



Military Despatches

Vol 60 June 2022

Disabled? Says who

Five heroes that didn't let a disability stand in their way

Battlefield

The 1973 Yom Kippur War



Operation Neptune

The weapons and equipment of D-Day

Roger Bushell

The real 'Big X' of the Great Escape

For the military enthusiast



Click on any video below to view



Paratrooper Wings Quiz

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

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



Military Firearms Quiz

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

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.



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.



Who said that?

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

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



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Please remember to subscribe to our channel.

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



Editor's Sitrep

So now it's officially winter. Time to get out those warm clothes and gear up for the winter chill.

I've been doing Military Despatches for nearly five years now. I can't believe it's been that long.

And while I really enjoy putting the magazine together I sometimes wonder if I'm not just wasting my time.

I know that the magazine is read by many military veterans, most of whom have a story or two to tell. Over the years I've asked countless times for people to share some of their experiences with out readers.

I also try my utmost to promote military veteran organizations to the best of my ability. Some of them - not all of them though - have never even bothered to acknowledge my efforts with a "thank you". Nor have they ever bothered to even put a link to Military Despatches on their websites.

I learnt that there was going to be a Military Fair in Pretoria on 2 May. This information was sent to me by someone else mind you, not the people that were organising the event.

I phoned them and said that I

would promote the event in the April edition of Military Despatches, which I did. Afterwards I e-mailed them a copy of the magazine.

I was unable to attend the event myself and all I asked in return for promoting the event was for them to sent me some photographs of the event and a short article about it.

To date I have received nothing. Not a photograph, not a word, nor even a thank you for promoting the event.

This is not the first time something like this has happened. And I'm sure that it won't be the last.

Look, if they don't want me to try and promote their events or organisation I can live with that. It just means less work on my part.

Instead of spending hours each month trying to put a magazine together, maybe I should be doing something else - like catching up on my reading, watching television, or going on an extended holiday.

Until next month, stay safe and stay healthy.

Matt

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An Israeli tank rolls through the Sinai Desert during the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

The invasion by Egypt and Syria, was launched on the holiest day of the Jewish calendar.



10 Commanders killed by their own troops

Throughout military history commanders and leaders have been killed, all too often by their own troops. Sometimes it is an accident. Yet there are those times when the killing is anything but an accident.

One of the dangers of serving in the military is that you stand a much higher chance of being killed than people in other professions, say an accountant for example. It's just one of the risks of the job.

Throughout military history commanders and leaders have been killed, all too often by their own troops. Sometimes it is an accident. Yet there are those times when the killing is anything but an accident.

Commanders and leaders are often at higher risks for a number of reasons. They sometimes have to make decisions that are unpopular with the troops they command. This will sometimes cause resentment among the troops.

Some commanders may be incompetent, making decisions or issuing orders that put their troops in unnecessary danger to the point where the troops decide "he's got to go."

As mentioned earlier, in many incidents where a commander or leader is killed, it was an accident.

A troop is busy cleaning his rifle, a shot goes off and it's, "Oops, sorry lieutenant."

I remember an incident where an infantry section was carrying out an ambush at the cut-line

near Okalongo. They had been laying ambushes nearly every night for almost two weeks. So discipline had started to become a bit lax.

One of the troops in the ambush was lying on top of his sleeping bag (a big no-no). He fell asleep and at some stage rolled onto his back.

After about two hours without incident, the ambush commander decided to call the ambush off.

He radioed to the platoon sergeant, a staff sergeant, informing him that the ambush was over and he should bring the reserve group in.

The troop that was sleeping didn't hear any of this. He woke with a start and sat straight up. In the dim moonlight he saw the silhouettes of people heading straight for him - and they were all carrying rifles.

He opened fire and shot five of them dead, including the staff sergeant.

In most cases it is junior leaders that are killed because they are usually in or near the front lines.

The accepted practice is, "the higher the rank, the further from the front you should be."

This makes sense because the military makes a huge investment in time, money and

training on senior commanders. Their job is to run the show, not take an active part in it.

Of course this practice is not always followed. Israeli commanders can often be found in the front lines, actively leading their troops. The SADF was another military force where this happened.

On two separate occasions I personally witnessed General Constand Viljoen, armed with an R1 or an R4, in the thick of things. On the first occasion he was Chief of the Army and the second occasion was when he was Chief of the SADF.

All too often commanders and senior leaders are specifically targeted by the opposition. Just ask the Russians. They have lost a lot of senior commanders, including no less than eight generals, in the current war in Ukraine.

It is tragic when a commander or leader is killed by the enemy. What is even more horrifying is when they are killed by their own troops.

In this month's Top Ten we will look at ten commanders that were killed by their own troops.

A few of these commanders was killed by accident, but in the case of the rest of them, the killing was deliberate.

Captain Pedro de Urzua - 1561

Pedro de Ursúa was a Spanish conquistador from Baztan in Navarre. In Panama, Ursúa subdued a Cimarron (ex-slave) revolt by tricking Cimarron leader Bayano into coming unprepared to negotiate a truce. He then captured Bayano and sent him back to King Philip II of Spain.

Together with Ortún Velázquez de Velasco, Pedro de Ursúa founded the city of Pamplona, New Kingdom of Granada, on 1 November 1549.

In 1559 de Urzua led an expedition of Spanish soldiers from coastal Peru across the Andes to the Amazon Basin in search of El Dorado.

Two years later, while still searching unsuccessfully for gold, de Urzua was killed by his own men then they mutinied under the leadership of Lope de Aguirre.

The reason why de Aguirre wanted de Urzua dead - de Urzua would not allow de Aguirre's mistress on the expedition.

Gustavus Adolphus - 1632

Gustavus Adolphus, also known in English as Gustav II Adolph, was King of Sweden from 1611.

He is credited for the rise of Sweden as a great European power. During his reign, Sweden became one of the primary military forces in Europe during the Thirty Years' War, helping to determine the political and religious balance of power

in Europe.

The Battle of Lützen (6 November 1632) was one of the most decisive battles of the Thirty Years' War. It was a Protestant victory, but the Protestant alliance lost one of its most important leaders, which caused the Protestant campaign to lose direction.

Gustavus Adolphus was killed when, at a crucial point in the battle, he became separated from his troops while leading a cavalry charge on his wing.

Towards 13.00 in the thick mix of gun smoke and fog covering the field, the king was separated from his fellow riders and suffered multiple shots.

A bullet crushed his left arm below the elbow. Almost simultaneously his horse suffered a shot to the neck that made it hard to control.

In the mix of fog and smoke from the burning town of Lützen the king rode astray behind enemy lines. There he sustained yet another shot in the back, was stabbed and fell from his horse.

Lying on the ground, he received a final, fatal shot to the temple. His fate remained unknown for some time.

However, when the gunnery paused and the smoke cleared, his horse was spotted between the two lines, Gustavus Adolphus himself not on it and nowhere to be seen.

His disappearance stopped the initiative of the hitherto successful Swedish right wing, while a search was conducted. His partly stripped body was

found an hour or two later, and evacuated from the field in a Swedish artillery wagon.

Who actually killed him remains an unanswered question. However, many historical authorities insist that Gustavus must have been killed by one of his own men, if not accidentally then intentionally by a traitor.

Nader Shah - 1747

Nader Shah Afshar was the founder of the Afsharid dynasty of Iran and one of the most powerful rulers in Iranian history, ruling as shah of Iran (Persia).

He fought numerous campaigns throughout the Middle East, the Caucasus, Central and South Asia, such as the battles of Herat, Mihmandust, Murche-Khort, Agh-Darband, Yeghevard, Khyber Pass, Karanal and Kars.

Because of his military genius, some historians have described him as the Napoleon of Persia, the Sword of Persia, or the Second Alexander.

Nader belonged to the Turkoman Afshar tribe, a semi-nomadic tribe settled in Khorasan in northeastern Iran, which had supplied military power to the Safavid dynasty since the time of Shah Ismail I.

Nader rose to power during a period of chaos in Iran after a rebellion by the Hotaki Pashuns had overthrown the weak Shah Sultan Husayn, while the arch-enemy of the Safavids, the Ottomans, as well as the Russians had seized Iranian territory for themselves.

Nader reunited the Iranian realm and removed the invaders. He became so powerful that he decided to depose the last members of the Safavid dynasty, which had ruled Iran for over 200 years, and become Shah himself in 1736.

His numerous campaigns created a great empire that, at its maximum extent, briefly encompassed what is now part of or includes Iran, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the North Caucasus, Iraq, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Bahrain, Pakistan, Oman and the Persian Gulf, but his military spending had a ruinous effect on the Iranian economy.

When Nader fell ill, he became increasingly cruel as a result of his illness and his desire to extort more and more tax money to pay for his military campaigns.

New revolts broke out and Nader crushed them ruthlessly, building towers from his victims' skulls in imitation of his hero Timur.

In 1747, Nader set off for Khorasan, where he intended to punish Kurdish rebels. Some of his officers and courtiers feared he was about to execute them and plotted against him, including two of his relatives: Muhammad Quli Khan, the captain of the guards, and Salah Khan, the overseer of Nader's household.

Nader Shah was assassinated on 20 June 1747, at Quchan in Khorasan. He was surprised in his sleep by around fifteen con-

spirators, and stabbed to death. Nader was able to kill two of the assassins before he died.

Colonel John Finnis - 1857

I'm sure that a number of our readers will have heard about the Sepoy Mutiny. It is also known as the Indian Mutiny, the Great Rebellion, the Revolt of 1857, the Indian Insurrection, and the First War of Independence.

The Indian Rebellion of 1857 was a major uprising in India in 1857–58 against the rule of the British East India Company, which functioned as a sovereign power on behalf of the British Crown.

The rebellion began on 10 May 1857 in the form of a mutiny of sepoys of the Company's army in the garrison town of Meerut, 64 km northeast of Delhi. It then erupted into other mutinies and civilian rebellions chiefly in the upper Gangetic plain and central India.

The rebellion posed a considerable threat to British power in that region, and was contained only with the rebels' defeat in Gwalior on 20 June 1858.

The Indian rebellion was fed by resentments born of diverse perceptions, including invasive British-style social reforms, harsh land taxes, summary treatment of some rich landowners and princes, as well as scepticism about the improvements brought about by British rule.

Many Indians rose against the British; however, many also fought for the British, and the

majority remained seemingly compliant to British rule.

Violence, which sometimes betrayed exceptional cruelty, was inflicted on both sides, on British officers, and civilians, including women and children, by the rebels, and on the rebels, and their supporters, including sometimes entire villages, by British reprisals; the cities of Delhi and Lucknow were laid waste in the fighting and the British retaliation.

So who exactly was Colonel John Finnis, and how did he fit into the picture? Well, he was the first British officer to die in the mutiny.

Finnis was the commander of the 11th Native Regiment of the British Indian Army. He was informed that his troops had occupied the parade grounds, and were in a state of mutiny.

He mounted his horse, rode down to the parade ground, and he began berating his troops. He lectured them on insubordination. Probably not the right action to take against a mob of angry and armed Indian troops.

In no mood to be lectured on their actions and behaviour, they promptly fired a volley of shots at Finnis and killed him. The Sepoy Mutiny was about to kick off.

'Stonewall' Jackson - 1863

Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson served as a Confederate general during the American Civil War, and became one of the best-known Confederate commanders after General Robert E. Lee.



CAPTAIN OVERBOARD: During a mutiny on the Russian dreadnought Potemkin, seven officers, including the captain, were killed.

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

Born in what was then part of Virginia (in present-day West Virginia), Jackson received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point and graduated in the class of 1846.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Mexican–American War of 1846–1848 and distinguished himself at Chapultepec.

When Virginia seceded from the Union in May 1861 after the attack on Fort Sumter, Jackson joined the Confederate Army, where he distinguished himself as an Army Commander.

He distinguished himself 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.

On the night of 2 May 1863 at the Battle of Chancellorsville, Jackson went on a scouting mission ahead of his lines in order to find a way to attack the rear of the Union forces.

When he returned, Jackson was fired upon by a North Carolina Confederate regiment which though he and his staff were Yankee cavalrymen.

Wounded in his left arm, Jackson lost the arm to amputation; weakened by his wounds, he died of pneumonia eight days later.

Military historians regard Jackson as one of the most gifted tactical commanders in U.S. history. His tactics are studied even today.

His death proved a severe setback for the Confederacy,

affecting not only its military prospects, but also the morale of its army and the general public.

After Jackson's death, his military exploits developed a legendary quality, becoming an important element of the ideology of the "Lost Cause".

Evgeny Golikov - 1905

During the Russo-Japanese War of 1904–1905, many of the Black Sea Fleet's most experienced officers and enlisted men were transferred to the ships in the Pacific to replace losses.

This left the fleet with primarily raw recruits and less capable officers. With the news of the disastrous Battle of Tsushima in May 1905 morale dropped to an all-time low, and any minor incident could be enough to spark a major catastrophe.

Taking advantage of the situation, plus the disruption caused by the ongoing riots and uprisings, the Central Committee of the Social Democratic Organisation of the Black Sea Fleet, called "Tsentralka", had started preparations for a simultaneous mutiny on all of the ships of the fleet, although the timing had not been decided.

On 27 June 1905, the pre-dreadnought battleship Potemkin was at gunnery practice near Tendra Spit off the Ukrainian coast when many enlisted men refused to eat the borscht made from rotten meat partially infested with maggots.

Brought aboard the warship the previous day from shore suppliers, the carcasses had

been passed as suitable for eating by the ship's senior surgeon Dr Sergei Smirnov after several perfunctory examinations.

The uprising was triggered when Ippolit Giliarovsky, the ship's second in command, allegedly threatened to shoot crew members for their refusal.

He summoned the ship's marine guards as well as a tarpaulin to protect the ship's deck from any blood in an attempt to intimidate the crew.

Giliarovsky was killed after he mortally wounded Grigory Vakulinchuk, one of the mutiny's leaders. The mutineers killed seven of the Potemkin's eighteen officers, including Captain Evgeny Golikov (his body was thrown overboard), Executive Officer Giliarovsky and Surgeon Smirnov; and captured the accompanying torpedo boat Ismail (No. 627).

They organised a ship's committee of 25 sailors, led by Afanasi Matushenko, to run the battleship.

The incident is now viewed as a first step towards the Russian Revolution of 1917.

Captain Lashkevitch - 1917

It was 1917 and the 'Great war' was in full swing. After major military losses during the war, the Russian Army had begun to mutiny.

The first revolt, later called the February Revolution, focused in and around the then-capital Petrograd (now Saint Petersburg).

On 12 March 1917 in Pe-

trograd, Captain Lashkevitch, commander of the Volynsky Regiment, ordered his soldiers to open fire on street demonstrators.

Not only did his troops refuse to obey the order, they chose to beat their commander to death.

This marked a major turning point in the Russian Revolution, because after killing Lashkevitch, the Volynsky Regiment - the first Russian military unit to do so - joined the revolutionary forces.

Colonel David Marcus - 1948

David Daniel "Mickey" Marcus was a United States Army colonel, who was a principal architect of the U.S. military's World War II civil affairs policies, including the organization of the war crimes trials in Germany and in Japan.

In recognition of his service in "negotiation and drafting of the Italian Surrender Instrument, the Instrument of Unconditional Surrender of Germany, and the international machinery to be used for the control of Germany after her total defeat" he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

In 1946, he was made an honorary Commander of the Order of the British Empire, 'in recognition of the distinguished service performed in cooperation with British armed forces during the war.' He also was awarded the Bronze Star and other awards.

In 1947, David Ben-Gurion asked Marcus to recruit an

American officer to serve as military advisor to the nascent Jewish army, the Haganah.

He could not recruit anyone suitable, so Marcus volunteered himself. In 1948, the National Military Establishment informally acquiesced to Marcus' undertaking, provided he disguised his name and rank to avoid problems with the British authorities in Mandatory Palestine.

Under the nom de guerre "Michael Stone", he arrived in Palestine in January 1948. Arab armies surrounded the soon-to-be declared State of Israel.

He designed a command and control structure for the Haganah, adapting his U.S. Army experience to its special needs. He identified Israel's weakest points in the Negev south, and the Jerusalem area.

Marcus was appointed *Aluf* (general) and given command of the Jerusalem front on May 28, 1948. As no ranks had been granted to the Israeli high command at that time, he became the first general in the fledgling nation's army.

He participated in planning Operations Bin Nun Bet and Yoram against the Latrun fort, held by the Arab Legion, which blocked the road from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, which was under siege.

Both attacks failed, but Marcus then built the "Burma Road to Jerusalem" - a makeshift winding road through difficult hill terrain, nicknamed after the World War II supply route to China.



FIRST ISRAELI GENERAL: David Marcus had been a Colonel in the US Army in World War II. He became the first general in the Israeli Army.

His "Burma Road" was opened to vehicles on 10 June, breaking the siege of Jerusalem, a day before a United Nations ceasefire took effect.

A few hours before the ceasefire, Marcus returned to his Central Front headquarters. He and his commanders were billeted in the monks' quarters of the abandoned Monastere Notre Dame de la Nouvelle Alliance in Abu Ghosh.

Shortly before 4:00 a.m., a sentry, Eliezer Linski, eighteen years old, and a one-year Palmach veteran, challenged Marcus, whom he saw as a figure in white.

When Marcus failed to re-

spond with the password, Linski fired in the air and the man ran towards the monastery. He fired at the man, as did one or more fighters in a nearby sentry post.

Marcus was found dead, wrapped in a white blanket. Marcus knew very little Hebrew and had responded in English, which Linski did not understand.

Marcus wore no rank, although officers had been recognized by a ribbon pinned to their uniforms. As Marcus's body was removed from Abu Ghosh, a ribbon was found and placed on his casket.

His body was returned to the

United States for burial at West Point, accompanied by Moshe Dayan and his wife Ruth, Yoseph Harel, and the wife of his aide de camp, Alex Broida.

His burial, with military honours, was attended by Governor of New York Thomas Dewey, former Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, and General Maxwell Taylor, then Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Lt Richard Harland and Lt Thomas Dellwo - 1971

During the Vietnam War, a new word was entered into the dictionary - 'fragging'.

It was defined as, "a deliberate attempt to kill an unpopular officer or non-commissioned officer with a fragmentation grenade."

Over the course of the entire Vietnam War, there were 800 documented fragging attempts in the Army and Marine Corps.

In the early hours of 18 March 1971, an enlisted man at the US Army base at Bienhoa, Vietnam, cut a hold through the mesh screen covering a window in the officer's quarters and threw a fragmentation grenade inside.

Two lieutenants, Richard Harland and Thomas Dellwo, were killed in the explosion.

Private Billy Dean Smith was arrested and given a court martial for the crime but was later declared innocent.

The real murdered was never found.

Special Force Training - US Rangers

In our sixth article on Special Forces selection and training, we look at the US Army Rangers.

Ranger Assessment and Selection Program (RASP) is an 8-week course held at Fort Benning, Georgia. As of 2009, RASP replaced both the RIP (Ranger Indoctrination Program) for enlisted Soldiers and ROP (Ranger Orientation Program) for Officers, both commissioned and non-commissioned and below to be assigned to the U.S. Army's 75th Ranger Regiment.

RASP is designed to prepare soldiers, many of whom have just graduated Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training and are still considered "fresh" recruits, for assignment to the 75th Ranger Regiment.

Soldiers from other units attempting to transfer to the 75th Ranger Regiment also attend the course, but are less common than new soldiers.

Follow-on courses including Airborne School and MOS-specific training like SOCM are also required for RASP graduates.

Graduates are in jeopardy of losing all affiliation with the Ranger regiment if they fail to complete their follow-on training. Unsuccessful trainees will be reassigned to another unit.

History

After 1st Ranger Battalion was reformed in 1974, selections were held directly by them. When 2nd Ranger Battalion was formed shortly thereafter, they began hosting their own selection as well.

The RIP program was first started by three hand-selected NCO in the 1st Battalion in 1975 while the Battalion was still located at Ft Stewart, GA. It was then adopted by the 2nd Battalion.

In 1986, when the Regimental Headquarters was fully formed, a new consolidated RIP (Ranger Indoctrination Program) was started at Fort Benning, beginning in February 1985, where it was held until 2009 when it was changed to RASP.

In 2017 it was reported in Army Times that an unidentified woman was the first to pass the 21-day Ranger Assessment & Selection Program II (RASP II).

This woman became the first to graduate from the selection program of a special operations unit.

Previously in June of 2016, a non-commissioned officer had attempted to pass the test, but dropped out.

The Course

The training curriculum was specifically designed to "smoke" the trainees through endless punishment via constant physical training.

In the second and fourth week of RASP, the class is sent to "Cole Range"; a remote training area of Fort Benning. It is designed to test the individual to their breaking point both physically and mentally; train-

ees sleep on average four hours total throughout Cole Range as they spend their nights doing tedious tasks such as the "hitting the wood line" for being incapable of meeting the given time standards.

Although training such as patrolling and land navigation is taught at Cole Range, the main focus is to mentally and physically break down the individual.

For classes held in the winter; it is not uncommon for 30-50%



of the starting class to quit during the first night of Cole Range.

RASP is broken down into two levels of training: RASP 1 for Junior Non-commissioned Officers and Enlisted Soldiers (pay grades E-1 through E-5) and RASP 2 for Senior Non-commissioned Officers, Officers and Warrant Officers.

Candidates will train on physical fitness, marksmanship, small unit tactics, medical proficiency and mobility. Training is fast-paced and intense, ensuring Ranger candidates are prepared to employ their skills in both continued training and worldwide operations upon reaching their assigned Ranger unit.

Throughout the course all candidates will be screened to ensure that only the best Soldiers are chosen for service in the Ranger Regiment. Regardless of the course, all candidates must meet the course requirements in order to serve in the Ranger Regiment.

As of January 2010, the 4-week Ranger Indoctrination Program (RIP) has become RASP (Ranger Assessment and Selection Program) and is now 8 weeks long. There are two separate phases in the RASP program.

Phase 1 primarily consists of day to day, week to week physical and mental toughness training, and includes rigorous "smoke" sessions (blocks of time specifically geared toward using physical training as a tool for corrective training and instruction) that are used to train the group if a particular task, condition, or standard is not met, and also incorporate a necessary environment of the unknown to

each soldier.

Phase 2 training includes marksmanship and baseline breaching abilities. Ranger history is also the subject of training.

Graduation

Upon successful completion of RASP, the new Rangers graduate at the Ranger Memorial, or in the event of inclement weather, Freedom Hall where they will don the tan Ranger beret and will have the scroll of the battalion they will be assigned to put on their shoulder.

Ranger School

The United States Army Ranger School is a 62-day small unit tactics and leadership course that develops functional skills directly related to units whose mission is to engage the enemy in close combat and direct fire battles.

Ranger training was established in September 1950 at Fort Benning, Georgia. The Ranger course has changed little since its inception. Until recently, it was an eight-week course divided into three phases.

The course is now 61 days in duration and divided into three phases as follows: Benning Phase, Mountain Phase, and Swamp Phase.

Overview

Ranger School is open to soldiers, Marines, sailors, and airmen in the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as select allied military students. The course is conducted in various locations.

Benning Phase occurs in and around Camp Rogers and Camp Darby at Fort Benning, Georgia.



Mountain Phase is conducted at Camp Merrill, in the remote mountains near Dahlonega, Georgia. Swamp Phase is conducted in the coastal swamps at various locations near Camp Rudder, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

The United States Army Ranger School is not organizationally affiliated with the 75th Ranger Regiment. Ranger School falls under control of the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command as a school open to most members of the United States Army, but the 75th Ranger Regiment is a Special Operations war-fighting unit organized under the United States Army Special Operations Command.

The two share a common heritage and subordinate battalions common lineage, and Ranger School is a requirement for all officers and non-commissioned officers (NCO) of the 75th Ranger Regiment.

Those graduating from Ranger School are presented with the Ranger Tab, which is worn on the upper shoulder of the left sleeve of a military uniform, according to U.S. Army regulations

Wearing the tab is permitted for the remainder of a soldier's military career. The cloth version of the tab is worn on the Army Combat Uniform and Army Green Service Uniform; a smaller, metal version is worn on the Army Service Uniform.

Ranger School History

Ranger Training had begun in September 1950 at Fort Benning Georgia “with the formation and training of 17 Airborne Companies by the Ranger Training Command”.

The first class graduated from Ranger training in November 1950, becoming the 1st Ranger Infantry Company. The United States Army’s Infantry School officially established the Ranger Department in December 1951.

Under the Ranger Department, the first Ranger School Class was conducted in January–March 1952, with a graduation date of 1 March 1952. Its duration was 59 days. At the time, Ranger training was voluntary.

In 1966, a panel headed by General Ralph E. Haines Jr. recommended making Ranger training mandatory for all Regular Army officers upon commissioning. On 16 August 1966, the Chief of Staff of the Army, General Harold K. Johnson, directed it so.

This policy was implemented in July 1967. It was rescinded on 21 June 1972 by General William Westmoreland. Once again, Ranger training was voluntary.

In August 1987, the Ranger Department was split from the Infantry School and the Ranger Training Brigade was established.

The Ranger Companies that made up the Ranger Department became the current training units - the 4th, 5th and 6th Ranger Training Battalions.

Desert Phase was added in 1983 and the length of the Ranger course was extended to

65 days. The duration was again expanded in October 1991 to 68 days, concurrently with the reshuffling of the Desert phase from the last phase to the second.

The 7th Ranger Training Battalion was added to administer this phase. The most recent duration change to Ranger School occurred in May 1995, when the Desert Phase was removed from the Ranger course.

Ranger School was reduced to its current 61-day length of training, at 19.6 hours of training per day.

The Ranger Assessment Phase, the first five days of Ranger School, was added in 1992.

In 2015 Ranger School was permanently opened to women.

The Students

Ranger School is open to all Military Occupational Specialties (MOSs) in the U.S. Army, although - as of April 2011 - an Army combat exclusion zone still limits some from attending, but this does not include women as women are now allowed to attend the school.

Ranger students come from units in the United States Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, and from foreign military services.

However, the two largest groups of attendees for Ranger School are from the U.S. Army’s Infantry Basic Officer Leadership Course (IBOLC), and the 75th Ranger Regiment.

Competitions and pre-Ranger courses are typically used to determine attendance. The Marine Corps is only allotted 20 slots and the U.S. Air Force is

only allotted six slots for Ranger school each year.

Ranger students’ ranks typically range from Private First Class to Captain, with lieutenants and specialists making up the largest group of students.

The average age is 23, and the average class will have 366 students, with 11 classes conducted per year.

The vast majority of Ranger students have already completed Airborne School and make multiple jumps during the course. A small number of students have entered and completed Ranger School without being Airborne qualified.

These individuals completed tasks assigned by cadre while their classmates complete the jumps.

Following the graduation of Captain Kristen Marie Griest and First Lieutenant Shaye Lynne Haver in August 2015, the Army announced Ranger School would henceforth be open to female students.

In October 2015, Army Major Lisa Jaster also graduated from Ranger School and became the first female Army Reserve officer to receive her Ranger tab.

In 2019, 1st Lt. Chelsey Hibsich became the first female Air Force officer graduated from Ranger School.

Training

Ranger School training has a basic scenario: the flourishing drug and terrorist operations of the enemy forces, the “Aragon Liberation Front,” must be stopped.

To do so, the Rangers will take the fight to their territory, the rough terrain surrounding



KEEP GOING: Students undertake a route march on the Benning Phase of their training.

Fort Benning, the mountains of northern Georgia, and the swamps and coast of Florida.

Ranger students are given a clear mission, but they determine how to best execute it.

The purpose of the course is learning to soldier as a combat leader while enduring the great mental and psychological stresses and physical fatigue of combat; the Ranger Instructors (RIs) – also known as Lane Graders – create and cultivate such a physical and mental environment.

The course primarily comprises field craft instruction; students plan and execute daily patrolling, perform reconnaissance, ambushes, and raids against dispersed targets, followed by stealthy movement to a new patrol base to plan the next mission.

Ranger students conduct about 20 hours of training per day, while consuming two or fewer meals daily totalling about 2,200 calories, with an average of 3.5 hours of sleep a day. Students sleep more before a parachute jump for safety considerations.

Ranger students typically wear and carry some 29–41 kg

of weapons, equipment, and training ammunition while patrolling more than 320 km throughout the course.

Benning phase

The first phase of Ranger School is conducted at Camp Rogers and Camp Darby at Fort Benning, Georgia and is conducted by the 4th Ranger Training Battalion.

The “Benning Phase” is the “crawl” phase of Ranger School, where students learn the fundamentals of squad-level mission planning.

It is “designed to assess a Soldier’s physical stamina, mental toughness, leadership abilities, and establishes the tactical fundamentals required for follow-on phases of Ranger School”.

In this phase, training is separated into two parts, the Ranger Assessment Phase (RAP) and Squad Combat Operations.

The Ranger Assessment Phase is conducted at Camp Rogers. As of April 2011, it encompasses Days 1–3 of training. Historically, it accounts for 60% of students who fail to graduate Ranger School. Events include:

- Ranger Physical Fitness Test (RPFT) requiring the following minimums:
- Push-ups: 49 (in 2 minutes, graded strictly for perfect form)
- Sit-ups: 59 (in 2 minutes)
- Chin-ups: 6 (performed from a dead hang with no lower body movement)
- 8 kilometre individual run in 40 minutes or less over a course with gently rolling terrain
- Combat Water Survival Test (no longer conducted as of 2010)
- Combat Water Survival Assessment, conducted at Victory Pond (previously called the Water Confidence Test). This test consists of three events that test the Ranger student’s ability to calmly overcome any fear of heights or water. Students must calmly walk across a log suspended ten metres above the pond, then transition to a rope crawl before plunging into the water. Each student must then jump into the pond and ditch their rifle and load-bearing equipment while submerged. Finally, each student climbs a ladder to the top of a seventy-foot tower and traverses down to the water on a pulley attached to a suspended cable, subsequently plunging into the pond. All of these tasks must be performed calmly without any type of safety harness. If a student fails to negotiate an obstacle (through fear, hesitation or by not completing it correctly) he or she is dropped from the course.
- Combination Night/Day land

navigation test – This has proven to be one of the more difficult events for students, as sending units fail to teach land navigation using a map and compass. Students are given a predetermined number of MGRS locations and begin testing approximately two hours prior to dawn. Flashlights, with red lens filters, may only be used for map referencing; the use of flashlight to navigate across terrain will result in an immediate dismissal from the school. Later in the course, Ranger students will be expected to conduct, and navigate, patrols at night without violating light discipline. The land navigation test instills this skill early in each student's mind, thus making the task second nature when graded patrolling begins.

- A three kilometre buddy run, followed by the Malvesti Field Obstacle Course, featuring the notorious “worm pit”: a shallow, muddy, 25-meter obstacle covered by knee-high barbed wire. The obstacle must be negotiated - usually several times - on one's back and belly.
- Demolitions training and airborne refresher training.
- Modern Army Combatives Program (MACP) training was removed as a part of a new POI at the start of 2009; it was reinstated with Class 06–10. The Combatives Program was spread over all phases and culminated with practical application in Swamp Phase. However, MACP has been removed from Ranger again, start-

ing with the Combatives Program in Mountains and Florida and followed by the removal of RAP week combatives in class 06–12.

- A 19 kilometre forced, individual ruck march with full gear on roads and trails surrounding Camp Rogers. This is the last test during RAP and is a pass/fail event. If the Ranger student fails to finish the march in under 3 hours, he or she is dropped from the course.

The emphasis at Camp Darby is on the instruction in and execution of Squad Combat Operations. The phase includes “fast paced instruction on troop leading procedures, principles of patrolling, demolitions, field craft, and basic battle drills focused towards squad ambush and reconnaissance missions”.

The Ranger student receives instruction on airborne/air assault operations, demolitions, environmental and “field craft” training, executes the infamous “Darby Queen” obstacle course, and learns the fundamentals of patrolling, warning and operations orders, and communications.

The fundamentals of combat operations include battle drills (React to Contact, Break Contact, React to Ambush, React to Indirect Fire, and Crossing a Danger Area), which are focused on providing the principles and techniques that enable the squad-level element to successfully conduct reconnaissance and ambush missions.

As a result, the Ranger student gains tactical and technical proficiency and confidence in themselves, and prepares to move to

the next phase of the course, the Mountain Phase.

Mountain phase

The second phase of Ranger School is conducted at the remote Camp Merrill near Dahlonega, Georgia by the 5th Ranger Training Battalion.

Here, “students receive instruction on military mountaineering tasks, mobility training, as well as techniques for employing a platoon for continuous combat patrol operations in a mountainous environment”.

Adding to the physical hardships endured in the Benning phase, in this phase “the stamina and commitment of the Ranger student is stressed to the maximum. At any time, he or she may be selected to lead tired, hungry, physically expended students to accomplish yet another combat patrol mission”.

The Ranger student continues learning how to sustain themselves and their subordinates in the mountains.

The rugged terrain, severe weather, hunger, mental and physical fatigue, and the psychological stress the student encounters allow them to measure their capabilities and limitations and those of their fellow soldiers.

In addition to combat operations, the student receives four days of military mountaineering training. The sequence of training has changed in past decades.

As of 2010, the training sequence is as follows. In the first two days students learn knots, belays, anchor points, rope management, mobility evacuation, and the fundamentals of climbing and abseiling.



PADDLE POWER: Students paddle their Combat Rubber Raiding Craft down a river to start their waterborne training mission.

The training ends in a two-day Upper mountaineering exercise at Yonah Mountain, to apply the skills learned during Lower mountaineering.

Each student must make all prescribed climbs at Mt. Yonah to continue in the course. During the field training exercise (FTX), students execute a mission requiring mountaineering skills.

Combat missions are against a conventionally equipped threat force in a Mid-Intensity Conflict. These missions are both day and night in a two part, four and five-day FTX, and include moving cross country over mountains, vehicle ambushes, raiding communications and mortar sites, river crossing, and scaling steeply sloped mountainous terrain.

The Ranger student reaches his objective in several ways: cross-country movement, parachuting into small drop zones, air assaults into small, mountain-side landing zones, or a 16 kilometre march across the Tennessee Valley Divide.

The student's commitment and physical-mental stamina are tested to the maximum. At the end of the Mountain Phase, the students travel by bus to a nearby airfield and conduct an airborne operation, parachuting into Swamp Phase. Non-airborne are transported to Eglin Air Force Base for the Swamp Phase.

Swamp phase

The third phase of Ranger School is conducted at Camp James E. Rudder (Auxiliary Field #6), Eglin Air Force Base, Florida by the 6th Ranger Training Battalion. According to the Ranger Training Brigade,

This phase focuses on the continued development of the Ranger student's combat arms functional skills. Students receive instruction on water-borne operations, small boat movements, and stream crossings upon arrival.

Practical exercises in extended platoon level operations executed in a coastal swamp environment test the Students' ability to

operate effectively under conditions of extreme mental and physical stress.

This training further develops the Students' ability to plan and lead small units during independent and coordinated airborne, air assault, small boat, and dismounted combat patrol operations in a low intensity combat environment against a well trained, sophisticated enemy.

The Swamp Phase continues the progressive, realistic OPFOR (opposing forces) scenario. As the scenario develops, the students receive “in-country” technique training that assists them in accomplishing the tactical missions later in the phase.

Technique training includes: small boat operations, expedient stream crossing techniques, and skills needed to survive and operate in a rainforest/swamp environment by learning how to deal with reptiles and how to determine the difference between venomous and non-venomous snakes.

Camp Rudder has specially trained reptile experts who teach the students to not fear the wildlife they encounter.

The Ranger students are updated on the scenario that eventually commits the unit to combat during techniques training. The 10-day FTX comprises “fast paced, highly stressful, challenging exercises in which the Students are evaluated on their ability to apply small unit tactics and techniques during the execution of raids, ambushes, movements to contact, and urban assaults to accomplish their assigned missions”.

The capstone of the course is

the extensively planned raid of the Atropian Liberation Front's (ALF) island stronghold. This small boat operation involves each platoon in the class, all working together on separate missions to take down the simulated cartel's final point of strength.

Afterwards, students who have met graduation requirements spend several days cleaning their weapons and equipment before returning to Fort Benning.

By then they have earned PX (Post Exchange) privileges, and access to a community centre where they can use a telephone, eat civilian food, and watch television. In years past, the "Gator Lounge" served this purpose, but it was destroyed by a fire in late 2005.

In the years since, a new "Gator Lounge" has been built, maintaining many of the features of the original.

Graduation is at Fort Benning. In an elaborate ceremony at Victory Pond, the black-and-gold Ranger Tab is pinned to the graduating soldier's left shoulder (usually by a relative, a respected RI, or soldier from the student's original unit). The Ranger Tab is permanently worn above the soldier's unit patch.

Desert phase

The Desert Phase was designed to instruct its students in Desert Warfare operations and basic survival in the deserts of the Middle East. John Lock describes the Desert Phase as follows.

The phase commenced with an in-flight rigging and airborne assault - or an air assault land-

ing by non-airborne personnel, onto an objective.

Following the mission, the students moved into a cantonment area. Remaining in garrison for five days, they then received classes on desert-survival techniques to include water procurement and water preservation.

Leadership responsibilities, standing operating procedures (SOPs), reconnaissance, and ambush techniques were also reviewed. Additional emphasis was placed on battle drills to include react to enemy contact, react to indirect fire, and react to near and far ambushes.

Drills on how to breach barbed and concertina wire with wire cutters and assault ladders were taught as were techniques on how to clear a trench line and how to assault a fortified bunker.

The remainder of the phase comprised patrolling during field training exercises—"reconnaissance, raid, or ambush missions". "The phase culminated with an airborne assault - with non-Airborne trucked - by the entire class on a joint objective."

Ranger School's initial evaluation of a Desert Phase was a cadre-lead patrol at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico in early 1971 called Arid Fox I.

In June 1971, the Ranger Training Brigade conducted Arid Fox II, the first student-led patrol. This was part of the brigade's continuing evaluation of the possibility of integrating a Desert Phase into the Ranger course.

The first students to undergo the Desert Phase were selected from Ranger Class 13-71 (class 13 in 1971). When the bulk of

the class went on to begin the Swamp phase, the airborne qualified members of Ranger Class 13-71 (Desert) donned MC1-1 parachutes, boarded a C-130 aircraft and parachuted into the White Sands Missile Range.

Upon formal integration into the Ranger Course, the Desert Phase was initially run by the Ranger School's 4th (Desert Ranger) Training Company stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas from 1983 to 1987.

When the Desert Phase was officially introduced, the length of Ranger School was lengthened to 65 days. At the outset, the Desert Phase was the last phase of the Ranger Course - following the Benning, Mountain and Swamp Phases, respectively.

In 1987, the unit was expanded into the 7th Ranger Training Battalion and moved to Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah.

In October 1991, the course was increased to sixty-eight days and the sequence was changed to Fort Benning, Desert (Fort Bliss, Texas), Mountain, and Florida.

In May 1995, the school underwent its most recent course change when the Desert phase was discontinued. The last Ranger School class to go through the Desert Phase was class 7-95.

The U.S. Army has not given up on small unit desert training. In 2015, the 1st Armoured Division created the Desert Warrior Course that focuses on honing combat tracking, night land navigation, live-fire drills, and a myriad of other tasks.

Leadership positions

A student's graduation is



highly dependent on their performance in graded positions of leadership.

This leadership ability is evaluated at various levels in various situations, and is observed while he or she is in one of typically two graded leadership roles per phase.

The student can either meet the high standards and be given a "GO" by the R.I., or can fail to meet this standard and receive a "NO GO".

The student must demonstrate the ability to meet the standard in order to move forward, and can thus only afford one unsuccessful patrol.

The student's success will lie in his ability to essentially manipulate those directly underneath their charge of leadership. At times, this will be as few as two to three people - and at other times the student may be required to lead up to an entire 45-person platoon. The student's success can be dependent on the performance and teamwork of these individuals, whom he or she must motivate and lead.

Missions are typically broken up into four stages: planning, movement, actions on the objective, and establishment of a

patrol base.

The Platoon Leader position (in Mountains and Florida) will be rotated throughout the mission, and the same is true for the platoon sergeant position.

The squad leader position is on a 24-hour rotation which is the same for all of the ungraded key leadership positions: Medic, Forward Observer (FO) and Radio Telephone Operator (RTO).

Peer evaluations

Another part of the evaluation of the student is a peer evaluation; failing a peer evaluation (scoring less than a 60% approval rating from your squad) can result in disqualification, though usually only if it happens twice.

Due to unit loyalties, certain individuals within a squad who may be "the odd one out" will sometimes be singled out by the squad arbitrarily.

Because of this, someone who has been "peered out" or "peered," will be moved to another squad, sometimes within another platoon, in order to ensure that this was not the reason the student was peered.

If it happens within this new squad, however, this is taken as an indication that student is being singled out because he or she is either lazy, incompetent, or cannot keep up. At this time the student will usually be removed from the course.

Recycling

If a student performs successfully, but suffers an injury that keeps him from finishing, he or she may be medically recycled (med recycle) at the discretion of either the battalion or the Ranger Training Brigade command-

er; the student will be given an opportunity to heal and finish the course with the next class.

Students recycled in the first phase are temporarily assigned to Vaughn's Platoon (informally known as the "Gulag" to Ranger students).

Recycled students typically receive classes on Ranger School tasks and perform a variety of general tasks for their respective Ranger Training Battalion.

While marking time at Ranger School is not always pleasant, those who have been recycled typically perform well when reinserted back into the course, with pass rates well over 80%.

Students can also be recycled for a variety of other reasons, including failing their patrol evaluations, peer evaluation, collecting three or more bad spot reports in a phase, or receiving a Serious Observation Report (SOR).

Students may receive SORs for actions including, but not limited to, negligent discharges, safety violations involving demolitions or mountaineering, not looking through their sights while firing, or throwing away ammunition to lighten their load while on patrol.

If a student fails a phase twice for the same reason (patrols, peers, etc.) he or she will usually be dropped from the course, but may possibly be offered a "day one restart," and will restart on Day 1 of the next Ranger School class.

In rare cases, those assessed of honour violations (lying, cheating, stealing) and SORs may be offered a day one restart as opposed to being dropped from the course.

Up, two, three, down

Most of you that served in the military will remember the above as the count for saluting. Yet where did it come from, and why do some forces salute differently?

There is still some debate as to where the salute originated. Some say that it was from the Romans, while others claim it was from medieval knights.

Whichever theory you follow one thing is for certain. The salute has been a part of the military for a long time.

We do know that the Roman Legion did have a salute. It was known as *saluto romano* (Figure 1), a gesture in which the arm was fully extended, facing forward, with palm down and fingers touching.

It was a gesture to show that you were unarmed. A Roman Legionnaire would hold his *scutum* (shield) in his left hand and his *gladius* (sword) in his right.

Yet the Roman Legion also used another salute (Figure 2) where the hand was made into a fist and raised to the chest with a straight arm.



Figure 1

The modern day salute as we know it probably originated from medieval knights.

When they weren't busy fighting each other it was popular to hold tournaments and one of the most popular events at these tournaments was jousting.

Before a joust began the two knights would slowly ride towards each other and, as they passed, would raise the visor of their helmet (Figure 3).

It was viewed as a greeting, a mark of respect, and to show their opponent exactly who it was they were competing against.

In the British Army a troop or non-commissioned officer would use his right hand to remove his hat as a mark of respect for an officer.

As headgear became larger and more cumbersome, as well as to save on wear and tear, the hat was not removed. The person would merely raise his right hand to his headgear. This would later go on to become the British Army salute that we know today.

British Army

Since 1917, the British Army's salute (Figure 4) has been given with the right hand palm facing forwards with the fingers almost touching the cap or beret.

Before 1917, for Other Ranks (i.e. not officers) the salute was given with whichever hand was furthest from the person being



Figure 2

saluted, whether that was the right or the left. Officers always saluted with the right hand (as the left, in theory, would always be required to hold the scabbard of their sword).

The salute is given to acknowledge the Queen's commission. A salute may not be given unless a soldier is wearing his regimental headdress, for example a beret, caubeen, Tam o' Shanter, Glengarry, field service cap or peaked cap.

This does not apply to members of The Blues and Royals (RHG/1stD) The Household Cavalry who, after The Battle of Warburg were allowed to salute without headdress. If a soldier or officer is not wearing headdress then he or she must come to attention instead of giving/returning the salute. The



Figure 3

subordinate salutes first and maintains the salute until the superior has responded in kind.

Royal Air Force / Royal Marines

Both the Royal Air Force and the Royal Marines follow the British Army and salute with the right hand palm facing forward.

Royal Navy

The Naval salute (Figure 5) differs in that the palm of the hand faces down towards the shoulder. This dates back to the days of sailing ships, when tar and pitch were used to seal a ship's timbers from seawater. To protect their hands, officers wore white gloves and it was considered most undignified to present a dirty palm in the salute, so the hand was turned through 90 degrees.

A common story is that Queen Victoria, having been saluted by an individual with a dirty palm, decreed that in future sailors of the fleet would salute palm down, with the palm facing the ground.

American Military

Within United States' military, the salute (Figure 6) is a courteous exchange of greetings, with the junior member always saluting first. When returning or rendering an individual salute, the head and eyes are turned toward the Colours or person saluted. Military personnel in uniform are required to salute when they meet and recognize persons entitled to a salute, except when it is inappropriate or impractical (in public conveyances such as planes and buses, in public places such as inside theatres, or when driving a vehicle).

It is believed that the U.S. military salute was influenced by British military, although differs slightly, in that the palm



Figure 4

of the hand faces down towards the shoulder. This difference may date back to the days of sailing ships, when tar and pitch were used to seal the timber from seawater. During such times, it was considered undignified to present a dirty palm in the salute, so the hand was turned through 90 degrees.

The United States Army and United States Air Force give salutes both covered and uncovered, but saluting indoors is forbidden except when formally reporting to a superior officer or during an indoor ceremony. It should be noted that when outdoors, headgear is to be worn at all times when wearing Battle Dress Uniforms/Army Combat Uniforms, but is not required when wearing physical training (PT) gear.

Italian Military

In 1919 the Italian Fascist Party adopted a military salute that was the same as that used by the Roman Legion (*saluto romano*).

These days the Italian Army (*Esercito Italiano*), Italian Air Force (*Aeronautica Militare*), and Italian Navy (*Marina Militare*) use the same salute as that of the American military.

German Military

From 1935 to 1945 the Nazi salute (Figure 7) was used by all civilians and also by the members of the Nazi Party and the *Schutzstaffel* (SS). Hitler himself admitted that the salute was based on the Italian fascist salute.

It was, however, optional for members of the *Wehr-*



Figure 5

Danish Military

In the Danish military, there are two types of military salutes. The first type is employed by the Royal Danish Navy, Royal Danish Air Force, and Guard Hussar Regiment Mounted Squadron, and is the same as the one used by the U.S.

The second is employed by the Royal Danish Army (Figure 8), and goes as follows: Raise the right arm forward, as to have upper arm 90 degrees from the body. Move the right hand to the temple, and have it parallel to the ground.

Israel Defence Force

The Israeli salute is similar to that of the American military. Saluting is normally reserved for special ceremonies.

Unlike most countries, the Israelis do not salute on a day-to-day basis.

Russian Military

The Russian military salute is similar to that used by the American military.

Indian Military

In India, the three forces have different salutes with the Indian



Figure 6

macht (Defence Force). Most members of the *Heer* (Army), *Luftwaffe* (Air Force), *Kriegsmarine* (Navy), and even the *Waffen-SS* (Armed SS) used the traditional military salute, similar to that of the British Army.

After the failed assassination attempt on Hitler on 20 July 1944 it became compulsory for everyone to use the Nazi salute.

In the modern German *Bundeswehr*, the salute is performed with a flat hand, with the thumb resting on the index finger. The hand is slightly tilted to the front so that the thumb can not be seen. The upper arm is horizontal and the fingers point to the temple but do not touch it or the headgear.

Every soldier saluting another uniformed soldier is entitled to be saluted in return. Soldiers below the rank of *Feldwebel* are not permitted to speak while saluting. Since the creation of the *Bundeswehr*, soldiers are required to salute with and without headgear.

French Military

The French salute is similar to that of the British Army. Salutes are not performed if a member is not wearing a headdress or if he is holding a weapon.



Figure 7

Army and the Indian Navy following the British tradition.

In the Indian army, the salute is performed by keeping the open palm forward, with fingers and thumb together and middle finger almost touching the hat-band or right eyebrow.

This is often accompanied by the regimental salutation, e.g.: "Sat Sri Akal" in the Sikh Regiment. The Navy salute has the palm facing towards the ground at a 90-degree angle.

The Indian Air Force salute involves the right arm being sharply raised from the front by the shortest possible way, with the plane of the palm at 45-degree angle to the forehead.

Polish Military

In Polish military forces, military men use two fingers to salute (Figure 9). These fingers are pointing to the Polish Eagle on the headgear.

During World War II, when the Poles were fighting alongside the British, they were obliged to use the British salute.

The Brits thought the salute disrespectful and that it was too similar to that of the Cub Scouts.

Indonesia

In Indonesia, the salute is sim-



Figure 8

ilar to the British Royal Navy.

The salute is a gesture that every person must know and is commonly used for the flag raising ceremony.

It is a very common gesture amongst every part of the country, starting from school to military, police, firefighters, and even scouts (using five fingers, contrary to other countries).

In the military, this gesture is known as Present Arms or in

Indonesian: *Hormat Senjata, Gerak* (with weapons) or *Hormat, Gerak* (without weapons).

SADF

The South African Defence Force used a salute that was based on that of the British Army.

At first the arm would take the longest way up and the longest way down. This was later changed to longest way up, shortest way down.

Eventually it was shortest way up, shortest way down.

The South African Navy, however, used the same salute as that of the Royal Navy.

SANDF

The South African National Defence force now use a salute that is similar to that of the American military.

The arm travels the short-



Figure 9

est way up an the shortest way down.

Others

Many non-military organisations have their own salutes. These include police forces, paramilitary forces, and military veteran's organisations.

So I guess it's safe to say that the salute is here to stay.

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

The USS Gerald Ford is the largest and most advanced aircraft carrier, a ground-breaking ship the likes of which has never been seen in human history. Over 337 metres in length, 76 metres high and displacing 100,000 tons, it is the largest warship ever built by man.

There are those that claim that it is unsinkable. But is it really? And, if not, what would it take to sink the USS Gerald Ford?

On the morning of 7 April 1945 the Japanese battleship Yamato steamed towards the American task force invading Okinawa. The largest battleship ever built, the Yamato was the most feared ship in the world at

that time. With 46 cm guns that could launch shells up to a distance of 42 kilometres, Japan had spared no expense in its construction. It was armed with nine 46 cm Type 94 guns, each capable of firing high explosive and armour-piercing shells. It also had six 15.5 cm 3rd Year Type guns, 24 x 127 mm Type 89 guns, 162 x 25 mm Type 96 anti-aircraft guns, and four 13.2 mm Type 93 guns. In short the Yamato packed enough firepower to engage two or three American battleships at the same time.

Yet once spotted by American reconnaissance aircraft on that April morning its fate was sealed.

By the end of the day the Yamato lay at the bottom of the sea, the victim of an attack by 280 American bomber and torpedo bomber aircraft.

From the first attack at 12:37 to the time she exploded at 14:23, Yamato was hit by at least 11 torpedoes and six bombs. There may have been two more torpedo and bomb hits, but this is not confirmed.

Yamato never even got close enough to the American task force to fire at them.

The USS Gerald Ford has drawn many comparisons to the Yamato from sceptical defence experts. Battleships were powerful and feared weapons of war and none more so than the

Yamato. But they were already being made obsolete by the time the Yamato was in full operation. So to the sceptics fear that the aircraft carrier is even now close to becoming obsolete.

And with a further ten Ford-class carriers being planned, and at US\$13 billion price tag, if the sceptics are right the USS Gerald Ford and her sister ships could end up being a costly mistake for the United States.

But why do people fear that the aircraft carrier is nearly obsolete? The first answer to that question comes from the evolution of the long-range missile.

In World War II aircraft carriers reigned supreme. They had the ability to project firepower

out of range of even the biggest battleship's guns, rendering them all but obsolete. A lesson the Yamato learnt the hard way. Nowadays missiles threaten to out-range the aircraft carrier, with modern missiles boasting the ability to travel hundreds or even thousands of kilometres while moving at hypersonic speeds.

The second threat to the modern aircraft carrier comes from co-ordinated attacks by smaller surface vessels or drones. Imagine 20 or 30 small craft or drones

attacking at once. An aircraft carrier is a big and bulky ship.

It is feared that it could fall prey to masses of unmanned small craft loaded with explosives. Or aerial drones on a kamikaze mission to sink the carrier. ISIS have already employed remote-controlled aircraft loaded with explosives against the Russians in Syria.

While well protected against traditional naval or aerial attack an aircraft carrier is not well equipped to defend itself against hordes of small attackers. So could either of these tactics work? Just what would it take to sink the USS Gerald Ford?

For a long time the prima-

Unsinkable?

The largest warship ever built by man, there are those that claim that she is unsinkable. But is it really? And, if not, what would it take to sink the USS Gerald Ford?



ry threat to a carrier has come from submarines which, by their nature, are extremely difficult to detect and target. Yet the USS Gerald Ford has a speed of about 30 knots (56 km per hour) with a classified top speed.

This is already faster than most submarines. Any submarine trying to speed up to catch the Ford would generate a lot of noise and quickly be identified by the Ford's escort ships or numerous anti-submarine helicopters, each loaded with dipping sonar and depth charges.

Sceptics point back to 2006 when a single Chinese submarine surfaced in the middle of a carrier group while they were on an exercise, it's important to note that the carrier and her escort ships at the time were not actively looking for submarine threats. They had no reason too.

While this could have been a potential lethal vulnerability, a

Chinese submarine attacking an American carrier would have been tantamount to a declaration of war.

And during war or the build-up to a possible confrontation, the carrier and her escorts would have been actively looking for subs. This would make it difficult, if not downright impossible, for the sub to penetrate the entire battle group.

The second threat the Ford would face would be from Cruise missile attacks. Launched from extreme distances, most Cruise missiles are designed to fly low to the ocean on a pre-programmed track before popping up to engage their internal targeting radars and alter course for a hit.

By flying low the Cruise missile avoids radar detection. But as soon as it pops up to engage its radar and adjust its trajectory it would appear on every radar

in the Ford's battle group.

In that scenario the battle group's Aegis cruisers would co-ordinate the defence of the entire group by firing salvos of SM6 or RIM-116 RAM missiles to destroy incoming missiles. With two RIM-162 ESSM launchers installed on the Ford and dozens across the rest of the battle group, a Cruise missile would have to penetrate several layers of anti-missile defence, each extending out for kilometres.

Even if these defences somehow failed, each ship in the battle group is equipped with Phalanx CIWS chain guns capable of tracking incoming missiles and spitting out over 50 rounds per second. The Ford alone has three of these weapon turrets.

The best way to overcome the Ford's missile defences would be to launch a large volley of Cruise missiles.



USS Gerald R. Ford

But Cruise missiles have one fundamental weakness – they require a launch platform. Either a ship, submarine or aircraft.

With the Ford's 90 plus complement of aircraft and four E-2D Hawkeye early-warning radar planes the carrier can cast a protective bubble of surveillance hundreds of kilometres around the entire battle group.

Easily spotted, there simply exists no naval or air force in the world that could survive long enough to get within range of the Ford and its battle group.

Even during the Cold War Soviet military doctrine dictated the sacrifice of dozens of Tupolev Tu-22M Backfire bombers in kamikaze missions against American carrier battle groups.

Few, if any, were expected to survive the attempt to attack an American carrier and the US was so confident of their ability to defend their carriers that their own military doctrine dictated the wide spread use of carriers in a conflict against the Soviet Union.

Ballistic missiles prove a much bigger threat, however, as they can be launched from

thousands of kilometres away. This makes the launch platforms difficult, if not impossible, to neutralise early.

While typically used for delivering nuclear weapons to major cities, modern ballistic missiles such as those developed by China and Russia reportedly have the ability to alter their course on their decent trajectory. This means they could target a small moving target such as an aircraft carrier.

Yet while touting its arsenal of hundreds of Dong-Fend 26 Carrier-Killer missiles, these weapons require long and complex kill chains. They need to (a) spot a carrier, (b) identify the carrier, (c) track the carrier, and, (d) accurately target the carrier.

These links range from aerial platforms, tracking satellites, command and control centres down to the actual missile itself.

China has, to date, not shown the capability of mastering every link in this long and complicated chain. Nor has it shown the ability to defend these assets from attack, which would then disrupt its entire capability.

Even so, Ford's battle group is well equipped to defend itself against ballistic missiles, as shown by recent tests of the SM-6 missiles carried by the groups Aegis cruisers.

Though a saturation attack of dozens of missiles would have a good chance of overwhelming the carrier's defences, it is unlikely that China or Russia could protect the vital communications and tracking elements needed to guide those missiles in the first place, long enough to hit a fast-moving Ford carrier.

The last threat to the American Ford-class carriers comes from swarms of drones and speedboats laden with explosives.

Both of these attacks would require the carrier to be operating extremely close to hostile shores, something a Ford carrier would never do during war time.

A swarm of fast attack boats would probably not have the range to find and close with a carrier group on the open seas. Even if they did, they would have to face a gauntlet of helicopters and escort ships packed with 12.7 mm heavy machine guns.

Never ones to leave it up to chance however, American defence companies have already begun testing direct energy weapons and other similar systems to defend against just such threats.

The USS Gerald Ford is the first in the line of new Ford-class carriers. It was launched on 11 October 2013 and commissioned on 22 July 2017.

The next two Ford-class carriers, the USS John F. Kennedy and the USS Enterprise, will be commissioned in 2024 and 2027 respectively.

Is it possible to sink the USS Gerald Ford? Only time, and combat, will tell.

I just can't help thinking about another ship that they said was unsinkable. It was called the Titanic. You probably saw the movie.

Roomy

The more rearward position of the control tower allows more room on the flight deck for aircraft.

Sturdy

Critical areas of the vessel including the ammunition and fuel storage areas, have dynamic armour.

Stealthy

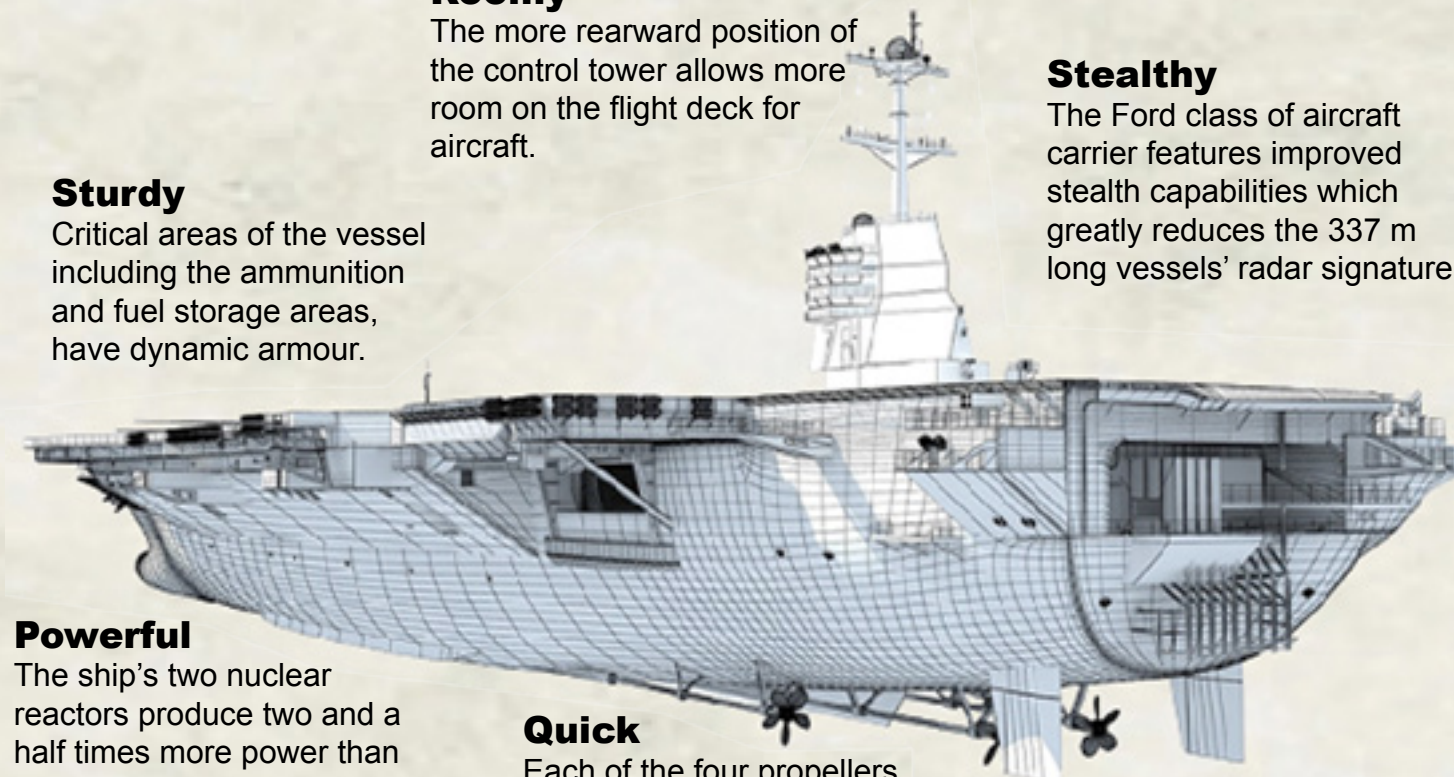
The Ford class of aircraft carrier features improved stealth capabilities which greatly reduces the 337 m long vessels' radar signature

Powerful

The ship's two nuclear reactors produce two and a half times more power than the previous Nimitz-class carriers.

Quick

Each of the four propellers measure seven metres in diameter. They allow for a top speed of 30 knots.



The Phantom B-17

In any major war there are always strange, unusual and sometimes unexplainable events that transpire. Most are quickly forgotten by history. Yet some are well documented, such as this one.

The date was 23 November, 1944. At a Royal Air Force airfield near Cortonburg in Belgium an anti-aircraft crew watched as an American Army Air Corps B-17 bomber approached the field.

The four-engine heavy bomber was so large and heavily armed that it was nicknamed the "Flying Fortress".

Although there were no landings scheduled for that day, the landing gear of the B-17 was down and it was coming in rather fast. The gun crew assumed that it was attempting to make an emergency landing.

The gun crew braced themselves as the massive aircraft came hurtling in towards a nearby open, plowed field.

During the landing one wing tip dug into the ground, causing the plane to come to a bouncing stop about 27 metres from one of the gunnery positions.

One of the propellers crumpled and stopped, while the other three kept working.

The plane sat there, yet no one emerged. About 20 minutes later John V. Crisp, an RAF officer arrived at the scene.

He entered the plane and apprehensively looked around. It soon became obvious to Crisp that there was no-one on board. There were, however, signs of recent occupation. After some trial and error, Crisp managed to shut the three engines down.

"I then went to the navigator's station," Crisp later wrote in his

report. "The bomber's log was lying open on the navigator's desk and written in the log were these last words - *Bad Flak*."

"During our search of the fuselage we found parachutes neatly wrapped, about twelve of them, and ready to clip on."

This only compounded the mystery and made the whereabouts of the crew even more inexplicable.

In the Perspex nose of the B-17, the Sperry bombsight remained totally intact, with its cover sitting neatly beside it.

Also on the navigator's desk was the daily code book. This provided the crew with identifying colours and letters of the day for communication purposes. In the fuselage there were several flying jackets with their distinctive fur collars, together with a few chocolate bars, partially eaten in some instances.

An inspection of the exterior of the aircraft showed no evidence of damage apart from what it had incurred in its rough landing, such as the buckled wing and one disabled engine.

The US 8th Air Force Service Command, headquartered in Belgium, sent a crew of service personnel to investigate.

On checking the bomber's serial number, they discovered that the B-17 belonged to the US 91st Bomber Group stationed in England. What was even more surprising was their discovery that the crew was already back at their base in England, all safe and sound.

The B-17 had been on a mission to the Merseburg oil targets, including the Leuna oil refinery.

The story told by the pilot and crew of the B-17 was intriguing. Their trouble started shortly before they reached their target.

The B-17 began to lose height and was unable to remain at the same altitude as the rest of the bomber formation. In addition, the bomb racks were malfunctioning.

The B-17 took a direct hit that knocked out #3 engine and another hit to the centre of the plane that caused a tremendous flash of light.

"We took a direct hit in the bomb bay," pilot Harold D. De Bolt said, "and for the life of me, I don't know why the bombs didn't blow up."

With one propeller twisted and bad weather approaching, DeBolt set a course back to their base in East Anglia, England.

When he realised that the B-17 was not going to make it home, he set a course for Brussels in Belgium.

He ordered the crew to begin ditching all loose equipment and supplies to lighten the weight of the aircraft.

It was at this time that the #2 engine stopped and the B-17 was now flying on only two engines. DeBolt ordered the crew to bail out. He put the plane on auto pilot and then he also bailed out.

The B-17 crew all landed safely and, it appeared, so did



FLYING FORTRESS: The four-engine American B-17 bomber.

their aircraft. Their theory put forward by DeBolt and his crew was that the engine trouble had cleared up once they had jumped. The plane, flying on three engines, had then slowly lost height until it came down.

This was all very interesting information, but it still did nothing to explain some of the odd details.

First of all, why did the gun crew report that all four engines were working when the bomber had approached. They reported that one engine had been damaged during the landing.

If the #2 engine had been hit by enemy anti aircraft fire there was little chance of it suddenly starting up again later.

The gun crew also reported that they had seen no damage to the bomber when it made its approach. When John V. Crisp examined the plane later, he also reported that the exterior had no damage apart from the crumpled wing which had been caused during the landing.

Another puzzling fact was the parachutes. The B-17 carried a crew of 10 - pilot, co-pilot, navigator, bombardier/nose gunner, flight engineer/top turret gun-

ner, radio operator, ball turret gunner, tail gunner, and two waist gunners. If they had all bailed out, why were there still 10 to 12 parachutes on board?

The gun crew had also reported that when the plane approached the landing gear was down. This fact was confirmed by John V. Crisp. In fact the landing gear had remained intact on landing. So who exactly lowered the landing gear?

Perhaps the biggest mystery was how the B-17 could have come to a landing mostly intact, without a pilot. Sure, it could fly straight and level on autopilot, but landing is something very different.

A pilotless B-17 landing by itself with no one on board was totally unprecedented, and one would expect it to have careened into the ground to crash into a ball of fire and debris, or at least ended up a heap of twisted wreckage, so how could this happen?

As far as the parachutes went, DeBolt surmised that John V. Crisp had possibly mistaken some spare parachutes as the full compliment.

With regards to the lack of

any apparent visible damage from enemy fire, it has been suggested that this could have just been simply due to the untrained eyes of the team that initially investigated the plane after it had landed.

They were after all a gunner crew, not trained aviators, and may have mistaken the damage reported by the B-17 crew as being from the crash. They simply might not have noticed that the aircraft had sustained battle damage, but then again they were anti-aircraft gunners and might have had some idea.

DeBolt could give no explanation as to how the landing gear had been lowered.

Maybe the two engines had cleared and restarted. Maybe John V. Crisp and the gun crew had been mistaken about the battle damage to the bomber. Maybe Crisp had thought that there were more parachute than there actually were. Maybe some malfunction had lowered the landing gear and locked it in place.

Maybe the bomber had lost height at exactly the right angle, allowing it to come in for a fairly smooth landing. And maybe, through pure blind chance, the bomber had come down right next to an airfield.

Yet it somehow feels that there are more questions than answers.

The Phantom Fortress is one of those wartime events which is sort of lost to history and faded from memory amongst the larger picture of the war, and shows that among all of the fighting and violence there are plenty of largely forgotten pieces of weirdness underlying these conflicts.

Senior Officer, Sea Cadets retires

Three cheers for Senior Officer Sea Cadets, Captain Ian Loubser. By Lt Cdr Anthony-Glenn von Zeil, SA Naval Reserves.

The Senior Officer Sea Cadets (SOSC), Captain Ian Loubser, recently handed over command of the South African Sea Cadets to Capt (SCC) Paul Jacobs.

A parade in his honour was arranged by Lt (SCC) Lisa Spencer, Commanding Officer TS Rook and included officers, adult instructors and Sea Cadets from Training Ship's in Gauteng and North West Province, namely TS Bounty, TS Rook and TS Springs.

The parade also served to present Long Service medals and certificates for 5, 10 and 20 years loyal service to the following officers:

- Lt Cdr (SCC) Wayne Partridge - 20 year medal.
- Lt (SCC) Lisa Spencer - 10 year medal.
- SLt (SCC) Wendy Cook - 10 year medal.
- SLt (SCC) Peter Holwill, Ens (SCC) Colin Harris and Ens (SCC) Shaughn Fray - 5 year certificates.

Capt Loubser started his Sea Cadet journey at TS Immortelle, Johannesburg in February 1981 where he served as a Staff Instructor until appointed as a Midshipman on 1 April 1984.

He advanced through the ranks by completing the theory, task books as well as practical application.

During his 40 years of involve-

ment with the Sea Cadets he held various positions from being the Commanding Officer TS Immortelle in Johannesburg to the Gauteng Area Officer. In addition, he has also held the position of National Logistics Officer and Corps Training Officer before being appointment the Corps Executive Officer and finally as Senior Officer Sea Cadets.

He will continue to contribute to the Sea Cadets as the Executive Director of the Sea Cadet Company and continue to share his vast experience with junior officers.

The Captain retired from ABSA bank after 37 years. He is married to Karen, have two daughters and a grandson, all of whom have fully supported him throughout his career at ABSA and the Sea Cadets.

Capt Loubser expressed his "appreciation for the support of his wife and family as without them he would not have been able to contribute to youth development in South Africa."

He indicated that the following are the a few of the highlights of his Sea Cadet career over the past 40 years:

"Firstly, meeting and working with young Sea Cadets for over 40 years and watching their progress through the Corps, fulfilling their dreams in following a career and develop into mature, thoughtful citizens.

The appointment as the SOSC in 2012 with the rank of Captain was a defining moment.

Being nominated to attend an international exchange in Nagoya, Japan as SOSC in 1999, which was the first time I travelled internationally accompanied by two Sea Cadets, one from South Africa and one from Zimbabwe. During that visit we met Officers and Sea Cadets from nine other countries.

Finally, my retirement "gift" the appointment as the Executive Director in 2021 completed all my Sea Cadet promotional dreams.

Words of wisdom from Capt Loubser:

"If there is at least one person you've helped in life, then your life has been worthwhile. The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. Your goal may be big, and at times, it may seem impossible and difficult. You will feel like you're failing and you're not getting anywhere. However, perseverance, belief, and conviction in those small steps that you're taking towards those goals is what you need to be confident about. Consistently follow your life mission, one step at a time, no matter how small the step may be." - Capt Ian Loubser (Ret)

Bravo Zulu and three cheers for Capt Ian Loubser ! May others follow in your footsteps and



BACK FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Lieutenant Commander (SCC) Wayne Partridge, Area Officer Gauteng (20 year medal), Ensign (SCC) Colin Harris (5 year certificate), Captain (SCC) Ian Loubser, Sub Lieutenant (SCC) Peter Holwill, Officer in Charge TS Bounty (5 year certificate). Front left to right: Lieutenant (SCC) Lisa Spencer, Commanding Officer TS Rook (10 year medal), Sub Lieutenant (SCC) Wendy Cooke (10 year medal).

make a positive change by empowering South African youth.

Additional information

The South African Sea Cadets require suitable adult Instructors and Officers to ensure that the Training Ships function effectively and that new Training Ships can be added to the fleet.

Should anyone wish to explore this further please contact Capt (SCC) Paul Jacobs via sosc@seacadets.co.za.



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.

Miracle of the skies

A mid-air collision over Tunis left an American B-17 bomber almost torn in half. Yet by some miracle it completed its bombing mission and returned home to its base.

In 1943 a mid-air collision on February 1, 1943, between a B-17 Flying Fortress and a German fighter over the Tunis dock area, Became the subject of one of the most famous photographs of WW II.

An enemy single-engine Messerschmitt Bf 109G fighter attacking a 97th Bomb Group formation went out of control, probably with a wounded pilot, then continued its crashing descent into the rear of the fuselage of a B-17 Flying Fortress named "All American", Piloted by Lt. Kendrick R. Bragg, of the 414th Bomb Squadron.

When it struck, the fighter broke apart, but left some pieces in the B-17. The left horizontal stabilizer of the Fortress and left elevator were completely torn away.

The two right engines were out and one on the left had a serious oil pump leak. The vertical fin and the rudder had been damaged, the fuselage had been cut almost completely through. It was connected only at two small parts of the frame, and the radios, electrical and oxygen systems were damaged.

There was also a hole in the top that was over five metres long and 1,2 metres wide at its widest; the split in the fuselage went all the way to the top gunner's turret.

Although the tail actually bounced and swayed in the wind And twisted when the

plane turned and all the control cables were severed, except for one single elevator cable that still worked, the aircraft miraculously still flew!

The tail gunner was trapped because there was no floor connecting the tail to the rest of the plane. The waist and tail gunners used parts of the German fighter and their own parachute harnesses in an attempt to keep the tail from ripping off and the two sides of the fuselage from splitting apart.

While the crew was trying to keep the bomber from coming apart, the pilot continued on his bomb run and released his bombs over the target.

When the bomb bay doors were opened, the wind turbulence was so great that it blew one of the waist gunners into the broken tail section.

It took several minutes and four crew members to pass him ropes from parachutes and haul him back into the forward

part of the plane.

When they tried to do the same for the tail gunner, the tail began flapping so hard that it began to break off. The weight of the gunner was adding some stability to the tail section, so he went back to his position.

The turn back toward England had to be very slow to keep the tail from twisting off. They actually covered almost 113 kilometres to make the turn home.

The bomber was so badly damaged that it was losing altitude and speed and was soon alone in the sky. For a brief time, two more Me-109 German fighters attacked the All American.

Despite the extensive damage, all of the machine gunners were able to respond to these attacks and soon drove off the fighters.

The two waist gunners stood up with their heads sticking out through the hole in the top



LUCKY TO BE ALIVE: A closer view of the extensive damage caused by the mid-air collision.



HOW IS IT STILL FLYING? The B-17 bomber, *All American*, limps back towards its base at Biskra Airfield, Algeria.. This photograph was taken by an escorting P-51 fighter.

of the fuselage to aim and fire their machine guns. The tail gunner had to shoot in short bursts because the recoil was actually causing the plane to turn.

Allied P-51 fighters intercepted the All American as it crossed over the water and took one of the pictures shown. They also radioed to the base describing that the appendage was waving like a fish tail and that the plane would not make it and to send out boats to rescue the crew when they bailed out.

The fighters stayed with the Fortress, taking hand signals from Lt. Bragg and relaying them to the base. Lt. Bragg signalled that five parachutes and the spare had been "used" So five of the crew could not bail out.

He made the decision that if they could not bail out safely, then he would stay with the

plane to land it.

Two and a half hours after being hit, the aircraft made its final turn to line up with the runway while it was still over 64 kilometres away. It descended into an emergency landing and a normal roll-out on its landing gear.

When the ambulance pulled alongside, it was waved off because not a single member of the crew had been injured.

No one could believe that the aircraft could still fly in such a condition. The Fortress sat placidly until the crew all exited through the door in the fuselage and the tail gunner had climbed down a ladder, at which time the entire rear section of the aircraft collapsed.

This old bird had done its job and brought the entire crew home uninjured.

Boeing B-17F-5-BO Flying Fortress All American III Crew List

Pilot

Ken Bragg Jr.

Co-pilot

G Boyd Jr.

Navigator

Harry C. Nuessle

Bombardier

Ralph Burbridge

Engineer

Joe C. James

Radio Operator

Paul A. Galloway

Ball Turret Gunner

Elton Conda

Waist Gunner

Michael Zuk

Tail Gunner

Sam T. Sarpolus

Ground Crew Chief

Hank Hyland

Disabled? According to you maybe

It takes a certain mettle to go into battle. Especially if you suffer from what some would call a disability. These five people, however, never saw themselves as disabled.

Battle has always been regarded as one of the true tests of manhood. It is also said that when faced with hardship or danger a person's true character will be revealed.

If that is the case then these five people passed the test with flying colours. Not only did they face challenges head-on, they did so while suffering with what most people would regard as a physical disability.

The first person on the list is probably the most well known of them. His name was Douglas Bader.

Douglas Bader

Group Captain Sir Douglas Robert Stuart Bader, CBE, DSO & Bar, DFC & Bar, was a Royal Air Force (RAF) flying ace during World War II. He was credited with 22 aerial victories, four shared victories, six probables, one shared probable and 11 enemy aircraft damaged. All of this was achieved after he had lost both of his legs.

Bader was born on 21 February 1910. In 1928 he joined the RAF as an officer cadet at the Royal Air Force College in Cranwell.

In September 1928 he took his first flight with an instructor and after just 11 hours and 15 minutes, he flew his first solo flight

on 19 February 1929.

On 26 July 1930 Bader was commissioned as a pilot officer into No. 23 Squadron RAF based at Kenley, Surrey.

Bader became a daredevil while flying there, often flying illegal and dangerous stunts. Strict orders were issued forbidding unauthorised aerobatics but Bader took this as an unnecessary safety rule rather than an order to be obeyed.

On 14 December 1931 Bader was attempting some low-flying aerobatics when the tip of his wing touched the ground and he crashed.

He was rushed to hospital where both of his legs - one above and one below the knee - were amputated. In his logbook after the crash Bader wrote, "*Crashed slow-rolling near ground. Bad show.*"

After a long and painful convalescence Bader was given a new pair of artificial legs. He was determined that he was going to fly again.

He retook flight training, passed his check flights and then requested reactivation as a pilot. His request was turned down and, against his will, he was retired on medical grounds.

With World War II looming,



Douglas Bader

Bader again requested a posting in the RAF. The Central Flying School told Bader to report for flight tests on 18 October 1939.

On 27 November 1939, eight years after his accident, Bader flew solo again. After a refresher course on modern types of aircraft he was posted to No. 19 Squadron based at RAF Duxford near Cambridge.

In May 1940 he became a flight leader and later a flight commander of No. 222 Squadron RAF. He was promoted to flight lieutenant.

Bader took part in the Battle

of France and Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of Dunkirk.

On 28 June 1940 he was made acting squadron leader of No. 242 Squadron RAF. He took part in the Battle of Britain where he claimed a number of 'kills'.

On 18 March 1941, Bader was promoted to acting wing commander and became one of the first "wing leaders". Stationed at Tangmere with 145, 610 and 616 Squadrons under his command.

On 9 August 1941 while on patrol over France, Bader was shot down. While attempting to bail out of his damaged Spitfire one of his prosthetic legs was trapped in the cockpit. Part way out of the cockpit, Bader fell for some time before pulling his parachute. The leg's retaining strap snapped under the strain and he was pulled free.

The Germans treated Bader with great respect. He had lost his right prosthetic leg and Luftwaffe General Adolf Galland notified the British of his damaged leg and offered them safe passage to drop off a replacement.

While recovering in hospital Bader attempted to escape but he was recaptured. Over the next few years, Bader became a thorn in the side of the Germans. He made so many escape attempts that the Germans threatened to take his legs away.

He was finally dispatched to the "escape-proof" Colditz Castle Oflag IV-C on 18 August 1942, where he remained until 15 April 1945 when it was liberated by the First United States Army.

After the war Bader continued

to serve in the RAF. On 21 July 1946, he retired with the rank of group captain to take a job at Royal Dutch Shell. He became Managing Director of Shell Aircraft until he retired in 1969.

Bader campaigned vigorously for people with disabilities and set an example of how to overcome a disability. In June 1976, Bader was knighted for his services to disabled people.

Douglas Bader died of a heart attack on 5 September 1982. He was 72 years old. Among the many dignitaries and personalities at his funeral was Adolf Galland. Galland and Douglas Bader had shared a friendship that spanned more than 42 years since their first meeting in France.

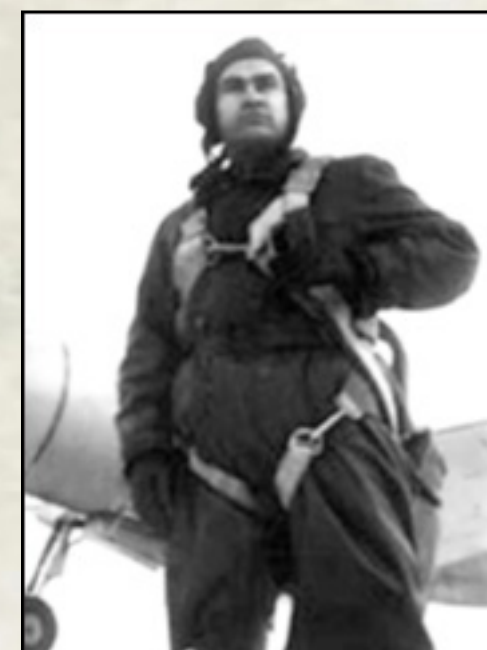
Alexey Maresyev

Alexey Petrovich Maresyev was a Soviet fighter ace during World War II. Like Douglas Bader, he lost both of his legs.

He was born in Kamyshin, Russia, on 20 May 1916. Before joining the army in 1937 Maresyev worked as a turner.

In 1940 he graduated from Bataysk Military School of Aviation. He began his flights as a fighter pilot in August 1941. He had shot down four German aircraft by March 1942, but on 4 April 1942 his Polikarpov I-16 was shot down near Staraya Russa and was nearly captured by Nazi forces.

Despite being badly injured, Alexey managed to return to the Soviet-controlled territory. During his 18-day-long journey his injuries deteriorated so badly that both of his legs had to be amputated below the knee. Desperate to return to his fighter pi-



Alexey Maresyev

lot career, he subjected himself to nearly a year of exercise to master the control of his prosthetic devices, and succeeded at that, returning to flying in June 1943.

During a dog fight in August 1943 he shot down three German Focke-Wulf Fw 190 fighters. In total, he completed 86 combat flights and shot down 11 German warplanes. He was awarded the Golden Star of the Hero of the Soviet Union, the highest military decoration of the USSR. In 1944 he joined the Communist Party and two years later retired from the army.

In 1952 Maresyev graduated from the Higher Party School. In 1956 he obtained a Ph.D. in History and started working in the Soviet War Veterans Committee. Eventually he became a member of the Supreme Soviet.

He died of a heart attack on 19 May 2001, just an hour ahead of his official 85th birthday celebration.

Colin Hodgkinson

Flight Lieutenant Colin Gerald Shaw Hodgkinson was a

Royal Air Force (RAF) pilot during World War II. He was given the nickname “The poor man’s Bader”.

He was born on 11 February 1920 in Wells, Somerset. In 1938, aged 18, he was accepted into the Fleet Air Arm to undergo pilot training as a Midshipman.

He carried out training aboard the aircraft carrier HMS Courageous in the De Havilland Tiger Moth. He had completed some 20 hours of flying, including solo flights.

On 12 May 1939 he was practicing blind flying at RAF Gravesend, with a hood over his head. At an altitude of 800 feet his Tiger Moth struck another aircraft and plummeted to the ground. The crash killed his trainer, and seriously injured Hodgkinson.

He was rushed to hospital, where his right leg was amputated above the knee and his left leg below the knee. He was transferred to the Royal Naval Hospital in Chatham to recover.

During this period he was introduced to Archibald McIndoe, who convinced him to join the “Guinea Pig Club” and have plastic surgery on his burned face.

By Christmas 1940, just over a year after his accident, he was walking on artificial limbs to such a standard that he was allowed back into the air. He subsequently joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and went on numerous flights, including as a rear gunner on a bomber.

Hodgkinson was determined to pilot aircraft again. He was sure he could emulate his fellow double-amputee Douglas



Colin Hodgkinson

Bader and fly Spitfires given the chance.

In September 1942 he successfully requested to transfer to the Royal Air Force as a Pilot Officer and took control of his first Spitfire by the end of the month. After training he was posted to No. 131 Squadron RAF.

Later in the year he was promoted to Flying Officer and posted to No. 611 Squadron RAF.

Hodgkinson was then posted to No. 501 Squadron RAF as Flight commander. In November 1943, during a high-altitude reconnaissance mission over France, his oxygen supply failed, causing him to crash land in a field.

He was dragged from his burning Spitfire by two farm workers, losing an artificial leg in the process. He was caught by the occupying forces and placed into the Prisoner-of-war camp, Stalag Luft III for the next 10 months, before being repatriated and deemed “no further use to his country”. He was again treat-

ed by McIndoe and he continued to fly until his release from service in 1946.

Three years later Hodgkinson re-joined the RAF as a Royal Auxiliary Air Force pilot with both No. 501 Squadron RAF and No. 604 Squadron RAF. This time converting to jet-engined aircraft and flying the De Havilland Vampire until the early 1950s.

After the war he worked in Public Relations and tried his hand at politics. In the 1955 General Election he stood as the Conservative Party candidate for South West Islington, ultimately losing to Labour.

In 1957 he published his autobiography, *Best Foot Forward*. He died on 13 September 1996, aged 76.

James MacLachlan

James Archibald Findlay MacLachlan DSO, DFC & Two Bars was a Royal Air Force (RAF) fighter pilot and flying ace of World War II.

He was born in Cheshire, England on 1 April 1919. In March 1937 at the age of 17 he joined the RAF. After completing flight training he was commissioned as an acting pilot officer on 3 May 1937.

In May 1940 he flew a Fairey Battle light bomber in the Battle of France and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC).

He then transferred to fighter school and during the Battle of Britain he served with No. 73 Squadron RAF and No. 145 Squadron RAF. In late 1940 he transferred to Malta in the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations and joined No. 261 Squadron



James MacLachlan

RAF.

MacLachlan was wounded in action on 16 February 1941. His arm was so severely damaged it was amputated, but he returned to operations in November 1941 with an artificial limb.

On 18 July 1943 the P-51 Mustang in which he was flying was hit by German flak or suffered engine failure and crashed over France. The Germans reported him as a prisoner of war but he died in a military hospital from his injuries. MacLachlan was awarded a second Bar to his DFC on 30 July 1943 in absentia.

From the skies we now turn our attention to the seas. Under the sea to be more precise. While this next person did not participate in combat, his achievements are noteworthy to say the least.

Carl Brashear

Carl Maxie Brashear was a United States Navy sailor. He was the first African American to become a U.S. Navy Master

Diver, rising to the position in 1970 despite having an amputated left leg.

He was born on 19 January 1931 in Sonora, Kentucky. Brashear enlisted in the U.S. Navy on 25 February 1948, shortly after the Navy had been desegregated by U.S. President Harry S. Truman.

He attended diving school in Bayonne, New Jersey where he faced hostility and racism. He graduated from the U.S. Navy Diving & Salvage School in 1954, becoming the first African-American to attend and graduate from the Diving & Salvage School and the first African-American U.S. Navy Diver.

Brashear first did work as a diver retrieving approximately 16,000 rounds of ammunition that fell off a barge which had broken in half and sunk to the bottom. On his first tour of shore duty in Quonset Point, Rhode Island, his duties included the salvaging of airplanes and recovering multiple dead bodies.

Brashear was assigned to escort the presidential yacht the Barbara Anne to Rhode Island. He met President Eisenhower and received a small knife that said, “To Carl M. Brashear. From Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1957. Many, many thanks.” After making chief in 1959 he stayed at Guam for three years doing mostly demolition dives.

In January 1966 a B28 nuclear bomb was lost off the coast of Palomares, Spain. Brashear was serving aboard USS Hoist when it was dispatched to find and recover the missing bomb for the Air Force.

The warhead was found after two and a half months of search-



Carl Brashear

ing. For his service in helping to retrieve the bomb, Brashear was later awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal – the highest Navy award for non-combat heroism.

During the bomb recovery operations on 23 March 1966, a line used for towing broke loose, causing a pipe to strike Brashear’s left leg below the knee, nearly shearing it off. It was later amputated.

He remained at the Naval Regional Medical Center in Portsmouth from May 1966 until March 1967 recovering and rehabilitating from the amputation.

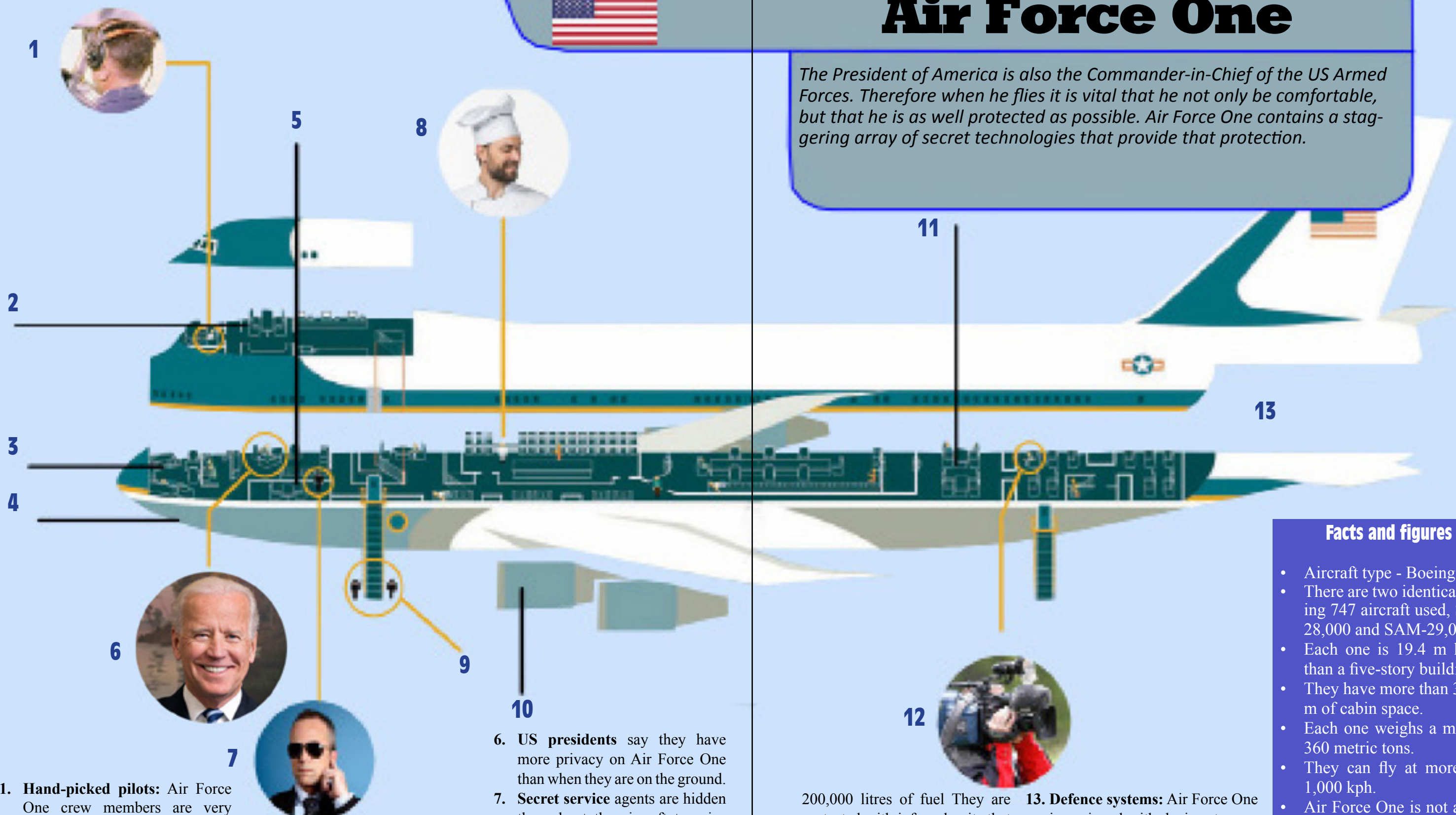
In April 1968, after a long struggle, Brashear was the first amputee diver to be (re)certified as a U.S. Navy diver. In 1970, he became the first African-American U.S. Navy Master Diver, and served nine more years beyond that, achieving the rating of Master Chief Boatswain’s Mate in 1971.

Carl Brashear died at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Portsmouth, Virginia, on 26 July 2006.

Air Force One



The President of America is also the Commander-in-Chief of the US Armed Forces. Therefore when he flies it is vital that he not only be comfortable, but that he is as well protected as possible. Air Force One contains a staggering array of secret technologies that provide that protection.



1. **Hand-picked pilots:** Air Force One crew members are very carefully selected. Each pilot is thoroughly checked to be sure he poses no security risk.
2. **The upper level** is the focus of Air Force One's highly sophisticated electronics. The communications centre is here, with connections for 87 telephones, dozens of radios and computers, and 19 TVs.
3. **The middle level** is the passenger area, with galleys, the medi-

4. **The lowest level** is the cargo space. It also contains large freezers, where food is stored for up to 2,000 meals.
5. **President's suite:** The president has his own personal suite of rooms, including a bedroom, gym, shower room, and office.

6. **US presidents** say they have more privacy on Air Force One than when they are on the ground.
7. **Secret service** agents are hidden throughout the aircraft to seize terrorists or would-be assassins should they manage to sneak on board.
8. **Hand picked chefs:** Kitchen staff can prepare up to 100 meals at once in two large galleys.
9. **Stairs:** Air Force One has its own retractable stairs at the front and rear.
10. **Fuel tanks and engines:** The fuel tanks can hold more than

200,000 litres of fuel They are protected with infrared units that can detect missiles and fire flares to intercept them.

11. **Personnel and Passengers:** Air Force One carries 70 passengers at the most, and has a crew of 26.
12. **The Media:** Reporters are allowed to travel on board so that the world gets the news directly from the source and have their own phones and computer terminal.

13. **Defence systems:** Air Force One is equipped with devices to provide maximum protection. These are the aircraft's most highly guarded secrets, but we know they include "electronic countermeasures" (ECMs), designed to jam enemy radar so that the plane effectively becomes invisible.

Facts and figures

- Aircraft type - Boeing 747.
- There are two identical Boeing 747 aircraft used, SAM-28,000 and SAM-29,000.
- Each one is 19.4 m higher than a five-story building.
- They have more than 370 sq m of cabin space.
- Each one weighs a massive 360 metric tons.
- They can fly at more than 1,000 kph.
- Air Force One is not an aircraft as such. It is a call sign. Any aircraft that the president is flying on automatically becomes Air Force One.
- Air Force One is always flown by US Air Force pilots.
- The president's helicopter is flown by US Marine pilots and is called Marine One.

Yom Kippur War - a few facts

On 6 October 1973, Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Israel. 6 October 1973 was also Yom Kippur - the Day of Atonement - the holiest day in the Jewish calendar.

Saturday 6 October 1973 was a special day for Jews around the world. It was *Yom Kippur*, the Day of Atonement, the holiest day of the year.

From sundown Yom Kippur eve, until nightfall the next day, Jews around the world pray in synagogue, repent, and refrain from eating and drinking.

In Israel, the roads are empty. The stores are closed. The airport is shuttered. Between 60-70% of Israeli Jews fast.

Basically, the country comes to a complete and utter standstill. It is the single most vulnerable day of the year.

That was the scene in Israel in the fall of 1973 when the war broke out, with sirens blaring across the country, catching the citizens of Israel off guard and unprepared.

It was a war that would last only two weeks and five days. It would involve no fewer than 18 countries and one which led to a near-confrontation between the two nuclear-armed superpowers.

It would be known as the Yom Kippur War, and also known as the Ramadan War, the October War, the 1973 Arab-Israeli War or the Fourth Arab-Israeli War.

The lead-up to war

In June 1967 Egypt and Syria were planning an invasion of Israel.

Unfortunately for them Israel knew that an invasion was imminent and decided to strike first - basically ending the war before it began.

The war lasted a mere six days and would become known as the Six-Day War.

Israel conquered East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, the Sinai Peninsula and the Golan Heights, tripling the size of the Jewish state in less than a week.

It had been a humiliating defeat for Egypt and Syria. Following that defeat, eight Arab heads of state convened at a summit in Sudan where they passed the Khartoum Resolution, known for its infamous three “No’s!”:

- No peace with Israel.
- No recognition of Israel.
- No negotiations with Israel.

Both Egyptian President Sadat and Syrian president Hafez Al-Assad felt their countries

had lost their honour and dignity with the defeat of 1967.

Now, six years later, they were planning on doing something about it.

Intelligence

Following the Six-Day War, Israel had become overconfident and filled with a false sense of security.

Not only did Israel have signs that war was on the horizon, but they had actual direct warnings.

Ten days before the start of the war, Golda Meir, Israel’s prime minister at the time was tipped off by none other than King Hussein of Jordan who informed her that Syria and Egypt were planning a war, but her senior commanders shrugged it off.

More over, the Israeli intelligence had a spy nicknamed

the “Angel” (whose real name was Ashraf Marwan) who was a close confidant of Sadat himself and the actual son in law of former Egyptian President Nasser. Yet this information about an attack inexplicably did not make it to Golda.

Just a few days before the war, the Israeli military got the sense that the Egyptian army deployed in the Sinai was not just carrying out normal military drills – but by the time Israelis took the warnings seriously it was too late.

Their false sense of security was about to come crashing down.

Strength

Once again, it was a war that saw Israel outnumbered. This was a situation that they were familiar with.

Israel was facing off against both Egypt and Syria, who in turn were aided by an Expeditionary Force consisting of

Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Jordan, Iraq, Libya, Kuwait, Tunisia, Morocco, Cuba and Sudan.

The strengths of the various countries involved were as follows:

Israel

- 375,000 - 415,000 troops
- 1,700 tanks
- 3,000 armoured carriers
- 945 artillery units
- 440 combat aircraft

Supported by

- United States of America

Egypt

- 650,000 - 800,000 troops
- 1,700 tanks
- 2,400 armoured carriers
- 1,120 artillery units
- 400 combat aircraft
- 140 helicopters
- 104 naval vessels
- 150 surface-to-air missile batteries

Syria

- 150,000 troops



- 1,200 tanks
- 800 - 900 armoured carriers
- 600 artillery units

Saudi Arabia

- 23,000 troops

Cuba

- 2 tank brigades (1,500 - 4,000 troops)

Morocco

- 5,500 troops
- 30 tanks
- 52 combat aircraft

Remaining Exp Force

- 120,000 troops
- 500 - 670 tanks
- 700 armoured carriers

Total

- 914,000 - 1,067,500 troops
- 3,430 - 3,600 tanks



- 3,900 - 4,000 armoured carriers
- 1,720 artillery units
- 452 combat aircraft
- 140 helicopters
- 104 naval vessels
- 150 surface-to-air missile batteries

Supported by

- Soviet Union
- East Germany
- North Korea
- Pakistan

The initial attacks

In the early morning hours of 6 October 1973, the day of Yom Kippur, Israeli intelligence became convinced that war was imminent. The nation's top leaders met before dawn and at 10:00 a total mobilization of the country's military was ordered.

Intelligence sources further indicated that attacks on Israel would begin at 06:00 p.m. However, both Egypt and Syria attacked Israeli positions in force at 14:00 p.m. The Middle East was suddenly plunged into a major war.

The timing backfired

Beginning the attack on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in Judaism, seemed like a diabolically clever strategy by the Egyptians and Syrians, yet it proved to be advantageous for the Israelis, as the nation was essentially shut down that day.

When the emergency call went out for reserve military units to report for duty, much of the manpower was at home or at synagogue and could report quickly. It was estimated that precious hours were thus saved during the mobilization for battle.

Breaching the Bar-Lev Line

The Israeli side of the Suez Canal was protected by the Bar-Lev Line, a string of fortifications that the Israelis believed was impenetrable.

On 6 October 1973 the fortifications were manned by a skeleton crew, as most of the troops had been given leave for Yom Kippur.

The Israelis had built large sand walls along their side of the Suez Canal that they believed would make it difficult, if not impossible, for troops and tanks to breach. The Egyptians used a novel technique to deal with this problem.

Water cannons purchased in Europe were mounted on armoured vehicles and used to blast holes in the sand walls, allowing columns of tanks to move through. Bridging equipment obtained from the Soviet Union enabled the Egyptians to move quickly across the Suez Canal and the Israelis were left reeling.

The war in the air

The assault began with air strikes against Israeli positions in the Sinai. The Israeli Air Force encountered serious problems while trying to attack the Egyptian forces.

A sophisticated surface-to-air missile system meant the Israeli pilots had to fly low to avoid the missiles, which put them in the range of conventional anti-aircraft fire. Heavy losses were inflicted on the Israeli pilots.

The Syrian Front

The attack from Syria began in the Golan Heights, a plateau on the border between Israel and Syria which Israeli forces



VICTORY: Egyptian troops raise the flag on top of one of the bunkers on the Bar-Lev Line after successfully crossing the Suez Canal.

had seized in the 1967 Six-Day War.

The Syrians opened the conflict with aerial attacks and intense artillery bombardments of Israel forward positions.

Three Syrian infantry divisions carried the attack, supported by hundreds of Syrian tanks.

Most Israeli positions, except for outposts on Mount Hermon, held. Israeli commanders recovered from the shock of the initial Syrian assaults. Armoured units, which had been positioned nearby, were sent into battle.

On the southern part of the Golan front, Syrian columns were able to break through. On Sunday 7 October 1973, the fighting along the front was intense. Both sides sustained heavy casualties.

The Israelis fought bravely against the Syrian advances, with tank battles breaking out. A heavy battle involving Israeli and Syrian tanks took place on Monday 8 October, and into the following day.

By Wednesday 10 October

the Israelis had managed to push the Syrians back to the 1967 ceasefire line.

Israeli defeat on the cards

The start of the war was especially grim as the Egyptians overwhelmed the Israelis, out-gunning them 40 to 1 in ammunition, backed up with 6 to 1 in manpower.

They rolled out 2,000 tanks to Israel's 268. In the north, 40,000 Syrian troops and 1,500 tanks stormed the Golan Heights, facing off against a mere 177 Israeli tanks.

With hundreds of soldiers dying per day, the fear of losing the war and the country became real for Israelis and their government.

The Israelis attempted a counter-attack against the Egyptians, and the first attempt failed. For a time it looked like the Israelis were in serious trouble and wouldn't be able to hold back the Egyptian assaults.

The situation was desperate enough that the United States, led at the time by Richard Nixon, was motivated to send help

to Israel.

Nixon's main foreign policy adviser, Henry Kissinger, became very involved in following developments in the war, and at Nixon's direction, a massive airlift of military equipment began to flow from America to Israel.

Counter-attack

On 11 October the Israelis mounted a counter-attack. After some debate among the nation's leaders, it was decided to fight beyond the old ceasefire line and invade Syria.

As the Israelis rolled across Syrian territory, an Iraqi tank force, which had arrived to fight alongside the Syrians, came onto the scene.

An Israeli commander saw the Iraqis moving across a plain and lured them into an attack. The Iraqis were battered by Israeli tanks and forced to withdraw, losing about 80 tanks.

Intense tank battles also occurred between Israeli and Syrian armoured units. Israel consolidated its positions within Syria, taking some high hills. And Mount Hermon, which the Syrians had captured during the initial assault, was retaken.

The battle of the Golan eventually ended with Israel holding high ground, which meant its long-range artillery could reach the outskirts of the Syrian capital, Damascus.

On the Egyptian Front, Israel launched a counter-attack by crossing the Suez Canal in the south and battling northward.

In the fighting that followed, the Egyptian Third Army was cut off from other Egyptian forces and surrounded by the Israelis.

The UN steps in

Two weeks later, Egypt was saved from a disastrous defeat by the UN Security Council, which had failed to act while the tide was in the Arabs' favour.

The Soviet Union showed no interest in initiating peacemaking efforts while it looked like the Arabs might win. The same was true for UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim.

On October 22, the Security Council adopted Resolution 338 calling for "all parties to the present fighting to cease all firing and terminate all military activity immediately."

The vote came on the day that Israeli forces cut off and isolated the Egyptian Third Army and were in a position to destroy it.

Casualties and loses

Israel

- 2,521 - 2,800 dead
- 7,250 - 8,800 wounded
- 293 captured
- 400 tanks destroyed, 663 damaged or captured
- 407 armoured vehicles destroyed or captured
- 102 - 387 aircraft destroyed

Egypt

- 5,000 - 15,000 dead
- 8,372 captured

Syria

- 3,000 - 3,500 dead
- 392 captured

Iraq

- 278 dead
- 898 wounded
- 13 captured

Cuba

- Unknown



CASUALTIES OF WAR: An Israeli tank passes an Egyptian vehicle that had been destroyed in the Sinai. Once the Israelis went on the counter-offensive the writing was on the wall.

Jordan

- 23 dead
- 77 wounded

Morocco

- 6 captured

Total casualties

- 8,000 - 18,500 dead
- 18,000 - 35,000 wounded
- 8,783 captured
- 2,250 - 2,300 tanks destroyed
- 341 - 514 aircraft destroyed
- 19 naval vessels sunk

Superpower involvement

One potentially dangerous aspect to the Yom Kippur War was that, in some ways, the conflict was a proxy for the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union. The Israelis were generally aligned with the U.S., and the Soviet Union supported both Egypt and Syria.

It was known that Israel possessed nuclear weapons (though its policy was never to admit that).

And there was a fear that Isra-

el, if pushed to the point, might use them. The Yom Kippur War, violent as it was, remained non-nuclear.

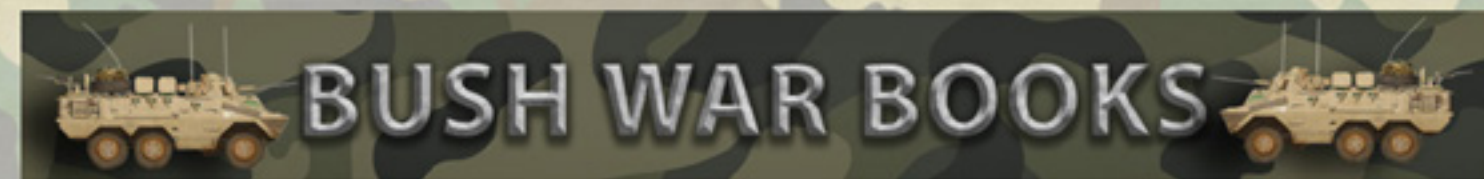
Legacy of the war

Following the war, the Israeli victory was tempered by the heavy casualties sustained in the fighting.

And Israeli leaders were questioned about the apparent lack of preparedness that allowed the Egyptian and Syrian forces to attack.

Though Egypt was essentially defeated, the early successes in the war enhanced the stature of President Anwar Sadat. Within a few years,

Sadat would visit Israel in an effort to make peace, and would eventually meet with Israeli leaders and President Jimmy Carter at Camp David to bring about the Camp David Accords.



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"

Weapons & Equipment of D-Day

This month we take a look at some of the weapons and equipment of D-Day.

On Tuesday 6 June 1944 the largest seaborne invasion force in history landed on an 80 km stretch of the Normandy coast in France.

Codenamed Operation Neptune, it was part of Operation Overlord, the liberation of German-occupied north-western Europe from Nazi control. It was also the launch of the long-awaited second front. It was simply termed D-Day.

More than 6,700 ships of all sizes were used in the landings. A total of 132,715 troops and 20,000 vehicles were eventually landed on the beaches.

There were five landing beaches, codenamed Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword.

Utah

The American units that landed on Utah were:

- VII Corps.
- 4th Infantry Division.
- 90th Infantry Division.
- 4th Cavalry Regiment.
- 70th Tank Battalion.

The German units defending the beach were:

- 91st Infantry Division.
- 6th Parachute Regiment (attached from the 2nd Parachute Division).
- Two battalions of the 919th Grenadier Regiment, part of the 709th Static Infantry Division.

American losses at Utah were 197 killed. The German losses are unknown.

Omaha

The American units that landed on Utah were:

- 1st Infantry Division.
- 29th Infantry Division.
- U.S. Army Rangers.

The German units defending the beach were:

- 352nd Infantry Division.
- 439th Ost-Battalion (Poles and Russians who had been conscripted to serve in the Wehrmacht).

American casualties at Utah were 2,000 - 5,000+. The German casualties were 1,200.

Gold

The British units that landed on Utah were:

- 50th Infantry Division.

- 8th Armoured Brigade.
- 56th Infantry Brigade.
- No. 47 Commando.

The German units defending the beach were:

- 352nd Infantry Division.
- 716th Static Division.

British casualties at Gold were 1,000 - 1,100. The German losses are unknown.

Juno

The Allied units that landed on Juno were:

- Canadian 3rd Infantry Division.
- Canadian 2nd Armoured Brigade.
- United Kingdom No. 48 (Royal Marine) Commando.

The German units defending the beach were:

- A Company of the 736th Grenadier Regiment.
- 21st Panzer Division.

Allied casualties at Juno were 914. The German losses are unknown.

Sword

The British units that landed on Utah were:

- 8th Brigade.
- 9th Brigade.
- 185th Brigade.
- 27th Armoured Brigade.
- 1st Special Service Brigade.
- 4th Special Service Brigade.

The German units defending the beach were:

- Eight companies of the 716th Infantry Division.
- 9,790 men of the 21st Panzer Division.

British casualties at Sword were 683. The German losses are unknown.

American Infantry Weapons



M1903 Springfield

- Designer: Springfield Armoury
- Designed: 1903
- Weight: 3.9 kg
- Length: 1,100 mm
- Cartridge: .30-03
- Action: Bolt action
- Rate of fire: 10–15 rounds/min
- Effective firing range: 910 metres
- Feed system: 5-round stripper clip.



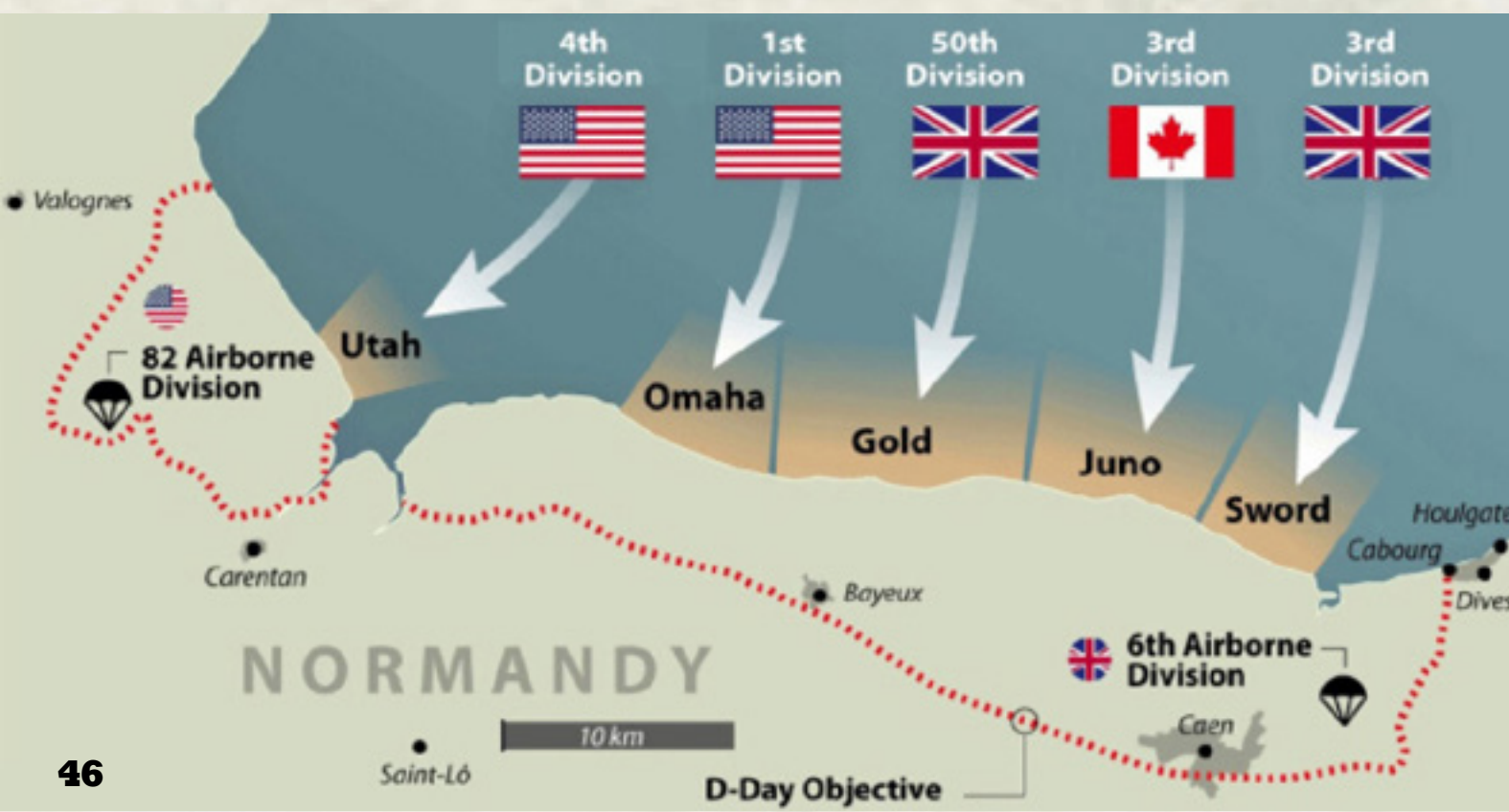
M1 Garand

- Designer: John C. Garand
- Designed: 1928
- Weight: 4.31 kg
- Length: 1,100 mm
- Cartridge: .30-06 Springfield
- Action: Gas-operated, rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: 40–50 rounds/min
- Effective firing range: 457 metres
- Feed system: 8-round en-bloc clip.



M1 Carbine

- Designer: Frederick L. Humeston
- Designed: 1938–1941
- Weight: 2.6 kg
- Length: 900 mm
- Cartridge: .30 Carbine
- Action: Gas-operated (short-stroke piston), rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic 750 rounds/min
- Effective firing range: 270 metres
- Feed system: 15- or 30-round detachable box magazine.





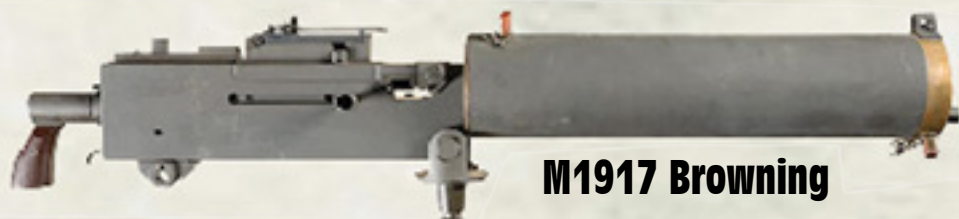
Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR)

- Designer: John Browning
- Designed: 1917
- Weight: 7.25 kg
- Length: 1,194 mm
- Cartridge: .30-06 Springfield
- Action: Gas-operated, rising bolt lock
- Rate of fire: 500–650 rounds/min
- Effective firing range: 91–1,372 metres
- Feed system: 20-round detachable box magazine.

The BAR was designed to be carried by infantrymen during an assault advance while supported by the sling over the shoulder, or to be fired from the hip. This is a concept called “walking fire” - thought to be necessary for the individual soldier during trench warfare. The BAR never entirely lived up to the original hopes of the war department as either a rifle or a machine gun.



Mk 2 grenade



M1917 Browning

- Designer: John Browning
- Designed: 1917
- Weight: 47 kg
- Length: 980 mm
- Cartridge: .30-06 Springfield
- Action: Recoil-operated automatic
- Rate of fire: 450 round/min
- Feed system: 250 round fabric belt.



M1919 Browning

- Designer: John Browning
- Designed: 1919
- Weight: 14 kg
- Length: 964 mm
- Cartridge: .30-06 Springfield
- Action: Recoil-operated/short-recoil operation
- Rate of fire: 400–600 round/min
- Effective firing range: 1,400 metres
- Feed system: 250-round belt

As a company or battalion support weapon, the M1919 required at least a two-man machine gun team. But, in practice, four men were normally involved: the gunner (who fired the gun and when advancing carried the tripod and box of ammo), the assistant gunner (who helped feed the gun and carried it, and box of spare parts and tools), and two ammunition carriers.



Thompson M1A1

The Thompson became infamous during the Prohibition era, being a signature weapon of various crime syndicates in the United States.

It was also known informally as the “Tommy Gun”, “Annihilator”, “Chicago Typewriter”, “Chicago Sub-machine”, “Chicago Piano”, “Chicago Style”, “Chicago Organ Grinder”, “Trench Broom”, “Trench Sweeper”, “Drum Gun”, “The Chopper”, and simply “The Thompson”.

- Designer: John T. Thompson
- Designed: 1917–1920
- Weight: 4.9 kg
- Length: 860 mm
- Cartridge: .45 ACP
- Action: Blowback, Blish Lock
- Rate of fire: Approx. 625 rpm
- Effective firing range: 150 metres
- Feed system: 20-round stick/box magazine



M3 'Grease Gun'

- Designer: George Hyde
- Designed: 1942
- Weight: 3.70 kg
- Length: 740 mm
- Cartridge: .45 ACP
- Action: Blowback, open bolt
- Rate of fire: Approx. 450 rounds/min
- Effective firing range: 91 metres
- Feed system: 30-round detachable box magazine

The M3 was intended as a replacement for the Thompson, and began to enter front line service in mid 1944. Due to delays caused by production issues and approved specification changes, the M3 saw limited combat use in World War II. The M3A1 variant was used in the Korean War and later conflicts.

The M3 was commonly referred to as the “Grease Gun” or simply “the Greaser,” owing to its visual similarity to the mechanic’s tool.



Colt M1911A1

- Designer: John Browning
- Designed: 1924
- Weight: 1,100 g
- Length: 210 mm
- Cartridge: .45 ACP
- Action: Short recoil operation
- Feed system: 7 round standard detachable box magazine

British Infantry Weapons



Lee Enfield Mk 4 No. 1

- Designer: James Paris Lee, RSAF Enfield
- Designed: 1904
- Weight: 4.19 kg
- Length: 1,129 mm
- Cartridge: .303 Mk VII SAA Ball
- Action: Bolt-action
- Rate of fire: 20–30 aimed shots per minute
- Effective firing range: 503 metres
- Feed system: 10-round magazine, loaded with 5-round charger clips

The WWI versions are often referred to as the “SMLE”, which is short for the common “Short Magazine Lee-Enfield” variant.

A redesign of the Lee–Metford (adopted by the British Army in 1888), the Lee–Enfield superseded the earlier Martini–Henry, Martini–Enfield, and Lee–Metford rifles.



Mills bomb



Bren gun

- Designed: 1935
- Weight: 10.35 kg
- Length: 1,156 mm
- Cartridge: .303 British
- Action: Gas-operated, tilting bolt
- Rate of fire: 500–520 rounds/min
- Effective firing range: 550 metres
- Feed system: 20-round L1A1 SLR magazine; 30-round detachable box magazine



Sten gun

- Designer: Major Reginald V. Shepherd, Harold J. Turpin
- Designed: 1940
- Weight: 3.2 kg
- Length: 762 mm
- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Action: Blowback-operated, open bolt
- Rate of fire: 500–600 rpm
- Effective firing range: 100 metres
- Feed system: 32-round detachable box magazine

STEN is an acronym, from the names of the weapon’s chief designers, Major Reginald V. Shepherd and Harold Turpin, and EN for Enfield. Over four million Stens in various versions were made in the 1940s.

They had a simple design and very low production cost, so they were also effective insurgency weapons for resistance groups.

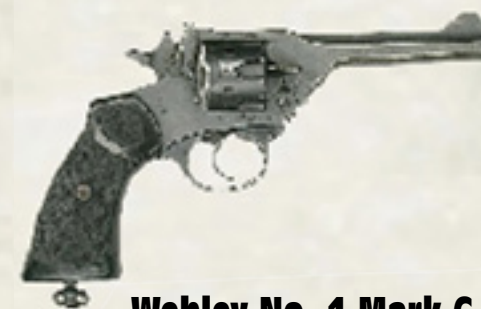
The machine gun typically required a six to eight-man team to operate: one fired, one fed the ammunition, the rest helped to carry the weapon, its ammunition, and spare parts. It was in service from before the First World War until the 1960s, with air-cooled versions of it on many Allied World War I fighter aircraft.

The weapon had a reputation for great solidity and reliability. During an action that took place in August 1916, during which the British 100th Company of the Machine Gun Corps fired their ten Vickers guns continuously for twelve hours. Using 100 barrels, they fired a million rounds without a failure.



Vickers

- Designed: 1912
- Weight: 15–23 kg
- Length: 1.12 m
- Crew: Three man crew
- Cartridge: .303 British
- Action: Recoil with gas boost
- Rate of fire: 450 to 500 round/min
- Effective firing range: 2,000 metres
- Feed system: 250-round canvas belt



Webley No. 1 Mark 6

- Designer: Webley & Scott
- Designed: 1887
- Weight: 1.1 kg
- Length: 286 mm
- Cartridge: .38
- Action: Double Action revolver
- Rate of fire: 20–30 rounds/minute
- Effective firing range: 45 metres
- Feed system: 6-round cylinder

- Designer: John Browning
- Designed: 1914-1935
- Weight: 1 kg
- Length: 197 mm
- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Action: Short recoil operated
- Rate of fire: Semi-automatic
- Effective firing range: 50 metres
- Feed system: 13 or 15 round detachable box magazine



Browning P-35 Highpower

German Infantry Weapons



Kar98k

- Designer: Paul Mauser
- Designed: 1935
- Weight: 3.7–4.1 kg
- Length: 1,110 mm
- Cartridge: 7.92×57mm
- Action: Bolt action
- Rate of fire: 15 rpm
- Effective firing range: 500 metres
- Feed system: 5-round stripper-clip, internal magazine

The Karabiner 98 kurz often abbreviated Kar98k or K98k and often incorrectly referred to as a “K98” (which was a Polish Carbine) was adopted on 21 June 1935 as the standard service rifle by the German Wehrmacht.

It replaced the Gewehr 98 which first saw service in 1888.



Model 24 grenade



Gewehr 43

- Designer: Walther
- Designed: 1943
- Weight: 4.4 kg
- Length: 1,130 mm
- Cartridge: 7.92×57mm Mauser
- Action: Gas-operated short-stroke piston, flapper locking
- Effective firing range: 500 metres
- Feed system: 10-round detachable box magazine or 5-round stripper clips

Inspired by 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.

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 erroneously called “Schmeisser” by the Allies, although Hugo Schmeisser was not involved in the design or production of the weapon.



MP 40

- Designer: Heinrich Vollmer, Berthold Geipel
- Designed: 1938
- Weight: 3.97 kg
- Length: 833 mm - stock extended
- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Action: Straight blowback, open bolt
- Rate of fire: 500–550 rpm
- Effective firing range: 100–200 metres
- Feed system: 32-round detachable box magazine

It was arguably the most advanced machine gun in the world at the time of its deployment.

The MG 34 was envisaged and well developed to provide portable light and medium machine gun infantry cover, anti-aircraft coverage, and even sniping ability.

Its combination of exceptional mobility – being light enough to be carried by one man – and high rate of fire (of up to 900 rounds per minute) was unmatched.



MG 34

- Designer: Heinrich Vollmer
- Designed: 1934
- Weight: 12.1 kg
- Length: 1,219 mm
- Cartridge: 7.92×57mm Mauser
- Action: Open bolt, Recoil-operated, Rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: 1,200 rounds/min.
- Effective firing range: 200–2,000 metres
- Feed system: 50/250-round belts, 50-round drum, or 75-round drum magazine with modification



MG 42

- Designer: Werner Gruner
- Designed: 1942
- Weight: 11.6 kg
- Length: 1,220 mm
- Cartridge: 7.92×57mm Mauser
- Action: Recoil-operated, roller-locked
- Rate of fire: 1,200 rounds/min.
- Effective firing range: 4,700 metres
- Feed system: 50 or 250-round Patronengurt 33, 34, or 34/41 model belt, 50-round belt drum

Designed to be low-cost and easy to build, the MG 42 proved to be highly reliable and easy to operate.

It is most notable for its very high cyclic rate for a gun using full power service cartridges, averaging about 1,200 rounds per minute compared to around 850 for the MG 34, and perhaps 450 to 600 for other common machine guns like the M1919 Browning or Bren. This ability made it extremely effective in providing suppressive fire, and its unique sound led to it being nicknamed “Hitler’s buzzsaw”.

- Designer: Georg Luger (semi-automatic)
- Designed: 1898
- Weight: 871 g
- Length: 222 mm
- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Action: Toggle-locked, short recoil
- Rate of fire: 116 rpm
- Effective firing range: 50 metres
- Feed system: 8-round detachable box magazine



Luger P08



Walther P38

- Designer: Carl Walther
- Designed: 1938
- Weight: 840 g
- Length: 216 mm
- Cartridge: 9×19mm Parabellum
- Action: Short recoil, locked breech
- Effective firing range: 50 metres
- Feed system: 8-round magazine

Special Weapons and Equipment

LCVP



General Dwight Eisenhower once said “Andrew Higgins is the man who won the war for us”. But who is Andrew Higgins?

He designed the landing craft, vehicle, personnel (LCVP). It was a landing craft used extensively in amphibious landings in World War II.

It could ferry a roughly platoon-sized complement of 36 men to shore at 9 knots (17 km/h). Men generally entered the boat by climbing down a cargo net hung from the side of their troop transport; they exited by charging down the boat’s lowered bow ramp.

For Operation Overlord, 514 tanks were modified with duplex drive kits intended to give the armoured vehicles an amphibious capability. This transformed them into the “DD Tank” - the duplex drive tank. The modifications - a British concept - mainly comprised a twin-screw propulsion system at the rear of the vehicle for water navigation and inflatable skirts, or “bloomers,” to aid buoyancy. Though the arrangement worked well for shallow water, such as rivers, it proved disastrous in ocean swells. The skirts afforded only a low freeboard, which left the hulls susceptible to being swamped.

DD Tank



Bangalore Torpedo






A Bangalore torpedo is an explosive charge placed within one or several connected tubes. It is used by combat engineers to clear obstacles that would otherwise require them to approach directly, possibly under fire. It is sometimes colloquially referred to as a “Bangalore mine”, “banger” or simply “Bangalore”.

On D-Day it was used mainly for clearing paths through concentrations of barbed wire.



Guns of World War II

This month’s quiz should have the Gunners applauding. We’re looking at some of the artillery of World War II. We’ve given you clues by showing you which country they were from. You’ll find the answers to the quiz on page 96.

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

Roger Bushell

Lawyer, RAF Squadron Leader, prisoner of war, and mastermind of the 'Great Escape', South African-born Roger Bushell was a constant thorn in the Nazi's side.

Many of our readers will have no doubt watched the 1963 epic war movie, 'The Great Escape'.

One of the lead characters in the film was Squadron Leader Roger Bartlett, known as 'Big X'. It was his job to plan and co-ordinate all escape attempts from the prison camp where they were interned - Stalag Luft III. The role was played by Sir Richard Attenborough.

While many of the events in the film were fiction, it was based on a true story.

There really was a Stalag Luft III, a prisoner of war camp run by the Luftwaffe that housed Allied pilots.

And there really was a 'Big X'. Except his real name was not Roger Bartlett, but rather Roger Bushell - an RAF Squadron Leader born in South Africa.

Squadron Leader Roger Joyce Bushell was a South Afri-

can-born British lawyer and military aviator.

Early life

Bushell was born in Springs, Transvaal, South Africa, on 30 August 1910 to English parents, Benjamin Daniel and Dorothy Wingate Bushell (née White).

His father, a mining engineer,

had emigrated to the country from Britain and he used his wealth to ensure that Roger received a first-class education.

He was first schooled in Johannesburg at Park Town Prep, then aged 14 went to Wellington College in Berkshire, England. In 1929, Bushell then went to Pembroke College, Cambridge, to study law.

Keen on pursuing non-academic interests from an early age, Bushell excelled in rugby and cricket and skied for Cambridge in races between 1930 and 1932, captaining the team in 1931.

One of Bushell's passions and talents was skiing: in the early 1930s, he was declared the fastest Briton in the male downhill category.

After the war he had a black run named after him in St.

Moritz, Switzerland, in memory of his efforts to organize the Swiss-An-



glo ski meetings.

He additionally won the slalom event of the annual Oxford-Cambridge ski race in 1931.

At an event in Canada, Bushell had an accident in which one of his skis narrowly missed his left eye, leaving him with a gash in the corner of it.

Although he recovered from this accident, he developed a dark drooping in his left eye as a result of scarring from his stitches.

Bushell became fluent in French and German, with a good accent, which became extremely useful during his time as a prisoner of war. In total, he could speak nine languages.

Royal Air Force

Despite his sporting prospects, one of Bushell's primary wishes was to fly. In 1932 he joined No. 601 Squadron Auxiliary Air Force (AAF), which was often referred to as "The Millionaires' Mob" because of the number of wealthy young men who paid their way solely to learn how to fly during training days (often on weekends).

He was commissioned on 10 August 1932 and promoted to flying officer on 10 February 1934, and flight lieutenant on 20 July 1936.

Although Bushell was pursuing a career with the RAF, he was not hampered in his attempts to become a barrister-at-Law of Lincoln's Inn, London.

From the outset of his legal career, many commented on his

ability as a lawyer, particularly in criminal defence.

After a period, Bushell was appointed to military cases in prosecuting RAF personnel charged with various offenses. These often involved pilots charged with dangerous flying.

In October 1939, acting as assistant to Sir Patrick Hastings, he successfully defended two RAF pilots, John Freeborn and Paddy Byrne, court-martialled after the friendly fire incident known as the Battle of Barking Creek.

Byrne would later be incarcerated with Bushell at Stalag Luft III.

Bushell was given command of No. 92 Squadron in October 1939. His promotion to squadron leader was confirmed on 1 January 1940.

During the squadron's first engagement with enemy aircraft on 23 May 1940, while on a patrol near Calais, to assist with the Dunkirk evacuation, he was credited with damaging two Messerschmitt Bf 110 fighter aircraft of ZG 26 before being shot down himself, probably by future ace Oberleutnant Günther Specht.

He crash-landed his Spitfire on German-occupied ground and was captured before he had a chance to hide.

Bushell became a prisoner of war and was sent to the Dulag Luft transit camp near Frankfurt with all the other captured aircrew.

Prisoner of War

On arrival at Stalag Luft, he

was made part of the permanent British staff under the senior British officer Wing Commander Harry Day.

The permanent staff's duty was to help newly captured Allied aircrew to adjust to life as a prisoner of war.

Escape, which was regarded as an important duty of all prisoners of war of officer rank, was never far from his mind and, fortunately, he was in good company with Day and Fleet Air Arm pilot Jimmy Buckley.

Day placed Buckley in charge of escape operations, with Bushell as his deputy. The three of them formed the escape committee responsible for all escape attempts.

First escape

The permanent staff of the camp started several escape tunnels, one of which was completed in May 1941.

Bushell was given a place in the tunnel but elected to escape on the same day as the tunnel break by cutting through the wire surrounding a small park in the camp grounds.

His decision not to use the tunnel was to allow him an earlier getaway, thus enabling him to catch a particular train.

The exact date of the escape is not known but is believed to have occurred in June 1941. Bushell hid in a goat shed in the camp grounds and, soon as it was dark enough, he crawled to the wire and made good his escape.

Bushell was recaptured on the Swiss border, only a few

hundred yards from freedom, by a German border guard.

He was treated well and returned to Dulag Luft before being transferred to Stalag Luft I with all the 17 others who had escaped in the tunnel (including Day and Buckley).

Bushell was at Stalag Luft I for only a short period before being transferred to Oflag X-C at Lübeck.

At this camp, he participated in the construction of another tunnel, but this was abandoned unfinished when the camp was evacuated.

Second escape

All British and Commonwealth officer POWs were removed from the camp on 8 October 1941 and were entrained for transfer to Oflag VI-B at Warburg.

During the night of 8/9 October 1941, the train stopped briefly in Hannover, where Bushell and Czechoslovak Pilot Officer Jaroslav Zafouk jumped from the train and escaped, unnoticed at the time by the German guards.

Earlier in the journey, six other officers had escaped by jumping off the train while it was moving slowly; one was immediately recaptured and one officer was killed when he fell under the wheels.

Bushell and Zafouk made their way to Prague in occupied Czechoslovakia. Using Zafouk's contacts, they made contact with the Zeithammel family - Otto, his son, Otokar, and his daughter, Blazena - who were known to the Czech underground movement.

The two airmen stayed with



STILL FREE: Roger Bushell pictured shortly before he was shot down and taken prisoner of war.

the Zeithammels in their apartment in the Smichov area of the city while the family tried to make arrangements for their onward journey.

Bushell and Zafouk remained with the family for nearly eight months, and Bushell developed a relationship with Blazena.

In mid-May 1942 the RAF officers were betrayed by a former Czech soldier called Miroslav Kraus, who had had an affair with Blazena some years previously and was working as a Gestapo informer.

The RAF officers were arrested on 19 May, and questioned at Gestapo headquarters, a building known as the Petschek Palace.

Bushell was then sent to Stalag Luft III at Sagan, while Zafouk continued to be held in Prague.

After the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, a leading light of the SS and acting Reich Protector of Bohemia and Moravia,

in Prague on 27 May, Bushell was taken from the cells at Stalag Luft III to Berlin for further questioning by the Gestapo who suspected his involvement in the killing of Heydrich.

He was returned to Sagan in October but told he would be sick if he ever fell into the Gestapo's hands again. Zafouk also underwent further questioning in Prague and was eventually sent to Oflag IV-C at Colditz.

The Zeithammels were shot with other members of the Czech underground on June 30.

At Stalag Luft III, Bushell took over control of the escape organization from Jimmy Buckley, who was being transferred to another camp in Poland.

Known as "Big X", he masterminded the building of three big tunnels known as Tom, Dick, and Harry, the production and accumulation of escape material, the introduction of layers of security, and the gathering

of military intelligence, which was sent to London in coded letters.

Burning with hatred after witnessing the terror and suffering inflicted by the Nazis in occupied Prague, and the methods of the Gestapo at first hand, he was determined to wage war from within the camp and strike back at the Germans.

In what became popularly known as the "Great Escape", he planned to disrupt the Nazi war effort by getting 250 men out in one night.

The Great Escape

In the spring of 1943, Bushell masterminded a plot for a major escape from the camp. Being held in the north compound where British airmen were housed, Bushell as commander of the escape committee channelled the escape effort into probing for weaknesses and looking for opportunities.

Falling back on his legal background to represent his scheme, Bushell called a meeting of the escape committee in the camp and not only shocked those present with its scope, but injected into every man a passionate and driven determination to put every energy into the escape.

He declared, "Everyone here in this room is living on borrowed time. By rights, we should all be dead! The only reason that God allowed us this extra ration of life is so we can make life hell for the Hun... In North Compound we are concentrating our efforts on completing and escaping through one master tunnel. No private-enterprise tunnels are

allowed. Three bloody deep, bloody long tunnels will be dug - Tom, Dick, and Harry. One will succeed!"

The simultaneous digging of these tunnels would become an advantage if any one of them were discovered by the Germans because the guards would scarcely imagine that another two could be well underway.

The most radical aspect of the plan was not merely the scale of the construction, but also the sheer number of men that Bushell intended to pass through these tunnels.

Previous attempts had involved the escape of anything up to a dozen or twenty men, but Bushell was proposing to get over 200 out, all of whom would be wearing civilian clothes and possessing a complete range of forged papers and escape equipment.

It was an unprecedented undertaking and would require unparalleled organization. As the mastermind of the Great Escape, Bushell inherited the codename of "Big X".

The tunnel "Tom" began in a darkened corner of a hall in one of the buildings. "Harry"'s entrance was hidden under a stove. The entrance to "Dick" had a concealed entrance in a drainage sump.

More than 600 prisoners were involved in their construction.

Tom was discovered in August 1943 when nearing completion. Bushell also organized another mass breakout, which occurred on 12 June 1943.

This became known as the Delousing Break, when 26 officers escaped by leaving the camp under escort with two

fake guards (POWs disguised as guards) supposedly to go to the showers for delousing in the neighbouring compound.

All but two were later recaptured and returned to the camp, with the remaining two officers being sent to Oflag IV-C at Colditz for attempting to steal an aircraft.

After the discovery of Tom, construction on Harry was halted. but it resumed in January 1944.

On the evening of 24 March, after months of preparation, 200 officers prepared to escape. But things did not go as planned, with only 76 officers managing to get clear of the camp.

Bushell and his partner Bernard Scheidhauer, among the first few to leave the tunnel, successfully boarded a train at Sagan railway station.

They were caught the next day at Saarbrücken railway station, waiting for a train to Alsace, which had been annexed from France by Germany in 1871, but had since been returned to France after the First World War.

On March 29, under the pretext of being driven back to a prison camp, the car carrying Bushell and Scheidhauer stopped for a rest break at the side of the autobahn near Ramstein, Germany (just outside today's Ramstein Air Base).

It was during this stop that they were murdered by members of the Gestapo, including Emil Schulz, helped by others. This was a breach of the Geneva Convention and thus constituted a war crime.

The perpetrators were later tried and executed by the Allies.

Fifty of the 76 escapees were killed in the Stalag Luft III murders on the personal orders of Adolf Hitler.

Bushell is buried at the Poznan Old Garrison Cemetery (Coll. grave 9. A.) in Poznań, Poland.

He was posthumously mentioned in despatches on 8 June 1944 for his services as a POW. This award was recorded in the London Gazette dated 13 June 1946.

Memorials

Bushell Green in Bushey is named in his honour, one of a number of streets in the area named after Battle of Britain pilots.

Bushell's name also appears on the war memorial in Hermanus, South Africa, where his parents spent their last years and where they were buried.

In 2017, a memorial was erected close to the location of his murder outside what is now Ramstein Air Base.

In 1934, Bushell had fallen in love with Georgiana Curzon, but her father forced her into an unhappy marriage with someone else.

For years after Bushell's death, Curzon placed an "In Memoriam" advertisement in The Times of London on his birthday, saying "Love is Immortal, Georgie".

Words in similar vein are referred to in an article in The Times in 2013, by Simon Pearson, about Bushell's lovers.

Pearson remarked that he had some years before, while working at The Times, come: "... across a memorial notice in the archive, which marked the anniversary of Roger Bushell's birth and celebrated his life.



It quoted Rupert Brooke: "He leaves a white unbroken glory, a gathered radiance, a width, a shining peace, under the night." It was signed "Georgie".

Simon Pearson would later write the book 'The Great Escaper'.

Win a copy of Guns Disassembly

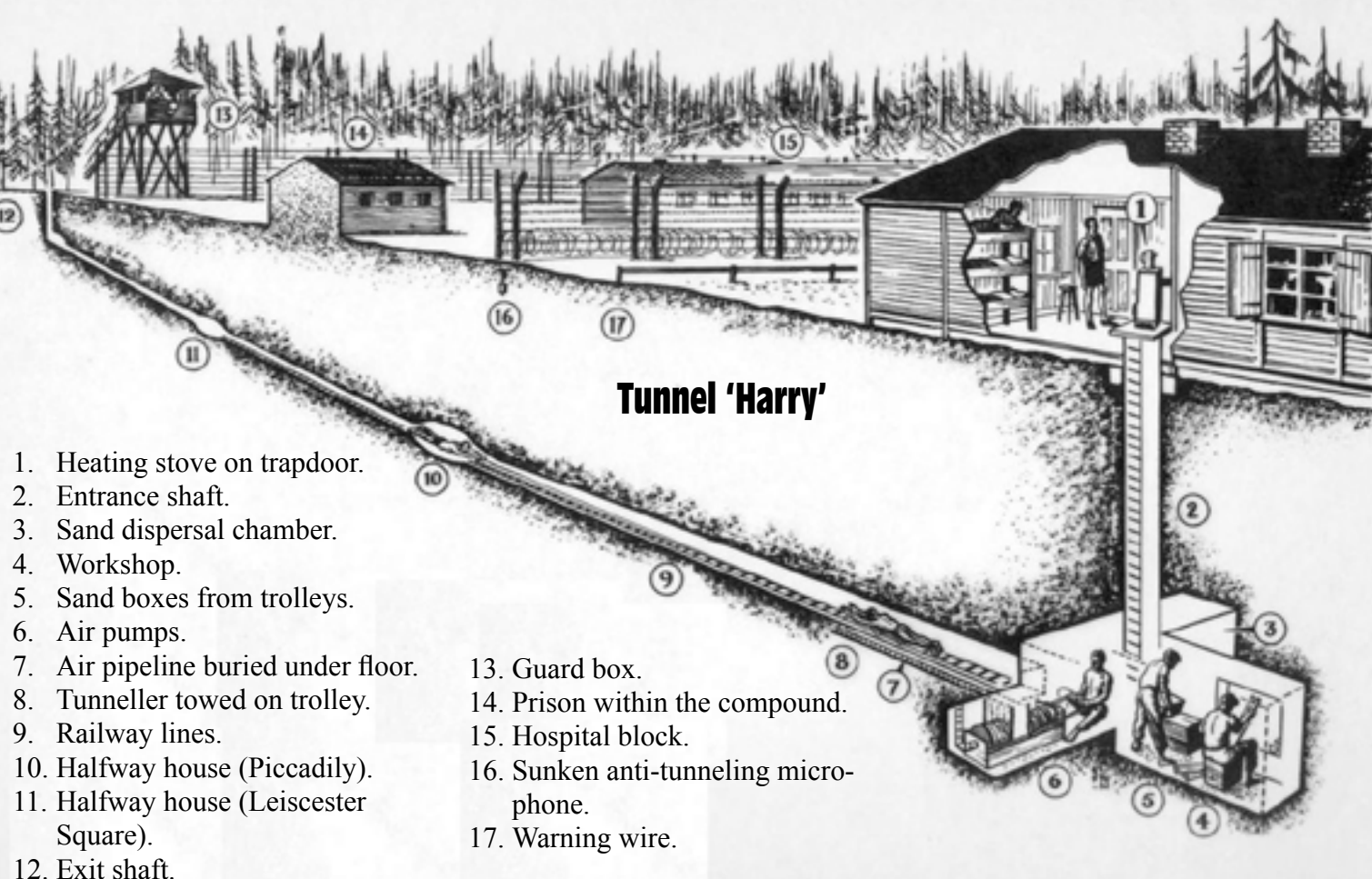
Win yourself a free copy of World of Guns: Gun Disassembly, valued at R450. You can read a review of this interesting simulation game on page 72 of this issue.



All you need to do to win is identify these three unusual firearms shown on the left. The first person that emails the correct answer will win the game.

Rules and conditions

1. You will need to have a PC with an Internet connection. This is in order for you to be able to download the game.
2. You will need to have a Steam account. If you do not have one, you can open a free account installing Steam on your computer and then opening an account. It is 100% free. Click [here](#) for more details.
3. Email your answers to editor@hipe.co.za before 12 June 2022.
4. The first correct entry will win the game.
5. The winner will be sent an email with a code. All you need to do is enter the code into your Steam account to redeem your copy of the game.



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.

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Thompson submachine gun

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 Thompson submachine gun.

With nearly three million weapons produced, it has become both famous and infamous around the world.

It has been used by the military and paramilitary forces of 38 countries and was popular with non-state groups ranging from American organized crime syndicates to the Provisional IRA. The weapon in question is the Thompson submachine gun, a weapon that was forged in battle.

It was also known informally as the 'Tommy Gun', 'Annihilator', 'Chicago Typewriter', 'Chicago Piano', 'Chicago Style', 'Chi-

cago Organ Grinder', 'Trench Broom', 'Trench Sweeper', 'The Chopper', and simply 'The Thompson'.

Development

It was 56 year old Kentucky blacksmith John Taliaferro Thompson that came up with the concept of a portable hand-held machine gun in 1915.

He was a veteran of America's war with Spain. He was

also an inventor and founded the Auto-Ordnance Corporation in 1916.

When America entered World War I in 1917, Thompson re-enlisted and served as the Director of Arsenals for the U.S. Army's Ordnance Corps.

Like many, he saw the deadlock of trench warfare on the Western Front. This made him even more determined to produce a weapon that could act as a 'trench broom' - one that would enable an infantryman to sweep a whole dugout of enemy troops within seconds.

After the war Thompson retired from military service and he continued to work on his idea.

In 1920 he patented a .45 calibre machine pistol that he considered naming the 'Persuader' or the 'Annihilator'. In the end he settled on simply calling it

the Thompson submachine gun.

Early use

Production began with the Model 1921. This would be followed by more than a dozen variants of the weapon.

The Thompson was an expensive weapon, selling for \$200. In today's terms that would be equal to \$3,500 (nearly R48,000).

Among the first customers were the United States Postal Service. The Thompson's were used to protect the mail from a spate of robberies.

Also among the first customers was the United States Marine Corps. Several police departments in the United States also purchased a few.

The Thompson was available to civilians. Some of the first batches of Thompson's were bought in America by agents of the Irish Republic. A total of 653 were purchased, but 495 were seized by US customs authorities in New York in June 1921.

The Thompson would become infamous in the hands of Prohi-

bition and Depression-era gangsters. One of the most notably incidents was the St Valentine's Day Massacre.

On February 14, 1929 seven members of the Irish American North Side gang were lured into a garage in Chicago by members of the Italian South Side gang led by Al Capone.

The seven men were gunned down and two of the weapons used were Thompson submachine guns.

Tommy guns were also used by the likes of John Dillinger, 'Baby Face' Nelson, the Barker gang and 'Pretty Boy' Floyd.

It was not until 1935 that the American Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) purchased 115 Thompson's.

However the vast majority of outlaws that the FBI had initially



RIGHT: M1928A1 with box magazine.



LEFT: M1928A1 with drum magazine.

bought the Thompson to combat were already dead or behind bars.

In 1925, Auto-Ordnance approached Britain's Birmingham Small Arms Company to produce Thompson's under license for sale in Europe. Despite successful demonstrations in the U.K., France and Belgium, no orders were forthcoming for the British Thompson. Production was halted in 1930.

Saved from bankruptcy

By 1929 Auto-Ordnance was on the verge of liquidation. They had only sold 10,300 guns and were more than \$2 million in debt. Thompson's son refused to shut down the plant and kept the struggling business going.

They managed to hold on for nine years until, in 1938, the US military adopted the Thompson submachine gun. A year later the world was once again at war and the orders began to pour in.

There were two military types of Thompson SMG and over 1.5 million were produced during World War II.

The M1928A1 had provisions for box and drum magazines. It had a Cutts compensator, cooling fins on the barrel, employed a delayed blow-back action and its charging handle was on the top of the receiver.

The M1 and M1A1 had a barrel without cooling fins, a sim-

plified rear sight, provisions only for box magazines, employed a straight blowback action and the charging handle was on the side of the receiver.

Military users of the M1928A1 were not that enthusiastic about the 50 round drum magazine. In fact the British Army criticised their excessive weight and the rattling sound they made. They shipped thousands of the magazines back to the United States in exchange for box magazines.

To attach the drum magazine the Thompson had to be cocked with the bolt retracted, ready to fire.

It attached and detached by sliding sideways, which made magazine changes slow and also created difficulty in clearing a cartridge malfunction. Reloading an empty drum magazine was also a long and involved process.

In contrast, the 20-round box magazine was light and compact, it tended not to rattle, and could be inserted with the bolt safely closed. It was quickly attached and detached and was removed downward, making clearing jams easier. The box tripped the bolt open lock when empty, facilitating magazine changes. An empty box was easily reloaded with loose rounds.

However, users complained it was limited in capacity. In the field, some soldiers taped two

20-round magazines together in what would be known as "jungle style" to speed magazine changes.

World War II

John Thompson died on 21 June, 1940, just weeks before the US Government placed the largest order of the Thompson SMG on record.

The Thompson became a popular weapon with Allied troops. It was used as a weapon for scouts, non-commissioned officers, and patrol leaders.

In the European theatre, the gun was widely utilized in British and Canadian commando units, as well as in the U.S. Army paratrooper and Ranger battalions, where it was issued more frequently than in line infantry units because of its high rate of fire and its stopping power, which made it very effective in the kinds of close combat these special operations troops were expected to undertake.

Under the US Lend-Lease program almost 140,000 Thompsons were sent to the Soviet Union. After the famous PPSH-41 and PPs-43, the Thompson was one of Soviet Russia's most widely issued submachine guns, but due to a shortage of appropriate ammunition, its use was not widespread.

The Lend-Lease program also played a role in the Pacific Thea-

tre as well as in the Malayan and Burma Campaigns.

Thompsons were issued by the British Army, Indian Army, Australian Army infantry and other Commonwealth forces.

One criticism that the Thompson received was for its heavy weight and poor reliability.

In 1943 difficulty in supply led to the Australian Army replacing the Thompson with other submachine guns such as the Owen and the Austen.

The U.S. Marines also used the Thompson as a limited-issue weapon, especially during their later island assaults. The Thompson was soon found to have limited effect in heavy jungle cover, where the low-velocity .45 bullet would not penetrate most small-diameter trees or protective armour vests. They soon began employing the BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle) in its place as a point defence weapon.

The Army introduced the U.S. M3 and M3A1 submachine guns in 1943 with plans to produce the latter in numbers sufficient to cancel future orders for the Thompson, while gradually withdrawing it from the first-line service. However, due to unforeseen production delays and requests for modifications, the M3/M3A1 never replaced the Thompson, and purchases continued until February 1944.

Post World War II

Thompson submachine guns were used by both sides during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. Following the war, Thompsons were issued to members of Israel's elite Unit 101, upon the for-

mation of that unit in 1953.

During the Greek Civil War, the Thompson submachine gun was used by both sides and the Thompson also found service with the KNIL during their attempt to retake their former colony of Indonesia.

By the time of the Korean War the Thompson had been replaced as standard issue by the M3/M3A1. American troops were surprised to encounter Chinese Communist troops heavily armed with Thompsons, especially during surprise night assaults.

Many Thompsons were distributed to Chinese armed forces as a military aid before the fall of Chiang Kai-shek's government to Mao Zedong's Communist forces in 1949. Captured Thompsons were placed into service with American soldiers and Marines for the balance of the war.

During the Cuban Revolution, the Thompson submachine gun was used by some of Fidel Castro's guerrillas.

During the Vietnam War, some South Vietnamese army units and defence militia were armed with Thompson submachine guns, and a few of these weapons were used by reconnaissance units, advisors, and other American troops. It was later replaced by the M16 assault rifle.

In the conflict in Northern Ireland, known as the Troubles (1969-1998), the Thompson was again used by the Irish Republican paramilitaries. According to historian Peter Hart, "The Thompson remained a key part of both the Official IRA and Provisional IRA arsenals until



well into the 1970s when it was superseded by the ArmaLite and the AK-47."

Because of their quality and craftsmanship, as well as their gangster-era and WWII connections, Thompsons are sought as collector's items.

Specifications Thompson M1928A1

Weight: 4.9 kg (empty)

Length: 850 mm

Barrel length: 270 mm

Cartridge: .45 ACP

Action: Blow lock or Blow-back

Rate of fire: 1,500 rpm

Muzzle velocity: 285 m/s

Effective firing range: 150 m

Feed system: 20 or 30 round box magazine, 50 or 100 round drum magazine.

In the early hours of 6 June 1944 a mission that was vital to the success of Operation Tonga, the overall British airborne landings in Normandy, took place. So important was the mission that failure could have spelled doom for the Allied invasion of Europe.

On Tuesday 6 June 1944 the largest seaborne invasion force in history landed on an 80 km stretch of the Normandy coast in France. Operation Overlord, the long-awaited liberation of Europe had begun.

While the prime focus was on Operation Neptune, the beach landings at Normandy, numerous other operations were also underway. Many of them were just as vital to the overall success of Operation Overlord. One of these missions was Operation Deadstick.

In the early hours of 6 June British airborne forces were given the objective of capturing intact two road bridges in Normandy, one across the River Orne and the other across the Caen Canal. These bridges provided the only exit eastwards for the British forces from their landing point on Sword Beach.

According to the intelligence reports, both bridges were heavily defended by the Germans as well as being wired for demolition. Once captured, the bridges had to be held against any counter-attack until the assault force was relieved by commandos and infantry advancing from the British landing zone.

If the Germans demolished either of the bridges the British 6th Airborne Division would be cut off from the rest of the Allied armies, with their back to two waterways.

If the Germans retained control over the bridges they could be used by their armoured divisions to attack the landing beaches of Normandy. For the British, failure was not an option.

Background

Responsibility for the operation fell to the members of 'D' Company, 2nd (Airborne) Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, part of the 6th Airlanding Brigade of the 6th Airborne Division. The assault group comprised a reinforced company of six infantry platoons and an attached platoon of Royal Engineers. They were under the command of Major John Howard with Captain Brian Priday as the second in command.

The 180 men under Howard's command would be transported to the objective by six Airspeed Horsa gliders, piloted by 12 NCOs from 'C' Squadron, Glider Pilot Regiment.

Howard was not told the exact details of the operation until 2 May, 1944. His orders were to seize the bridges over the River Orne and Caen Canal at Bénouville and Ranville intact and hold them until relieved.

The relief force would initially be a company from the 7th Parachute Battalion under Howard's command. When the remainder of the parachute battalion ar-



TARGET IN SIGHT: The three Horsa gliders assigned to the Caen Canal bridge. The bridge is hidden by the trees in the distance.

rived, he would hand over to their commander Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Pine-Coffin.

The 3rd Infantry Division and the commandos of the 1st Commando Brigade were scheduled to land at Sword at 06h00 on the day then advance to the bridges where they were expected to arrive at 11h00.

On 5 June 1944, the company made final preparations for the mission. Each man was issued their personal weapons and ammunition as well as up to nine hand grenades and four Bren gun magazines.

Each platoon also had a 2-inch mortar and a radio. Just before the men boarded the gliders, codewords were issued. 'Ham' indicated the canal bridge was captured and 'Jam' the river bridge. Capture and destruction of the canal bridge would be signalled using the codeword 'Jack'; 'Lard' would be used if a similar fate befell the river bridge.

The Ranville bridge spans the River Orne and the Bénouville

bridge crosses the Caen Canal to the west. They are 8.0 km from the coast and provided the only access to the city of Caen.

The main road between the two communes crosses the bridges and then continues east to the River Dives. At 190 metres long and 3.7 metres wide, the Caen Canal bridge opens to allow canal traffic to pass underneath. The controls were housed in a nearby cabin.

The canal is 8.2 metres deep by 46 metres wide, with earth and stone banks 1.8 metres high. Small tarmac tracks run on both banks along the canal's entire length.

Between the two bridges there is a strip of mostly marshy ground about 500 metres wide, broken up by ditches and small streams.

The Ranville bridge over the River Orne is 110 metres long, 6.1 metres wide and can be opened to allow river traffic to pass. The river is 49–73 metres wide and with an average depth of 2.7 metres. It has mud banks

averaging about 1.1 metres high and a tidal rise and fall of 4.9–2.0 metres.

A number of small houses lie to the west of the river, connected by a track 2.4–3.0 metres wide, that runs along both banks.

The bridges were guarded by 50 men belonging to the German 736th Grenadier Regiment, 716th Infantry Division. They were commanded by Major Hans Schmidt and based at Ranville, 1.9 km east of the River Orne.

The unit was poorly equipped and manned by conscripts from Poland, the Soviet Union, and France under a German officer and senior non-commissioned officers. Schmidt had orders to blow up the two bridges if they were in danger of capture.

Far more of a threat was the 21st Panzer Division that had moved into the area just the month before. One of its regiments, the 125th Panzergrenadier, commanded by Colonel Hans von Luck, was billeted at Vimont just east of Caen.

There was also a battalion of the 192nd Panzergrenadier Regiment based at Cairon to the west of the bridges. Further afield were the 12th SS Panzer Division at Lisieux and the Panzer Lehr Division at Chartres, both less than a day's march from the area.

Defences were in place at both bridges. On the west bank of the Caen Canal bridge there were three machine-gun emplacements and on the east bank a machine-gun and an anti-tank gun.

To their north were another three machine-guns and a concrete pillbox. An anti-aircraft tower equipped with machine-guns stood to the south.



At the River Orne bridge, the eastern bank south of the bridge had a pillbox with anti-tank and anti-aircraft guns. To the north of the bridge were two machine-guns. Both bridges had sandbagged trench systems along the banks.

Capture of the bridges

At 22h56 on 5 June 1944, the six gliders towed by Halifax bombers took off from RAF Tarant Rushton. They each carried the following loads:

- No. 1 - Major Howard and Lieutenant Den Brotheridge's platoon.
- No. 2 - Lieutenant David Wood's platoon.
- No. 3 - Lieutenant Smith's platoon.

Their target was the Caen Canal.

- No. 4 - Captain Priday and Lieutenant Hooper's platoon.
- No. 5 - Lieutenant Fox's platoon.
- No. 6 - Tod Sweeney's platoon.

Their target was the river bridge. Each glider also carried five Royal Engineers.

At 00h16 on 6 June, Glider Number One crashed into barbed wire surrounding the canal bridge defences. Operation Deadstick had begun.

While the Germans were not sure of the exact date, nor the exact location, they knew the invasion was imminent. Major Schmidt was also fully aware that the bridges were one of the most critical points in Normandy. It was vital that they not fall into enemy hands. Yet, surprisingly, when the gliders landed there were only two sentries on duty on the canal bridges.

The sound of a gunshot alerted the two sentries on the canal bridge. As Brotheridge's platoon attacked, one ran off shouting "paratroops" while the second fired a flare gun to alert nearby defenders. Brotheridge shot him while other members of his platoon cleared the trenches and pillbox with grenades.

Alerted by the flare, the German machine gunners opened fire at the men on the bridge, wounding Brotheridge as he threw a grenade. The grenade silenced one of the machine gun positions and another was taken out by Bren gun fire.

1st Platoon crossed the bridge to take up a defensive position on the west bank. The Royal Engineers from number one glider searched for explosive charges and cut the fuse wires when they found any.

Smith's platoon crossed the bridge next, exchanging fire with the German defenders, whereupon Smith was wounded by a grenade. Using grenades and sub-machine gun fire, the platoons cleared the trenches and bunkers. By 00h21 German resistance on the west bank of the canal bridge was over.

Brotheridge's platoon discovered that he had succumbed to his wounds, becoming the first Allied soldier killed by enemy action during the invasion.

On the east bank, Wood's platoon cleared the trenches and bunkers with little opposition. Wood was hit in the leg by machine-gun fire. All three platoon commanders at the canal bridge were now either dead or wounded.

Around the same time, pathfinders from the 22nd Independ-

ent Parachute Company landed in the area between the River Orne and the River Dives. Brigadier Nigel Poett, commanding the 5th Parachute Brigade, along with a small team accompanied the pathfinders. Disoriented after landing, Poett heard Brotheridge's Sten gun and set off for the bridges with the only man he could locate.

At the river bridge, Glider No. 5 landed only 300 metres away from the bridge at 00h20.

Glider No. 6 landed a minute later 700 metres away from the bridge. Glider No. 4, carrying Captain Priday, was reported missing.

When the Germans opened fire with an MG 34, the platoon responded with a 2-inch (51 mm) mortar and destroyed the gun with a direct hit. They then crossed the bridge without further opposition.

Sweeney left one of his sections on the west bank then moved the rest of the platoon across the bridge to take up defensive positions on the east bank.

From his newly established command post, in the trenches on the eastern bank of the canal near the bridge, Howard learned that the river bridge had also been taken. Captain Neilson of the engineers reported that although the bridges had been prepared for demolition, the explosives had not been attached.

Howard ordered his signalman to transmit the code words 'Ham' and 'Jam' then brought Fox's platoon across the canal bridge, positioning them at the Bénouville to Le Port crossroads as the company's forward platoon.



RELIEF ARRIVES: Led by a piper, elements of the 1st Commando Brigade cross the Caen Canal bridge.

7th Parachute Battalion arrives

At 00h50, aircraft carrying the rest of the 6th Airborne Division appeared overhead and the paratroopers descended onto drop zones marked out by the pathfinders.

Howard began blowing the morse code letter 'V' on his whistle, to help guide the 7th Parachute Battalion to the bridges. The first paratroops to arrive, at 00h52, were Brigadier Poett and the soldier he had picked up en route. Briefed by Howard on the situation, they heard tanks and lorries moving around in Bénouville and Le Port.

On the drop zone, only about 100 men of the 7th Parachute Battalion had made it to the rallying point but all their signal equipment, machine guns and mortars were missing.

Pine-Coffin, aware that his battalion was the only unit allocated defensive positions west of the bridges, decided they could not wait any longer and, at 01h10, left for the bridges.

The commander of the 716th Infantry Division, General-

leutnant Wilhelm Richter, was informed at 01h20 of the parachute landings and that the bridges had been captured intact. One of his first actions was to contact Generalmajor Edgar Feuchtinger of 21st Panzer Division. Richter ordered the division to attack the landing areas.

While Feuchtinger's tanks were delegated to support the 716th, it was also part of the German armoured reserve that could not move without orders from the German High Command. All German panzer formations could only be moved on the direct orders of Adolf Hitler, who was sleeping at the time and his staff refused to wake him.

When the 125th Panzergrenadier Regiment received news of the airborne landings at 01:30, Colonel von Luck ordered the regiment to their assembly areas north and east of Caen and to wait for further orders.

The closest large German unit to the canal bridge was the 2nd Battalion, 192nd Panzergrenadier Regiment based at Cairon.

General Feuchtinger ordered them to recapture the bridges,

and then attack the parachute landing zones further west. At 02h00, the 2nd Battalion headed for the bridges from the west, supported by the 1st Panzerjager Company and part of the 989th Heavy Artillery Battalion coming from the north.

As the first Panzer IVs from the north reached the junction leading to the bridge, the leading vehicle was hit by a round from 'D' Company's only serviceable PIAT anti-tank weapon. The vehicle exploded, setting off its stowed ammunition, and the other tanks withdrew.

The first company of the 7th Parachute Battalion, commanded by Major Nigel Taylor, arrived at the bridges. Howard directed them to defensive positions west of the canal in Bénouville and Le Port.

When Pine-Coffin arrived at the bridges, he was briefed by Howard, and crossed into Bénouville and set up his headquarters beside the church. Pine-Coffin had about 200 men in his three companies. He positioned 'A' and 'C' Companies in Bénouville facing south towards Caen and 'B' Company in Le Port facing Ouistreham.

'D' Company was now pulled back into the area between the two bridges and held in reserve. A further sweep of the trenches and bunkers was conducted, and resulted in the capture of a number of Germans.

At 03h00, the 8th Heavy Company, 192nd Panzergrenadier Regiment with 75 mm SP guns, 20 mm AA guns, and mortars attacked 'A' and 'C' Companies, 7th Parachute Battalion, from the south.

The paratroops were forced

back and the Germans established their own positions in Bénouville, but were unable to break the British line. They dug in and waited for tank support before moving forward again. The Germans fired mortar bombs and machine guns at the paratroopers and attempted small assaults on their positions throughout the night.

Just before dawn, Howard summoned his platoon commanders to a meeting. With their senior officers dead or wounded, 1, 2 and 3 Platoons were now commanded by corporals. Howard's second in command, Captain Priday and 4 Platoon were missing. Only Lieutenants Fox and Sweeney of 5 and 6 Platoons respectively had a full complement of officers and NCOs.

The landings at Sword began at 07h00, preceded by a heavy naval bombardment. At the bridges, daylight allowed German snipers to identify targets and anyone moving in the open was in danger of being shot.

The men of 1 Platoon who had taken over the 75 mm anti-tank gun on the east bank of the canal used it to engage possible sniper positions in Bénouville, the Château de Bénouville and the surrounding area.

At 09h00, two German gunboats approached the canal bridge from Ouistreham. The lead boat fired its 20 mm gun and 2 Platoon returned fire with a PIAT, hitting the wheelhouse of the leading boat, which crashed into the canal bank. The second boat retreated to Ouistreham.

Alone German aircraft bombed the canal bridge at 10h00, dropping one bomb. The bomb struck the bridge but failed to detonate.



STARK REMINDER: The original Pegasus Bridge at the Memorial Pegasus in Benouville.

Linking up with Sword Beach

The German 2nd Battalion, 192nd Panzergrenadier Regiment continued to attack Bénouville and Le Port, assisted by their tanks, mortars and infantry.

The attack caused serious problems for the understrength 7th Parachute Battalion, until the leading tank was blown up with a Gammon bomb, effectively blocking the road. During the attack, 13 of the 17 tanks trying to get through to the bridge were destroyed.

The paratroopers were then reinforced by 1 Platoon from 'D' Company. The platoon moved forward into Bénouville and cleared the Germans in house to house fighting. 5 and 6 Platoons also moved into positions opposite the Gondrée Café, on the west bank of the canal.

By midday, most of the missing men from the 7th Parachute Battalion had arrived at the bridges and the three glider platoons were moved back to their

original positions.

Just after midday, the 21st Panzer Division received permission to attack the landings. Luck ordered the 125th Panzergrenadier Regiment, east of the River Orne, towards the bridges. The column was quickly spotted, and engaged for the next two hours by Allied artillery and aircraft causing heavy losses.

At 13h30, the men at the bridges heard the sound of bagpipes, played by Bill Millin of the 1st Commando Brigade. As the commandos arrived, they crossed the bridges and joined the rest of 6th Airborne Division defending the eastern perimeter. Some of the tanks accompanying the commandos moved into Bénouville to reinforce its defences, while others crossed the bridges with the commandos.

At 15h00, a boat loaded with German infantry approached from Caen. It was engaged with the anti-tank gun manned by 1 Platoon, hit in the stern by the

second round fired and then retreated back toward Caen.

At 21h15, the 2nd Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment of the 185th Infantry Brigade arrived from Sword and began taking over the bridges' defences.

At around midnight, Howard handed over command of the bridges to the Warwickshire Regiment and his company left to join the rest of their battalion at Ranville.

At 03:30, they finally located the battalion's positions and found Captain Priday and 4 Platoon had already joined the battalion. Bénouville was the farthest forward point of the British advance on 6 June 1944.

Aftermath

Of the 181 men (139 infantry, 30 engineers and 12 pilots) of 'D' Company involved in the capture of the bridges, two were killed and an additional fourteen wounded. The 7th Battalion's losses during the defence of the bridges amounted to 18 dead and 36 wounded.

The total German losses, in the area, during 6 June are unknown. Fourteen tanks were lost during the fighting; the first during the night, and the remaining 13 throughout the day. Other losses include one gunboat on the Caen canal.

Major Howard was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, presented in the field by

General Bernard Montgomery. Both Smith and Sweeney were awarded the Military Cross; the Military Medal was awarded to Sergeant Thornton and Lance-Corporal Stacey; Lieutenant Brotheridge was posthumously mentioned in dispatches. In recognition of their feat of flying, eight of the glider pilots were awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.

The Caen Canal bridge was renamed Pegasus Bridge after the emblem of the British airborne forces, while the River Orne bridge became Horsa Bridge. The road across them is now the "Esplanade Major John Howard"

The Sunday Breakfast Zone



Catch Military Despatches editor Matt Tennyson every Sunday morning from 09h00 to 12h00 on the 'Sunday Breakfast Zone' on Zone Radio. Bringing you the best music of the 60s, 70s and 80s.

On Sunday morning at 09h30 you can catch the Retro Top 20 and listen to the Top 20 hit singles on the South African charts for a particular week or even a particular year.

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WORLD OF GUNS

GUN DISASSEMBLY

With a speed that would make any weapon tiffie weep with envy, Matt O' Brien strips and assembles a variety of weapons. Now he's wondering what to do with all the parts left over.

Back in September 2018 I reviewed a game by the name of 'World of Guns: Gun Disassembly'.

To call it a game may be doing it a disservice - it's more than that. It can be used as both an interactive firearms reference source and encyclopedia, and a casual puzzle game with a goal of disassembling and assembling models in the correct sequence and in the least possible time.

The player is presented with an interactive model of a real-world firearm (or other mechanism) in a 3D environment. You have complete control of the camera, along with additional viewing options allowing you to explore the inner mechanical design of the piece. These include a multi-layered X-ray view, "trainer cutaway" mode and several slow-motion settings.

Depending on the game mode, the player is required to either learn the correct operation of the weapon, or perform its disassembly or assembly.

Game modes are arranged in the order of increasing complexity, including field-stripping the weapon, complete disassembly of the mechanism, and finally disassembly and as-

sembly against the clock and/or with penalties for incorrect moves.

Every model has local and global leader boards and a set of in-game achievements.

The game includes interactive shooting ranges with timed objectives, as well as additional features like gun quizzes and a weapon skin editor.

As you complete various challenges you are rewarded with in-game credits. These can be used to unlock new weapons. Or you can purchase credits via steam.

So if I reviewed this game nearly four years ago, why am I reviewing it again? For the main reason that they've added so many new models since then.

Noble Empire Corp, the developers of the game, add one or two new models every month.

One of the nifty things about World of Guns is that you can get it for free on Steam.

With this option you get given a number of free models and will have to unlock the others by either paying for them or by earning credits by achieving high scores.

An alternative is to purchase the full game outright. This gives you access to all of the models in the game and whenever new models are released

they are automatically added to your collection.

Should you choose to buy the entire game it is a little costly and will set you back in the region of R490.00. What I suggest is that you wait for it to go on sale (it often does) and you can then pick it up for under R250.00.

What I enjoy is the number of different firearms and hardware available. There are pistols, revolvers, submachine guns, assault rifles, machine guns, rifles, shotguns, compact guns and sports guns.

You will also find a few unusual weapons such as the Protector Palm Pistol, a small .32 rim-fire revolver designed to be concealed in the palm of the hand with the barrel protruding between two fingers. The entire handgun was squeezed in order to fire a round. It was designed in 1882.

Another is the Russian GRAU NRS-2 Scout Firing Knife designed to fire a single 7.62x42 mm cartridge from the back of the handle of the knife.

There are also currently two artillery pieces available, these being the Russian ZiS divisional field gun and the iconic German 88 mm Flak 37 gun.

For those into World War II



firearms, you will find 23 of them available.

What did please me is that many of the weapons used in our own Border War are also there. These include:

- AK-47.
- FN-FAL (R1).
- G3.
- Galil (R4).
- PPSH 41.
- Uzi.
- Makarov PM.
- Tokarev TT-30.
- SKS.
- M-79 grenade launcher.
- RPG-7.
- RPD light machine gun.

The various modes that you can access with each model are challenging and also very informative.

The first thing you can do is field strip a weapon. This is the what you would do in real life if you wanted to clean the weapon.

If you field strip an AK-47 for example, there are 14 parts that need to be disassembled and

then reassembled. If, however, you want to disassemble the weapon completed then there are 96 parts.

When you disassemble and reassemble a weapon you can do it against the clock. The quicker the time, the more credits you earn.

There are also three game modes. The standard mode will allow you to get hints as what to do next. Then there is the Super Game, which allows no hints. Finally there is the hardcore mode which is really difficult.

The operation mode requires you do to certain things such as fire the weapon on available settings for that weapon (i.e. single shot, burst or automatic), engage and disengage the safety, reload the weapon, and add any accessories such as sights, bayonet, extended stock, etc.

You can also paint the weapon in various colours or patterns.

For those of you not interested in using the software as a game, it is also an excellent tool

for observing how each weapon works. Each of the models comes with quite a bit of information about it.

This is a game that I would really recommend. Especially as you can get it for free.

And, just to brag a little, there are currently 2.2 million people that own this game on Steam.

Of these 2.2 million I am currently ranked at 7,198. That means I am in the top one percent of players world wide.

So go ahead and beat that.



Publisher - Noble Empire Corp

Genre - Simulation

Score - 8/10

Price - Free (on Steam)



Movie Review

The Great Escape

Released: 1963
Running time: 172 minutes
Directed by: John Sturges

Directed by John Sturges, *The Great Escape* is a 1963 film based on a escape of British Commonwealth prisoners of war from a German POW camp during World War II.

It is based on Paul Brickhill's 1950 book of the same name, a non-fiction first-hand account of the mass escape from Stalag Luft III.

In 1943 the Germans are perturbed about the number of escaping Allied POWs. They have had to expend large resources on recapturing them.

Allied flyers fall under the Luftwaffe and they decided to built a new, high-security prison camp named Stalag Luft III to house the serial offenders.

As the camp commandant, Luftwaffe Colonel von Luger puts it, "We have decided to put all our rotten eggs in one basket."

The prisoners have an escape committee and most of them have ended up in the new camp. RAF Squadron Leader Roger Bartlett is brought to the camp under the guard of the Gestapo and SS. Bartlett is the head of the escape committee and is known as Big X. He immediately begins to plan an escape from the camp.

His plan is to dig not one, but three escape tunnels nicknamed Tom, Dick and Harry. He aims to have 200 POWs escape at the same time.

The POWs are organised into teams. Flight Lieutenant Robert

Hendley is "the scrounger". His job is to get hold of needed materials from a camera to clothes and identity cards.

Australian Flying Officer Louis Sedgwick, "the manufacturer". He makes tools from picks for digging to a pump to provide air to the tunnels.

Flight Lieutenants Danny Valinski and William "Willie" Dickes are "the tunnel kings" in charge of the digging.

Flight Lieutenant Colin Blythe is the "forger" responsible for identity documents, railway tickets and maps.

The Great Escape is a film that has stood the test of time. Most of the characters in the movie are based on real people or a composite of a few people.

Roger Bartlett, for example, is based on Squadron Leader Roger Bushell, a South African who planned the great escape.

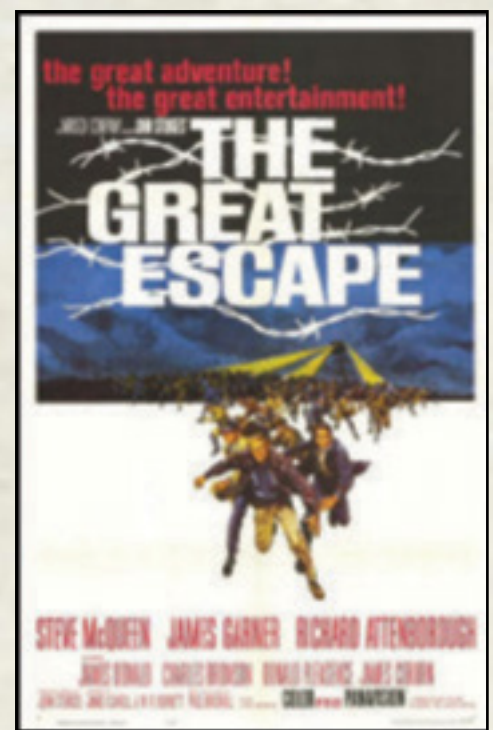
However, many details of the actual escape attempt were changed for the film, and the role of American personnel in both the planning and the escape was largely fabricated.

In the end 76 prisoners managed to escape. Only three made it to safety and 50 of those recaptured were executed by the Gestapo.

The Cast

Richard Attenborough - Sqn. Ldr. Roger Bartlett, "Big X"
Steve McQueen - Capt. Virgil

Hilts, the "Cooler King"
James Garner - Flt. Lt. Robert Hendley, the "Scrounger"
Charles Bronson - Flt. Lt. Danny Velinski, the "Tunnel King"
James Coburn - Flt. Off. Louis Sedgwick, the "Manufacturer"
Donald Pleasence - Flt. Lt. Colin Blythe, the "Forger"
David McCallum - Lt. Cmdr. Eric Ashley-Pitt, "Dispersal"
Gordon Jackson - Flt. Lt. Andrew MacDonald, "Intelligence"
James Donald - Gp. Capt. Ramsey, the Senior British Officer (SBO)
John Leyton - Flt. Lt. William Dickes, the "Tunnel King"
Angus Lennie - Flt. Off. Archibald Ives, the "Mole"
Nigel Stock - Flt. Lt. Dennis Cavendish, the "Surveyor"



Click on the poster to watch a trailer of the film.

As the Crow Flies

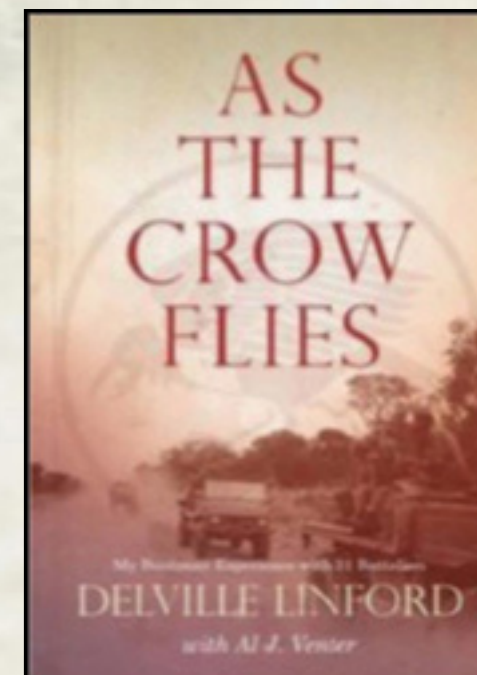
Until now, Colonel Delville Linford has had very little to say about his role as commander of Combat Group Alpha, or of that played by his Bushmen soldiers. In this volume he allows us a peek under the covers, not only how this tiny combat force operated, but also many 'behind the screens' machinations which explain how the unit was formed.

Following the independence of Angola from Portugal, a significant segment of that country's Bushman community crossed the border into what was then still South West Africa – Namibia today – and sought refuge with the South Africans. He goes on to tell us a lot about the Bushman people them-

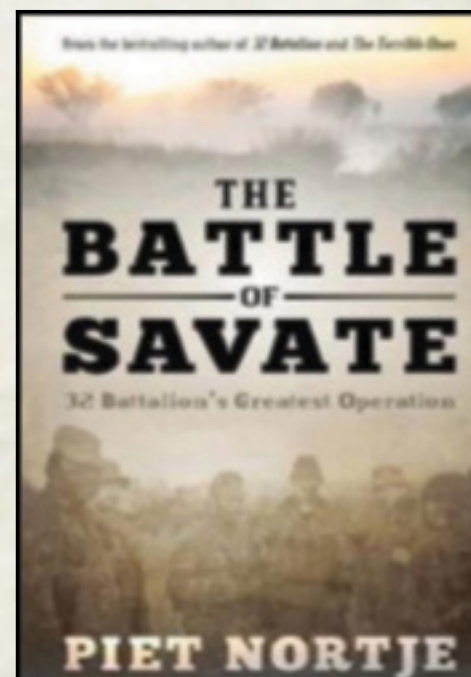
selves: the nature of their society, tribal traditions, bush-craft, customs that have become ingrained with time, historical fears, life in the wild, tracking – as well as much else about a historical culture that goes back millennia. Together with many of Colonel Linford's empathetic observations of these often-intriguing 'little' people, all go towards making for a rather fascinating read.

A hallmark volume with an introduction by General Constand Viljoen, Colonel Linford offers us – for the first time – his own 'warts and all' report, not only of the legendary 31 Battalion but also of his career in the South African Army.

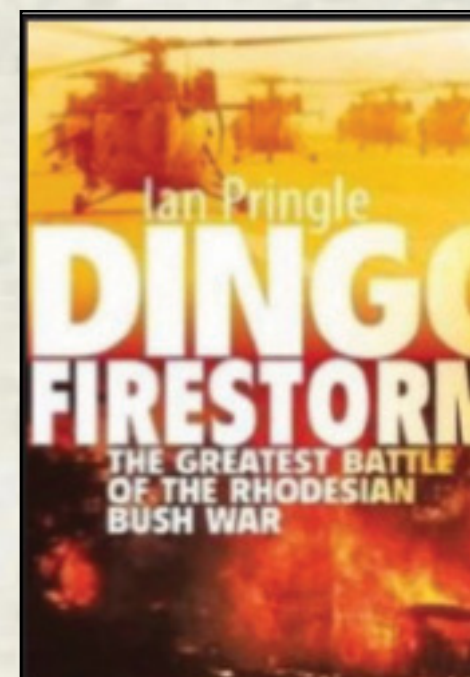
As The Crow Flies: My Bushman Experience with 31 Battal-



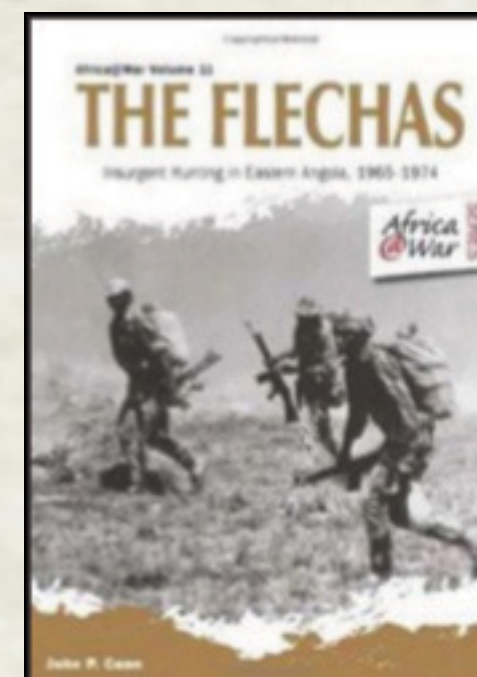
ion - Delville Linford with Al J. Venter
Softcover, 336 pages
Cost: R300



The Battle of Savate
R300



Dingo Firestorm
R300



The Flechas
R220

All books are available from [Bush War Books](#)

This month in military history

Some of the significant military events that happened in June. Highlighted in blue are the names of those members of the South African Defence Force (SADF) that lost their lives during the month of June.

1 June

- **1879** - Eugene Louis Jean Joseph Napoleon, the 22 year old Prince Imperial of France, is killed in the Anglo-Zulu War when he and a British reconnaissance party are attacked by about forty Zulus in the vicinity of Itelezi Mountain and Ityotyzi River in Zululand. The prince's horse, "Fate", bolts and the prince, in attempting to mount his fleeing horse, is stabbed to death.
- **1915** - First Zeppelin air raid over England.
- **1916** - Battle of Jutland: Fleets return to port.
- **1917** - The French Army "Mutinies" begin: Troops go on strike. Order is restored in about four weeks, with minimal violence, and the Germans never learn of them
- **1939** - The South African Police takes over the tasks of the German South-West African police. 423 members of the disbanded police force are incorporated into the force.
- **1943** - WWII: According to an entry in the squadron's diary, 28 Squadron of the SA Air Force is formed as a transport squadron at the SAAF Base Depot Almaza, Cairo.
- **1944** - Allied forces begin covering much of Britain with smoke screens, as troops crowd assembly areas for D-Day.
- **1948** - Cease-fire ends Israeli War for Independence.
- **1964** - Military coup installs a junta in Greece.
- **1976** - Lance Corporal Nollind Trevor Small from 4 SAI was killed just north of Grootfontein after he apparently suffered a seizure and blacked out while behind the wheel of the military Landrover he was driving. The vehicle left the road and collided with a water tower which collapsed on top of the vehicle. He was 19.
- **1977** - Private Johannes Jurgens Lensley from 16 Maintenance Unit was killed after being struck by a bullet during a shooting incident at Grootfontein. He was 18.
- **1978** - 2nd Lieutenant Philip Michael Dietlof Mare' from 6 Squadron was killed while on a routine training flight out of Air Force Base Port Elizabeth. He was 22.
- **1980** - Rifleman Petrus Johannes Bonnet from 61 Mechanised Battalion died of severe chest and lung injuries sustained when the Buffel Troop Carrier in which he was traveling, overturned outside the 61 Mech Base in Tsumeb. He was 19.
- **1980** - Umkhonto weSizwe strikes at the Sasol Complex, causing damage estimated at R66 million.
- **1980** - Two members from 102 Battalion SWATF were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in the Operational Area. They were: Rifleman B. Herunga ((22). Rifleman J. Matundu (20).
- **1981** - Festivities to mark the twentieth anniversary of the South African Republic reach a climax with a massive military display in Durban, attended by P.W. Botha, the Prime Minister.
- **1981** - Rifleman Gavin John Harvey from "B" Company, 1 Parachute Battalion was severely wounded during follow-up operations against SWAPO/PLAN insurgents on 22 May 1981. He was evacuated to the Hospital in Grootfontein where he was stabilised before being evacuated by air to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria the following day. He unfortunately succumbed to his wounds in 1 Military Hospital on 1 June 1981. He was 21.
- **1982** - Major Eugene Kotze SD, Station Pilot at Air Force Base Ondangwa was Killed in Action when his

- Atlas MB326KM Impala Mk II was shot down by anti-aircraft fire near Cuvelai in Southern Angola while carrying out close-air support operations. He was 35.
- **1982** - Private Robert William Benjamin Ostram from the Air Force Command Post in Windhoek was critically injured on 29 May 1982 when he fell off the back of a moving vehicle in Windhoek. He succumbed to his injuries in the Windhoek State Hospital on 1 June 1982. He was 21.
- **1988** - Two members from 101 Battalion SWATF were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. They were: Rifleman G K Semba (24). Rifleman J Savinga (26).
- to an end.
- **1908** - Sir Redvers Henry Buller, British general during Second Anglo-Boer War, dies.
- **1940** - Heavy German bombing of the Dunkirk beachhead.
- **1944** - WWII: North Africa. North Africa is used as a base of operations for Operation Frantic – 130 Flying Fortresses fly to Russia, bombing targets in Romania and Hungary as they go.
- **1978** - US offers to airlift French paratroopers out of the escalating violence in southern Zaire.
- **1979** - Rifleman Abraham Johannes Willemse from the Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident at Wellington while on a 7-day pass. He was 20.
- **1981** - 2nd Lieutenant Christoffel Petrus Taylor from 1 Parachute Battalion died in 1 Military Hospital after being critically injured on 29 May 1981. He was 20.
- **1982** - Special Constable Petrus Venasio from the South West Africa Police Counter –Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (KOEVOET) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
- **1986** - Rifleman T. Kefas from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 24.
- **1986** - Staff Sergeant L. Mutorwa from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents near the Angolan Border. He was 28.
- **1989** - Sapper Francois Crowley from the School of Engineers was accidentally killed when a telephone pole fell on top of him. He was 23.
- **1995** - USAF Capt Scott O'Grady's F-16C shot down over Bosnia.
- **2004** - DR Congo rebel leader General. Laurent Nkunda takes the town of Bukavu after a week of fighting with army troops.

2 June

- **1879** - A 1000-strong search party finds the body of the Prince Imperial of France, Louis Napoleon, who was killed when Zulu warriors attacked a small British reconnaissance party in the vicinity of Italezi Mountain and Ityotozi River in Zululand the previous day.
- **1902** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British Prime Minister Arthur Balfour reads the terms of surrender to the House of Commons in London after the signing of the Treaty of Vereeniging in Pretoria on 31 May which brought the Second South African (Anglo-Boer) War

PW Botha



- killed.
- **1940** - World War II: The withdrawal of Allied Forces from Dunkirk ends.
- **1940** - Major German air raid on Paris.
- **1944** - Last Italian air raid on Gibraltar, by Mussolini's "Republican Air Force".
- **1959** - First US Air Force Academy graduation.
- **1978** - Security Police chief, Brigadier C.F. Zietsman, announces that about 4,000 South African exiles are undergoing guerrilla training in Mozambique, Angola, Tanzania and Libya; of these about three quarters have been recruited by the ANC.
- **1984** - Rifleman Gabriel Kampanza from 203 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action in a Landmine Explosion in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1985** - Rifleman Thomas Daniel from 101 Battalion SWATF was accidentally shot dead in a shooting incident in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.

4 June

- **1918** - US and French halt the Germans at Chateau-Thierry.
- **1942** - Reinhard Heydrich, Himmler's henchman, is assassinated at the age of 38.
- **1944** - During World War II in Europe, Rome was liberated by the U.S. 5th Army, led by General Mark Clark. Rome had been declared an open city by German Field Marshal Albert Kesselring

- amid Allied concerns the Germans might stage a Stalingrad-style defense that would devastate the historic 'Eternal' city.
- **1963** - British Minister of War John Profumo resigns over an affair with Christine Keeler.
- **1969** - Joseph-Désiré Mobutu's troops kill over 100 students during a demonstration in the Congolese capital Kinshasa.
- **1969** - The Minister of Defence, P.W. Botha, accompanied by General Hiemstra, Lieutenant-General J.P. Verster, Chief of the Air Force and Lieutenant-General W.P. Louw, Chief of the Army, visits France (4-10 June). He denies that the visit involves the purchase of arms.
- **1973** - Over four thousand French troops are to be withdrawn from Madagascar at the request of Gabriel Ramanantsoa, the head of the recently imposed military government.
- **1974** - First Woman US Army Aviator: Sally Murphy.
- **1978** - Warrant Officer II Joseph Johannes Burger HCS from 2 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident at Messina. He was 38.
- **1979** - Rifleman David Johannes van Heerden from Eastern Province Command was killed at M'pacha after being struck by a bullet from a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 28.

- **1979** - Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings seizes power in his first military coup in Ghana.
- **1980** - Three members from 32 Battalion were Killed in Action, south of Mutuanjamba (approximately 80km inside Angola) during the first phase of Operation Sceptic. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant Pieter van der Walt (19). Staff Sergeant Simao Domingos Braz (27). Rifleman Joshua Joao (24).
- **1982** - Revised figures for the Defence Budget indicate the funds available to the South African Defence Force have been increased to R3,068 million.
- **1982** - Israel attacks targets in south Lebanon.
- **1989** - The Chinese government ordered its troops to open fire on unarmed protesters in Tiananmen Square in Beijing.
- **1992** - Colonel David Fredrik Strauss from Air Force Headquarters died in 1 Military Hospital from complications resulting from Brain Cancer. He was 49.
- **1997** - South Africa announces the development of a revolutionary canon an externally powered gun code-named EMAK3S, designed by Denel at the request of ARMSCOR.

5 June

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British troops enter Pretoria and Lord Roberts captures the capital of the

- ZAR.
- **1916** - Lord Kitchener drowns when the SS Hampshire sinks after being hit by a German mine near the Orkney Islands.
- **1942** - Midway Campaign: Yamamoto orders the Combined Fleet to retire.
- **1942** - USA declares war on Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania.
- **1944** - First B-29 raid over Tokyo; one plane is lost due to engine failure.
- **1952** - The monument at Delville Wood, unveiled on 10 October 1926 to honour the thousands of SA soldiers who were killed there during the Battle of the Somme, World War I, is rededicated to include World War II.
- **1967** - The Six Day War between Israel and its neighbouring countries Egypt, Jordan and Syria breaks out with Israel launching air strikes on Egypt, destroying most of that country's air force on the ground. Syria, Jordan and Iraq enter the conflict.
- **1978** - Corporal Charles Benjamin de Villiers from 1 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident in Bloemfontein. He was 22.
- **1984** - Rifleman M. Sipipa from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents. He was 22.
- **1984** - Rifleman Andries Christiaan Jacobs from Regiment Port Natal was killed in a military vehicle accident

- in Durban. He was 27.
- **1986** - Seven members from 250 Air Defence Artillery Group, South African Air Force were killed in a private motor vehicle accident in the early hours of the morning while traveling between Pretoria and Hammanskraal. They were returning to the Unit from a weekend sports pass. The accident occurred 25km from Hammanskraal. The casualties were: Corporal Michael Christopher Marx (19). Airman Deon Phillipus Beukes (19). Airman Grant Sinclair Strange Braithwaite (18). Airman Matthys Gideon Britz (19). Airman Dawid Lindeque (19). Airman Frans Cornelius Moolman (19). Airman Marthinus Louis Nel (19).
- 1987 - Two members from Infantry School were killed in a private motor vehicle accident 8km from Vredefort while on weekend pass. They were: Rifleman Francois Nel (18). Rifleman Pieter van der Linde (18).
- **1993** - Forces of Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid ambush UN soldiers in Mogadishu, killing twenty-two Pakistani soldiers.
- **2006** - Islamic militants with alleged links to al-Qaida

seize control of Somalia's capital, unifying the city for the first time in 16 years and posing a direct challenge to the UN-backed government.

6 June

- **1918** - The US Marines secure Belleau Wood.
- **1944** - D-Day: The Allied Forces land on the beaches of Normandy in the largest sea and air operation in the military history of the world.
- **1968** - Sir Miles Dempsey, Commander of the Canadian First Army on D-Day, dies at the age of 69.
- **1975** - Britain, France, and the United States use their UN Security Council veto to stop a proposed arms embargo against South Africa.
- **1977** - Corporal Salmon Petrus Claasen from the Technical Service Corps Training Centre died in 1 Military Hospital after being



Albert Kesselring

- critically injured in a military vehicle accident. He was 20.
- **1978** - Sergeant Coenrad Jacobus Theron from 32 Battalion Died of Wounds in 1 Military Hospital after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in a friendly fire incident on 6 May. He was 19.
- **1979** - Lance Corporal Hendrik Swart from SWA SPES was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in the Oshivello area. He was 24.
- **1980** - Corporal Mario van Wyk from 32 Battalion was killed in action. He was 20.
- **1981** - Rifleman Robert Owen Brindle from SWA SPES died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained as a result of a accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle at Etale Base. He was 18.
- **1982** - 30,000 Israeli troops invade Lebanon to drive out the PLO.
- **1983** - Rifleman Vincent Mandla Mthembu from 121 Battalion was Killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Windhoek. He was 20.
- **1985** - Captain Curtis McLeod from 4 Squadron was killed when his Atlas MB-326KM Impala crashed at Sandfontein near Lanseria. He was 29.
- **1985** - 2nd Lieutenant Markus Wynand Pearson from 7 SAI was killed in action while on patrol in Southern Angola. He was 21.
- **1985** - Two members from

- the south West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) were killed in action following a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. The casualties were: Special Warrant Officer J.M. Tsitula (34). Special Sergeant Lindu Valentino (26).
- **1988** - Airman Ian-Roy Francois Erasmus from the Air Force Gymnasium was killed in a private vehicle accident while returning to the Air Force Gymnasium from a weekend pass. He was 19.
- **1988** - With a border dispute escalating into bombing raids, hundreds of foreigners scramble out of Eritrea, fearing war with Ethiopia.
- **1991** - Rifleman Johannes Frederick Lombaard Nel from 8 SAI was accidentally killed when he was run over by a Ratel during field manoeuvres at the Army Battle School. He was 20.

7 June

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The battle of Roodewal Siding takes place near Koppies, OFS. General De Wet and eighty men attack two companies (172 men) guarding a train and supplies. Eight British soldiers are killed; twenty-four wounded and between 500 and 600 crates of ammunition are taken.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Units under General Hunter occupy Lichtenburg.
- **1912** - US Army Air Service

- tests an airplane-mounted machine gun.
- **1916** - Germans capture Fort Vaux, Verdun.
- **1917** - Battle of Messines: Mines totalling nearly 500 tons of explosives demolish the German trenches, and the Canadian Corps storms the ridge
- **1940** - British and French troops evacuate Narvik, Norway.
- **1942** - Battle of Midway: The USS 'Yorktown' (CV-5) goes down, after a desperate fight to save the ship.
- **1942** - The Germans capture Sebastopol.
- **1944** - British 50th division liberates Bayeux.
- **1962** - Phosphorous bombs are detonated at Algiers University by members of the *Organisation de l'Armee Secrete* (OAS), a secret (terrorist) French army organisation opposed to the withdrawal of French troops from Algeria.
- **1967** - Israeli forces reach Suez Canal in Egypt, two days into Six-Day War.
- **1977** - Lieutenant Alwyn Merwe van Zyl from Regiment Oranjerivier died in the Grootfontein Hospital after contracting malaria while serving in the Operational Area. He was 26.
- **1981** - Two members of the South African Medical Corps were killed after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in an accidental hand grenade explosion at Walvis Bay. They were: Private Henry John Pieterse (20). Private

- Kevin Henry Stanley (19).
- **1981** - Israeli air strikes destroy Iraqi nuclear weapons facilities.
- **1982** - Rifleman Carlos Everisto from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 21.
- **1982** - Sergeant Lloyd Mizwandile Mbele from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during a Contact with Enemy Forces in Southern Angola. He was 28.
- **1985** - Trooper Johannes Ludwig Basson from 701 Battalion SWATF was killed at M'pacha after being struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 19.
- **1990** - President F.W. de Klerk lifts the state of emergency in SA.
- **1991** - Several Lesotho army officers are arrested after attempting a counter-coup to reinstate Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, ousted on April 30.
- **1997** - Foreigners flee heavy fighting between rival militias in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo.

8 June

- **1900** - Botha's Pass in Natal comes under attack by General Buller's forces.
- **1948** - John Rudder becomes the first black officer in the US Marine Corps.
- **1953** - Colonel René Paul Fonck, Allied World War I

- "Ace of Aces" (74 confirmed kills, 30+ possibles), dies at the age of 59.
- **1960** - Argentine government demands Israel release Adolf Eichmann.
- **1965** - US troops ordered to fight offensively in Vietnam.
- **1976** - Corporal Hendrik Josias Stephanus Coetzee from 4 Maintenance Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident at Wenela Base in the East Caprivi. He was 19.
- **1979** - Rifleman Johannes Leonardus Truter from 8 SAI was critically wounded in the head when his Temporary Base near Beacon 6 was attacked by SWAPO/PLAN insurgents on 4 February. This serious head wound left him completely paralysed and he remained in intensive care in 1 Military Hospital until he succumbed to his wounds on 8 June 1979. He was 19.
- **1981** - 2nd Lieutenant Duncan Frederick Lahner from 32 Battalion was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Buffalo Base. He was 21.

- **1984** - Two members from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. They were: Corporal D. Shiningivali (24). Lance Corporal K. Awino (22).
- **1985** - Rifleman Izaskar Kariko from 911 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-line. He was 22.
- **1987** - Corporal Jacques Barand Zaayman from 1 SAI was killed on the Malsespoort to Glen Road outside Bloemfontein when his Ratel overturned while he was instructing a pupil in driving skills. He was 19.
- **1988** - Colonel Andre Bekker from the South African Air Force was killed when his civilian Christen Husky aircraft crashed at Wonder-



René Fonck

boom Airport during a routine training flight. He was 46.

- **1995** - Marines rescue downed USAF Capt Scott O'Grady in Bosnia.

9 June

- **1865** - The Second Basotho War, known as Siqiti war, breaks out.
- **1938** - The Chinese breach the Yellow River dykes at Huayangkuou, halting a Japanese offensive at the cost of perhaps 800,000 lives.
- **1940** - French government flees Paris for Tours, as German troops cross the Seine.
- **1940** - Norway surrenders to Germany, as King Haakon VII flees into exile in London.
- **1942** - Nazis raze Lidice, Czechoslovakia. About 1,400 people are slaughtered.
- **1944** - Normandy: U.S. VII & V Corps link up to form a continuous beachhead.
- **1959** - The first ballistic missile sub is launched from USS 'George Washington' (SSBN-598).
- **1967** - Military service becomes compulsory for White South African men.
- **1976** - 2nd Lieutenant Kevin Roy Winterbottom HC (P) from 4 Squadron had just taken off from Air Force base Waterkloof in his Atlas MB-326KM Impala Mk II, when it suffered engine failure due to a bird strike. There was a busy road ahead of him, so he began a left turn, which set him up on a heading di-

rectly for the built-up area of Monument Park. Realising this and although extremely low, he persisted with his left turn in a final effort to avoid damage to property and injury or death to persons on the ground. The aircraft was by this time so low as to exclude the possibility of ejection and it hit the ground just as it cleared the built-up area, disintegrating on impact and killing him instantly. For his actions he was awarded a posthumous Honoris Crux. He was 21.

10 June

- **1915** - British and French troops secure German Cameroon, Africa.
- **1917** - The South African Native Labour Contingent were recruited and employed to assist Britain in the First World War with labour duties.
- **1944** - Ouradour-sur-Glane: SS massacre 642 men, women, and children in a French village.
- **1967** - Cease fire ends the Six Day War (Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt vs. Israel).
- **1974** - Captain Petrus Johannes Coetzer from 6 SAI suffered severe brain injuries in a private motor vehicle accident on 8 June 1974 near Lichtenburg while on leave. He remained on life support in 1 Military Hospital until he succumbed to his injuries on 10 June 1974. He was 29.
- **1975** - Corporal Timothy Chadwick from 6 SAI was

accidentally killed while busy building a bunker at Bagani. He was 20.

- **1979** - Rifleman Johannes Wilhelmus Landerd Jans from the Johannesburg Regiment was Killed in Action in Southern Angola. He was 22.
- **1980** - Rifleman Jose Miguel from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion in Southern Angola during operations against enemy forces. He was 29.
- **1980** - Thirteen members of 61 Mechanised Battalion and 1 SAI (attached) were Killed in Action or Died of Wounds during the attack on the PLAN Smokeshell Base complex during Operation Sceptic in Southern Angola. The casualties were: Lieutenant Johannes Jacobus Du Toit (HC) (22). Rifleman Francois Johan Loubser (19). Rifleman Petrus Johannes Joubert (19). Rifleman Gert Johannes Venter (25). Rifleman Gerhardus Johannes Kemp (19). Rifleman Jacobus Hendrik Fourie (20). Corporal Paul Kruger (20). Rifleman Stephen Maritz Cronje (19). Rifleman Peter William Warrener (19). Rifleman Roberto Nicola de Vito (19). Rifleman Michael Clarence Luyt (19). Rifleman Francis John Lello (19). Rifleman Andrew John Madden (19).
- **1981** - Rifleman Antonio Johannes from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with

SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 24.

- **1982** - Rifleman K Comoxo from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 25.
- **1982** - Israeli troops reach outskirts of Beirut.
- **1991** - Ticker tape parade up Broadway to honour Gulf War veterans.

11 June

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Colonel B.T. Mahon occupies Potchefstroom.
- **1900** - The battle of Donkerhoek (Diamond Hill) marks the continuation of the South African War.
- **1904** - German Lieutenant-General Lothar von Trotha lands in Swakopmund, South West Africa.
- **1940** - World War II: North Africa. British planes raid Italian targets in Libya following Italy's declaration of war against Britain and France on the 10th.
- **1940** - Italian air raid on Malta.
- **1940** - RAF raids Genoa and Turin.
- **1960** - Libyan president Colonel Muammar Gadhafi admits to providing funds, munitions, and training to the IRA.
- **1968** - Lieutenant Johannes Viljoen from 1 Squadron was killed when his Canadair CL13B Sabre crashed near

Pietersburg during a routine training flight. He was 23.

- **1977** - Dutch Marines rescue hostages on a train held by Moluccan terrorists.
- **1985** - Rifleman Litwayi Herbert from 202 Battalion SWATF was killed in a military vehicle accident at Vungu-Yungu. He was 20.
- **1994** - After 49 years, the Soviet military occupation of East Germany ended. At one time there had been 337,800 Soviet troops stationed in Germany. Over 300,000 Russians died during World War II in the Battle for Berlin.

12 June

- **1898** - The Philippines declared their independence from Spain. The islands were named after King Philip II. Once freed from Spain, the islands were then invaded and occupied by U.S. forces. They became an American colony and remained so until after World War II.

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Redvers Henry Buller occupies Volksrust after a victory at Allemansnek.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: President Steyn issues a proclamation refuting Lord Robert's annexation proclamations. He points out that the Orange Free State government is still in existence and its military forces are still unconquered and thus in terms of the Hague Convention, military rule cannot be imposed.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The two-day Battle of Diamond Hill or Donkerhoek, started on the previous day, ends when darkness sets in and Comdt.-Gen. Botha orders his burghers to return to Bronkhorstspuit. The following day Lord Roberts withdraws to Christinen Hill, Sammy Marks' farm.
- **1918** - First air raid by an American aviation unit, France.
- **1937** - The Purges: Stalin

Muammar Gadhafi



initiates mass executions of senior military personnel

- **1943** - British King George IV lands in Algiers at the start of a North African tour of Allied troops.
- **1943** - Himmler orders extermination of all Polish ghettos.
- **1944** - First V-1 cruise missile attack on London.
- **1944** - US troops liberate Carentan and Chaumont, Normandy.
- **1962** - Two members from Central Flying School Dunnottar were killed instantly when their AT-6 Harvard struck the ground and disintegrated near Dunnottar while they were carrying out unauthorised low level aerobatics. The crew of the aircraft were: 2nd Lieutenant Bruce Erroll Gaylard (19). Air Mechanic Hermanus Lambertus Booysen (18).
- **1967** - Israel declares it will keep some of ground won from Egypt, Jordan and Syria in Six-Day War.
- **1976** - A military coup in Uruguay overthrows civilian president Juan Bordaberry, beginning a nine-year dictatorship.
- **1983** - Staff Sergeant Donald Norman Coleby from Regiment Groot Karoo Died of Wounds 10 km south of Cuvelai. He was 27.
- **1983** - Special Constable K Kambirua 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.

- **1989** - Private Clive Dean MacKenzie from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed instantly when he was electrocuted after accidentally touching overhead high tension wires at the Bulkop Railway Station while in the process of offloading military supplies. He was 18.
- **1993** - US helicopters and gunships destroy four of Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid's arms depots, one week after his forces allegedly killed twenty-three Pakistani members of the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping forces in a series of fire fights.
- **1999** - NATO peacekeeping forces begin operating in Kosovo, Yugoslavia.

13 June

- **1900** - The "Boxer Rebellion" begins in China.
- **1917** - Major German bomber raid on London's East End, 162 die, including 18 children at the Upper North Street School.
- **1942** - World War II Britain loses 230 tanks in desert battles.
- **1942** - Peenemunde: First V-2 rocket reaches 1.3 km.
- **1944** - First V-1 raid: one of ten missiles fired strikes London, six die.
- **1951** - UN forces reach Pyongyang, Korea.
- **1956** - Last British troops leave Suez Canal base, turn-

ing the waterway over to Egypt after operating it for seventy-four years.

- **1970** - P.W. Botha announces that South Africa is establishing a new submarine base at Simonstown at a cost of \$7.7 million.
- **1973** - Captain Anthonie Johannes Brits from 8 Squadron was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed near Bloemfontein during a routine training flight. He was 28.
- **1993** - Twenty Somalis are killed and fifty more wounded when Pakistani members of the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping forces fire into a crowd of demonstrators protesting UN attacks on warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid..

14 June

- **1775** - The first U.S. Military service, the Continental Army consisting of six companies of riflemen, was established by the Second Continental Congress. The next day, George Washington was appointed by a unanimous vote to command the army.
- **1912** - The headquarters of the defence force of the Union of South Africa is founded in Pretoria.
- **1917** - General John J. Pershing and his staff reach Paris.
- **1940** - The Nazis open concentration camps at Auschwitz and Oranienburg.
- **1944** - First B-29 raid on Japan; 60 bombers hit the steel

works on Honshu.

- **1952** - Keel laid for the USS 'Nautilus' (SSN-571), the first nuclear powered submarine.
- **1979** - Rifleman Lloyd Matthew Marthinus Kasoor from the South African Cape Corps was killed in a military vehicle accident at Grootfontein. He was 20.
- **1982** - Falklands: Argentines surrender to Britain, ending the 74 day war.
- **1985** - The SA Defence Force attacks alleged ANC homes and offices in Gaborone, Botswana, in Operation Plecksy. Twelve or thirteen people are killed.

15 June

- **1864** - General Robert E Lee's home, Arlington, becomes a US military cemetery.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Sergeant J. Rogers of the SA Constabulary earns a Victoria Cross near Thaba Nchu.
- **1915** - After the 1914 Rebellion, General Christiaan de Wet is found guilty of high treason in the High Court, Bloemfontein, and sentenced to six years' imprisonment and a fine of £2000. Within a few months the fine had been paid from voluntary contributions.
- **1934** - At a meeting in Rome Hitler meets Mussolini for the first time.
- **1940** - The Germans capture Verdun.
- **1962** - 2nd Lieutenant Johan

Andries De Bruine from 1 Squadron was killed in when his Canadair CL13B Sabre crashed near Pienaarsriver. He was 23.

- **1964** - Last French troops leave Algeria.
- **1974** - Minister of Defence P.W. Botha announces during a press visit to the Caprivi Strip that the Defence Force has taken over protection of the country's northern borders as a full military operation, replacing the police in the area.
- **1975** - Rifleman Rumai Tete-ko from Alpha Group (Later 31 Battalion) was killed after being attacked and trampled to death by an enraged Buffalo while on Patrol in Southern Angola. He was 22.
- **1978** - Bombardier Christo Loots from 4 Artillery Regiment was killed at Oshakati after being struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 19.
- **1981** - Rifleman Peter An-

dre Clifford Meyers from 6 SAI was accidentally killed after suffering severe head injuries when he fell 10m from a slide during training at Grootfontein. He was 26.

- **1984** - Ciskei's former Commander of the Armed Forces, Major-General Charles Sebe, brother of President Lennox Sebe, is sentenced to twelve years' imprisonment after being found guilty of incitement to public violence.
- **1988** - A meeting between the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) and the SADF takes place, with a main objective to discuss alternative national service. In August Minister of Defence Magnus Malan broke off relations with the ECC.
- **1993** - Rifleman Johan Cloete from 8 SAI died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained in a shooting incident at Boskop. He was 21.

16 June

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer

Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini



War: Start of the 'scorched earth' policy. Lord Roberts issues a proclamation warning the Republican forces that houses in the vicinity of Boer activities will be burnt and the inhabitants made prisoners of war.

- **1911** - The City of Fez, Morocco, is occupied by the French army.
- **1953** - Soviet tanks crush workers' protest in East Berlin.
- **1955** - Abortive coup against President Juan Peron of Argentina.
- **1957** - French offensive in Algeria.
- **1965** - Civil war starts in Chad.
- **1975** - The Simon's Town agreement on naval cooperation between Britain and South Africa is formally ended by mutual agreement after 169 years.
- **1976** - Rifleman Clifford Donald Holland from the Durban Light Infantry was killed at Ruacana when he was struck by bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 19.
- **1977** - Rifleman Stephen Jones from Regiment Schoonspruit died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained at the Oshivello Training Area. He was 27.
- **1984** - Rifleman Johann Jacobus Hurter from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 24.
- **1984** - Special Sergeant N.

Nghifino 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.

- **1992** - Two members from 117 Infantry Battalion were killed when their Military Vehicle was involved in a head on collision with civilian vehicle at Mankweng. They were: Corporal Sedima Johannes Lebepe (25). Rifleman Kgabo Theophilus Kubjana (25).
- **2006** - Up to 5,000 children still serve in the Ugandan armed forces even though they are officially banned from enlisting, a senior UN official said.

17 June

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: "Steinaecker's Horse", an irregular unit of about fifty mercenaries in British service, using Black armed tribesmen and operating from Swaziland, damages a bridge near Kaapmuiden. The rail traffic to Delagoa Bay is interrupted for about fourteen days.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: President M.T. Steyn appoints judge J.B.M. Hertzog as general.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British politician David Lloyd George denounces the concentration camp policy.
- **1940** - France asks Germany for terms of surrender.

- **1940** - Operation Ariel: Last British and Allied troops evacuated from France.
- **1942** - World War II: The first American expeditionary force lands in Africa.
- **1945** - Final Japanese defensive line on Okinawa breached.
- **1963** - Field Marshal Sir Alan Francis Brooke, Viscount Alanbrooke, dies at the age of 79.
- **1965** - Vietnam: First B-52 raid, 50 km north of Saigon.
- **1967** - China becomes world's fourth thermonuclear power.
- **1975** - The British Minister of State for Defence says that the ending of the Simon's Town Agreements means an end to all the military cooperation between Britain and South Africa.
- **1977** - Private Johannes Albertus Erasmus from 11 Squadron was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 19.
- **1978** - Rifleman (Mrs) Heyletta Swanepoel from the Bronkhorstspuit Commando collapsed and died after suffering a fatal heart attack while on official duty at the Zonderwater Shooting Range at Cullinan. She was 40.
- **1979** - 2nd Lieutenant Samuel Walters Coetzee from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces. He was 20.
- **1980** - Rifleman M Tjisota from 37 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact

with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 20.

- **1982** - Two members of 5 Reconnaissance Regiment were Killed in Action during a Contact with Enemy Forces. They were: Sergeant Lloyd Mziwandile Mbele (28). Lance Corporal Oiva Shilongo (22).
- **1982** - Special Constable A. Ndawedapo 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.
- **1984** - Trooper Andre van Neel from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 19.
- **1985** - Rifleman Juston King from 6 SAI was killed in Private Vehicle Accident at Uitenhage while returning to his Unit from a leave pass to clear out on completion of his National Service. He was 21.
- **1987** - Two members from the Central Flying School at Dunnottar were killed when their AT-6 Harvard, Serial No. 7048 crashed on the farm Rietkuil, 10km South East of Delmas during a training sortie. The casualties were: Captain Bruce Matthew Nelson (26). Captain Ricardo Henrico Vergottini (26).
- **1989** - Rifleman Neill Knight from 4 SAI collapsed and died while at Rooikop

Base, Walvis Bay. The Post Mortem revealed that he was suffering from a brain tumour. He was 20.

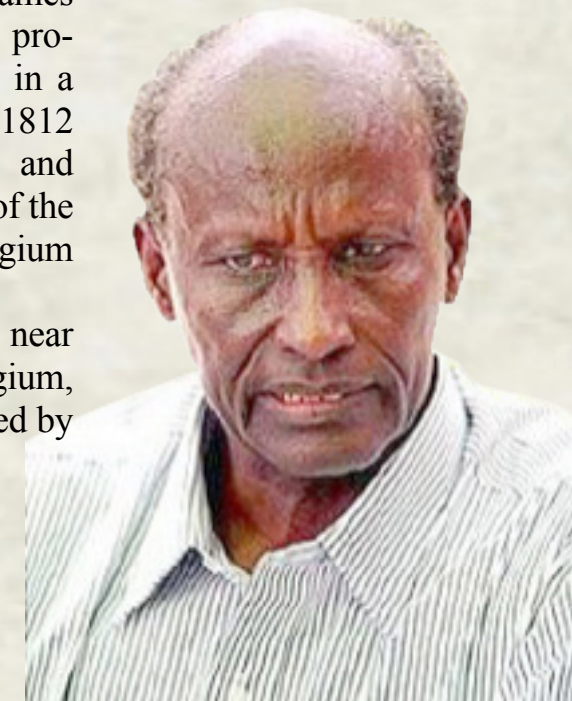
- **1993** - United Nations (UN) troops storm the headquarters of Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid in Mogadishu, but he is not there.
- **1997** - Sierra Leone's military leader, Johnny Paul Koroma, is sworn in as head of state and pledge to restore peace to the war-weary West African nation.
- **1998** - USS 'Missouri' (BB-63) is dedicated as a war memorial, Pearl Harbour..

18 June

- **1812** - After much debate, the U.S. Senate voted 19 to 13 in favour of a declaration of war against Great Britain, prompted by Britain's violation of America's rights on the high seas and British incitement of Indian warfare on the Western frontier. The next day, President James Madison officially proclaimed the U.S. to be in a state of war. The War of 1812 lasted over two years and ended with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium on December 24, 1814.
- **1815** - On the fields near Waterloo in central Belgium, 72,000 French troops, led by

Napoleon, suffered a crushing military defeat from a combined Allied army of 113,000 British, Dutch, Belgian, and Prussian troops.

- **1823** - The British Army adopts trousers for infantry, in lieu of breeches & gaiters.
- **1940** - Hitler and Mussolini confer in Munich, discuss the imminent surrender of France and plans for an invasion of Switzerland.
- **1940** - Winston Churchill says "this was their finest hour".
- **1942** - Dr. Bernard Whitfield Robinson becomes the first black officer in the U.S. Navy.
- **1945** - William "Lord Haw-Haw" Joyce is charged with treason.
- **1974** - Marshal of the Soviet Union Georgi Zhukov, dies at the age of 78.
- **1975** - Two members from Infantry School accidentally drowned at Gamkaskloof. They were: Rifleman Gabri-



Mohammed Farah Aidid

- el Johannes Erasmus (19). Rifleman Gerhard Joshua Franzen (19).
- **1983** - Rifleman Johan Steyn from 3 SAI died from a gunshot wound accidentally self-inflicted while at Potchefstroom. He was 18.
- **1984** - Rifleman Paulus Hausiku from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 20.
- **1985** - Private Kurt Preuss from the Technical service Corps was killed when struck by a bullet resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 21.
- **1987** - Five members from 32 Battalion were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces near Evale in Southern Angola during Operation Radbraak. The casualties were: Corporal Bernard Sokola (34). Lance Corporal Joao Vocolo (32). Rifleman Joao Goncalves (38). Rifleman Paulus Kapinga (22). Rifleman Lituya Ntjamba (19).
- **1988** - Special Warrant Officer Daniel Katapotle from the SWA 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.

19 June

- **1864** - The Alabama, American raider, is sunk outside Cherbourg harbour, France,

by the U.S.S. Kearsarge.

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Buller enters Volksrust, the first town in the ZAR to fall into his hands.
- **1948** - USSR blocks access to West-Berlin: Berlin Blockade begins.
- **1953** - Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed by electrocution at Sing Sing Prison in New York. They had been found guilty of providing vital information on the atomic bomb to the Soviet Union during 1944-45.
- **1968** - Candidate Officer Alwyn Johannes Botha from Regiment Molopo was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident 11 kilometres from Zeerust. He was 18.
- **1973** - 2nd Lieutenant Hendrik Willem Alberts from 4 Squadron was killed when his Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I crashed near Masito while engaged in Operation Brolly Tree 3, a training exercise that was being carried out in the Zeerust area. He was 23.
- **1975** - Sergeant Daniel Johannes Labuschagne from 19 Squadron was killed in a military vehicle accident in Rhodesia. He was 30.
- **1975** - Rifleman Diederick Johannes Vorster from Services School was accidentally killed when struck by a bullet resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while he was stationed at Oshakati. He was 19.

- **1976** - Corporal Robert Sheppard Gibbon from 1 Special Service Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 19.
- **1979** - Two members from 8 SAI were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Oshivello. They were: Rifleman Daniel Johannes Mocke (19). Rifleman Gerritt Franchois Roos (19).
- **1980** - Rifleman Jacobus Frederick van den Bergh from 53 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action when his patrol was ambushed by SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near Etale Base. He was 19.
- **1985** - Private Johannes Philippus Prinsloo from 101 Base Workshops was killed in a military vehicle accident at Bagani. He was 20.
- **1987** - Lance Corporal Gerhardus Christiaan Meyer from the Technical Service Corps was killed in a military vehicle accident at the Army Battle School at Lohatla. He was 24.
- **1987** - Rifleman Adriaan Gerhardus Riekert from the Brakpan Commando was killed in a military vehicle accident in Brakpan. He was 24.
- **1987** - Rifleman Willem Uithaler from the South African Cape Corps was killed after being struck bullet resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while at the Touw's River Training Area. He was 23.

- **1992** - Warrant Officer 1 Johannes Jacobus Fourie from 10 Engineer Squadron was critically injured in a military vehicle accident on 15 June 1992. He was admitted to the Pietersburg Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries on 19 June 1992. He was 45.
- **1992** - The Goldstone Commission recommends that the 32nd Battalion "should not again be used for peacekeeping duties anywhere in South Africa". The Commission's Tokoza Committee says that the battalion has committed acts of violence against residents of the Phola Park squatter camp.

20 June

- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The British execute P.W. Kloppert, a Cape rebel, by hanging. Cloete claimed that he was not a rebel because he had Orange Free State citizenship.
- **1939** - Heinkel He-176 rocket plane flies for first time, at Peenemunde.
- **1941** - The U.S. Army Air Corps is reorganized as the Army Air Forces.
- **1963** - Cold War: Washington-Moscow "hot line" established.
- **1963** - Air Mechanic Robert Henry Mentis died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while stationed at Voortrekkerhoogte. He was 17.
- **1968** - Candidate Officer Pieter Frans Jurgens was

killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed near Dunnottar while on a routine training flight. He was 19.

- **1973** - The Minister of Defence denies that South African troops are supporting Portuguese armed forces in Mozambique, as alleged by FRELIMO.
- **1983** - Trooper Jan Hendrik de Lange from 2 Special Service Battalion was killed after being struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 17.
- **1984** - Two members from the 2nd Battalion Transvaal Scottish accidentally drowned while their patrol was crossing the Cunene River near the Ruacana Falls. They were: Rifleman Arthur Hendrik Boshoff (21). Rifleman Leslie George Wasas (21).

- **1984** - Special Constable Blasius Kutenda from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
- **1987** - Rifleman K. Tjihote from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1988** - Rifleman Ian Michael Webb from 6 SAI died in hospital at Tsumeb after sustaining severe head injuries when the right front tyre of a SAMIL truck burst causing the driver to lose control approximately 5km past the Tsumeb turn-off. He was 20.

Ethel and Julius Rosenberg



21 June

- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: "In a letter to St John Broderick, Secretary of War, Lord Kitchener declares, 'It was a mistake to regard the Boers as a civilized race which could ever be an asset to the British Empire: they are uncivilized Afrikaner savages with a thin White veneer ...' He asks the cabinet to endorse a scheme that will allow the permanent banishment of all Boers who at any time have fought against Britain, as well as their families... He suggests the Fiji Islands in the South Pacific."
- **1919** - Scapa Flow: Germans scuttle over 400,000 tons of warships.
- **1942** - World War II: The Second South African Division under Major-General H.B. Klopper surrenders and the German force under General Rommel captures 25,000 Allied troops, under whom 10 722 South Africans at Tobruk on the coast of Libya.
- **1948** - Berlin Airlift begins.
- **1967** - Air Mechanic Adam Hendrik Schoeman from 1 Squadron was accidentally killed at AFB Pietersburg after he was sucked into the engine air intake of a Canadair C13L Sabre while setting the fuel pumps during a full engine run. He was 19.
- **1977** - Rifleman Raymond Ward from the SWA SPES was killed in a military vehicle accident while travelling to De Aar. He was 24.

- **1979** - Two members from 32 Battalion were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola near Beacon 32. They were: 2nd Lieutenant Willem Adriaan de Vos (19). Rifleman S. Mukonda (27).
- **1980** - Corporal Petrus Johannes Badenhorst from 5 SAI was critically wounded on 20 June 1980 in an explosion while doing evening "Klaarstaan" in the Ops Room at Concor Base, east of Ruacana. He succumbed to his wounds and resultant blood loss in the early hours of 21 June. He was 20.
- **1980** - Corporal Willem Adriaan Finnie from 41 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents. He was 18.
- **1982** - Bombardier Dirk Hero Onne Hassebroek from 84 Motorised Brigade was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident in Sector 70. He was 23.
- **1982** - Three members from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. They were: Special Constable Paulus Antonius (20). Special Constable Immanuel Kavulu (29). Special Constable Theophillus Ndevelo (26).
- **1983** - Sergeant Terrence Moffat Atkinson from 1

Construction Regiment was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Musese in Western Kavango. He was 56.

22 June

- **1939** - World War II: France surrenders to Germany eight days after the German forces invaded the country.
- **1940** - About 10,000 Afrikaner women, led by Mrs H.C. Steyn, march to the Union Buildings to protest about the South African involvement in World War II on the side of Britain. The women protested against South Africa's participation in World War II on the side of Britain and requested that South Africa should withdraw from the war.
- **1941** - Starting at 3:15 am Operation Barbarossa begins, as some 3.2 million German soldiers plunged headlong into Russia across an 2,987 kilometre front, in a major turning point of World War II. At 7 am that morning, a proclamation from Hitler to the German people announced, "At this moment a march is taking place that, for its extent, compares with the greatest the world has ever seen..."
- **1942** - The heaviest single day's loss of life in Australian military history; 845 soldiers and 208 civilians aboard the Japanese prisoner-of-war ship 'Montevideo Maru' was sunk by the American submarine 'Sturgeon' (SS 187) in the South

China Sea.

- **1944** - Russians begin "Operation Bagration", the Destruction of German Army Group Centre.
- **1945** - Okinawa secured: 110,000 Japanese troops, 100,000 civilians, 17,520 US troops died.
- **1955** - Soviets shoot down US patrol plane over the Bering Sea.
- **1984** - Rifleman Andries Kees from the South African Cape Corps died from gunshot wounds accidentally sustained. He was 18.
- **1985** - Corporal Johannes Gobe from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-line. He was 29.
- **1987** - Airman John Liam Corrigan from the Lowveld Airspace Control Sector was accidentally shot dead by a visitor at Mariepskop while he was on guard duty. He was 20.
- **1990** - Signaller Ronald Leon Wheeler from Group 10 was killed in a military vehicle accident at Umkomaas. He was 20.
- **1993** - The UN resumes food distribution in Mogadishu, Somalia, ten days after fighting between UN troops and those of warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid halt.
- **2003** - A US Marine is killed and eight other service members are injured by errant bombs dropped by a US B-52 Stratofortress in Dji-

bouti, the United States' only base in Africa.

23 June

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British forces advance. General Clements reaches Winburg. General Hamilton enters Heidelberg after a slight skirmish. General Clery joins Buller at Standerton.
- **1902** - Field-cornet Salmon van As is executed by a firing squad after being found guilty by a British Court Martial of murdering Captain Richard Miers.
- **1940** - Hitler orders preparations for an invasion of Switzerland.
- **1942** - Rommel breaks the Gazala Line and drives on Egypt.
- **1970** - Two members from 42 Squadron were killed when their Cessna 185A crashed at Vaal River near

Potchefstroom after flying into High Tension Wires. The aircraft crew were: 2nd Lieutenant Johan van Sittert (21). Candidate Officer Petrus Johannes van Deventer (22).

- **1974** - Lieutenant Freddie Johannes Zeelie from 1 Reconnaissance Commando was Killed in Action while engaged on anti-insurgent operations in Southern Angola. He was the first South African soldier to be Killed in Action during the Border War. He was also the only member of Special Forces to ever receive the Louw Wepener Decoration. He was 22.
- **1980** - Sergeant Jacobus Daniel Cilliers from 17 Squadron was Killed in action when his Alouette III was shot down by an RPG-

Erwin Rommel



7 anti-tank rocket during the later stages of Ops Sceptic. He was 23.

- **1982** - A Defence Amendment Bill provides for a re-organisation of the defence system intended to give the South African Defence Force (SADF) adequate manpower to deal with almost every conceivable threat.
- **1984** - Corporal Johannes Christiaan Theunissen from 7 SAI was Killed in Action. He was 21.
- **1994** - Some 2,500 French troops head into Rwanda to protect civilians, the first outside forces sent there since UN. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali appealed for international involvement to stop the genocide.
- **1997** - In the Central African Republic, soldiers fire on foreign peacekeepers in the third major rebellion since May.

24 June

- **1916** - World War I: The first Battle of the Somme begins. It lasted five months and the death toll of more than 1 million resulted in an allied advance of 125 square miles. Many SA troops were killed in action.
- **1917** - Russian Black Sea fleet mutinies at Sebastopol.
- **1940** - France signs an armistice with Italy.
- **1945** - Victory parade in Red Square in Moscow.
- **1978** - Private Anton Nel

from 1 Satellite Radar Station at Mariepskop died from head injuries received in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 20.

- **1980** - Private Michael Johannes Range from the South African Defence Force Institute (SADFI/SAWI) in Pietersburg was killed when the military vehicle in which he was travelling, overturned. He was 18.
- **1983** - Corporal George Louis Steytler from 1 Parachute Battalion Died of Wounds after being critically wounded in the head when his Patrol TB was attacked by a FAPLA/Cuban force while in an area approximately 38km from Cahama. He succumbed to his wounds while on the Casevac helicopter ferry flight back to AFB Ondangwa. He was 19.
- **1997** - Defence Minister Joe Modise warns that the proposed R1,4 billion cut in the defence budget could seriously disrupt the defence force's ability to function and to contribute to the fight against crime.

25 June

- **1677** - Governor Johan Bax of the Cape, who waged war against the Hottentot (Khoi-Khoi) Chief Gonnema from 1676, concludes 'a good, lasting peace'.
- **1862** - Custer's Last Stand. 250 men of the US 7th Cavalry, under General George Armstrong Custer, are attacked by between 2,000 and

4,000 Indian Braves near the Little Bighorn River. Only one scout and one horse on the US side survive the battle.

- **1940** - Hitler tours Paris, taking in the Eiffel Tower, Napoleon's Tomb, and the Opera.
- **1941** - Finland declares war on the Soviet Union.
- **1942** - World War II: General Sir Claude Auchinleck becomes commander of the British Eighth Army in North Africa.
- **1942** - World War II: British Air Force stages 1,000-bomber raid on Bremen, Germany.
- **1942** - Eisenhower takes command of U.S. forces in Europe.
- **1950** - The Korean War breaks out. Nearly 90,000 North Korean soldiers and hundreds of Russian-built T-34 tanks cross the border into South Korea. South Africa, as one of the founding members of the United Nations, decide to assign a fighter squadron to the UN forces to help defeat North Korea. The Korean War claimed the lives of thirty-six SA Air Force members.
- **1960** - Corporal Petrus Cornelius van der Merwe of the South African Air Force was killed when his Defence Flying Club Piper Cub crashed and burnt out near Pretoria while on a routine general flying training flight. He was 24.
- **1972** - Rifleman Arno Roesstroff from 1 SAI was

killed after being struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 19.

- **1979** - Gunner Jeffrey James Mitchell from 4 Artillery Regiment died in 1 Military Hospital after suffering extensive burns accidentally sustained when a fuel tank exploded at the Regiment in Potchefstroom. He was 20.
- **1980** - Two Members from Central Flying School Dunottar were killed when their AT-6 Harvard crashed 1,6 kilometres North of Dunottar while carrying out simulated instrument flying. They were: Lieutenant Donald Gordon Stanbury (22). Candidate Officer Lloyd Douglas Liebenberg (19).
- **1981** - Lance Corporal Frederick Aspeling from North West Command was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident, at Oudtshoorn. He was 19.
- **1981** - Corporal Johan Cornelius Du Toit from Regiment Langenhoven was Killed in Action in Southern Angola. He was 24.
- **1981** - Staff Sergeant Willem Marthinus Roothman from the South African Corps of Military Police was killed in a military vehicle accident in Oudtshoorn while on a call-out to investigate a case. He was 41.
- **1981** - Signaler Dirk Jacobus Venter from 84 Signals Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 22.
- **1982** - Two members from

32 Battalion were accidentally shot dead by own forces in a friendly fire incident near Evale in Southern Angola during Operation Groenslang. They were: Corporal James Conroy (20). Rifleman Antonio Pedro Manuel (32).

- **1983** - Leading Seaman George Edward Wellington Ford from the 1st Marine Brigade, South African Marines was killed in a military vehicle accident while on deployment in Eastern Caprivi. He was 20.
- **1988** - Angolan, Cuban, South African and United States officials meet in Cairo, in search of independence for Namibia in tandem with a withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.
- **1991** - The last Soviet troops leave Czechoslovakia.

26 June

- **1917** - First American combat troops arrive in France.
- **1934** - Germany and Poland sign a non-aggression pact.
- **1939** - Polish anti-aircraft gunners down a German plane that had "strayed" over the Hela Peninsula.

• **1977** - Gunner Willem Christiaan Lentink from 14 Artillery Regiment was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident in Pretoria. He was 20.

• **1977** - Rifleman Christiaan Hendrik van der Westhuizen from the Witwatersrand Rifles was killed when he accidentally fell off the back of a moving Unimog. He was 21.

27 June

- **1905** - Mutiny in the Russian battleship 'Potemkin'.
- **1918** - First use of parachutes to escape an aircraft in combat: two German airmen jump.
- **1941** - The Germans capture Bialystok.
- **1942** - As the Eighth Army abandons Mersa Matruh, North Africa, Rommel's forces claim to have captured another 6,000 British troops.
- **1944** - American troops liberate Cherbourg from the



Boutros Boutros-Ghali

Germans.

- **1950** - North Korean troops reach Seoul, as the Security Council calls on UN members to aid South Korea and Truman orders USAF & USN into action.
- **1950** - US sends 35 military advisers to South Vietnam.
- **1971** - The Chairman of Armscor announces that under an agreement with a French aviation company, Mirage III and F jet fighters will be built in South Africa with the help of French personnel.
- **1976** - First women cadets enter the Air Force Academy.
- **1977** - Private Hendrik Johannes Naude from 42 Squadron was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 18.
- **1980** - Rifleman Nicolaas Johannes Kruger from 25 Field Squadron was Killed in Action when he stepped on and detonated a boosted anti-personnel mine near Okatope in Northern Owamboland. He was 20.
- **1985** - Rifleman J. Filimon from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 23.
- **1986** - Rifleman Frikkie Carolus from the South African Cape Corps died from a gunshot wound sustained during the accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle at De Aar. He was 26.
- **1988** - 2nd Lieutenant Muller Meiring of 61 Mechanised Battalion was Killed

in Action North East of Calueque. He was 19.

- **1988** - Eleven members of the SADF were Killed in Action during a retaliatory air strike by Angolan Air Force MiG-23 aircraft on SADF positions near the Calueque Dam after SADF Artillery had accurately bombarded Cuban and FAPLA positions in the town of Techipa on 26 and 27 June 1988 causing heavy casualties. The casualties were: Lieutenant Noah Tucker of 8 SAI (23). Corporal Ewert Phillipus Koorts of 8 SAI (19). Lance Corporal Johannes Reinhard Gerhardus Holder 8 SAI (19). Rifleman Johannes Mattheus Strauss Venter of 8 SAI (19). Rifleman Thomas Benjamin Rudman of 8 SAI (20). Rifleman Phillipus Rudolph Marx of 8 SAI (19). Rifleman Andries Stephanus Johannes Els of 8 SAI (19). Trooper Michael John van Heerden of 8 SAI (19). Lance Corporal Wynand Albert van Wyk of 1 SSB (19). Trooper Gregory Scott of 2 SSB (19). Trooper Emile Erasmus of 10 Armoured Car Squadron (20).
- **1990** - Lance Corporal C Chimongaia from 201 Battalion Died from Natural Causes at Omega. He was 27.
- **1995** - SA signs a protocol of intent on military cooperation between the Ministry of Defence of South Africa and the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic.

28 June

- **1914** - Archduke Frans Ferdinand, Austrian heir to the throne, and his wife are shot and killed by a student in Sarajevo. This leads to World War I.
- **1919** - The signing of the Treaty of Versailles formally ended World War I.
- **1942** - British 8th Army in North Africa retreats from German attack to El Alamein.
- **1942** - North Africa. General Rommel and his *Panzerarmee Afrika* capture Fuqa.
- **1965** - President Johnson orders US ground forces to Vietnam.
- **1975** - Private Gerhard Erasmus Smith De Beer from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident in Grootfontein. He was 18.
- **1976** - Three British mercenaries, Andrew McKenzie, John Barker and Costas Georgiou and an American, Daniel Gearhert, are sentenced to death in Luanda for their part in the Angolan civil war.
- **1986** - Rifleman Geelbooi Zamblenzini Mthimunye from 115 Battalion was murdered at Weltevrede after being attacked by persons unknown and burned to death. He was 20.

29 June

- **1913** - Bulgarian troops initiate hostilities with Serbia in Macedonia, triggering the Second Balkan War.
- **1944** - Bobriusk: Soviets

encircle portions of German Army Group Centre.

- **1945** - Operation Olympic: President Truman set the invasion of Japan for 1 November.
- **1949** - US troops withdraw from Korea after World War II.
- **1965** - Lieutenant Lourens Benjamin Schlesinger from 1 Squadron was killed near Louis Trichardt when his Canadair CL13B Sabre suffered a suspected bird strike. He failed to eject from the aircraft before it struck the ground, exploding on impact. He was 24.
- **1965** - Captain Peter Maxwell from Central Flying School Dunnottar, a veteran of the Korean War, was killed instantly when his AT-6 Harvard crashed at Potchefstroom Airfield after the left wing of the aircraft struck the ground when he attempted to execute a roll at low level. He was 42.
- **1966** - North Vietnam: US bombs fuel storage facilities.
- **1970** - US/ARVN end two month military offensive into Cambodia.
- **1977** - Rifleman M. Makehe from 34 Battalion (Later 202 Battalion) SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 22.
- **1982** - Lance Corporal Jacobus Johannes Gerhardus van Staden from 61 Base Workshops was accidentally killed when he was crushed between two military vehicles

during a vehicle recovery operation at Tsumeb. He was 22.

- **1985** - Rifleman H. Andreas from 101 Battalion SWATF died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while in Northern Owamboland. He was 23.
- **1988** - Rifleman Christiaan Fick from 1 SAI was critically injured in a private vehicle accident and died later that day. He was 19.

30 June

- **1851** - The Battle of Viervoet, in the British-Basotho War, takes place. The British under Warden suffers a reverse.
- **1917** - Greece declares war on the Central Powers.
- **1934** - "The Night of Long Knives": Hitler's "blood purge".
- **1936** - Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia appears before the League of Nations to appeal for help following Italy's invasion of Ethiopia and his exile.
- **1941** - Leading German Protestant clergymen congratulate Hitler on the invasion of the Soviet Union.
- **1960** - The Belgian Congo becomes the independent Republic of the Congo, with Joseph Kasavubu as president and Patrice Lumumba as prime minister. Civil war soon erupts.
- **1962** - The French Foreign Legion leaves Algeria for the last time.
- **1980** - Corporal Theo Bence van Niekerk from 1 Recon-

naissance Regiment died from a gunshot accidentally sustained while at Fort Doppies, Caprivi Strip. He was 22.

- **1986** - Rifleman L.N.D. Jonas from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a Contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola near the Cut-line. He was 26.
- **1988** - The SA Defence Force claims that 200 Angolan and Cuban troops died in a clash at Calueque earlier in the week.
- **1988** - Zimbabwe foils a South African commando attempt to rescue five alleged South African agents awaiting trial for bomb attacks against the ANC in Zimbabwe.
- **1989** - Sudanese military leader Omar Hassan al-Bashir topples the civilian administration of Sadeq al-Mahdi.
- **1992** - Four members from 9 SAI were killed when their Samil 20 vehicle overturned at Middelrust. The casualties were: Sergeant Clinton Donovan Elliot (25). Lance Corporal Cleston Beukes (19). Rifleman Jacobus Adams (24). Rifleman Aubrey John Ruiter (19).



Guns of World War II

- 1. Bofors 40 mm L/60 gun.
- 2. 105 mm M101A1 howitzer.
- 3. Ordnance QF 25-pounder.
- 4. 88 mm Pak 43.
- 5. 800 mm Schwerer Gustav.
- 6. BL 5.5-inch medium gun.
- 7. 152 mm howitzer M1943.
- 8. Nebelwerfer.
- 9. Type 96 15 cm howitzer.
- 10. 88 mm Flak 41.
- 11. Katyusha rocket launcher.
- 12. 20 mm flakvierling 38.
- 13. Land Mattress.
- 14. M115 howitzer.
- 15. Pak 36/37.



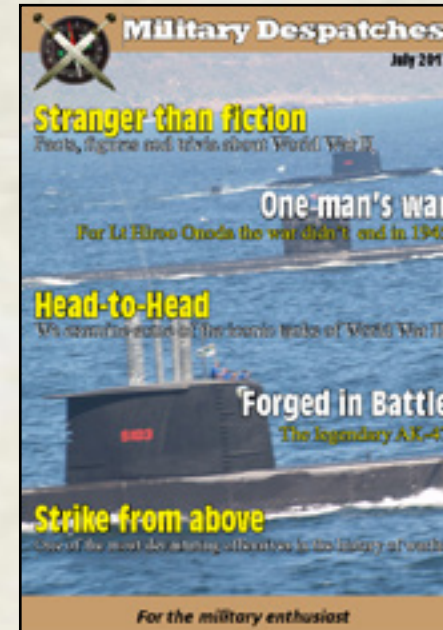
Useful links

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.



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Steve Jobs

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You will find articles on numerous different topics that have been published over the past four years as well as video clips and documentaries.

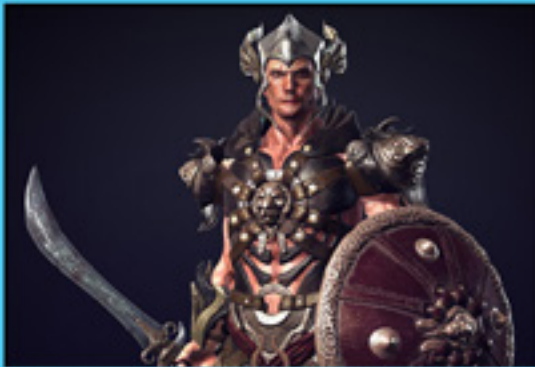
Hipe! media

E-mail
editor@hipe.co.za



Online Magazines

Flip book magazines with pages that can be turned.



E-books

Produced in any electronic format required.



2D & 3D Animation

Produced in any video format.



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Scripting, storyboard, filming and editing done to any video format required. We also do aerial and underwater video and stills.



Still Photography

If you're thinking digital media then think Hipe Media.