometer front, with 600,000 motor vehicles and over 600,000 horses for non-combat operations.

The offensive marked a massive escalation of World War II, both geographically and in the formation of the Allied coalition including the Soviet Union.

The operation opened up the Eastern Front, in which more forces were committed than in any other theatre of war in history. The area saw some of the world's largest battles, most horrific atrocities, and highest casualties (for Soviet and Axis forces alike), all of which influenced the course of World War II and the subsequent history of the 20th century.

The German armies eventually captured some five million Soviet Red Army troops. The Nazis deliberately starved to death or otherwise killed 3.3 million Soviet prisoners of war, and millions of civilians, as the "Hunger Plan" worked to solve German food shortages and exterminate the Slavic population through starvation.

Mass shootings and gassing operations, carried out by the



Nazis or willing collaborators, murdered over a million Soviet Jews as part of the Holocaust.

It was always going to happen

As early as 1925, Adolf Hitler vaguely declared in his political manifesto and autobiography *Mein Kampf* that he would invade the Soviet Union, asserting that the German people needed to secure *Lebensraum* ('living space') to ensure the survival of Germany for generations to come.

On 10 February 1939, Hitler told his army commanders that the next war would be "purely a war of *Weltanschauungen* ('world views') ... totally a people's war, a racial war".

On 23 November, once World War II had already started, Hitler declared that "racial war has broken out and this war shall determine who shall govern Europe, and with it, the world".

The racial policy of Nazi Germany portrayed the Soviet Union (and all of Eastern Europe) as populated by non-Aryan *Untermenschen* ('sub-humans'), ruled by Jewish Bolshevik conspirators.

Hitler claimed in *Mein Kampf* that Germany's destiny was to "turn to the East" as it did "six hundred years ago".

Accordingly, it was a partially secret but well-documented Nazi policy to kill, deport, or enslave the majority of Russian and other Slavic populations and repopulate the land with Germanic peoples, under the *Generalplan Ost*.

The Nazis' belief in their ethnic superiority pervades official



FOR YOU, THE WAR IS OVER: In the early stages of Operation Barbarossa, hundreds of thousands of Soviet troops were taken prisoner.

records and pseudo-scientific articles in German periodicals, on topics such as "how to deal with alien populations".

At first, Stalin did not believe it

In August 1939, Germany and the Soviet Union signed a non-aggression pact in Moscow known as the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact.

A secret protocol to the pact outlined an agreement between Germany and the Soviet Union on the division of the eastern European border states between their respective "spheres of influence": the Soviet Union and Germany would partition Poland in the event of an invasion by Germany, and the Soviets would be allowed to overrun the Baltic states and Finland.

On 23 August 1939 the rest of the world learned of this pact but were unaware of the provisions to partition Poland.

The pact stunned the world because of the parties' earlier mutual hostility and their con-

flicting ideologies. The conclusion of this pact was followed by the German invasion of Poland on 1 September that triggered the outbreak of World War II in Europe, then the Soviet invasion of Poland that led to the annexation of the eastern part of the country.

As a result of the pact, Germany and the Soviet Union maintained reasonably strong diplomatic relations for two years and fostered an important economic relationship.

The countries entered a trade pact in 1940 by which the Soviets received German military equipment and trade goods in exchange for raw materials, such as oil and wheat, to help the Nazis war effort by circumventing the British blockade of Germany.

Joseph Stalin was under the firm belief that Hitler would not invade Russia. And this wasn't because he thought Hitler was an honest and trustworthy ally.

In fact Stalin always knew that at some stage Germany

would turn their intentions towards the Soviet Union. Despite providing an amicable front to Hitler, Stalin probably had intentions that at some stage he would launch his own campaign against Germany to be followed by one against the rest of Europe.

There were two reasons why Stalin believed that Hitler would not invade Russia. He was convinced that the overall military strength of the USSR was such that he had nothing to fear and anticipated an easy victory should Germany attack.

Secondly, the Germans were still fighting the British in the West and surely no-one would be that crazy than to start a war on two fronts.

Go big...

Operation Barbarossa was the largest military operation in human history, both by the number of men involved and by the number of people who died. The operation opened a theatre in which more men were involved than ever before in history.

On 21 June, at 13h00 Army Group North received the codeword "Düsseldorf", indicating Barbarossa would commence the next morning, and passed down its own codeword, "Dortmund".

At around 03h15 on 22 June 1941, the Axis Powers commenced the invasion of the Soviet Union with the bombing of major cities in Soviet-occupied Poland and an artillery barrage on Red Army defences on the entire front.

Air-raids were conducted as far as Kronstadt near Leningrad,

Ismail in Bessarabia, and Sevastopol in the Crimea. Meanwhile, ground troops crossed the border, accompanied in some locales by Lithuanian and Ukrainian fifth columnists.

Roughly three million soldiers of the Wehrmacht went into action and faced slightly fewer Soviet troops at the border. Accompanying the German forces during the initial invasion were Finnish and Romanian units as well.

German and Axis forces involved in Operation Barbarossa included:

- 3.8 million personnel
- 3,350–3,795 tanks
- 3,030–3,072 other AFVs
- 2,770–5,369 aircraft
- 7,200–23,435 artillery pieces
- 17,081 mortars
- 600,000 horses
- 600,000 vehicles

Brutality by all sides

Operation Barbarossa established the policy of brutality by both the Soviets and the Axis powers on the Eastern Front. The murder of POWs became common, with reprisals then becoming just as common.

Murder, rape, and looting was carried out by all sides and it was often ignored by higher authorities.

Many Russian towns and villages actually welcomed the invading Germans. Many had suffered under Stalin's brutal dictatorship and felt Hitler could be no worse than Stalin. They were wrong.

Hitler ordered that Soviet commissars were to be killed immediately upon identification.

Shortly behind the advancing

Wehrmacht troops followed the *Einsatzgruppen* (deployment groups). These were manned by *Schutzstaffel* (SS) troops that were tasked with the elimination of Soviet political commissars, Jews, and Romani people, individuals with intellectual or physical disabilities, political enemies, as well as actual or alleged partisans.

The result

Operation Barbarossa was an overall failure for Germany and the Axis forces.

It opened up a second front for Germany - the Eastern Front.

Although the German achieved huge initial success, capturing large areas of territory and tens of thousands of Russian troops, and the Luftwaffe attained air supremacy by the end of the first week, destroying up to 4,000 Soviet aircraft, they did not achieve the original objectives of the operation - to reach the A-A Line.

The Arkhangel'sk–Astrakhan line, or A–A line for short, was the military goal of Operation Barbarossa. It is also known as the Volga–Arkhangel'sk line, as well as (more rarely) the Volga–Arkhangel'sk–Astrakhan line.

The winter arrived early that year and the Germans were not prepared nor equipped for it. After all, Hitler had declared that the war in Russia would be over before winter arrived.

When the Russians launched their Winter counter-offensive it was the beginning of the end for Nazi Germany.

The eventual death toll on the Eastern Front would be over 30,000,000.

Operation Barbarossa

When Germany invaded Russia on 22 June 1941, it was the largest invasion in military history. In this article the German invaders go head-to-head with the Russian defenders.

Earlier on in this issue we looked at a few facts about Operation Barbarossa, the German invasion of Russia in 1941.

In this months Head-to-Head we will be taking a closer look at what forces the Germans and Russian had available at the time, as well as look at how they measured up in terms of

leadership, training, weapons and equipment.

German front line strength (22 June 1941)

- 3.8 million personnel
- 3,350–3,795 tanks
- 3,030–3,072 other AFVs
- 2,770–5,369 aircraft
- 7,200–23,435 artillery pieces
- 17,081 mortars
- 600,000 horses
- 600,000 vehicles

Russian front line strength (22 June 1941)

- 2.6–2.9 million personnel
- 11,000 tanks
- 7,133–9,100 military aircraft

Leadership

The overall German commander of Operation Barbarossa was Field Marshal Walther von Brauchitsch. At the time he was 60 years old.

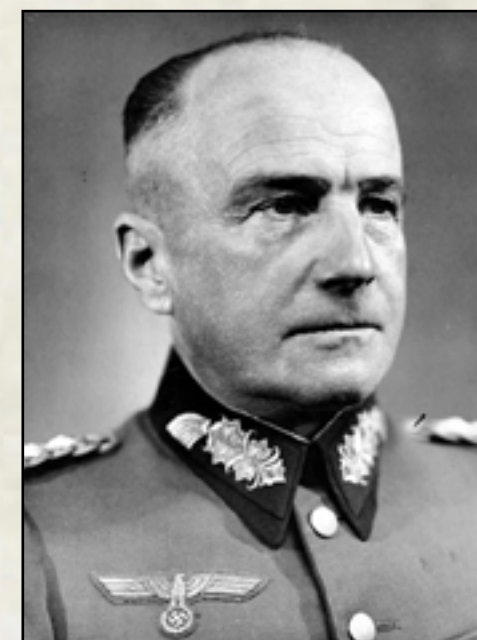
He was supported by senior officers such as Field Marshal Fedor von Bock, Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt, and Field Marshal Wilhelm R. von Leeb.

Nearly all of the German officer and senior NCOs had nearly two years of combat experience.

During Joseph Stalin's Great Purge in the late-1930s, which had not ended by the time of the German invasion on 22 June

1941, much of the officer corps of the Red Army was executed or imprisoned and their replacements, appointed by Stalin for political reasons, often lacked military competence.

Of the five Marshals of the Soviet Union appointed in 1935, only Kliment Voroshilov and Semyon Budyonny sur-

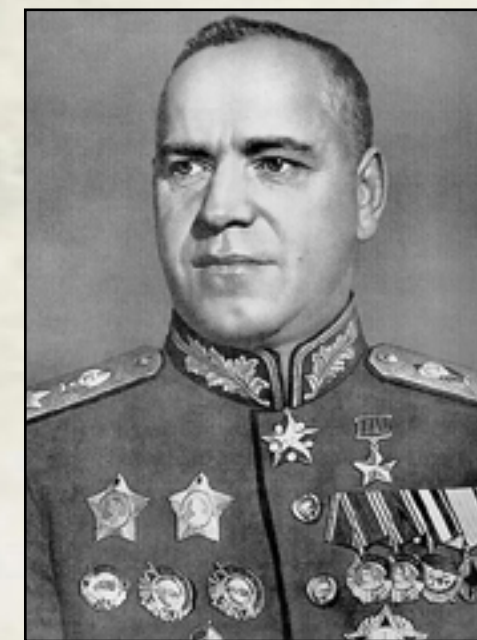


Commanders

The 60 year old Field Marshal Walther von Brauchitsch (left) was the overall German commander of Operation Barbarossa.

Facing him was the overall Russian commander, 44 year old Marshal of the Soviet Union Georgy Zhukov (right).

While both were veterans of World War I, von Brauchitsch had more combat experience.



vived Stalin's purge.

Fifteen of 16 army commanders, 50 of the 57 corps commanders, 154 of the 186 divisional commanders, and 401 of 456 colonels were killed, and many other officers were dismissed.

In total, about 30,000 Red Army personnel were executed. Stalin further underscored his control by reasserting the role of political commissars at the divisional level and below to oversee the political loyalty of the army to the regime.

The commissars held a position equal to that of the commander of the unit they were overseeing.

Marshal of the Soviet Union Georgy Zhukov was the overall Russian commander.



German personal weapons

Karabiner 98k

The Karabiner 98 kurz, often abbreviated Karabiner 98k, Kar98k or K98k, is a bolt-action rifle chambered for the 7.92×57mm Mauser cartridge.

It was adopted on 21 June 1935 as the standard service rifle by the German Wehrmacht. It was one of the final developments in the long line of Mauser military rifles.

Although supplemented by semi-automatic and fully automatic rifles during World War II, the Karabiner 98k remained the primary German service ri-



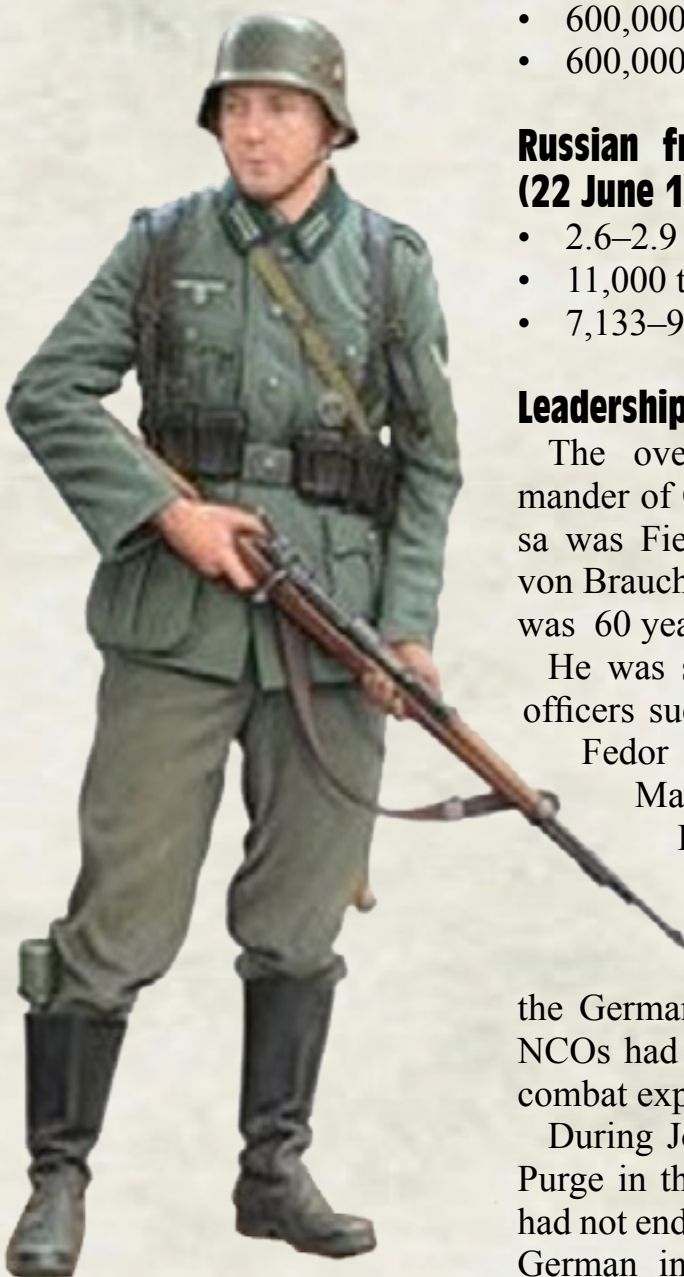
fle until the end of the war in 1945.

Millions were captured by the Soviets at the conclusion of World War II and were widely distributed as military aid.

The Karabiner 98k therefore continues to appear in conflicts across the world as they are taken out of storage during times of strife.

It weighed 4.1 kg and had a length of 1,100 mm. It was a bolt-action rifle that fired a 7.92×57mm Mauser and had an effective range of 500 metres with iron sights.

The feed system was a 5-round stripper clip, internal magazine.



MP 40

The MP 40 (*Maschinenpistole 40*) is a submachine gun developed in Nazi Germany and used extensively by the Axis powers during World War II.

Designed in 1938 by Heinrich Vollmer with inspiration from its predecessor the MP 38, it was heavily used by infantrymen (particularly platoon and squad leaders), and by paratroopers, on the Eastern and Western Fronts as well as armoured fighting vehicle crews.

Its advanced and modern features made it a favourite among soldiers and popular in countries from various parts of the world after the war.

It was often called “Schmeiss-



er” by the Allies, after Hugo Schmeisser, who designed the MP 18, although he was not involved in the design or production of the MP40.

From 1940 to 1945, an estimated 1.1 million were produced by Erma Werke.

It weighed only 3.97 kg and had a length of 883 mm with

the stock extended and 630 mm with the stock folded.

It used a straight blowback, open bolt action and fired a 9×19mm Parabellum cartridge. It had a rate of fire of 500–550 rounds per minute and an effective range of 100–200 metres.

The MP 40 used a 32 round detachable box magazine.

M24 Stielhandgranate

The *Stielhandgranate* (German for “stick hand grenade”) was a German hand grenade distinguished by its wooden handle.

It was a standard grenade for the German Empire during World War I, and Nazi Germany’s Wehrmacht during World War II.

Its distinctive appearance led to it being called a “stick grenade”, or “potato masher” in British Army slang, and it remains one of the most easily recognized infantry weapons of the 20th century.

The M24 is well known as the standard hand grenade of the armed forces of the Wehrmacht during World War II. Adapting to the rapidly changing field of



modern warfare, German soldiers would carry the M24 directly in front, allowing quick and easy access.

However, in the later years of the war it was often advised to carry them in a different manner, as it was very likely any sort of explosion or heat could light the fuse from the grenade on the belt, resulting in unnec-

essary casualties.

The M24 weighed 595 g, had a length of 365 mm and a diameter of 70 mm.

One of the advantages of the M24 was that its design allowed it to be thrown a lot further than a standard hand grenade.

German vehicles

Panzer IV

The Panzerkampfwagen IV (Pz.Kpfw. IV), commonly known as the Panzer IV, was a German medium tank developed in the late 1930s and used extensively during the Second World War.

In April 1941, production of the Panzer IV Ausf. F began. The short-barrel Panzer IV Ausf. F1 would be the main German tank during Operation Barbarossa.

Although the Russians had nearly four times the number of tanks, they were no match for the veteran German Panzer crews.

The Panzer IV Ausf. F1 had a 7.5 cm KwK 40 L/48 main gun and two 7.92 mm MG 34 machine guns.

It was protected by 80 mm



front armour and 30 mm side armour. It was powered by a Maybach HL120 TRM 12-cylinder petrol engine and had an operational range of 200–320 km and a top speed of 38 to 42 km/h.

One of the problems with the

Panzer IV, as with most of the German armoured vehicles, is that they had narrow tracks.

This meant that when the Russian winter arrived, they would often become bogged down in the snow and the mud.

Sd.Kfz. 251

The Sd.Kfz. 251 (*Sonderkraftfahrzeug 251*) half-track was a World War II German armoured personnel carrier designed by the Hanomag company.

It was designed to transport the *Panzergranadier* (German mechanized infantry) into battle.

It weighed 7.81 tonnes, was 5.80 metres in length, 2.10 metres wide, and 1.75 metres high.

It had a two man crew and could carry ten troops. It had a number of storage bins that could carry extra ammunition and rations.



The Sd.Kfz. 251 was armed with two MG 34 or MG 42 machine guns.

It was powered by a Maybach

HL42 6-cylinder petrol engine and had an operational range of 300 km and a top speed of 52.5 km/h.

German aircraft

Messerschmitt Bf 109

At the start of Operation Barbarossa, the Luftwaffe had far fewer aircraft than the Russians.

Yet the German aircraft were superior and most of the pilots were veterans. Many of them were already fighter aces.

The Luftwaffe attained air supremacy by the end of the first week, destroying up to 4,000 Soviet aircraft.

One of the primary Luftwaffe fighters was the Messerschmitt Bf 109. It was called the Me 109 by Allied aircrew and some German aces, even though this was not the official German designation.

The Bf 109 was flown by the three top-scoring fighter aces of all time, who claimed 928 victories among them. The high-



est-scoring ace, Erich Hartmann, was credited with 352 victories.

Powered by a Daimler-Benz DB 605A-1 V-12 inverted liquid-cooled piston engine, it could reach a top speed of 520 km/h. The combat range of the Bf 109 was 440–572 km

and it could reach a height of 12,000 metres.

The Bf 109 carried a punch with two 13 mm synchronized MG 131 machine guns and a 20 mm MG 151/20 cannon. It could also carry a 250 kg bomb or four 50 kg bombs.

Junkers Ju 88

Once the Luftwaffe had achieved air supremacy, German bombers were free to operate with relative impunity.

They targeted Russian airfields, vehicle and supply depots, towns and cities, and concentrations of Russian troops.

Many of the pilots and crews were veterans with years of combat experience.

The Junkers Ju 88 is a German World War II Luftwaffe twin-engined multi-role combat aircraft. From 1936 to 1945 and more than 15,000 Ju 88s were built in dozens of variants.

The Ju 88 A-4 carried a crew of four (pilot, bombardier/front gunner, radio operator/rear gun-



ner, navigator/ventral gunner).

Powered by two Junkers Jumo 211J-1 or 211J-2 V-12 liquid-cooled inverted piston engine, it could reach a speed of 470 km/h. It had a range of 1,790 km and a ceiling height

of 8,200 metres.

It was armed with four 7.92 mm MG 81J machine guns and one 7.92 mm MG 81Z twin machine gun. It could carry a bomb load of up to 1,400 kilograms.

Junkers Ju 87

Better known as the 'Stuka', from the German *Sturzkampfflugzeug* (dive bomber), the Junkers Ju 87 was a German dive bomber and ground-attack aircraft.

It's mounted ram-air sirens known as Jericho trumpets became a propaganda symbol of German air power.

The Stuka's design included several innovations, including automatic pull-up dive brakes under both wings to ensure that the aircraft recovered from its attack dive even if the pilot blacked out from the high g-forces.

Powered by a Junkers Jumo 211Da V-12 inverted liquid-cooled piston engine, it had a top speed of 383 km/h and a range of 595.5 km.

The Stuka carried a crew of two and was armed with two



7.92 mm MG 17 machine gun forward, and a 7.92 mm MG 15 rear machine. It could carry one 250 kg bomb beneath the fuselage and four 50 kg bombs under-wing.

German air-to-ground support was the best in the world at

the time. Forward air controllers (*Flivros*) were attached to every mechanised and panzer division, to allow for accurate air support, free from friendly-fire incidents and in real time.



Russian personal weapons

Mosin–Nagant M1938 Carbine

The 3-line rifle M1891, colloquially (but mistakenly) known in the West as Mosin–Nagant and in Russia and former Soviet Union as Mosin's rifle, it is one of the most mass-produced military bolt-action rifles in history with over 37 million units having been made since 1891.

In spite of its age, it has been used in various conflicts around the world up to the present day.

It was the standard issue rifle to Russian infantry. It weighed 4 kg and had a length of 1,232



mm and a barrel length of 730 mm.

It was a bolt action weapon that fired a 7.62×54mmR cartridge with an effective firing range of 500 metres.

It employed a 5 round non-detachable magazine and the rounds were loaded individually.

They were sometimes fitted

with optics and used as a sniper rifle. This gave the weapon an effective firing range of 800+ metres.

Some troops were armed with the Tokarev SVT-40 rifle, which also used the 7.62×54mmR cartridge, but had a 10 round detachable box magazine.

PPD-40

At the start of Operation Barbarossa the standard Russian submachine gun was the PPD.

The PPD (*Pistolet-Pulemyot Degtyaryova*) was originally designed in 1934 by Vasily Degtyaryov.

There were three variants of the weapon: the PPD-34, PPD-34/38, and the PPD-40. They saw use with the NKVD internal forces as well as border guards.

The PPD-40 weighed 3.2 kg

and had a length of 788 mm. It used a blowback, open bolt action and fired the 7.62×25 mm Tokarev cartridge. It had a rate of fire of 800-1,000 rounds per minute and was accurate up to 200 metres.



It used a 25 round detachable box magazine, or the more common 71 round detachable drum magazine.

By the end of 1941 it was replaced by the iconic PPSH-41.

Russian vehicles

T-26

By the eve of Operation Barbarossa in 1941, the Soviet Union had some of the world's best tanks (including the T-34 and KV-1, which were basically a generation ahead, coming as a shock to the Wehrmacht).

However, it still had many older tanks in its front-line armoured forces, with the T-26 forming the backbone of the Red Army's armoured forces during the first months of the German invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941.

In overall tanks, however, the Soviet numerical advantage was considerable as the Red Army had a large quantitative superiority. It possessed 23,106 tanks, of which about 12,782 were in the five Western Military Districts (three of which directly faced the German invasion front).

However, maintenance and readiness standards were very



poor; ammunition and radios were in short supply, and many units lacked the trucks needed for resupply beyond their basic fuel and ammunition loads.

During the 1930s, the USSR developed 53 variants of the T-26, including flame-throwing tanks, combat engineer vehicles, remotely controlled tanks, self-propelled guns, artillery tractors, and armoured carriers.

The T-26 had a three man crew

(commander, gunner, driver). It was armed with a 45 mm 20K mod. 1932-34 tank gun and a 7.62 mm DT machine gun.

It was powered by a 4-cylinder gasoline flat air-cooled 6.6-litre T-26 engine; and could reach speeds of 31 km/h on roads and 16 km/h off-road.

The T-26 had an operational range of 220-240 kilometres.

Russian aircraft

Polikarpov I-16

The alleged technical primitivity of Soviet aircraft is a myth. The Polikarpov I-16 fighter and Tupolev SB bomber were just as capable as foreign aircraft.

In 1941, the Ilyushin Il-2, Yakovlev Yak-1, Lavochkin-Gorbunov-Gudkov LaGG-3, Petlyakov Pe-2 and Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-3 were comparable to the best in the World.

It was the world's first low-wing cantilever monoplane fighter with retractable landing gear to attain operational status and as such "introduced a new vogue in fighter design".

The I-16 was introduced in the mid-1930s and formed the backbone of the Soviet Air Force at the beginning of World War II.

Tupolev SB

The Tupolev ANT-40, also known by its service name Tupolev SB (*Skorostnoi Bombardirovshik* – high speed bomber) and development code name TsAGI-40, was a high speed twin-engined three-seat monoplane bomber, first flown in 1934.

Numerically the most important bomber in the world in the late 1930s, it had a three man crew and was powered by two Klimov M-103 V-12 liquid-cooled piston engines.

The Tupolev SB had a top speed of 450 km/h and a range of 2,300 kilometres.



The diminutive fighter was nicknamed *Ishak* or *Ishachok* (donkey or burro) by Soviet pilots.

The I-16 was flown by a single pilot. It was a relatively short plane, being on 6.13 metres in length with a wingspan of 9 metres.

It was powered by a Shvetsov M-63 9-cylinder supercharged air-cooled radial engine and

had a top speed of 489 km/h and a range of 700 km with drop tanks.

It was armed with two fixed forward-firing 7.62 mm ShKAS machine guns in the upper cowl and two fixed forward-firing 20 mm ShVAK cannons in the wings. It could carry six unguided RS-82 rockets or up to 500 kg of bombs.



It was armed with four 7.62 mm ShKAS machine guns (two in the nose, one in the dorsal and one in the ventral position).

It could carry six 100 kg or six 50 kg bombs in the bomb-bay, and two 250 kg bombs on wing racks.

Otto Skorzeny

Obersturmbannführer in the Waffen-SS, war criminal, military advisor to the Egyptian Army, bodyguard to Eva Person, and possibly a member of the Israeli intelligence agency, Mossad. Otto Skorzeny was all this and more.

Otto Skorzeny was one of those larger than life characters, and he certainly looked the part. He stood at 1.92 metres (6' 4") and his face sported a deep scar on his left cheek from a fencing duel.

During World War II he specialised in guerrilla warfare and commando-style raids. He mounted numerous operations with varying degrees of success that involved either the rescue, kidnapping, assassination, or defence of numerous wartime leaders in Europe.

As a result, he became Hitler's favourite commando and dubbed "the most dangerous man in Europe" by the Allies.

Early life

Otto Skorzeny was born on 12 June 1908 in Vienna, Austria. His family, who were originally from a village called Skorzęcin in Poland, had a long history of military service.

He was regarded as a bright young man and in addition to his native German, he spoke excellent French and was proficient in English.

He was a noted fencer as member of a German-national *Burschenschaft* as a university student in Vienna. He engaged in fifteen personal combats. The tenth resulted in a wound that left a dramatic duelling scar - known in academic fencing as a *Schmiss* (German for "smite" or "hit") - on his cheek.

In 1931 Skorzeny joined the Austrian Nazi organization and soon became a member of the Nazi SA.

A charismatic figure, Skorzeny played a minor role in the *Anschluss* on 12 March 1938, when he saved the Austrian

President Wilhelm Miklas from being shot by Austrian Nazis.

Joining the military

In September 1939 Skorzeny had been working as a civil engineer when Germany invaded Poland.

He immediately volunteered for service in the *Luftwaffe* (German Air Force) as he was keen on becoming a pilot.

The *Luftwaffe* turned him down for two reasons. First of all he was just too tall, and secondly, at the age of 31, he was considered too old for aircrew training.

Skorzeny then joined the *Schutzstaffel* (SS) and became a member of Hitler's bodyguard regiment, the *Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler* (LSSAH).

Skorzeny took part in the invasion of the Soviet Union with the SS Division Das Reich and subsequently fought in several battles on the Eastern Front.

In October 1941, he was in charge of a "technical section" of the German forces during the Battle of Moscow. His

mission was to seize important buildings of the Communist Party, including the NKVD headquarters at Lubyanka, and the central telegraph office and other high priority facilities, before they could be destroyed.

He was also ordered to capture the sluices of the Moscow-Volga Canal because Hitler wanted to turn Moscow into a huge artificial lake by opening them. The missions were cancelled as the German forces failed to capture the Soviet capital.

Unconventional warfare

In December 1942, Skorzeny was severely wounded. He was hit in the back of the head by shrapnel and was evacuated to the rear for treatment. He was awarded his first Iron Cross.

While recuperating from his injuries he was given a staff role in Berlin, where he developed his ideas on unconventional commando warfare, reading everything he could on unconventional warfare and guerrilla tactics.

Skorzeny's proposals were to develop units specialized in such warfare, including partisan-like fighting deep behind enemy lines, fighting in enemy uniform, sabotage attacks, etc.

In April 1943 Skorzeny's name was put forward by Ernst Kaltenbrunner, the new head of the RSHA, and Skorzeny met with Walter Schellenberg, head of *Amt VI, Ausland-SD* (the SS foreign intelligence service department of the RSHA).

Schellenberg charged Skorzeny with command of the

schools organized to train operatives in sabotage, espionage, and paramilitary techniques. Skorzeny was appointed commander of the recently created *Waffen Sonderverband z.b.V. Friedenthal* stationed near Berlin (the unit was later renamed *SS Jagdverband 502*, and in November 1944 again to SS Combat Unit "Centre", expanding ultimately to five battalions).

The unit's first mission, code-named Operation François, was in mid-1943. Skorzeny sent a group by parachute into Iran to make contact with the dissident mountain tribes to encourage them to sabotage Allied supplies of material being sent to the Soviet Union via the Trans-Iranian Railway.

However, commitment among the rebel tribes was suspect, and Operation François was deemed a failure.

Operation Oak

Skorzeny's next operation was anything but a failure. In fact it went on to establish his reputation.

On the night between 24 and 25 July 1943, a few weeks after the Allied invasion of Sicily and bombing of Rome, the Italian Grand Council of Fascism voted a motion of no confidence (*Ordine del Giorno Grandi*) against Mussolini. On the same day, the king replaced him with Marshal Pietro Badoglio and had him arrested.

Hitler's common procedure was to give similar orders to competing organisations within the German military. So

he ordered Skorzeny to track Mussolini, and simultaneously ordered the paratroop General Kurt Student to execute the liberation.

The raid was an overwhelming success and ten minutes after the beginning of the raid, Mussolini left the hotel, accompanied by the German soldiers.

Subsequently Mussolini was to be flown out by a meanwhile arrived Fieseler Fi 156 STOL plane. Although under the given circumstances the small plane was overloaded, Skorzeny insisted to accompany Mussolini, thus endangering the success of the mission.

After a extremely dangerous but successful lift-off, they flew to Pratica di Mare. There they continued immediately, flying in a Heinkel He 111 to Vienna, where Mussolini stayed overnight at the Hotel Imperial. The next day he was flown to Munich and on September 14 he met Hitler at the Wolf's Lair Führer Headquarters near Rastenburg.

Skorzeny's audacious plan had paid off. The Fuhrer, delighted with Skorzeny, awarded him the Knights Cross. The plan even impressed Winston Churchill.

Operation Panzerfaust

Operation Long Jump was a planned operation to assassinate the 'Big Three' - Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin - during the 1943 Tehran Conference. The plot was uncovered by Russian intelligence before its inception. Later Skorzeny de-



nied any plan existed, claiming that it was nothing more than Russian propaganda.

Unternehmen Rösselsprung (Operation Knight's Leap) was a plan in May 1944 to capture Yugoslav Partisan leader Josip Broz, better known as Tito, alive.

In October 1944, Hitler sent Skorzeny to Hungary after receiving word that Hungary's Regent, Admiral Miklós Horthy, was secretly negotiating with the Red Army. The surrender of Hungary would have cut off the million German troops still fighting in the Balkan peninsula.

Skorzeny, in a daring "snatch" codenamed Operation Panzerfaust (known as *Unternehmen Eisenfaust* (Iron First) in Germany), kidnapped Horthy's son Miklós Horthy Jr. and forced his father to resign as head of state. A pro-Nazi government under dictator Ferenc Szálasi was then installed in Hungary.

In April 1945, after German and Hungarian forces had already been driven out of Hungary, Szálasi and his Arrow Cross Party-based forces continued the fight in Austria and Slovakia.

The success of the operation earned Skorzeny promotion to *Obersturmbannführer* (Lieutenant Colonel).

Operation Griffin

Skorzeny's most infamous mission was *Unternehmen Greif* (Griffin), which was part of Hitler's last-ditch attempt at turning the tables on the Allies. His key objective required the capture of key bridges over the



SAFE AND SOUND: In this photo, taken on 12 September 1943, Otto Skorzeny (with binoculars) is shown with Mussolini shortly after arriving back in Germany.

Meuse river during the Battle of the Bulge.

Skorzeny devised a trojan horse operation which required his men to go behind enemy lines in the Belgian Ardennes dressed as American soldiers and cause maximum panic and confusion.

On 16 December 1944, Operation Griffin launched into action. Skorzeny's men cut communication wires, issued fake orders, and turned around road signs.

Paranoia set in amongst American forces as word of the German impostors spread. Some Americans fired on each other and soon GIs grilled each other on American popular culture to flush out German agents.

Many American soldiers and even Allied generals were detained at checkpoints for answering questions wrong.

Skorzeny's most infamous mission was *Unternehmen* But

the biggest confusion - and the master stroke of the operation - came from Skorzeny himself when he let a rumour run wild within his own ranks that the real target was General Eisenhower, who was still in Paris.

Convinced of the "real" mission, two Jeeps full of German agents confirmed the assassination plot to kill Eisenhower when interrogated by Americans. Back in Paris, Eisenhower spent time in protective custody while his body-double did his daily rounds.

In the end, the impostors' inability to correctly mimic "Americanisms" and U.S. Army protocol proved their undoing. Many were shot as spies for impersonating the opposing side.

By war's end, Skorzeny had received oak leaves for his Iron Cross, the highest honour awarded by the Nazis. However, his directive for his men to wear American uniforms got him in

hot water in 1947 at the Allied Dachau War Crimes trials.

On trial

Skorzeny was interned for two years before being tried as a war criminal at the Dachau trials in 1947 for allegedly violating the laws of war during the Battle of the Bulge. He and nine officers of the Panzerbrigade 150 were tried before a U.S. Military Tribunal in Dachau on 18 August 1947.

They faced charges of improper use of U.S. military insignia, theft of U.S. uniforms, and theft of Red Cross parcels from U.S. POWs. The trial lasted over three weeks. The charge of stealing Red Cross parcels was dropped for lack of evidence. Skorzeny admitted to ordering his men to wear U.S. uniforms; but his defence argued that, as long as enemy uniforms were discarded before combat started, such a tactic was a legitimate *ruse de guerre* (Ruse of war).

On the final day of the trial, 9 September, Tommy Yeo-Thomas, a former British SOE agent, testified that he and his operatives wore German uniforms behind enemy lines; the Tribunal acquitted the ten defendants. The Tribunal drew a distinction between using enemy uniforms during combat and for other purposes including deception and were unable to prove that Skorzeny had given any orders to actually fight in U.S. uniforms.

Skorzeny was detained in an internment camp at Darmstadt

awaiting the decision of a denazification court. On 27 July 1948 he escaped from the camp with the help of three former SS officers dressed in US Military Police uniforms who entered the camp and claimed that they had been ordered to take Skorzeny to Nuremberg for a legal hearing.

Skorzeny hid out at a farm in Bavaria which had been rented by Countess Ilse Lüthje, who he later married. With the help of a Nansen passport issued by the Spanish government, he moved to Madrid, where he set up a small engineering business.

Military advisor

In 1952 Egypt was taken over by General Mohammed Naguib. Skorzeny was sent to Egypt the following year by former General Reinhard Gehlen (who was now working for the CIA) to act as Naguib's military advisor. Skorzeny recruited a staff made up of former SS and Wehrmacht officers to train the Egyptian army.

He stayed on to serve as an adviser to Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser. According to some authors, he traveled between Spain and Argentina, where he acted as an advisor to President Juan Perón and as a bodyguard for Eva Perón.

Mossad agent

The Israeli security and intelligence magazine *Matara* published an article in 1989 claiming that Skorzeny had been recruited by Mossad in 1963, to obtain information on German

scientists who were working on an Egyptian project to develop rockets to be used against Israel.

Reporting on the Matara story, the major Israeli daily *Yedioth Ahronot* said that they had confirmed the story from their own senior Mossad source. Former Mossad head Isser Harel confirmed the story that former Nazis were recruited to provide intelligence on Arab countries.

After undergoing instruction and training in the Mossad's facilities in Israel, the rumoured work for Mossad included assassinating German rocket scientist Heinz Krug who was working for the Egyptian government and mailing a letter bomb which killed five Egyptians at the Egyptian military rocket site Factory 333. He also allegedly supplied the names and addresses of German scientists working for Egypt and the names of European front companies supplying military hardware to Egypt.

No confirmed source can explain Skorzeny's motives for working with Israel but he may have craved adventure and intrigue, as well as fearing assassination by Mossad.

Death

On 5 July 1975, Otto Skorzeny died at the age of 67 from lung cancer. He had two funerals, one in Madrid, and the other at his family plot in Vienna. At both, he received a full Nazi send-off with Nazi veterans giving him the Nazi salute and singing some of Hitler's favourite songs.

FIM-92 Stinger

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 FIM-92 Stinger.

The FIM-92 Stinger is a man-portable air-defense system (MANPADS) that operates as an infrared homing surface-to-air missile (SAM).

It can be adapted to fire from a wide variety of ground vehicles and helicopters (Air to Air Stinger). Developed in the United States, it entered service in 1981 and is used by the militaries of the United States and 29 other countries.

It is principally manufactured by Raytheon Missile Systems and is produced under license by Airbus Defence in Germany and by ROKETSAN in Turkey, with 70,000 missiles produced.

Description

The FIM-92 Stinger is a passive surface-to-air missile that can be shoulder-fired by a single operator (although standard military procedure calls for two operators, team chief and gunner).

The Stinger was intended to supplant the FIM-43 Redeye MANPAD system, the principal difference being that, unlike the Redeye, the Stinger can acquire the target when the target approaches the operator, giving much more time to acquire and destroy the target.

The FIM-92B missile can also be fired from the M1097

Avenger and the M6 Linebacker. The missile is also capable of being deployed from a Humvee Stinger rack, and can be used by airborne troops. A helicopter launched version exists called Air-to-Air Stinger (ATAS).

The missile is 1.52 metres long and 70 mm in diameter with 100 mm fins. The missile itself weighs 10.1 kg, while the missile with its launch tube and integral sight, fitted with a gripstock and Identification friend or foe (IFF) antenna, weighs approximately 15.2 kg.

It has a targeting range of up to 4,800 metres and can engage

low altitude enemy threats at up to 3,800 metres.

The Stinger is launched by a small ejection motor that pushes it a safe distance from the operator before engaging the main two-stage solid-fuel sustainer, which accelerates it to a maximum speed of Mach 2.54 (750 m/s).

The warhead contains 1.02 kg of HTA-3 (a mix of HMX, TNT, and aluminium powder) explosive with an impact fuse and a self-destruct timer that functions 17 seconds after launch.

To fire the missile, a BCU (Battery Coolant Unit) is inserted into the gripstock.

This device consists of a supply of high-pressure gaseous argon which is injected into the seeker to cryogenically cool it to operating temperature, and a thermal battery which provides power for target acquisition: a single BCU provides power and coolant for roughly 45 seconds, after which another must be inserted if the missile has not been fired.

The BCUs are somewhat sensitive to abuse, and have a limited shelf life due to argon leakage. The IFF system receives power from a rechargeable battery which is part of the IFF interrogator box which plugs into the base of the gripstock's pistol grip.

Guidance to the target is initially through proportional navigation, then switches to another mode that directs the missile towards the target airframe instead of its exhaust plume.

There are three main variants in use: the Stinger basic, Stinger-Passive Optical Seeker Technique (POST), and Stinger-Reprogrammable Microprocessor (RMP). These correspond to the FIM-92A, FIM-92B, and FIM-92C and later variants respectively.

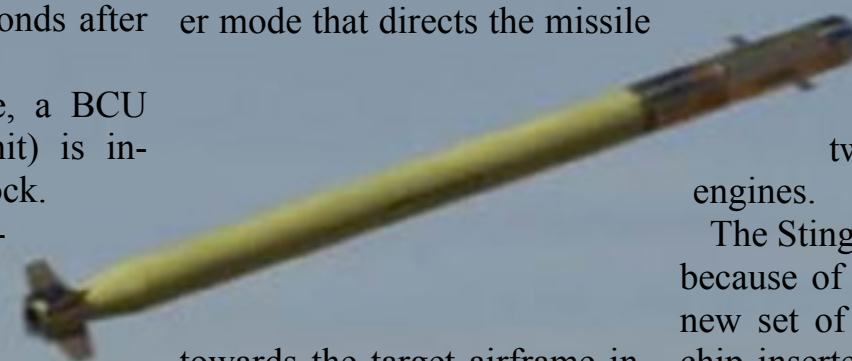
The POST and RMP variants have a dual-detector seeker: IR and UV. This allows it to distinguish targets from countermeasures much better than the Redeye and FIM-92A, which have IR-only.

While modern flares can have an IR signature that is closely matched to the launching aircraft's engine exhaust, there is a readily distinguishable difference in UV signature between flares and jet engines.

The Stinger-RMP is so-called because of its ability to load a new set of software via ROM chip inserted in the grip at the depot.

If this download to the missile fails during power-up, basic functionality runs off the on-board ROM.

The four-processor RMP has



4 KB of RAM for each processor. Since the downloaded code runs from RAM, there is little space to spare, particularly for processors dedicated to seeker input processing and target analysis.

History

The missile began as a program by General Dynamics to produce an improved variant of their 1967 FIM-43 Redeye.

Production of the Redeye ran from 1969 to 1982, with a total production of around 85,000 missiles. The program was accepted for further development as Redeye II by the U.S. Army in 1971 and designated FIM-92; the Stinger appellation was chosen in 1972.

Because of technical difficulties that dogged testing, the first shoulder launch was not until mid-1975. Production of the FIM-92A began in 1978.

An improved Stinger with a new seeker, the FIM-92B, was produced from 1983 alongside the FIM-92A. Production of both the A and B types ended in 1987 with around 16,000 missiles produced.

The replacement FIM-92C began development in 1984, and production began in 1987. The first examples were delivered to front-line units in 1989. C-type missiles were fitted with a reprogrammable microprocessor, allowing for incremental firmware updates.

Later missiles designated D received improvements to improve their ability to defeat countermeasures, and later upgrades to the D were designated G.

The FIM-92E or Block I

was developed from 1992 and delivered from 1995 (certain sources state that the FIM-92D is also part of the Block I development).

The main changes were again in the sensor and the software, improving the missile's performance against low-signature targets. A software upgrade in 2001 was designated F. Block II development began in 1996 using a new focal plane array sensor to improve the missile's effectiveness in "high clutter" environments and increase the engagement range to about 7,600 metres.

Since 1984 the Stinger has been issued to many U.S. Navy warships for point defence, particularly in Middle Eastern waters, with a three-man team that can perform other duties when not conducting Stinger training or maintenance.

Until it was decommissioned in September 1993, the U.S. Navy had at least one Stinger Gunnery Detachment attached to Beachmaster Unit Two in Little Creek Virginia.

The sailors of this detachment would deploy to carrier battle-groups in teams of two to four sailors per ship as requested by Battle Group Commanders.

Replacement

The original Stinger's reprogrammable microprocessor

will become obsolete in 2023, and a service life extension will keep the Block I in service until 2030.

With the arsenal declining from obsolescence, on 10 November 2020 the U.S. Army issued a request for information for a replacement MANPADS.

The new system will be compatible with the Stinger Vehicle Universal Launcher used on the IM-SHORAD and be able to defeat fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft, as well as Group 2 and 3 UAS as well or better than the Stinger.

A contract for up to 8,000 missiles is planned to be awarded by 2026.

Operational history

Since 1982 the Stinger has seen service in numerous conflicts.

FALKLANDS WAR

The Stinger's combat debut occurred during the Falklands War fought between the United Kingdom and Argentina.

At the onset of the conflict soldiers of the British Army's Special Air Service had been clandestinely equipped with six missiles, although they had received little instruction in their use.

The sole SAS trooper who had received training on the system, and was due to train

other troops, was killed in a helicopter crash on 19 May.

Nonetheless, on 21 May 1982 an SAS soldier engaged and shot down an Argentine Pucará ground attack aircraft with a Stinger.

On 30 May, at about 11.00 a.m., an Aerospatiale SA-330 Puma helicopter was brought down by another missile, also fired by the SAS, in the vicinity of Mount Kent. Six National Gendarmerie Special Forces were killed and eight more wounded.

The main MANPADS used by both sides during the Falklands War was the Blowpipe missile.

SOVIET WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

In late 1985, several groups, such as Free the Eagle, began arguing the CIA was not doing enough to support the Mujahideen in the Soviet–Afghan War.

Michael Pillsbury, Vincent Cannistraro, and others put enormous bureaucratic pressure on the CIA to provide the Stinger to the rebels.

The idea was controversial because up to that point, the CIA had been operating with the pretence that the United States was not involved in the war directly, for various reasons.

All weapons supplied up to that point were non-U.S. sourced weapons, including Kalashnikov style assault rifles made in China and Egypt.

The final say-so came down to President General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan, through whom the CIA had to

pass all of its funding and weapons to the Mujahideen.

President Zia constantly had to gauge how much he could "make the pot boil" in Afghanistan without provoking a Soviet invasion of his own country.

According to George Crile III, U.S. Representative Charlie Wilson's relationship with Zia was instrumental in the final go-ahead for the Stinger introduction.

According to the 1993 US Air Defense Artillery Yearbook, the Mujahideen gunners used the supplied Stingers to score approximately 269 total aircraft kills in about 340 engagements, a 79% kill probability.

If this report is accurate, Stingers would be responsible for over half of the 451 Soviet aircraft losses in Afghanistan.

According to Soviet figures, by 25 December 1987, they lost only 38 airplane/helicopter and 14 more were damaged by MANPADS (Blowpipe or Stinger), or 10.2% kill probability.

Then again, both sides were known to be very liberal with the truth.

ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR

The Reagan administration provided 310 Stingers to Jonas Savimbi's UNITA movement in Angola between 1986 and 1989.

As in Afghanistan, efforts to recover missiles after the end of hostilities proved incomplete.

The battery of a Stinger lasts for four or five years, so any battery supplied in the 1980s would now be inoperative but during the Syrian Civil War, insurgents showed how easily

they switched to different batteries, including widespread car batteries, as power sources for several MANPADS models.

LIBYAN INVASION OF CHAD

The French army used 15 firing positions and 30 missiles purchased in 1983 for operations in Chad.

The 35th Parachute Artillery Regiment made an unsuccessful fire during a Libyan bombardment on 10 September 1987 but shot down a Hercules transport aircraft on 7 July 1988.

The Chadian government received Stinger missiles from the United States, when Libya invaded the northern part of the African country.

On 8 October 1987, a Libyan Su-22MK was shot down by a FIM-92A fired by Chadian forces.

The pilot, Capt. Diya al-Din, ejected and was captured. He was later granted political asylum by the French government.

During the recovery operation, a Libyan MiG-23MS was shot down by a FIM-92A.

TAJIK CIVIL WAR

Tajik Islamist opposition forces operating from Afghanistan during the 1992–97 Tajik civil war encountered a heavy air campaign launched by Russia and Uzbekistan to prop up the government in Dushanbe that included border and cross-border raids.

During one of these operations, a Sukhoi Su-24M was shot down on 3 May 1993 with a Stinger fired by opposition. Both Russian pilots were rescued.



FIM-92 Stinger launcher

CHECHEN WAR

Russian officials claimed several times that the Chechen militia and insurgents possessed US-made Stinger missiles.

They attributed a few of their aerial losses to the American MANPADS. The presence of such missiles was confirmed by photo evidence even though their actual number and origin were not clear.

It is believed one Sukhoi Su-24 was shot down by a Stinger missile during the Second Chechen War.



POTENT STING: Watch a short video on how the Stinger missile works. Thousands of Stinger missiles are being supplied to Ukraine, which is not good news for the Russians.

SRI LANKAN CIVIL WAR

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam also managed to acquire one or several Stingers, possibly from former Mujahideen stocks, and used at least one to down a Sri Lanka Air Force Mi-24 on November 10, 1997.

UNITED STATES

In 2000, the U.S. inventory contained 13,400 missiles. The total cost of the program is \$7,281,000,000.

It is rumoured that the United States Secret Service has Stinger missiles to defend the President, a notion that has never been dispelled; however, U.S. Secret Service plans favour moving the President to a safer place in the event of an attack rather than shooting down the plane, lest the missile (or the wreckage of the target aircraft) hit innocents.

During the 1980s, the Stinger was used to support different US-aligned guerrilla forces, notably the Afghan Mujahidins, the Chad government against the Libyan invasion and the An-

golan UNITA.

The Nicaraguan contras were not provided with Stingers due to the lack of fixed wing aircraft of the Sandinista government, as such the previous generation FIM-43 Redeye was considered adequate.

SYRIAN CIVIL WAR

In the Syrian civil war, Turkey reportedly helped to transport a limited amount of FIM-92 Stingers to the Free Syrian Army.

On 27 February 2020, during the northwestern offensive launched in December 2019 by the Syrian regime (backed by Russia, Iran and Hezbollah), Russian and Syrian aircraft (variously reportedly as Russian Su-34s and Syrian Su-22) attacked a Turkish military convoy near Idlib, killing 36 Turkish soldiers.

That day, video footage emerged of alleged Turkish soldiers (backing Syrian op-

position fighters) firing what apparently looks like a Roketsan-made Stinger against either Russian or Syrian aircraft (or possibly against both).

RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

In February 2022, several nations announced that they were providing Stinger missiles to the Ukrainian forces defending against the Russian invasion.

Germany announced that it would provide 500 missiles. Denmark said that it will provide parts for 300 missiles, to be assembled in the United States.

The Netherlands stated they would supply 200 units. Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, and the United States each stated that they would provide undisclosed amounts.

By 7 March the USA reported that it and its NATO allies had together sent more than 2,000 Stinger missiles to Ukraine.



**PRO
PATRIA**
Military Fair

**Veterans
Formal Invitation**

2 May 2022

Background

The Pro Patria Military Fair is an initiative of the Voortrekker Monument and the Pro Patria Museum.

It will be held on Monday, 2 May 2022 at the Voortrekker Monument Amphitheatre.

The Pro Patria Military Fair's main objective is to: **Educate the public and promote awareness about Southern African Military Heritage.**

The Pro Patria Military Fair main attractions:

- Military History exhibitions;
- Veteran's Organisations;
- Seminars and storytelling;
- Military equipment and vehicles exhibition;
- Aircraft flypasts;
- Voortrekker Monument Experiences;
- Military Food stalls & Beer-garden.



Veteran, regimental, and unit associations

All Veteran, regimental, and unit associations are hereby invited to man a stand at the Fair.

This stand can be used to educate the public about your organization, sell merchandise and recruiting.

If, as an organisation, you accept this offer please supply the Military Fair's organisers with 5 members of your organisation to assist during the day.

What we give you

- Undercover facility at the Amfi, Voortrekker Monument.
- Stand for Free.
- Dry stand, no furniture, no electricity.
- Marketing focus in March and April.
- Your details published in the event program.
- FaceBook and Web exposure.
- Free early morning Coffee & doggie.
- Setup from 05h00 – 08h00

***Bring own gazebo, banners and tables (chairs can be arranged).**

Application for a stand.

Please use the link below to apply for a stand:
<https://forms.office.com/r/dwVEu9KaAU>

For any queries please contact:
Jandre du Plessis
0744083572 or info@propatriamuseum.org.za

While most of the world condemned Israel's attack on the Iraqi nuclear facility at al-Tuwaitha, Operation Babylon actually did the world a huge favour.

Saddam Hussein had spent nearly two decades as a street fighter and assassin for the militant Ba'ath Party in Iraq. When the party seized power in 1968, Hussein began his ascendancy to the presidency.

In the late 1970s, it became clear to the international community that Iraq was attempting to acquire nuclear weapons through the guise of buying nuclear reactors for power generators.

Hussein, who was now president, was well known for his expansionist ambitions. He also bore an unyielding animosity towards Israel, which he referred to as "the Zionist entity".

If Israel had a supposed nuclear capacity, the Hussein was determined that Iraq would have one as well.

Hussein stepped up his efforts and used diplomatic and financial contacts he had made in France earlier in the decade.

In 1975 he completed a deal with France to sell Iraq the equipment necessary to construct a nuclear reactor at al-Tuwaitha, a research site located on banks of the Tigris River, a mere 20 kilometres from the centre of Baghdad.

The French also agreed to supply Iraq with 72 kilograms of enriched, weapons-grade uranium, which could easily be converted for use in an atomic bomb. Such a bomb, which experts calculated could be completed by the early 1980s, could easily kill at least 100,000 people if dropped on Tel Aviv, the capital of Israel.

The world reacted with alarm to news of the sale. The United States and Great Britain expressed measured diplomatic concern, and the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency increased monitoring efforts of Iraq's nuclear program. But it was little more than a slap on the wrist.

In the immediate wake of the 1973-74 oil embargo, the West was reluctant to alienate the Arab world. So it was left to Israel to take more direct action.

It was Israel's intelligence agency, the Mos-

sad, that made the first move in 1979. They intercepted a shipment of nuclear cores from France to Iraq at La Seyne-sur-Mer.

The Mossad agents blew up the warehouse where the shipment was stored, severely damaging the cores.

Terrified of Hussein's reaction to the news, Iraqi officials accepted the damaged goods and kept their mouths shut.

Unfortunate incidents

Over the next 15 months a number of key nuclear scientists from Iraq and other Arab countries met a series of unfortunate accidents while visiting western Europe.

These accidents included hit-and-run automobile accidents, sudden fatal flu-like illnesses, and virulent food poisoning. And a few of them had their throat slit. Mossad were hard at work slowing down the pace of Iraq's nuclear program. Undeterred, Hussein continued to press forward.

"How could a people who only know how to ride camels produce an atomic bomb?" he scoffed when asked about his plans.

Meanwhile, he threatened to suspend payments - and much-needed oil shipments - to France unless the French fulfilled their original contract calling for delivery of 72 pounds of 93% enriched uranium. Natu-



NUCLEAR AMBITIONS: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein wanted to develop a nuclear program, giving Iraq the ability to build an atomic bomb.

rally the French agreed to honour their terms.

Iraq's nuclear efforts suffered their next blow nine days after the start of the Iran-Iraq war on 30 September 1980. And it was Iran and not Israel that did the deed.

Iran sent two Phantom F-4-E jets to attack several Iraqi targets, among them the uncompleted nuclear reactors at al-Tuwaitha. The Phantoms fired two rockets. One did not explode, and the other hit the housing of one of the reactors, damaging the dome and cooling system, but causing no significant destruction. Hundreds of French and Italian technicians and engineers working at the facility were evacuated, however, and work at al-Tuwaitha ground to a standstill.

Israel was rightly worried over the Iraqi nuclear threat and over the course of the following year Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin considered various options. These options

included an attack on Iraq's nuclear reactors.

Such an attack, however, came with major concerns. These including the probable adverse reaction from the rest of the world, and concerns that even though Iraq was at war with Iran, they may still have attacked Israel. Another concern was the distance to the target. It was over 1770 kilometres to the target and back.

There was something else to consider - the reaction of Egypt. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat had brokered a peace treaty with Begin at Camp David in 1979. While an attack would not violate Israel's treaty with Egypt, which called for Israel to pull out of the Sinai in April 1982, Sadat's reaction was still unpredictable.

Operation Babylon

Begin had some hard decisions to make. He weighed the risks and came to the conclusion that a preemptive strike

was worth any possible aftereffects. The thought of Iraq having nuclear capabilities was just too dangerous to contemplate.

The Israelis felt that a quick, surgical air strike was the best option, and there were two things in their favour.

First of all Iraq was weakened by its ongoing ground war with Iran. The second consideration was even more important.

The reactor was not yet operational, so an attack would not result in any kind of nuclear fallout over Baghdad. This would have been a humanitarian and public-relations disaster.

By the end of March 1981, Mossad reported that foreign workers were returning to al-Tuwaitha, and that construction had resumed on the Osirak nuclear reactor. Begin and his advisors finalized plans for an air strike on the Iraqi facility in early May. It was codenamed Operation Babylon.

After a series of delays, Mossad reported that France had finally delivered all 72 kilograms of enriched uranium to Iraq. It was time for the Israelis to strike.

Just before sunset on Sunday 7 June 1981, Operation Babylon was launched. It had been carefully planned for a Sunday, on the assumption that the 100 to 150 foreign experts employed at the reactor would be absent on the Christian day of rest.

The raid was planned for late afternoon because it would give the Israeli Combat Search and Rescue Team, riding in CH-53 helicopters, all night to search for any downed pilots.

At 15h00 the CH-53s took

up their position, hovering at only 30 metres just west of the Jordanian border. The CH-53 crews were not told what the mission was. Their instructions were that if a plane went down they had permission to violate any sovereign airspace to pick up the pilots.

At 16h00 eight of Israel's American-built F-16 fighters took off from Etzion airbase in the Sinai desert. They were carrying extra 1,400 litre fuel tanks to increase their range.

Due to the distance to the target, weight was a serious consideration. The F-16s were stripped of two of their four air-to-air Sidewinder missiles. The jamming devices for protection against Iraqi MiGs and SAM-6 radars had also been removed.

Despite these attempts to reduce weight the F-16s took off at a weight that exceeded nearly twice the plane's design specifications.

Each F-16 was equipped with special racks that carried two 900 kilogram MK-84 'dumb' bombs. They were called 'dumb' bombs as opposed to 'smart' bombs because they had to be dropped directly on the target. They had no form of guidance system.

The F-16s were escorted by eight F-15 fighter interceptors. They would provide protection against Arab aircraft as well as jamming Iraqi radar over the target. Moreover they would act as communication relay stations to a Boeing 707 command post that would be orbiting over Israel.

The route to the target was anything but easy. They would have to fly over or circumvent

seven separate Arab airfield.

There was a very real danger of interception from Jordanian F-5-Es and Iraqi Mirage-4000s, MIG-23, and MIG-25s. At al-Tuwaitha itself, the fighters would face anti-aircraft artillery batteries and SAM-6 missiles.

The route of the attack from take off in the Sinai was east across the Gulf of Acaba, then across the northern part of Saudi Arabia near the border of Jordan, where Israel believed it had discovered some radar blind spots. Additionally, the Israelis had intelligence that the Saudis would only have one of their American-supplied Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) intelligence aircraft in the air at the time of the attack and that it would be overlooking the Persian Gulf.

Radio communication, only to be made at five checkpoints, would be single words in English, the international language of aviation, so that if overheard the communication might be mistaken for a commercial flight.

The eight pilots were divided up into two teams. Each of them had been chosen for their experience in F-16s. Team one included Lt. Col. Zeev Raz, the wing commander, Amos Yadlin, Doobi Yaffi, and Hagai Katz. Team two, led by Lt. Col. Amir Nachumi, included Iftach Spector, Relik Shafir, and Ilan Ramon.

The formation flew low, about 30 metres, and fast, about 360 knots, to avoid detection. Once they were across Saudi Arabia they turned towards Baghdad.

Once they reached their target the attack was over in a mat-

ter of minutes. The F-16s swept across the sky in pairs, quickly climbing to 1,500 metres in four seconds, before diving and unleashing their bombs at the target. It was something that had practiced for months in the Sinai.

The first bombs hit the side of the reactor, opening holes for the second set of bombs, which found and destroyed the reactor inside. In all, 14 out of 16 bombs hit the reactor with pinpoint precision.

A French worker who witnessed the Israeli attack called the accuracy of the Israeli bombing "stupefying." Eight workers, including one French technician, were killed in the bombing.

Within two minutes the attack, which had been timed for sunset, was over and Iraq's nuclear ambitions came to an abrupt halt.

The larger Tammuz I (or Osirak) reactor was destroyed. The smaller Tammuz II reactor's sensitive equipment and foundation were ruined.

As it transpired, Iraqi anti-aircraft unit personnel were eating when the attack occurred, which was another reason for the timing of the bombing, and had turned off their radars. It was something that the Israelis had expected.

As a result, there was a fatal delay in their reaction time, and no SAM-6s were fired at the Israeli planes. A number of Iraqi soldiers on the ground, however, were killed by errant anti-aircraft fire. As predicted, the Saudi AWACS aircraft was facing the Persian Gulf and did not detect the Israeli aircraft.



SURGICAL STRIKE: Israeli F-16 jets on patrol. It was planes similar to these that carried out Operation Babylon.

The attack squadron landed safely back at Etzion at 19h00 without so much as a scratch, having faced no enemy aircraft on the return flight.

Sadly, in a cruel twist of fate, pilot Ilan Ramon, Israel's first astronaut, would die in the Columbia space shuttle accident in February 2003.

The world reacts

While the raid had been brilliantly executed, the rest of the world was not amused. The raid was universally condemned, including by the United States.

The Reagan administration, normally sympathetic to Israel, chose to condemn the attack through a speech by American UN ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick, who called the raid "shocking" and compared it to the recent Soviet incursion into Afghanistan.

France, who were naturally upset, declared the Israeli actions "unacceptable," and made

a brief national hero out of an unfortunate French nuclear technician, Damien Chaussepied, who was killed while working in a lab next to the reactor at the time of the raid.

Great Britain denounced it as "a grave breach of international law." A New York Times editorial thundered: "Israel's sneak attack on a French-built nuclear reactor near Baghdad was an act of inexcusable and short-sighted aggression."

A United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Israel's raid passed unanimously. But despite loud denunciations inside the Arab world, Israel was never attacked in reprisal, and no UN sanctions were ever put in place against it (the result of a threatened American veto). As for the president, Ronald Reagan shrugged off the dramatic event with a characteristic shrug. "Boys will be boys," he said.

Saddam Hussein was besides

himself and he played the victim to the hilt. He called on "all peace-loving nations of the world to help the Arabs in one way or another acquire atomic weapons" in order to offset Israel's obviously aggressive tendencies. At the same time, he sought to deflect blame for the attack away from his army's own less-than-stellar defensive performance at al-Tuwaitha by accusing the French of being complicit with Israel in the attack.

The Israelis stood firm against the adverse public opinion. It was not the first time that they had been condemned for defending themselves, nor would it be the last.

"Israel has nothing to apologize for," Begin told a news conference a few days after the raid.

Noting that Sadaam Hussein had frequently butchered his closest colleagues, to say nothing of his opponents, Begin warned that Iraq would have had "no hesitation in dropping three or four or five of those bombs on Israel."

Three weeks later, Begin's hard-line Likud Party was given a thumping endorsement at the polls, and a few months later the United States quietly resumed the sale of F-16s to Israel.

When American forces invaded Iraq in 1991 and 2003, they did not have to confront the fear of an Iraqi nuclear response. The audacious Israeli raid on al-Tuwaitha had seen to that.

THIS WAR OF MINE

During war, there are no good or bad decisions; there is only survival. **Matt O'Brien** tries to keep a group survivors alive in his own inept way.

In *This War Of Mine* you do not play as an elite soldier, rather a group of civilians trying to survive in a besieged city; struggling with lack of food, medicine and constant danger from snipers and hostile scavengers. The game provides an experience of war seen from an entirely new angle.

The game, inspired by the 1992–95 Siege of Sarajevo during the Bosnian War, differs from anything I've ever played before. And I like it.

This War of Mine is a survival-themed strategy game where the player controls a group of civilian survivors in a makeshift shelter in the besieged, war-torn fictional city of Pogoren, Graznavia.

The main goal of the game is to survive the war with the tools and materials the player can gather with the characters you control.

Most of the characters under the player's control have no military background or any kind of survival experience, and will require constant intervention by the player in order to stay alive. It is the player's responsibility to maintain their characters' health, hunger and mood levels until the declaration of a ceasefire, which occurs after a randomized duration.

Make life-and-death decisions driven by your conscience. Try to protect everybody from your shelter or sacrifice some of them for longer-term survival. During war, there are no good or bad decisions; there is only survival. The sooner you realize that, the better.

The pace of *This War of Mine* is imposed by the day and night cycle. During the day snipers outside stop you from leaving your refuge, so you need to focus on maintaining your hideout: crafting, trading and taking care of your survivors. At night, take one of your civilians on a mission to scavenge through a set of unique locations for items that will help you stay alive.

You start off with one to four survivors whose actions you can affect. The actions you make will change the type of endings each survivor has. Each character has one or two traits that helps/hinders you, besides hidden, varying stats that affect combat, movement speed, and so on. Some traits are useful during certain days while others are useful all the time. For example, one character named Bruno has a trait called "Good Cook", which helps you use less fuel and water when cooking meals. There are a total of 12 playable characters.

There are four key ingredients to survival - shelter, water, food and security.

When it comes to food and water, you can either craft items or scavenge for them.

For instance you can craft a 'rainwater collector' if you have the right material and tools for the job.

This collector is essential for self-sufficiency when it comes to clean water, which is mainly used for cooking, and also for the making of moonshine and for growing vegetables. When lots of water is needed, having more than one collector can be useful.

You will need tools for building, scavenging, or even for defending yourself.

A crowbar, for example, is useful when scavenging to open locked doors and containers. An axe is vital for chopping wood. Of course wood is essential for building certain items, cooking, and warmth for your shelter.

Remember that you are not the only survivors. There are others out there that will also do all that it takes to survive. Some of them will not necessarily be hostile and will in fact try and trade with you. This is often a good way to lay your hand on needed resources.

Other survivors, however,



are scavengers and can be very hostile. They will often attack you on sight or will raid your shelter. This not only means that you stand to lose valuable resources, they could even kill some of your survivors.

And let's not for one minute forget about the military. They patrol both day and night. If they spot you looting they will normally shoot on sight. If they spot you wandering around at night they will attempt to capture you.

You can build certain workshops such as the Metal Workshop which allows your characters to craft tools and weapons, like the crowbar and the knife.

Certain items can be upgraded, including your workshops. You can then block all three holes in your shelter walls and reinforce the door. This will increase the chance of your survivors repelling raids, and reduce the chance that they will become wounded while defending. The reinforced door will

also allow you to get by with fewer guards, as its alarm will awaken any sleeping survivors.

There are certain 'must have' items in the game, and others which are very helpful.

Beds, for example, are vital for survival; they allow survivors to rest during the day to recover from being Tired. During daytime, a single bed can remove Tired status from two characters. Sleeping in bed at night allow survivors to recover from wounds and illnesses, though the chance of recovery is remarkably low. When the amount of characters gets higher, more beds will have to be built.

A radio allows you to prepare for crisis and inflation: cold weather, military fighting, armed raids, item scarcity, etc. It will even inform you when ceasefires (i.e. the end of the game) are imminent.

The Stove is also an important addition to your shelter. Cooked Meals are much more filling

than raw food and can (presumably) reduce risk of getting sick that would normally result from eating raw food. Unlike ingredients, Cooked Meals cannot be stolen in raids.

This is a really good game and well worth the price.



Publisher - 11 Bit Studios

Genre - Survival

Score - 8/10

Price - R139 (on Steam)



Lawrence of Arabia

Released: 1962
Running time: 180 minutes
Directed by: David Lean

Directed by David Lean and released in December 1962, *Lawrence of Arabia* would go on to be nominated for 10 Academy Awards and would win seven of them. These would include the Oscar for Best Picture, Best Director and Best Original Score.

The film is an epic historical drama film based on the book, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* by T. E. Lawrence, better known as Lawrence of Arabia.

It depicts Lawrence's experiences in the Ottoman Empire's provinces of Hejaz and Greater Syria during World War I, in particular his attacks on Aqaba and Damascus and his involvement in the Arab National Council.

Its themes include Lawrence's emotional struggles with the personal violence inherent in war, his own identity, and his divided allegiance between his native Britain and its army, and his new-found comrades within the Arabian desert tribes.

In 1935, T. E. Lawrence (Peter O'Toole) is killed in a motorcycle accident. At his memorial service at St Paul's Cathedral, a reporter tries to gain insights into this remarkable, enigmatic man from those who knew him, with little success.

During the First World War, Lawrence is a misfit British Army lieutenant stationed in Cairo, notable for his insolence and knowledge. Over the objections of General Murray (Donald

Wolfit), he is sent by Mr. Dryden (Claude Rains) of the Arab Bureau to assess the prospects of Prince Faisal (Alec Guinness) in his revolt against the Turks.

On the journey, his Bedouin guide is killed by Sherif Ali (Omar Sharif) for drinking from a well without permission. Lawrence later meets Colonel Brighton (Anthony Quayle), who orders him to keep quiet, make his assessment of Faisal's camp, and leave. Lawrence promptly ignores Brighton's commands when he meets Faisal. His knowledge and outspokenness pique the Prince's interest.

Brighton advises Faisal to retreat to Yenbo after a major defeat, but Lawrence proposes a daring surprise attack on Aqaba which, if successful, would provide a port from which the British could offload much-needed supplies. While strongly fortified against a naval assault, the town is lightly defended on the landward side. He convinces Faisal to provide fifty men, led by a sceptical Sherif Ali.

Lawrence launches a guerrilla war, blowing up trains and harassing the Turks at every turn. American war correspondent Jackson Bentley publicises Lawrence's exploits, making him famous. A short time later in Jerusalem, General Allenby urges him to support the "big push" on Damascus. Lawrence hesi-

tates to return but finally relents.

Lawrence recruits an army that is motivated more by money than by the Arab cause.

Lawrence's men take Damascus ahead of Allenby's forces. The Arabs set up a council to administer the city, but the desert tribesmen prove ill-suited for such a task. Despite Lawrence's efforts, they bicker constantly. Unable to maintain the public utilities, the Arabs soon abandon most of the city to the British.

Lawrence is promoted to colonel and immediately ordered back to Britain, as his usefulness to both Faisal and the British is at an end.

This movie is a classic and if you've never seen it, make an effort to do so.



Click on the poster to watch a trailer of the film.

Cuito Cuanavale - Frontline Accounts by Soviet Soldiers

Compiled and edited by Gennady Shubin, Igor Zhdarkin, Vyacheslav Barabulya and Alexandra Kuznetsova-Timonova this book is a follow-up to the very successful *Bush War* which provided personal, first-hand encounters of Soviet military advisors to the Angolan Army.

This volume concentrates on the climax of this conflict - the 1987/8 Battle of Cuito Cuanavale.

It was the largest battle on African soil since World War II. South Africa and Unita went up against Angolan FAPLA troops and their Cuban allies. It was a battle that to this day is hotly debated with both sides claiming victory.

The Soviet soldier's experi-

ence of the war and their views and assessment of their South African enemies as well as their Cuban and Angolan allies will fascinate South African readers. At the same time they offer new insights into the conflict.

Having known quite a few people that took part in the battle I've been lucky enough to listen to first-hand accounts. I also read a number of books on the battle, mostly written from the South African perspective.

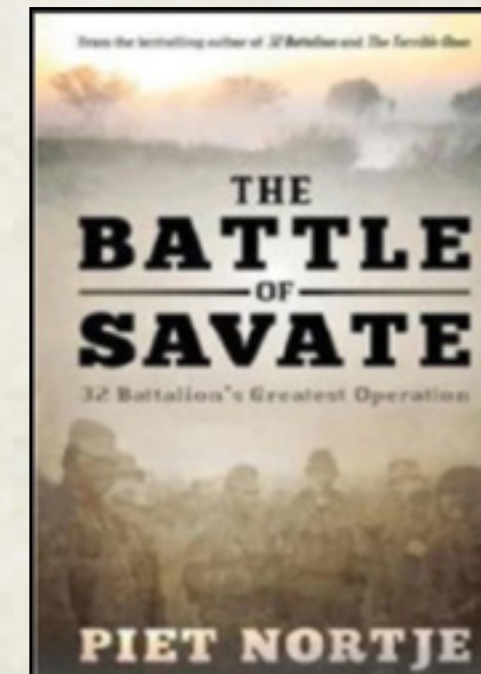
This book gives a fresh and unique perspective in that it gives a glimpse of how the 'other' side saw the battle.

The book is well written and the accounts really are personal. Anyone that served in combat will find themselves nodding their heads and identifying with



many of the stories. After all, no matter in which army you were, soldiers remain soldiers.

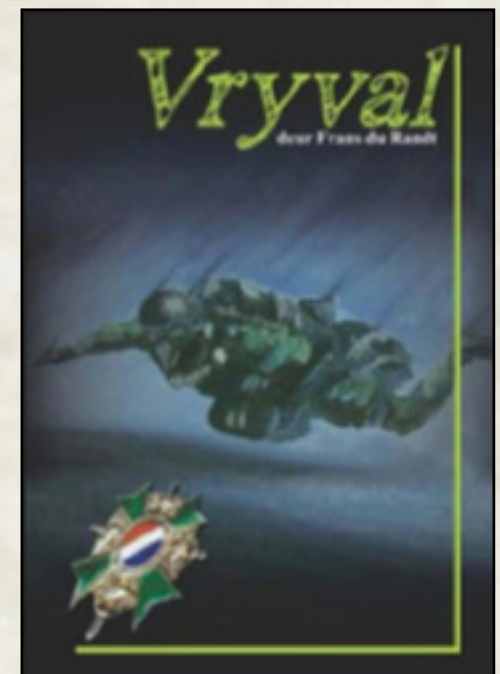
Softcover: 208 pages
Price: R255.00



The Battle of Savate
R300



We Conquer from Above
R395



Vryval
R275

All books are available from [Bush War Books](http://bushwarbooks.com)

Some of the significant military events that happened in April. Highlighted in blue are the names of those members of the South African Defence Force (SADF) that lost their lives during the month of April.

1 April

- **1865** - During the American Civil War, Confederate troops of General George Pickett were defeated and cut off at Five Forks, Virginia. This sealed the fate of Confederate General Robert E. Lee's armies at Petersburg and Richmond and hastened the end of the war.
- **1893** - USN establishes the rate of Chief Petty Officer.
- **1913** - South African Police (SAP) is founded.
- **1922** - The South African Naval Service is founded. With the ships the Protea, Sonneblom and Immortelle it formed the nucleus of a South African navy.
- **1933** - Heinrich Himmler becomes Police Commander of Germany.
- **1943** - Japanese aircraft attack the Russell Islands.
- **1945** - Okinawa: 60,000 U.S. soldiers and Marines land, on Easter Sunday.
- **1945** - US First & Ninth Armies meet to form the Ruhr pocket.
- **1954** - The US Army forms its first helicopter battalion at Fort Bragg.
- **1955** - The Greek nationalist EOKA movement makes several bomb attacks against British facilities in Cyprus.
- **1960** - France detonates her second atom bomb, in the Sahara.
- **1967** - JARIC, voted best support unit of the SA Air Force 2003, is established as a section of the Central Phototechnical Establishment (CPE), initially based at AFB Swartkop.
- **1977** - An unsuccessful military coup is staged in Chad.
- **1985** - Rifleman Daniel Aupini from 201 Battalion SWATF was killed when struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 22.
- **1985** - Rifleman D. Haupindi from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 21.
- **1986** - Special Constable Andrek Mwandinovanhu from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 27.
- **1989** - South Africa reports major clashes with guerrillas in Namibia on eve of ceasefire.
- **1989** - Five members from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) were Killed in Action. The casualties were: Special Constable George Dawid (24). Special Constable Mathais Lukas (29). Special Constable Uutafehe Rjipo-

sa (27). Special Constable Daniel Sakaria (28). Special Constable Zaako Uaapulatena (25).

- **1994** - Soldiers roll into Natal to quell unrest threatening the national election.
- **1997** - The strike crafts SAS Kobie Coetzee, P.W. Botha and Frederic Creswell are renamed SAS Job Maseko, SAS Shaka and SAS Adam Kok on the occasion of the Navy's 75th anniversary.
- **2002** - The South African Navy (SAN) is 80 years old.
- **2003** - USMC Task Force Tarawa secures An Nasiriyah in Iraq after a hot week-long fight.

2 April

- **1879** - Relief of British garrison besieged by Zulus at Eshowe.
- **1879** - The battle of Gingindlovu during the Anglo-Zulu War takes place. The British defeat Cetshwayo and the kraal is destroyed.
- **1904** - Herero tribesmen near Okaharui, German West Africa (now Namibia) defeat German forces under Major Von Glasenapp.
- **1916** - German Zeppelins bomb a distillery in Rosyth, causing a flood of fine whiskey.
- **1917** - US President Wilson asks Congress to declare war against Germany.
- **1941** - German Afrika Korps, commanded by General

Erwin Rommel, take Agedabia and Zuetania, Libya.

- **1941** - Nazi occupiers disband the Dutch Boy Scouts.
- **1943** - Allied air raid on Tunis causes considerable damage just before Axis troops start their final withdrawal from Tunisia.
- **1952** - The United States posthumously awards SA Cheetah Squadron pilot, Lieutenant R.M. du Plooy, with the Silver Star for "gallantry in action". Du Plooy was killed the previous year in the Korean War.
- **1957** - The Union Jack is lowered and British occupation of Simon's Town comes to an end after 143 years. South Africa takes formal possession of the historic base.
- **1978** - Rifleman Carvalho Esals from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action in Southern Angola during a contact with enemy forces near Omalappapa. He was 26.
- **1981** - Lance Corporal Ean Andrew Chapman Pettit from H Company, 1 Parachute Battalion was accidentally killed after he and his section were extracted from a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. Their Buffel Troop carrier overturned while travelling at high speed and he was thrown out and crushed by the vehicle when it rolled onto him. He was 19.
- **1982** - The beginning of the Falkland Islands War as troops from Argentina invaded and occupied the British colony located near the tip of South America. The British retaliated and defeated the Argentineans on June 15, 1982, after ten weeks of combat, with about 1,000 lives lost.
- **1983** - Gunner Lodewyk Jozef Engelbrecht from 4 Artillery Regiment attached to 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion during operations against SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in the Tsumeb area. He was 19.
- **1984** - Gunner Alfred Lokington Tomes from 17 Field Regiment was critically wounded during a contact with the enemy forces in Southern Angola on 29 Mar 1984. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria where he succumbed to his wounds on 2 April 1984. He was 27.
- **1984** - Four South Africans and a British national charged with illegally ex-

porting military equipment to South Africa.

- **1987** - A US State Department report says Israel, France and Italy have continued to maintain and upgrade a major weapons systems for South Africa since the 1977 UN arms embargo was imposed.
- **1987** - Rifleman Domingos Cassela from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action in a contact with enemy forces near Evale in Southern Angola during Operation Kakebeen. He was 27.
- **1987** - Rifleman N. Ngombe from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 23.
- **1988** - 2nd Lieutenant Jacobus Hendrick Diedericks from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 24.
- **1988** - Two 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 Kandjunga Tenaseu (27). Special Sergeant Usebiu Ndemwimba (29).
- **1989** - Rifleman Marius van der Merwe from 32 Battalion was Reported Missing while on patrol near Buffalo. He went for a swim amongst the



Erwin Rommel

reeds and it is thought that he was taken by a crocodile. He remains unaccounted for and has no known grave. He was 21.

- 1989 - Ten members of the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) Units were killed during a number of contacts with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. The casualties were: Special Warrant Officer Leonard Benjamin (34) Sergeant Sarel Hercules van Tonder (25). Special Sergeant Daniel Teteiko (25). Constable Johannes Jacobus Badenhorst (24). Constable Leon Thorne (21). Special Constable Nambahu Abiatal (27). Special Constable Joseph Andreas (29). Special Constable Thomas Johannes (26). Special Constable Filippus Joseph (24). Special Constable Muyunga Kakonyi (28). Special Constable Fernando Tyipoya (25). Special Constable Aktofel Silvanus (26).

3 April

- 1865 - The Confederate capital of Richmond surrendered to Union forces after the withdrawal of General Robert E. Lee's troops.
- 1900 - The battle of Mostertshoek, near Reddersburg, takes place. The beginning of a two-day battle between General De Wet's forces (400 men, no artillery) and British encamped behind stone breastworks on the

heights of Mostertshoek. De Wet sends a note to the British demanding their surrender and claims to have three Krupp guns and reinforcements on the way.

- 1900 - General P.A. Cronje and his wife, with Colonel Adorf Schiel and about 1,000 Republican prisoners of war, sails from Cape Town for St Helena.
- 1941 - The British forces evacuate Benghazi, major seaport of north-eastern Libya, in the face of the German advance. Date given as 7 April 1941 in another source.
- 1942 - Bataan: Japanese launch a major offensive.
- 1944 - British bombers attack the German battleship 'Tirpitz' in Norwegian waters.
- 1945 - USSR renounces April '41 non-aggression pact with Japan.
- 1974 - Ordinary Seaman Leonard Arthur Farmer from SAS Saldanha was accidentally killed during basic training while doing pole PT. He had to hold the pole behind his head and do press-ups. The pole slipped and fell on his head, severely injuring him. He died a short while later. He was 18.
- 1977 - Rifleman Carel Hendrik Kotze from the South Coast Commando was accidentally killed during training manoeuvres at Umtentweni. He was 32.
- 1978 - Rifleman Steven Dennis Oscar Pearson from 5 SAI Died of Wounds re-

ceived when his patrol was ambushed by SWAPO/PLAN insurgents.

- 1981 - Rifleman Hendrik Kasper Jordaan from SWA SPES Unit SWATF was Killed in Action while attached to 53 Battalion out on a patrol north of Etale. When returning to base, the patrol crossed Oom Willie se pad and one of the horses detonated an Anti-Tank mine, killing him instantly. He was 20.
- 1982 - Rifleman Lourens Maritz Bieldt from Infantry School was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned approximately 20 km outside Oshakati. He was 21.
- 1982 - Captain Michael Norman Amos Giani from Army Intelligence, attached to 72 Motorised Brigade, was killed in a military vehicle accident at Muldersdrift. He was 30.
- 1982 - Security Council demands Argentina withdraw from the Falkland Islands.
- 1985 - Rifleman Heilia Mikael from 101 Battalion SWATF was accidentally killed in Southern Angola when a Casspir Armoured Vehicle drove over him while he was sleeping. He was 19.
- 1985 - Special Constable Johannes Tjiposa from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 26.

- 1986 - Lance Corporal Jan Hendrik Labuschagne from the Technical Service Corps was killed when struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 23.
- 1989 - Constable Daniel Johannes Jacobus Fourie from Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was killed in action. He was 25.

4 April

- 1884 - Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto was born in Nagaoko, Honshu.
- 1900 - The battles of Reddersburg, where the Boers under Gen. De Wet defeat the Royal Irish Rifles, and Mostertshoek, take place. British surrender at Mostert's Hoek. Boer forces capture nearly 500 Lee-Metford rifles.
- 1902 - Second Anglo-Boer War. The siege of Okiep in Namaqualand starts as Gen. Smuts demands the surrender of the town but is curtly rejected by Col. W.A.D.



Isoroku Yamamoto

Shelton, commander of the British forces.

- 1940 - Katyn Forest: The Soviets begin mass executions of Polish military officers, police officials, and intellectuals, about 20,000 die over several weeks.
- 1941 - Rommel takes Benghazi.
- 1943 - The US 4th Marine Division is established at San Diego.
- 1945 - Heavy fighting begins in southern Okinawa.
- 1945 - Hungary liberated from Nazi occupation.
- 1949 - Twelve nations signed the treaty creating NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The nations united for common military defense against the threat of expansion by Soviet Russia into Western Europe.
- 1961 - UN troops defending an airfield in Katanga province, Congo (now Democratic Republic of Congo), are attacked by 'mobs'.
- 1978 - Barend Hendrik Janse van Rensburg (Ben) (80), founder of the War Museum in Bloemfontein, dies.
- 1978 - Two members of SWA SPES accidentally drowned in the Olifants River near Doornkop. They were: Rifleman Wayne Darrell Norman Meyers (18). Rifleman Marius van Zyl (20).
- 1980 - ANC insurgents launch a rifle, rocket and grenade attack on Booyens Po-

lice Station, Johannesburg. Pamphlets are scattered demanding the release of Walter Sisulu from Robben Island.

- 1986 - Second Lieutenant Izak Johan Lourens from 911 Battalion SWATF died in the Opuwa Hospital after contracting Meningitis & Malaria. He was 19.
- 1986 - Corporal Alfonso Alberto from 32 Battalion died from causes unknown. He was 27.
- 1987 - Corporal Fernandez Andre from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces near Evale in Southern Angola during Operation Kakebeen. He was 26.
- 1988 - SADF Gaborone raid kills four.
- 1989 - Corporal Hermann Carstens from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during fierce fighting with a numerically superior force of heavily armed SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near Eenhana. He was 20.
- 1989 - Three members from 101 Battalion Romeo Mike, SWATF were Killed in Action during fierce fighting in Northern Owamboland as 101 Battalion Romeo Mike and Koevoetelements continued to intercept and engage large groups of very heavily armed SWAPO/PLAN insurgents crossing into Owamboland from Southern Angola. The casualties in this contact were: Rifleman E. Anunyela. (26).

- Rifleman J. Mandume (24). Rifleman N. Kapentse (23).
- **1989** - Lieutenant Christiaan Phillipus Els from 1 Special Service Battalion Died in Hospital at Ruacana from Wounds sustained during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near Ongandjera on 03 April 1989. He was 20.

5 April

- **1900** - Combat-General Georges-Henri Anne Marie Victor Compte de Villebois-Mareuil, a former commander in the French Foreign Legion, makes a valiant last stand against the British at Boshof and is killed. He tried to attack the nearby railway with a force of 75 foreign volunteers (mostly French and Dutch) and eleven burghers but was trapped by General Lord Methuen and a force of over 750, assisted by four field-guns. De Villebois-Mareuil's men attempt to escape whilst he makes his stand but are captured.
- **1916** - Battle of El Hanna: Unsuccessful British attempt to break the Turkish siege of Kut.
- **1939** - Germany: "Aryan" youth ordered to join the *Hitlerjugend*.
- **1942** - Eighty-six South Africans survive a Japanese attack on the HMS Cornwall near the coast of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka).
- **1948** - As riots rage around Cairo, the Egyptian army kills twenty-five civilians.
- **1964** - Douglas MacArthur dies at the age of 84.
- **1979** - Special Constable Wilino Shamoketa 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.
- **1979** - Captain Martin Charles Silberbauer from 85 Combat Flying School was killed during a training exercise at the Roodewal Bombing Range near Pietersburg when his Dassault Mirage IID2Z struck the ground while trying to recover after carrying out a practice rocket attack. He was 28.
- **1983** - Private Patrick Cornelius Engel from 16 Maintenance Unit was killed when his Withings recovery vehicle collided into the rear of a stationary vehicle at Oshivello. He was 19.
- **1984** - Rifleman Joseph Sindimba from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 23.
- **1986** - A bomb exploded at a popular discotheque frequented by American military personnel in West Berlin, killing two U.S. soldiers and a Turkish woman. American intelligence analysts attributed the attack to Muammar Qaddafi of Libya. Nine days later, President Ronald Reagan ordered a retaliatory

- air strike against Libya.
- **1988** - Special Constable Uakandjangu Tjiumbu 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.
- **1996** - Heavy fighting in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, leaves seventeen dead.

6 April

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Lord Methuen buries Combat-General De Villebois-Mareuil with full military honours. 1500 men of the Loyal North Lancashires form the Guard of Honour.
- **1916** - German parliament approves unrestricted submarine warfare
- **1917** - Following a vote by Congress approving a declaration of war, the U.S. entered World War I in Europe.
- **1939** - Great Britain & Poland sign military pact.
- **1941** - The SA Brigade enters Addis Ababa during World War II.
- **1941** - Germans bomb Belgrad, 17,000 reportedly die.
- **1943** - The British and US armies link up in Africa.
- **1944** - The Supreme Allied Commander cancels all further military leaves throughout the British Isles, in preparation for D-Day.
- **1977** - Rifleman S. Henrique

- from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 29.
- **1981** - Rifleman Petrus Jacobus Venter from SWA SPES Unit SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut Line. He was 23.
- **1982** - Rifleman Hymje Landsman from 8 SAI was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident in Eastern Kavan-goland. He was 19.
- **1983** - Corporal I.S. Kamunoko from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 23.
- **1984** - The elite republican guard mounts an unsuccessful coup against President Paul Biya of Cameroon.
- **1987** - Private Russell Joseph Brissett from 1 Medical Battalion Group was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident in Mamelodi during Operation Xenon. He was 23.



Paul Biya

- **1996** - Thousands of Liberians flee their homes amid fierce fighting between government troops and members of an ethnic faction.
- ## 7 April
- **1917** - US Navy takes over all wireless stations for the duration of World War I.
 - **1945** - The Japanese battleship Yamato is sunk by American carrier-based bombers and torpedo bombers with the loss of most of her crew.
 - **1966** - US recovers lost H-bomb from sea off Palomares, Spain.
 - **1984** - Rifleman Daniel Stephanus Venter from 1 Parachute Battalion was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion during anti-insurgent operations just north of the Cut-line. He was 22.
 - **1985** - Special Sergeant Sakaria Naholo 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.
 - **1985** - Rifleman Willem Jacobus Du Randt from 3 SAI Oscar Company (Mortars) was Reported Missing after being attacked by a crocodile approximately 1km below the Epupa Falls where he and others in his

section were swimming. He has no known grave and remains unaccounted for. He was 20.

- **1989** - Soviet submarine 'K-278 Komsomolets' sinks after a fire in the Norwegian Sea, 42 die.
- **1994** - Rampaging troops kill Rwanda's acting premier and eleven Belgian UN soldiers and civil war erupts in Rwanda, a day after a mysterious plane crash claimed the lives of the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi.
- **1997** - Government soldiers in Lubumbashi, Zaire's second largest city lay down their arms and join the cause of rebels advancing on the city.

8 April

- **1940** - Royal Navy destroyer HMS Glowworm is sunk after a gallant fight with the German heavy cruiser Admiral Hipper.
- **1945** - Okinawa: Marines probe Japanese lines on the Motobu Peninsula.
- **1950** - Unarmed US Navy patrol plane is shot down over the Baltic Sea by Soviet aircraft.
- **1958** - Corporal Francois Willem Bornman from 4th Field Regiment died from injuries received in a collision between a car and a train at the Meyer Street level crossing at Potchefstroom. He was 22.
- **1980** - Lieutenant Christo Stephan Grundling from 2 Field Engineer Regiment

was killed in a military vehicle accident at Impala Base. He was 20.

- **1980** - Rifleman Lesley Andrew Scholtz from 3 SAI was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Kavangoland. He was 20.
- **1981** - Omar Bradley, the "Soldier's General," last US 5-star officer, dies at the age of 88.
- **1986** - Two members from 101 Battalion were Killed in Action during a Contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola. They were: Corporal Noag Kavari (23). Rifleman Joao Domingos (26).
- **1988** - Staff Sergeant Marius Horn from 5 SAI was killed while returning in a convoy from Eshowe. He was 27.
- **1988** - Lance Corporal Carlos Thomas Moon from the South African Cape Corps was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 21.
- **1997** - Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko declares a nationwide state of emergency in response to rebel advances.

9 April

- **1868** - After over 500,000 American deaths, the Civil War effectively ended as General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant in the village of Appomattox Court House. The surrender occurred in the

home of Wilmer McLean. Terms of the surrender, written by General Grant, allowed Confederates to keep their horses and return home. Officers were allowed to keep their swords and side arms.

- **1917** - After a massive mine explosion, Canadian troops storm Vimy Ridge, initiating the Battle of Arras.
- **1940** - Germany invades Denmark, which promptly surrenders.
- **1940** - Germany invades Norway.
- **1944** - Japan offers to mediate peace between Germany and Russia.
- **1945** - RAF sinks Pocket Battleship Admiral Scheer in port.
- **1945** - Wilhelm Canaris, German admiral and chief of the *Abwehr*, the German military intelligence service, was executed in Flossenbürg concentration camp for high treason on the orders of Adolf Hitler.
- **1965** - Lance Corporal Johannes Burger from the South African Corps of Military Police was killed at Fochville when his motorcycle was involved in a collision with a vehicle while he was doing military convoy duty. He was 33.
- **1969** - Candidate Officer Marthinus Jacobus Hendrik Krugel from 4 Squadron was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed near Leslie during a routine training flight. He was 22.

• **1976** - Corporal Michael Barnett from 2nd Battalion, Regiment Bloemspruit was killed when the bus he was driving was involved in a head-on collision with a civilian vehicle approximately 100km from Grootfontein. He was transporting school children from Grootfontein back to Rundu at the time of the accident. He was 22.

- **1977** - Rifleman Graham Werner Hempstead from 8 SAI was killed in a non-operational military vehicle accident in Northern Owamboland. He was 20.
- **1978** - Candidate Officer Fred Johan Forster from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was accidentally shot and killed at Katima Mulilo while participating in a "live fire" shooting exercise. He was 20.
- **1981** - Private Jacob Johannes Kotze from 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Tsumeb. He was 19.
- **1984** - Trooper Jacobus Francois Engels from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 19.
- **1987** - Corporal Charles Pierre Du Plessis from Walvis Bay Command was accidentally killed when he was crushed between two vehicles at Walvis Bay. He was 27.
- **1997** - Rebels in Zaire conquer Lubumbashi, second

largest city in the country.

- **1999** - Members of his own Presidential Guard gun down Niger's president, Ibrahim Bare Mainassara.
- **2003** - Corporal Edward Chin, US Marine Corps, plants the US and Free Iraq flags on the statue of Saddam Hussein in Firdos Square, Baghdad, which is then pulled down.

10 April

- **1918** - Near Toul, in eastern France, the 104th Infantry begins four days determined defense against a German assault, to become the first American regiment to be awarded the *Croix de guerre*.
- **1940** - First Battle of Narvik: Royal Navy destroyers defeat German destroyers, two of which are lost.
- **1942** - During World War II in the Pacific, the Bataan Death March began as American and Filipino prisoners were forced on a six-day march from an airfield on Bataan to a camp near Cabanatuan. Some 76,000 Allied POWs including 12,000 Americans



Omar Bradley

were forced to walk 60 miles under a blazing sun without food or water to the POW camp, resulting in over 5,000 American deaths.

- **1945** - The Nazi concentration camp at Buchenwald was liberated by U.S. troops.
- **1972** - The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxic Weapons and their Destruction, to which SA is a party, is signed in Moscow, London and Washington.
- **1975** - Sergeant Nicolaas Johannes Steyn from the Technical Service Corps, attached to the Rundu Military Base was killed instantly while travelling between Rundu and Katima Mulilo when, approximately 20km from Rundu, the rear tyre on his vehicle burst, causing the vehicle to leave the road and overturn. He was 27.
- **1978** - Rifleman S.M. Chicono from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 27.
- **1982** - Major Helmuth Adolf Kessler from 1 South West Africa Air Command Squadron SWATF was Killed in Action during Operation Yahoo while flying in support of Koevoet anti-insurgent operations in the Elundu area. He was 52.
- **1982** - Special Constable

Shitelgipo Hamukwaya 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.

- **1983** - Rifleman John Kern-eels Samson from the South African Cape Corps died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained. He was 19.
- **1985** - Rifleman Douw Gerbrand Du Plessis from 4 Reconnaissance Regiment accidentally drowned during a training exercise. He was 19.
- **1986** - Petty Officer Desmond John Pekeur from SAS Wingfield was killed near Schmidtsdrift when the rear tyre of his Landrover burst causing the vehicle to overturn. He was 29.
- **1991** - Though the government refused to comply with the ANC ultimatum issued on 5 April, defence minister Magnus Malan offers to resign if it is in the interests of SA or the SADF. He also announces the firing of Civilian Co-operation Bureau (CCB) head, Joe Verster and twenty-seven other members of the CCB.
- **1993** - Chris Hani, the leader of the South African Communist Party and chief of staff of *uMkhonto we Sizwe*, the armed wing of the African National Congress, is gunned down as he steps out of his car in the driveway of

his Boksburg home.

11 April

- **1838** - Zulu warriors ambush Petrus Lafras (Piet) Uys and his men at Italeini. Uys, his son Dirkie and seven of his followers are killed in battle.
- **1898** - US President McKinley asks for Declaration of War against Spain.
- **1902** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Kemp, in charge of the Lemmer, Du Toit, Liebenberg, Celliers, and Potgieter commandos (approximately 2,600 burghers), suffers a defeat at Roodewal, Transvaal, after attacking a British force of 11,000 men. Cmdt Potgieter and fifty burghers are killed.
- **1942** - Burma: Japanese begin a major offensive against the British.
- **1956** - France sends 200,000 reservists to Algeria.
- **1961** - Trial of Adolf Eichman begins in Israel.
- **1979** - Signaller Gerhardus Johannes Jacobus Senekal from Grootfontein Headquarters Signal Unit, attached to 52 Battalion was critically wounded while sitting on his bed at the Unit. He was 19.
- **1980** - Rifleman John Edward McEwan from 5 SAI was Killed after suffering a gunshot wound accidentally inflicted while attached to Alpha Company, 5 SAI. He was 18.
- **1982** - Sapper Brian Robert Gibbs from 2 Field Engineer Regiment attached to

the Army Battle School was killed instantly at Olifantshoek after receiving multiple shrapnel wounds in an accidental rifle grenade explosion. He was 19.

- **1982** - Special Constable Pedro Sakaria from the SWA Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO Insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 28.
- **1986** - Special Constable Matias Vilho from the SWA Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO Insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 26.
- **1990** - Angolan Government agrees to begin peace talks with rebel group Unita in Portugal.
- **1991** - Major Robert Michael Turner from 85 Combat Flying School was killed after his Atlas MB326KM Impala Mk II suffered engine failure while on final approach to land at AFB Pietersburg. He ejected from the aircraft too late and directly into trees that killed him instantly. He was 34.

12 April

- **1861** - The American Civil War began as Confederate troops under the command of General Pierre Beauregard opened fire at 04:30 on Fort Sumter in Charleston,

South Carolina.

- **1902** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Peace negotiations commence in Pretoria between delegations of the Boer Republics and General Lord Kitchener and Alfred Milner. An initial request by the Boers to retain their independence is met with incredulity.
- **1945** - Okinawa: 150 kamikaze attack the Allied fleet, sinking one destroyer.
- **1966** - First B-52 raids on North Vietnam.
- **1972** - Private Willem Ockert van den Heever from North West Command Headquarters was killed in a military vehicle accident at Kroonstad. He was 19.
- **1972** - Sergeant Martin Christoffel Klue from the Army Service Corps, attached 4 Artillery Regiment Headquarters was killed after being knocked down by a civilian vehicle while standing by the roadside when their convoy stopped for a rest break while travelling between Bloemfontein and Potchefstroom. He was 46.
- **1975** - Atlas Corporation completes deliveries to the South African Air Force (SAAF) of a first series of Impala MK-2 jet fighters.
- **1978** - Gunner William Arthur Wienand from 10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment was killed when his Unimog vehicle overturned in Kavanogoland. He was 18.
- **1979** - Corporal Willem Johannes de Beer from 3 SAI,

attached to 2 Special Service Battalion was accidentally killed in Zeerust after being knocked down by a civilian bus while on a weekend pass. He was 19.

- **1979** - Prime Minister P.W. Botha announces that three members of the staff of the United States Embassy in South Africa have been given a week to leave the country. They have photographed sensitive military installations by a secret camera installed in a diplomatic aircraft.
- **1986** - Rifleman Kefas Kalenga Dala from 32 Battalion died from Meningitis in the hospital at Buffalo. He was 24.

13 April

- **1846** - Xhosa tribesmen attack British forces at Burn's Hill in the Amatola, in the War of the Axe.
- **1868** - British forces under Robert Napier capture Magdala in Ethiopia.
- **1906** - Battle of Oviumbo: The Herero defeat the Germans.
- **1940** - Second Battle of Narvik: Royal Navy battleship

Warspite and accompanying destroyers sink eight German destroyers.

- **1941** - Heavy German attack on Tobruk.
- **1942** - Burma: the British Burma Corps breaks.
- **1943** - Katyn: Nazis find graves of 13,000 Polish officers killed by Soviets.
- **1945** - Soviets capture Vienna.
- **1950** - The Arab League signs a mutual defence treaty in Cairo.
- **1960** - France becomes fourth nuclear power, with an atomic bomb test in the Sahara.
- **1974** - Two members of 11 Squadron SAAF were Killed when their Cessna 185D crashed shortly after take-off from Mpalela Island in Eastern Caprivi during a ration re-supply flight for the South African Police. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant (Pilot) Jacobus Hendrik Louw Bonthuys (23). Private Johan Hugo Human (19).
- **1975** - A military coup in Chad overthrows President Ngarta Tombaloaye, who is killed. Felix Malloum takes over at the head of a seven-member junta.
- **1976** - Corporal Anton Leon Broodryk from 1 Parachute Battalion Died of Wounds received in a landmine explosion in Southern Angola while on patrol near the Cutline. He was 20.

• **1976** - Captain Granville Duvenhage from Benoni Commando suffered a fatal heart attack while on duty at Leydsdorp and died shortly afterwards. He was 26.

- **1976** - Rifleman Eugene Medhurst from 5 SAI was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 19.
- **1979** - Corporal Rian Rix from 11 Commando Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near Okatope Base south of Ondangwa. This was his last patrol before going home from the Border. He was 18.
- **1979** - An attempt is made by Rhodesian forces to kill guerrilla leader Joshua Nkomo.
- **1982** - Rifleman Eugene James Ashford from 8 SAI was accidentally shot dead during live firing exercises at Riemvasmaak. He was 18.
- **1983** - A Defence Amendment Bill provides for an alternative form of national service for conscientious objectors, who oppose military service on religious grounds. The offer is not extended to objectors motivated by political values.
- **1987** - Private Frederick Wayne Childsmith from the Provost School was killed while standing in a "Ride Safe" zone on his way back from Weekend pass after completion of Basic Training when he was run over by an South African Police ve-



PW Botha

hicle driven by an underage scholar (the Senior Police Superintendent's son) who was not authorised to drive the vehicle. He was 18.

- 1988 - Captain H Pienaar from the South African Infantry Corps, attached to Group 70 Headquarters at Katima Mulilo was killed instantly after suffering fatal head injuries while driving to Windhoek to attend an Information/Intelligence Conference. He was 25.

14 April

- 1900 - Second Anglo-Boer War: The first Boer prisoners of war arrive at St Helena, on board of the Milwaukee.
- 1902 - Second Anglo-Boer War: Cmdt Jan H. Theron, Danie Theron's successor as commander of Theron's Scouts, dies of gastric fever in the Calvinia district, Namaqualand.
- 1914 - The first air attack on a warship: Mexican revolutionary pilot Gustavo Adolfo Salinas Camiña bombs the Federalista gunboat 'Guerro', at Topolobampo, Mexico, causing slight damage.
- 1940 - British and French troops land in Norway to help fight Germans.
- 1943 - The German Fifth Panzer Army under General Gustav von Vaerst begins to evacuate from Tunis. Rommel departed on 9 March.
- 1945 - Tokyo fire bomb raids: B-29s damage Imperial Palace.
- 1953 - Viet Minh offensive

in Laos.

- 1983 - Rifleman Barend Christoffel Dippenaar from the Infantry School was killed in a private vehicle accident on the Clocolan - Ladybrand road. He was 21.
- 1986 - U.S. warplanes, on orders from President Ronald Reagan, bombed the Libyan cities of Tripoli and Benghazi in retaliation for the April 5th terrorist bombing of a discotheque in West Berlin in which two American soldiers were killed.
- 1994 - Dissident soldiers shoot dead Lesotho's deputy prime minister and seize four cabinet ministers in a mutiny over a planned government probe into the army.

15 April

- 1936 - Italian forces occupy the Abyssinian town of Dessye, having advanced 201 kilometres in five days.
- 1942 - George VI awards the George Cross to the people of Malta.
- 1943 - US code breakers discover Admiral Yamamoto will visit the Solomon Islands.
- 1945 - British Army liberates Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.
- 1952 - First test flight of a prototype B-52.
- 1982 - Rifleman Brian Richard Buttland from the South African Cape Corps, attached to the Army Catering Corps died in hospital after contracting malaria in the Operational Area. He was

25.

- 1982 - Eight SADF and SWATF members attached to 61 Mechanised Battalion Group were Killed in Action when their Ratel was ambushed and knocked out by RPG-7 anti-tank rockets near Tsintsabis by a group of heavily armed SWAPO/PLAN insurgents during Ops Yahoo. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant Daniele Rudolf van der Westhuizen (49). Corporal Maartin Jacobus van Jaarsveld (20). Lance Corporal Johannes Jacobus van den Berg (20). Rifleman Leonard Patrick Hough (20). Rifleman Marius Petersen (19). Rifleman Johan Hendrik Potgieter (30). Rifleman Barend Jacobus Wolfaardt (19). Rifleman Jan Kouswab (40).
- 1983 - Nine recruits from 202 Battalion SWATF were murdered by SWAPO/PLAN Special Forces Typhoon Unit members in a Kraal in Northern Owamboland. The casualties were: Rifleman T. Sikwaya (18). Rifleman A. Mushambe (19). Rifleman V. Muyota (19). Rifleman T.K. Mukwambi (20). Rifleman M. Matamu (19). Rifleman V. Tobias (21). Rifleman L. Sindere (20). Rifleman F. Shikusho (20). Rifleman J. Muyevu (19).
- 1985 - South Africa's Foreign Minister announces that South African troop withdrawal from Angola is to be completed within a week.
- 1986 - US attempts an air

strike at Colonel Muammar Kadhafi's home in Libya in the biggest US air strike since the Vietnam War. Libya claims forty people have been killed. The US says the raids are in response to an explosion at a Berlin discotheque in which two Americans were killed on 5 April.

- 1990 - Rifleman Stoney van Wyk from the Cape Regiment was Killed in Action after being shot dead by persons unknown while on foot patrol during anti-riot operations in a township in Mpu-mulanga. He was 24.

16 April

- 1916 - The French Army forms the *Escadrille Americaine*.
- 1938 - Britain recognizes the Italian annexation of Abyssinia.
- 1944 - US begins planning "Operation Olympic" - the invasion of Japan.
- 1945 - US troops enter Nuremberg.
- 1947 - Rudolf Höss, 45, German SS commandant of Auschwitz, is hanged in Poland.



Ronald Reagan

- 1971 - Major Jan Wilhelm Arnhem Loubser from 1 Maintenance Unit was accidentally killed in a train accident at Kimberley. He was 42.
- 1981 - Two members from Infantry School were killed in a private vehicle accident on the National Highway near Richmond while on weekend pass. The casualties were: Corporal Cornelius Johannes Potgieter (19). Rifleman Jacobus Albertus Cilliers (18).
- 1982 - Rifleman Jan Daniels Gerhardus Du Toit from 1 SAI, attached to 61 Mech Battalion was Killed in Action during Ops Yahoo when he detonated a landmine during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 18.
- 1998 - The military commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Khalil al-Wazir, is assassinated in Tunisia. Israeli gunmen are blamed.

17 April

- 1838 - Zulu warriors near the Tugela River overwhelm Robert Biggar, leader of a force of about seventeen Englishmen, twenty Khoi with guns and about fifteen hundred Africans from around Port Natal. Thirteen of the English and most of their African followers are killed.

- 1916 - General Jan Christiaan Smuts, in charge of British, South African and Indian troops in Kenya, finally has the Germans on the run. Colonel Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck's troops (3,000 Europeans and 11,000 Askari) had heavily outnumbered the British East African Rifles.
- 1941 - Yugoslavia surrenders to the Germans.
- 1942 - Germans begin to destroy the Sobibor Concentration Camp.
- 1945 - Mussolini flees from Salo, heading for Milan.
- 1961 - A U.S.-backed attempt to overthrow Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba failed disastrously in what became known as the Bay of Pigs fiasco.
- 1975 - Khmer Rouge capture Phnom Penh, initiating a reign of terror.
- 1980 - Sergeant Carel Petrus Greyling HC from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was killed in a military vehicle accident in the Eastern Caprivi. He was 33.
- 1981 - Corporal Clive Fisher from the Infantry School was killed in a private vehicle accident on the National road near Mossel Bay. He was 21.
- 1982 - Rifleman Derek Jurgens Deysel from 5 SAI was accidentally killed at the Jozini Training Base when he was struck by a bullet resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 20.
- 1983 - General Mark W

Clark, dies at the age of 87.

- **1984** - Rifleman Johann Christiaan Rheeder from the Infantry School was killed in a private vehicle accident on the Beaufort West - Richmond road. He was 19.
- **1984** - Two members from 7 SAI were killed at Nehone in Southern Angola after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in an accidental rifle grenade explosion. The casualties were: Corporal Phillipus Botha (20). Rifleman Cecil Rhodes Dippenaar (19).
- **1994** - Lance Corporal W.Z. Matwa from 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was accidentally killed during operations connected with Operation Jumbo. He was 22.

18 April

- **1934** - The U.S. Army ends use of sabers as a combat weapon for the cavalry.
- **1942** - The first air raid on mainland Japan during World War II occurred as General James Doolittle led a squadron of B-25 bombers taking off from the carrier Hornet to bomb Tokyo and three other cities. Damage was minimal, but the raid boosted Allied morale following years of unchecked Japanese military advances.
- **1983** - Two members from the SWA Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) were Killed in action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland.

boland. They were: Special Sergeant Jacob Saulo (34). Special Constable Thimotheus Maritina (25).

- **1988** - Lance Corporal Piet-er Gerhardus Viljoen Du Toit from the South African Medical Corps, attached to 201 Battalion SWATF was killed in action. He was 19.
- **1988** - Major Lucas Frederick Lotter, the 53 Battalion SWATF Intelligence Officer, was Killed in Action in Southern Angola just north of Alpha Tower early / mid-evening while following enemy spoor. He was 29.
- **1988** - Rifleman Alberto Nunes Dinu from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 29.
- **1989** - Lance Corporal Bernardus Lambertus Saayman from 110 Air Commando Squadron SAAF was killed while participating in a 2-day Commando Camp when his Cessna 182 flew into high ground in the Montague Mountains east of Robertson. He was 39.

19 April

- **1775** - At dawn in Massachusetts, about 70 armed militiamen stood face to face on Lexington Green with a British advance guard unit. An unordered 'shot heard around the world' began the American Revolution. A volley of British rifle fire was followed by a charge with bayonets leaving eight Americans dead and ten

wounded.

- **1906** - Bambatha Rebellion: Over 7,000 British troops are called out to quell Zulu aggression in Natal.
- **1915** - World War I: West Africa. Combined Anglo-French forces take Mandera, Cameroon.
- **1919** - Britain sends more troops to Egypt to help quell nationalistic unrest.
- **1941** - US Marines begin construction of an airfield on Wake Island.
- **1943** - Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto staged an armed revolt against Nazi SS troops attempting to forcibly deport them to death camps.
- **1960** - The South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) is founded in Windhoek with Sam Nujoma as leader.
- **1961** - Portuguese forces are reinforced for continuing conflict against the Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola (MPLA, Popular Liberation Movement of Angola) based near Luanda.
- **1976** - Guerrillas launch two separate raids in the far south of Rhodesia near the Transvaal border, killing three Easter holidaymakers from South Africa and blowing up a Rhodesian Railways train and part of the track on the Rutenga link to Beit Bridge.
- **1980** - Rifleman Jacobus Petrus Koekemoer from 7 SAI was killed after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in a mortar bomb explosion during a live firing exercise

in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.

- **1981** - Rifleman Karel Johan Cronje from 5 SAI was based at Okalongo and had been feeling ill for approximately two weeks. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital after being diagnosed with cerebral malaria. He succumbed not long after admission. He was 19.
- **1984** - Rifleman Frank Corrie from the South African Cape Corps was killed after being struck by a bullet resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 21.
- **1985** - Special Warrant Officer Alfons Kumulo 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 37.
- **1988** - Corporal Edward Clive Yeo from the South African Engineer Corps was attached to 101 Battalion SWATF. He was Killed in Action while disarming an

enemy anti-tank mine that was booby-trapped with an anti-lifting device. He was 20.

- **1990** - Truce ends the Nicaraguan Civil War.

20 April

- **1889** - Adolf Hitler was born in Braunau am Inn, Austria on this day.
- **1934** - Heinrich Himmler becomes head of the Prussian secret police.
- **1941** - German bombers raid Athens.
- **1945** - Okinawa: U.S. forces capture Motobu Heights, in the north.
- **1947** - Peleliu: 27 Japanese troops surrender, 18 months after World War II ended.
- **1976** - Two members from Regiment President Steyn and one member of the South African Police were killed when their Eland Armoured Car was involved in a head-on collision with a South African Police vehicle at Ruacana. They were: Staff Sergeant Leon Blaauw (21). Trooper Denis Aden Naude (22). SAP Constable Coenraad Hermanus Dreyer (21).
- **1979** - Lieutenant Commander Dennis Mallalieu from the Simonstown Naval Base died after suffering a fatal heart attack while at the Base. He was 57.
- **1980** - Rifleman Simon Stumbo from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed

in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 18.

- **1981** - Leading Seaman Peter James Henderson from SAS Inkonkoni accidentally drowned in Durban during a naval training exercise. He was 22.
- **1982** - Rifleman Gerhardus Petrus Cornelius Hattingh from 1 SAI, attached to 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was killed at Tsumeb when a Ratel Infantry Fighting Vehicle accidentally drove over him. He was 20.
- **1982** - Sergeant Frederick Albertus Francois Claasen from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) Died of Wounds received on 10 April 1982 during Operation Yahoo. He was 25.
- **1987** - Rifleman Wilson Adams from the South African Cape Corps was accidentally shot dead by a fellow soldier while he was standing guard at the Van Der Stel Shooting Range. He was 17.

21 April

- **1836** - The Battle of San Jacinto between Texans led by Sam Houston and Mexican forces led by Santa Anna took place near present day Houston. The Texans decisively defeated the Mexican forces thereby achieving independence.
- **1918** - During World War I, the Red Baron (Manfred von Richthofen) was shot down



Adolf Hitler

and killed during the Battle of the Somme. He was credited with 80 kills in less than two years, flying a red Fokker triplane. British pilots recovered his body and buried him with full military honours.

- **1941** - Greece surrenders to Nazi Germany.
- **1945** - Red Army reaches the outskirts of Berlin.
- **1956** - A military pact between Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Yemen is finalised.
- **1966** - Two members of 17 Squadron and three passengers were drowned when their Alouette III, Serial No. 65 suffered engine failure and crashed into the sea off Terrace Bay, South West Africa. They Air Force casualties were: Lieutenant Tobias Johannes Winterbach (22). Air Corporal Henry George Morton (21).
- **1967** - Military coup in Greece.
- **1977** - Corporal Heinrich Rudolph Bigalke from 3 SAI was killed when his military vehicle overturned 20km from Rundu. He was 19.
- **1978** - Private Barry Craig Rieder from SWA SPES Unit SWATF was accidentally killed at Oshivello during a night practice ambush. He was 20.
- **1983** - Glen Joseph Fleischer from 3 SAI was found dead at Potchefstroom with a gunshot wound to the head, apparently self-inflicted as no foul play was suspected. He was 18.

- **1987** - Two members of the SADF were killed when their military vehicle was involved in a head-on collision with a civilian vehicle at Rundu. The casualties were: Lance Corporal Clifton David Kilroe (21). Rifleman Hans Harold Scheepers (25).
- **1992** - Three members of the South African Medical Corps Training Centre were killed in a Military Vehicle Accident on the Potchefstroom to Westonaria Road. They were: Lance Corporal Efstratios Kladis (18). Private Bradley John Gordon (19). Private Roelof Frederick Malan (19).

22 April

- **1915** - Second Battle of Ypres: Germany introduces poison gas.
- **1941** - World War II: Tripoli comes under bombardment by British warships.
- **1944** - Hitler & Mussolini confer at Berchtesgarden.
- **1945** - Soviet and Polish troops liberate the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, near Oranienburg in Brandenburg, which held many political leaders from Captive Nations and special military prisoners.
- **1961** - French army rebels seize Algiers.
- **1976** - Three members from the Regiment Christiaan Beyers were Killed in Action when their patrol was ambushed by a numerically superior force of SWAPO/PLAN insurgents while they

were escorting a work team, busy on the Ruacana to Ovamboland pipeline, back to Etale Base. The casualties were: Lieutenant Douglas Gerald Hinds (20). Rifleman Johannes Roelof Fouche (26). Rifleman Jozua Francois Naude (21).

- **1983** - Corporal Jan de Klerk Botha from 5 SAI was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 20.
- **1988** - Lance Corporal Steven Charles Trollip from the 2nd Battalion Regiment De La Rey drowned after falling into a crocodile infested river near Skukuza in the Kruger National Park while on patrol. He was 26.
- **1990** - Nigeria's ruling generals crushed a six-hour rebellion by junior officers.

23 April

- **1873** - Ashanti War breaks out in Africa.
- **1911** - French, Algerian, and Senegalese troops are to be sent to help put down the tribesmen revolt in Morocco. However, Germany has protested that France will be breaking the terms of the 1906 Algerias accords on Moroccan independence.
- **1918** - The Zeebrugge Raid: At heavy cost the Royal Navy & Royal Marines earn eight Victoria Crosses blocking the harbour exit
- **1925** - Rebel leader Abdel Krim's troops enter French Morocco.

- **1945** - Allies in Italy reach the Po River.
- **1979** - Rifleman Alfredo Manuel Tchizondo from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 26.
- **1980** - Soviet sub catches fire off Japan, nine die.
- **1982** - Rifleman Noe Vasco from 32 Battalion was killed when he was accidentally run over by a military vehicle at Buffalo Base. He was 32.
- **1984** - Rifleman Johannes Kankara from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1987** - Rifleman Kobus Christopher Du Preez from the South African Cape Corps was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident on the Ben Rossouw Highway at Kuilsriver. He was 18.
- **1988** - Three members of 102 Battalion SWATF were Killed in Action in Southern Angola, South West of Tchi-

pa when their Romeo Mike Teams were ambushed by a superior force of SWAPO/PLAN and FAPLA troops. The casualties were: Lance Corporal I. Handura (23). Rifleman K. Kapulke (19). Rifleman U. Mbinge (20).
- **1988** - Sapper Carl Sachse from 13 Field Engineer Regiment was killed when he accidentally detonated an anti-personnel mine while in the process of laying out a minefield. He was 26.

24 April

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: A dynamite factory, which forms part of the Begbie Engineering Workshop, Johannesburg, is destroyed in an explosion. The destruction is blamed on British sabotage.
- **1916** - The Irish "Easter Rebellion" begins.
- **1942** - Japanese troops advance on all fronts in Burma.
- **1954** - Security forces round up more than 10,000 men in the biggest anti-Mau Mau operation since the state of emergency was declared in Kenya eighteen months ago.
- **1969** - US B-52s drop 3,000 tons of bombs on VC positions inside Cambodia.
- **1975** - Under an amendment to the Defence Act the definition of superior officer is changed with the effect that White and Black members

of the Defence Force will have equal status.

- **1980** - "Desert One": US operation to save 52 hostages in Iran, fails, eight die.
- **1982** - One member from 5 SAI and one member from 101 Battalion SWATF were killed when the Buffel Troop carrier in which they were traveling overturned near Eenhana in Northern Owamboland. The Casualties were: Rifleman Glen Bjorn Du Plooy (21). Rifleman Ronald Andreas (26).

25 April

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Relief of Jammersberg Drift: The relief columns under Generals Hart and Barbazon arrive at Wepener. General De Wet returns to his primary goal of disrupting British supply lines.
- **1902** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Jan Christiaan Smuts surrenders to the British under a flag of truce. Deneys Reitz who agrees to act as Smuts' orderly joins him. However, on discovering that orderlies are not treated as officers, Reitz is instantly promoted to chief-of-staff.
- **1915** - Gallipoli Campaign: 78,000 British & ANZAC troops undertake an amphibious landing
- **1941** - General Erwin Rommel's Deutsches Afrika Korps forces the British out of Halfaya Pass, just south-east of Sollum, and back to the Buq Buq-Sofafi line in



Manfred von Richtofen

- Egypt.
 - **1945** - The Red Army completely surrounds Berlin.
 - **1945** - US & Soviet forces meet at Torgau on the Elbe River.
 - **1961** - Fourth nuclear bomb test by France in the Sahara.
 - **1977** - The Chief of Staff (Operations) says that the development of South Africa's defence has made the country completely self-sufficient from an arms point of view.
 - **1978** - Private Alan David Dixon from 16 Maintenance Unit at Grootfontein was killed just outside the town of Rundu when his Magirus Deutz truck, loaded with supplies for the 32 Battalion element stationed at Nkurenkuru, overturned when the vehicles front tyre suffered a blow-out, causing him to lose control of the vehicle. He was 19.
 - **1980** - Lieutenant Peter Henry Hollis from 8 Squadron was Reported Missing in Action over Southern Angola while flying an Impala Mk II. His body was later recovered. He was 25.
 - **1980** - Sapper Adeo Marais from the School of Engineers was killed instantly in an accidental explosion at the Units ammunition store. He was 17.
 - **1981** - Corporal Barend Frederick Burger from the South African Catering Corps was killed in a military vehicle Accident at Elandsfontein. He was 20.
- 26 April**
- **1679** - The Castle of Good Hope, oldest and most historic building in SA, is completed.
 - **1936** - Italian troops assemble for an attack on Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
 - **1937** - During the Spanish Civil War, the ancient town of Guernica was attacked by German warplanes. After destroying the town in a three hour bombing raid, the planes machine-gunned fleeing civilians.
 - **1941** - East Africa: The Abyssinian fortress of Dessie, roughly half-way between Addis Ababa and Amba Alagi, is captured by General Alan Cunningham's South African divisions.
 - **1941** - North Africa: Following the fall of the Halfaya Pass, three columns of Rommel's Deutsches Afrika Korps have crossed the border from Libya to Egypt.
 - **1943** - North Africa: Access to the Tunisian plain is open to the Allies following the capture of Longstop Hill.
 - **1944** - Allied troops begin concentrating at assembly areas in Britain for D-Day.
 - **1961** - French Army rebels once again try to take power in Algeria.
 - **1966** - Lieutenant Herman Alan Day from 1 Squadron was killed when his Canadair CL13B Sabre crashed near Pilansberg during a routine training flight. He was 24.

- **1975** - Corporal John Cornelius Hanekom from 5 Military Works Unit was accidentally drowned while swimming at Rundu. He was 27.
- **1982** - Lance Corporal Gert Gotlieb Gouche from 1 Parachute Battalion was accidentally killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Kombat near Grootfontein. He was 20.
- **1982** - Rifleman Dawid Lukas from SWA SPES Unit, SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop carrier overturned in Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1982** - The Falklands War: Argentine forces on South Georgia surrender to the British.
- **1983** - Rifleman Thomas Andrew Ross from 1 SWA Spes Unit, SWATF was Killed in Action in Northern Owamboland when he accidentally detonated a booby-trap in an enemy weapons cache that his patrol had located. He was 20.
- **1994** - Rifleman Shadrack Vusi Mnisi from 121 Battalion was shot dead by persons unknown while on foot patrol during anti-crime operations at Loskop in KZN. He was 33.

27 April

- **1940** - Himmler orders establishment of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp.
- **1941** - German troops occupy Athens.
- **1945** - Italian partisans

- capture Mussolini and Clara Petacci, near Lake Como.
- **1984** - Corporal Reginald Patrick Briggs from 1 SWA SPES Unit, SWATF was critically injured when his Buffel Troop Carrier was involved in a collision with civilian vehicle on the Ondangwa-Oshivello road causing the Buffel to overturn. He was 20.
- **1984** - Rifleman Glen Scott Maitland Clark from 5 SAI contracted malaria while on operations in South Eastern Angola and was admitted to the Rundu Sickbay where he unfortunately died. He was 21.
- **1987** - Special Constable Stefanus Willem Kanhende 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.

28 April

- **1919** - The League of Nations is established, with General Jan Smuts and Prime Minister Louis Botha as the two



Muhammad Ali

- representatives of the Union of South Africa. Smuts played an important role in the drafting of the Covenant of the League.
- **1945** - Twenty-three years of Fascist rule in Italy ended abruptly as Italian partisans shot former Dictator Benito Mussolini. Other leaders of the Fascist Party and friends of Mussolini were also killed along with his mistress, Clara Petacci. Their bodies were then hung upside down and pelted with stones by jeering crowds in Milan.
- **1956** - The French leave Vietnam.
- **1966** - Seven guerrillas are killed in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) at Sinoya in the first engagement of the bush war.
- **1967** - Muhammad Ali refuses induction into the US Army.
- **1971** - Samuel Lee Gravely, Jr., is promoted to rear admiral; the first black admiral in the US Navy.
- **1975** - Signaler Josef Jacobus Mare' from 2 Signal Regiment was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 18.
- **1982** - Corporal Marcus Anthony Harris-Dewey from 701 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 20.
- **1984** - Rifleman Phillip Fou-

- rie van Vuuren from 4 SAI was accidentally killed outside Amsterdam when Ratel 22C drove into the rear of Ratel 22B in conditions of extremely poor visibility during a sandstorm. He was 19.
- **1998** - Nigeria's former deputy leader, General Oladipyo Diya, and five others are sentenced to death by firing squad for plotting to overthrow military leader General Sani Abacha.

29 April

- **1781** - French fleet under Admiral Suffren prevents Britain from seizing Cape of Good Hope.
- **1916** - The Irish "Easter Rebellion" ends.
- **1918** - Germany's main offensive on the Western Front in World War I ends.
- **1945** - German representatives in Italy surrender during World War II.
- **1945** - The SA 6th Division crosses Brenta River and is then redirected to Milan in Italy in World War II.
- **1945** - US troops liberate the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau.
- **1946** - Tokyo: 28 former Japanese leaders indicted as war criminals.
- **1970** - US & South Vietnamese troops invade Cambodia.
- **1975** - Last US personnel pull out of Vietnam.
- **1978** - Two members from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment were accidentally killed at Fort Rev, the Special Forces

base at Air Force Base Ondangwa, when an explosive device they were preparing for an external operation, detonated prematurely. The casualties were: Warrant Officer Class 1 Johannes Lambertus Conradie HC VRM (34). Corporal Cecil James Eayrs (23).

- **1980** - Rifleman S.D. Ernesto from 5 Recce Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces while on operations in Southern Angola. He was 25.
- **1980** - Rifleman Albertus Johannes Oosthuizen from 1 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident in Bloemfontein. He was 19.
- **1983** - Rifleman Tjaart Jacobs from 6 SAI was accidentally killed when a bunker wall collapsed on top of him. He was 20.
- **1984** - Rifleman Antonio Paulus from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 26.
- **1987** - Lance Corporal Paul Douglas Elliot Hayes from the South African Medical Services College, was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 20.

War: The ZAR's fourth and last Creusot 'Long Tom' is dynamited before falling into British hands, only 200 metres from the charging enemy.

- **1902** - Second Anglo-Boer War: An official report states that British columns have completely or partially destroyed 158 farms and an unknown number of Black villages.
- **1936** - The Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, is lost to the Italians.
- **1942** - British troops evacuate Mandalay in Burma.
- **1943** - Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp for Jews established.
- **1945** - Red Army liberates the Ravensbruck concentration camp.
- **1945** - The Red Banner is raised over the Reichstag Building in Berlin.
- **1945** - Adolf Hitler (56) commits suicide in his bunker.
- **1979** - Private Martinus Johannes Schroeder from the Technical Service Corps was critically injured in a private vehicle accident between

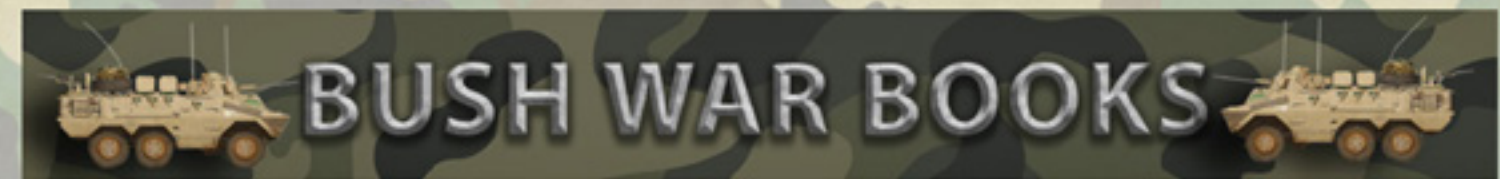
Vrede and Standerton on 09 March 1979. He succumbed to his injuries in 1 Mil Hospital on 30 April 1979. He was 19.

- **1980** - Terrorists seize the Iranian Embassy in London.
- **1982** - Rifleman Eddie James Barnard from 4 SAI was critically wounded by a fellow soldier while on duty in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1983** - Sergeant B. Mukosho from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 27.
- **1987** - Three members from 5 Maintenance Unit were killed in a military vehicle accident at Ondangwa. The casualties were: Private Booijulies (21). Private Nicolaas Koopman (18). Private Esau Oosthuizen (19).
- **1991** - A military coup is executed in Lesotho.
- **1996** - In Liberia, shells and gunfire rip through central Monrovia and a diplomatic enclave. US Marines shoot and kill three Liberians firing toward the US Embassy.



30 April

- **1881** - France invades Tunisia from Algeria on a pretext, and later establishes a protectorate.
- **1828** - King Shaka is murdered by his brothers.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer



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



General Knowledge

1. SADF M87

Kevlar composite helmet that replaced the *staaldak* in the late 1980s.

2. German Stahlhelme

Replaced the traditional Pickelhaube during World War I in 1916. This is a Wehrmacht version.

3. M15 Adrian helmet

Standard French helmet during World War II.

4. Type 92 helmet

Japanese *etsukabuto* (steel helmet) used during World War II.

5. Pickelhaube

Boiled leather spiked combat helmet used by the Germans

until 1916.

6. M1 helmet

Used by the Americans during World War II. and afterwards.

7. Galea

Standard helmet used by the Roman Legion.

8. Brodie helmet

Used by British and Commonwealth troops during both World Wars.

9. German Stahlhelme

Waffen SS steel helmet. Identified by the SS lighting runes.

10. SSH40

Used by the Russians during World War II.

11. US ACH

Advanced Combat Helmet used by the United States.

12. Viking helmet

No, they did not have horns.

13. Mitznefet

Combat helmet used by the Israeli Defence Force (IDF).

14. M38 Stahlhelme

Used by the German Fallschirmjäger (Paratroopers) in World War II.

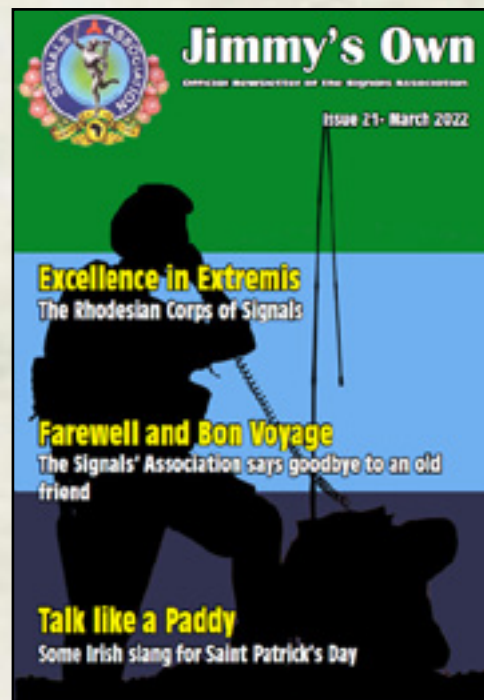
15. M63 helmet

The M63, better known as the *staaldak*, was used by the SADF until the late 1980s when it was replaced with the kevlar M87.

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.

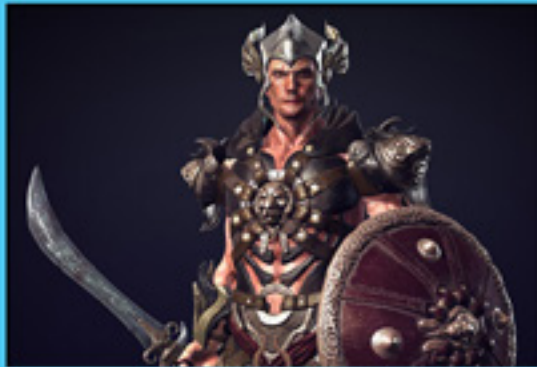
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