



Military Despatches

Vol 70 April 2023

Shock and Awe

Ten US weapons of the Gulf War



Under three flags

He fought three wars for three different countries

Heinrich Himmler

Hitler's loyal sycophant - architect of the Holocaust

Toughest military training

Military training that borders on the insane



For the military enthusiast



Click on any video below to view

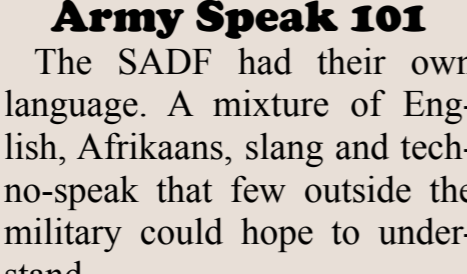


Military Despatches
Paratrooper Wings Quiz

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 Despatches
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.



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



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

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



Military Despatches
Military Firearms Quiz

Military Firearms Quiz

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



Military Despatches
Elite Military Units Quiz

Elite Military Units Quiz

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

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



Military Despatches
Who said that?
Famous military quotes quiz

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.



Special Forces Ops - Operation Barras

Features

6

10 weapons of Desert Storm

We look at ten weapons used by the US Armed forces during Operation Desert Storm.

18

Under three flags

Some men have fought in three different wars, but rarely have they fought for three different countries. Lauri Törni was one such man.

22

Old School

Imagine if the South African youth of today were conscripted and they had to do national service. How would they cope? We compare them to the youth of yesteryear.

27

Blitzkrieg? Was is dast?

“Lighting War? What is that?” is probably a question that many senior German commanders asked during World War II. It transpires that it was never a German concept in the first place.

28

10 Celebs that served

They may have gone on to become stars of the big screen or small screen, or music legends, but these 10 celebrities all spent time in uniform.

32

Show a little respect

When Ryan Murphy had the opportunity to visit Auschwitz he was sickened. Not just by what happened at Auschwitz, but by the behaviour of the tourists.



34

Stick out your tongue and say "Aah"

Anyone that did National Service in the old SADF will surely remember their medical examination.

Quiz

31

In silhouette

This month we're showing you the silhouette of 15 different weapons that date from World War II to the present.

Please remember to subscribe to our channel.

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



Editor's Sitrep

I had a most enjoyable St. Patrick's Day, or so I've been told by people that were there. And at least it was on a Friday, which meant that I had Saturday to recover.

One of the first things I do in the morning is plonk myself down in front of my computer and read the news, local and international, on various websites.

And I may be a bit flippant when I say news. I should rather say "news according to that particular publication's editorial slant". Because let's face facts, the 'news' presented depends very much on who has written the article and what the editorial policy of the publication is.

As a young journalist, eons ago, I was always taught that when writing a news report it should be exactly that - a report.

Report on what happened. Not what you thought happened or what you would have liked to have happened. Stick to the facts.

I recently read a report about a rugby match. The reporter waxed lyrical about certain players, complained about how bad the match officials were, and about how certain rules of the game were incorrectly interpreted. In

his entire long-winded report he never bothered to mention the most important facts - who won, and what was the score.

And, talking about facts, that's something else rather important. I recently read a report about the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

It was written by an American reporter who had never been to Africa and would probably battle to find the DRC on an atlas.

In on part of his article he mentioned the 'despised dictator of the Congo, Idi Amin.'

Now I will agree that Idi Amin was a much despised dictator, no arguments there. Yet I'm pretty sure that Amin was from Uganda and not the Congo. So please, take a bit of time and check your facts.

Look, I know we all make mistakes, but bloody hell, there are limits.

These days when reading the morning news I tend to lace my coffee with a good slug of whisky.

Until next time, stay safe and stay healthy.

Matt

Hipe! media

PUBLISHER

Hipe Media

EDITOR

Matt Tennyson

PHOTO EDITOR

Regine Lord

CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

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

email

editor@hipe.co.za

YouTube Channel

Click [here](#) to visit our channel

Back Issues

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

CONTENTS

Page 62



April in military history

Head-to-Head

38

Toughest military training

These groups take military training to the next level when it comes to toughness.

Forged in Battle

48

Mitsubishi A6M

The Zero was considered as the most capable carrier-based fighter of World War II.

Book Review

61

North of the Red Line

Veterans recount their personal stories about the Bush War. A good read.

Infamous Figures

42

Heinrich Himmler

One of Hitler's most loyal sycophants and the architect of the Holocaust, he ruthlessly despatched those that stood in his way as he rose to a position of power second only to that of his Fuhrer.

Battlefield

52

Pearl Harbour

The Japanese surprise attack on the US Pacific Fleet that brought America into WW II.

Front Cover

US troops watch an oilfield that had been set alight by Iraqi forces during the 1991 Gulf War.

In January 1991 the US-led Coalition had launched Operation Desert Storm.

Gaming

58

Jagged Alliance 2. BIA

Select your mercs and take over a country.

Movie Review

60

Memphis Belle

An enjoyable World War II movie about an American bomber crew.



US weapons of Desert Storm

On 17 January 1991 an American-led coalition force consisting of 35 countries launched Operation Desert Storm. Its purpose was to drive Iraqi forces from Kuwait. We look at 10 US weapons used during this operation.

On 2 August 1990, Iraq invaded the neighbouring State of Kuwait and had fully occupied the country within two days.

Initially, Iraq ran the occupied territory under a puppet government known as the “Republic of Kuwait” before proceeding with an outright annexation in which Kuwaiti sovereign territory was split, with the “Saddamiyat al-Mitla’ District” being carved out of the country’s northern portion and the “Kuwait Governorate” covering the rest.

Varying speculations have been made regarding the true intents behind the Iraqi invasion, most notably including Iraq’s inability to repay the debt of more than US\$14 billion that it had borrowed from Kuwait to finance its military efforts during the Iran–Iraq War.

The invasion of Kuwait was immediately met with international condemnation, including by the United Nations Security Council, which unanimously imposed economic sanctions against Iraq.

British prime minister Margaret Thatcher and American president George H. W. Bush deployed troops and equipment into Saudi Arabia and openly urged other countries to send their own forces to the scene.

In response to the joint call, an array of countries joined the American-led coalition, forming the largest military alliance (35 countries in total) since World War II.

The bulk of the coalition’s military power was from the United States, with Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, and Egypt as the largest lead-up contributors, in that order; Saudi Arabia and the Kuwaiti government-in-exile paid around US\$32 billion of the US\$60 billion cost to mobilize the coalition against Iraq.

The build-up of coalition forces lasted from 2 August 1990 to 17 January 1991. This phase was known as Operation Desert Shield.

On 17 January 1991 the coalition forces launched Operation Desert Storm. It would become better known as the Gulf War.

Initial efforts to dislodge the Iraqi presence in Kuwait began with an aerial and naval bombardment on 17 January 1991, which continued for five weeks.

During this time the Iraqi military found itself unable to ward off the coalition’s attacks.

On 24 February 1991 the coalition, led mostly by American and British forces, launched the ground assault into Iraqi-occupied Kuwait. By 28 February 1991 it was basically all over.

The offensive was a decisive victory for American-led coalition forces, who liberated Kuwait and promptly began to advance past the Iraq–Kuwait border into Iraqi territory.

A hundred hours after the beginning of the ground campaign, the coalition ceased its advance into Iraq and declared a ceasefire.

Aerial and ground combat was confined to Iraq, Kuwait, and areas straddling the Iraq–Saudi Arabia border.

The coalition suffered 292 deaths and 776 wounded. They also had 31 tanks destroyed or disabled.

The figures for Iran were a lot worse. Between 20,000 and 50,000 were killed, more than 75,000 wounded, and between 80,000 and 175,000 were captured.

They lost 3,300 tanks, 2,100 Armoured Personnel Carriers, 2,200 artillery pieces, and 110 aircraft.

The Gulf War included three of the largest tank battles in American military history.

In this article we take a look at ten iconic American weapons deployed during the Gulf War. Ten weapons that made the overwhelming coalition victory possible.

They are listed in alphabetical order.

10. Abrams M1A1 MBT

The M1 Abrams is a third-generation American main battle tank (MBT) designed by Chrysler Defence (now General Dynamics Land Systems) and named for General Creighton Abrams.

The Abrams remained untested in combat until the Persian Gulf War in 1991, during Operation Desert Storm. A total of 1,848 M1A1s were deployed to Saudi Arabia to participate in the liberation of Kuwait. The M1A1 was superior to Iraq’s Soviet-era T-54/T-55 and T-62 tanks, as well as T-72 versions imported from the Soviet Union and Poland.

The T-72s, like most Soviet export designs, lacked night-vision systems and then-modern range finders, though they did have some night-fighting tanks with older active infrared systems or floodlights.

Very few M1 tanks were hit by enemy fire and none were destroyed as a direct result of enemy fire, none of which resulted in any fatalities.

Three Abrams were left behind the enemy lines after a swift attack on Talil airfield, south of Nasiriyah, on 27 February.

One of them was hit by enemy fire, the two other embedded in mud. The tanks were destroyed by U.S. forces in order to prevent any trophy-claim by the Iraqi Army.

A total of 23 M1A1s were damaged or destroyed during the war. Of the nine Abrams tanks destroyed, seven were de-



stroyed by friendly fire and two intentionally destroyed to prevent capture by the Iraqi Army. Some others took minor combat damage, with little effect on their operational readiness.

The M1A1 could kill other tanks at ranges in excess of 2,500 metres. This range was crucial in combat against previous generation tanks of Soviet design in Desert Storm, as the effective range of the main gun in the Soviet/Iraqi tanks was less than 2,000 metres.

This meant Abrams tanks could hit Iraqi tanks before the enemy got in range - a decisive advantage in this kind of combat.

In friendly fire incidents, the front armour and fore side turret armour survived direct armour-piercing fin-stabilized discarding sabot (APFSDS) hits from other M1A1s.

This was not the case for the side armour of the hull and the rear armour of the turret, as both areas were penetrated on at least two occasions by unintentional strikes by depleted uranium ammunition during the Battle of Norfolk.

Lessons from the war improved the tank’s weapons

sights and fire control unit.

In 1992 production began on the Abrams M1A2 and this would later go on to replace the M1A1 MBT.

General Characteristics

- Crew: 4 (commander, gunner, loader, driver)
- Length: 7.93 metres
- Height: 2.44 metres
- Width: 3.66 metres
- Weight: 61.3 t
- Armour: Composite armour
- Main Armament: 120 mm L/44 M256A1 smoothbore gun (40 rounds)
- Secondary Armament: 1 × 12.7 mm M2HB heavy machine gun with 900 rounds; 2 × 7.62 mm M240 machine guns with 10,400 rounds (1 pintle-mounted, 1 coaxial)
- Engine: Honeywell AGT 1500 multi-fuel turbine engine 1,120 kW

Performance

- Maximum speed: 72 km/h (road); 48 km/h (off road)
- Range: 426 km

9. A-10 Thunderbolt II

The Fairchild Republic A-10 Thunderbolt II was designed to provide close air support (CAS) to friendly ground troops by attacking armoured vehicles, tanks, and other enemy ground forces. It is commonly referred to as the “Warthog” or simply “Hog”.

The A-10 is battle-hardened to an exceptional degree, being able to survive direct hits from armour-piercing and high-explosive projectiles up to 23 mm.

The 30 mm chain gun fires large depleted uranium armour-piercing shell which can rip most tanks to shreds.

It can also carry AGM-65 Maverick air-to-surface missiles, as well as cluster bombs and Hydra 70 rocket pods.



The A-10 was used in combat for the first time during the Gulf War, with 132 being deployed.

General Characteristics

- Crew: 1
- Length: 16.26 metres
- Height: 4.47 metres
- Wingspan: 17.53 metres
- Weight: 13,782 kg
- Powerplant: 2 × General Electric TF34-GE-100A tur-

- bofans
- Armament: 1 × 30 mm GAU-8/A Avenger rotary cannon with 1,174 rounds; 11 hardpoints

Performance

- Maximum speed: 706 km/h
- Combat range: 400 km
- Service ceiling: 13,700 metres

8. Boeing AH-64 Apache

The Boeing AH-64 Apache is an American twin-turboshaft attack helicopter with a tailwheel-type landing gear arrangement and a tandem cockpit for a crew of two.

It features a nose-mounted sensor suite for target acquisition and night vision systems. It is armed with a 30 mm M230 chain gun carried between the main landing gear, under the aircraft’s forward fuselage, and four hardpoints mounted on stub-wing pylons for carrying armament and stores, typically a mixture of AGM-114 Hellfire missiles and Hydra 70 rocket pods. The AH-64 has significant systems redundancy to improve combat survivability.



General Characteristics

- Crew: 2 (pilot, and co-pilot/gunner)
- Length: 17.73 metres
- Height: 3.87 metres
- Gross Weight: 8,006 kg
- Powerplant: 2 × General Electric T700-GE-701 turboshaft engines, 1,260 kW
- Armament: 1 × 30 mm

- M230 Chain Gun with 1,200 rounds; Hydra 70 70 mm, CRV7 70 mm, and APKWS 70 mm air-to-ground rockets; AGM-114 Hellfire missiles
- Maximum speed: 293 km/h
- Service ceiling: 6,100 metres
- Range: 476 km

7. Bradley M2A2 IFV

During the Gulf War, M2 Bradleys destroyed more Iraqi armoured vehicles than the M1 Abrams. Twenty Bradleys were lost - three by enemy fire and 17 due to friendly fire incidents.

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



General Characteristics

- Crew: 3 (commander, gunner, driver)
- Passengers: 6
- Weight: 25 t
- Length: 6.55 metres
- Height: 2.98 metres
- Width: 3.6 metres
- Armour: Spaced laminate

- armour
- Main armament: 25 mm M242 chain gun (900 rounds); 2 × TOW anti-tank missile launchers (7 missiles)
- Secondary armament: 7.62 mm coaxial M240C machine gun (2,200 rounds)

- Engine: Cummins VTA-903T 8-cylinder diesel, 450 kW

Performance

- Maximum speed: 64 km/h (road); 40 km/h (off road)
- Range: 480 km

6. F-117 Nighthawk

The Lockheed F-117 Nighthawk is a retired American single-seat, twin-engine stealth attack aircraft developed by Lockheed’s secretive Skunk Works division and operated by the United States Air Force (USAF). It was the first operational aircraft to be designed with stealth technology.

During the Gulf War in 1991, the F-117 flew approximately 1,300 sorties and scored direct hits on what the U.S. called 1,600 high-value targets in Iraq over 6,905 flight hours.

Leaflet drops on Iraqi forces displayed the F-117 destroying ground targets and warned “Escape now and save yourselves”.

Only 229 Coalition tactical



aircraft could drop and designate laser-guided bombs of which 36 F-117s represented 15.7%, and only the USAF had the I-2000 bombs intended for hardened targets.

The Nighthawk was retired from service in April 2008.

General Characteristics

- Crew: 1
- Length: 20.09 metres
- Height: 3.78 metres
- Wingspan: 13.21 metres
- Weight: 13,381 kg

- Powerplant: 2 × General Electric F404-F1D2 turbofan engines
- Armament: 2 × internal weapons bays with one hardpoint each (total of two weapons)

Performance

- Maximum speed: 1,100 km/h
- Range: 1,720 km
- Service ceiling: 14,000 metres

5. M16A2 rifle

In 1964, the M16 entered US military service and the following year was deployed for jungle warfare operations during the Vietnam War.

In 1969, the M16A1 replaced the M14 rifle to become the US military's standard service rifle.

In 1983, the US Marine Corps adopted the M16A2 rifle and the US Army adopted it in 1986.

At the time of the Gulf War most troops were armed with the M16A2 rifle.

From 2010 onwards the M16 was replaced with the Colt M4, which was basically a lighter and shorter version of the M16



rifle.

General Characteristics

- Designer: Eugene Stoner
- Length: 1,007 mm
- Weight: 3.77 kg
- Cartridge: 5.56 × 45 mm NATO
- Calibre: 5.56 mm
- Action: Gas operated, closed rotating bolt
- Rate of fire: 45–60 rounds/

min semi-automatic

- Effective firing range: 550 metres
- Maximum firing range: 800 metres
- Feed system: 20 round detachable box magazine
- Sights: Iron sights - Rear: aperture; L-type flip; Front: wing-protected post

4. M198 howitzer

The M198 is a medium-sized, towed 155 mm artillery piece, developed for service with the United States Army and Marine Corps. It was commissioned to be a replacement for the World War II-era M114 155 mm howitzer and entered service in 1979.

The M198 can fire various types of shells. The main shell is M-107 NC/DC High Explosive (HE). This is Explosive Composition B material packed into a thick, internally scored shell which causes a large blast and sends razor-sharp fragments at extreme velocities.

The kill zone has an approximate radius of 50 meters, and the casualty radius is 100 metres.

The high-explosive rocket-assisted (HERA) M549 round has



a greater range than normal HE and can extend the maximum range to 30.1 kilometres.

It can fire other rounds such as white phosphorus, illumination, and Area Denial Artillery Munition System (ADAMS).

While still in limited service, the M198 was replaced by the M777 howitzer in 2005.

General Characteristics

- Crew: 9
- Length: 11 metres
- Height: 2.9 metres
- Width: 2.8 metres
- Weight: 7,154 kg
- Shell: Separate loading charge and projectile
- Calibre: 155 mm
- Rate of fire: 4 rpm maximum
- Max firing range: 22.4 km

3. M249 light machine gun

The M249 light machine gun (LMG), also known as the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW), is the American adaptation of the Belgian FN Minimi, a light machine gun manufactured by the Belgian company FN Herstal (FN).

The SAW can be fed from both linked ammunition and STANAG magazines (such as those used in the M16 and M4), allowing the SAW operator to use them as a source of ammunition in case they run out of belts.

M249s have seen action in major conflicts involving the United States since the U.S. in-



vasion of Panama in 1989. In 2022, the U.S. Army selected the Sig Sauer XM250 to replace the M249.

General Characteristics

- Length: 1,035 mm
- Weight: 7.5 kg
- Cartridge: 5.56 × 45 mm NATO
- Calibre: 5.56 mm
- Action: Gas-operated long-stroke piston, opened rotat-

ing bolt

- Rate of fire: 100 rounds/min
- Effective firing range: 700 metres
- Maximum firing range: 3,600 metres
- Feed system: M27 linked disintegrating belt; STANAG magazine
- Sights: Iron sights or Picatinny rail for various optics

2. M270 MRLS

The M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System (M270 MLRS) is an American-developed armoured, self-propelled, multiple rocket launcher.

The first combat use of the MLRS occurred in the Gulf War. The U.S. deployed over 230 MLRS systems during Operation Desert Storm, and the UK an additional 16.

One M270 firing 12 M26 rockets could drop 7,728 bomblets, and one MLRS battery of nine launchers firing 108 rockets had the equivalent firepower of 33 battalions of cannon artillery.

In one engagement, three MLRS batteries fired 287 rockets at 24 separate targets in less than five minutes, an amount that would have taken a cannon battalion over an hour to fire.



General Characteristics

- Crew: 3
- Length: 6.97 metres
- Height: 2.59 metres
- Width: 3 metres
- Weight: 24,040 kg
- Engine: Cummins VTA-903 diesel engine

- Armament: 12 × MLRS
- Calibre: 227 mm
- Firing range: 32 km
- Maximum speed: 64.4 km
- Range: 483 km

Special Forces Operations

Operation Barras

The mission - rescue five British soldiers and their local liaison officer from a vicious militia group in a war-torn African country. Those taking part in the hostage rescue nicknamed the mission 'Operation Certain Death'.

- **Date:** 10 September 2000
- **Location:** Occra Hills, Sierra Leone
- **Units involved:** D Squadron, 22 Special Air Service Regiment; 1st Battalion, Parachute Regiment



Situated close to the equator and covering an area of 71,740 square kilometres, Sierra Leone is a former British colony in West Africa.

By 2000 the country had been consumed by a vicious civil war that had begun nine years earlier in 1991.

The Revolutionary United Front (RUF) was a rebel army opposed to the government. They were

aided by a number of militia groups. One such group was the Wild Boys.

While they starting off fighting for the RUF, the Wild Boys soon changed allegiance and fought on the side of the government against the RUF. They were involved in at least one operation directed by British officers in exchange for weapons and medical supplies.

The Wild Boys, however, refused to integrate into the reconstituted Sierra Leone Army and began operating as bandits from the abandoned villages of Magbeni and Gberi Bana, on

opposite sides of Rokel Creek.

British forces were deployed to Sierra Leone in May 2000, initially for a non-combatant evacuation operation under the codename Operation Palliser, in which they were tasked with evacuating foreign nationals - particularly those from the United Kingdom, other Commonwealth countries, and others for whom the British government had accepted consular responsibility.

As part of the mission, British forces secured Sierra Leone's main airport, Lungi. Having secured Freetown and Lungi, and evacuated the foreign nationals who wished to leave, the initial forces left and were replaced by a "Short Term Training Team" (STTT), whose mission was to train and rebuild the Sierra Leone Army. The STTT was initially formed from a detachment from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, who were replaced in July 2000 by 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment (1 R IRISH).

Capture

On 25 August 2000, a patrol led by Major Allan Marshall consisting of 11 men from the 1 R IRISH & an official from the Sierra Leone Army acting as interpreter, Lieutenant Musa Bangura, left their base in Waterloo to visit Jordanian peacekeepers attached to the United Nations

Mission in Sierra Leone (UN-AMSIL) and based at Masiaka.

Over lunch, they were informed that the West Side Boys had begun to disarm, despite their initial reluctance, and Marshall decided to take the patrol to investigate en route back to their base.

The patrol turned off the main road onto a dirt track that led to the village of Magbeni, where the West Side Boys were based. As they approached the base, they were surrounded by a large group of West Side Boys, who used an anti-aircraft gun mounted on a Bedford truck to block the patrol's route. Marshall dismounted his vehicle, then resisted an attempt to grab his rifle and was beaten.

He and the rest of the patrol were then forced into canoes at the bank of Rokel Creak and transported to Gberi Bana, a village on the other side of the river, just upstream from the point of the initial confrontation.

British forces in Sierra Leone were operating on the authority of the Sierra Leone government, but President Ahmad Kabbah allowed British forces to negotiate for the soldiers' release themselves, as his government lacked the requisite expertise.

The negotiations were led by Lieutenant Colonel Simon Fordham, commanding officer of 1 R IRISH, who was assisted by a small team which included hostage negotiators from the Metropolitan Police.

The West Side Boys would not allow negotiators any closer to the village of Magbeni than the end of the track from the main road, so Fordham met there with the self-styled "Brig-

adier" Foday Kallay, the gang's leader, to negotiate for the soldiers' release.

On 29 August, Fordham demanded proof that the captive soldiers were still alive, and Kallay brought with him to that day's meeting the two officers from the group - Marshall, the company commander, and Captain Flaherty, the regimental signals officer. During the meeting, Flaherty shook hands with Fordham and covertly passed him a sketch map of Gberi Bana which detailed the layout of the village and the building in which the soldiers were being held.

Two days later, on 31 August, five of the eleven hostages were released in exchange for a satellite telephone and medical supplies.

The OC of the captured soldiers had originally decided to release the youngest first, but this was changed to the married men last minute. However, out of the married men the West Side Boys wanted two of them to remain due to their signals experience.

The released soldiers included the Sergeant Major, two corporals and two rangers. The West Side Boys told the British negotiators that the remaining captured soldiers would not be released until the gang's remaining demands were met. The released soldiers were flown for debriefing to RFA Sir Percivale, of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, off the coast.

After the release of the soldiers, the West Side Boys' spokesman, the self-styled "Colonel Cambodia", used the satellite telephone to contact

the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) for a lengthy interview in which they outlined a series of demands, including a re-negotiation of the Lomé Peace Accord and the release of prisoners held by the Sierra Leone authorities.

The BBC had prior warning from the Foreign Office that the interview would take place. "Colonel Cambodia" quickly depleted the batteries in the telephone, but his call to the BBC enabled specialists from the Royal Corps of Signals to determine the exact position of the telephone.

The situation deteriorates

The West Side Boys were both unstable and unpredictable. They were more often than not high on cannabis, cocaine and the potent local moonshine known as palm wine.

The gang's drug habits also posed a problem for the British negotiators as the cannabis and palm wine often caused them to forget discussions and agreements they had made just the previous day. The cocaine made them distrustful and paranoid.

The drugs and alcohol also had the effect of making their behaviour erratic. Kallay conducted a mock execution in which he threatened to shoot the soldiers unless they told him why they had entered the West Side Boys' territory. Lieutenant Bangura was treated far worse than the Irish soldiers, often receiving beatings.

The demands of the West Side Boys was becoming more demanding with each passing day. The wanted immunity from prosecution, safe passage

to the UK to take up university courses, and guaranteed acceptance to the re-formed Sierra Leone Army.

Military planning

One of the negotiating team, posing as a Royal Irish major, was in fact a member of the Special Air Service (SAS). His job was to provide reconnaissance and gather intelligence in case an assault was required.

As planning for a potential military operation to release the captive soldiers progressed, it became clear that, given the number of West Side Boys and their separation between two locations (Gberi Bana as well as the village of Magbeni; see below), the operation could not be conducted by special forces alone.

The headquarters of 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment (1 Para) was ordered to assemble an enhanced company group, which would support special forces if such an operation was launched. The battalion's commanding officer selected A Company, led by Major Matthew Lowe, which had been on exercise in Jamaica at the time of the initial British deployment to Sierra Leone.

Several members of A Company were new recruits who had only completed basic training two weeks prior. Lowe decided that replacing them with more experienced soldiers would risk undermining the cohesion and morale of the company, but several specialist units from elsewhere in 1 Para were attached to A Company to bring the company group up to the required strength, including



WILD BOYS: Local militia group the Wild Boys were a law unto themselves and unpredictable at best.

a signals group, snipers, heavy machine gun sections, and a mortar section.

By 5 September, the British media was openly speculating on the possibility that an operation would be launched to free the remaining soldiers, having picked up on 1 Para's heightened readiness.

The following day, the media was reporting that British forces had arrived in Sierra Leone "as a contingency". The British special forces kept a low profile, as was traditional, and the media interest surrounding 1 Para allowed D Squadron, 22 SAS to enter Sierra Leone unnoticed.

A pair of SAS observation teams (one on each side of Rokel Creek) were inserted near the villages by assault boats manned by the Special Boat Service (SBS). They began monitoring the West Side Boys' movements and gathering intelligence, such as details of weapons, as well as identifying viable landing sites for helicopters.

The assault

On 9 September the SAS teams near the West Side Boys'

base reported that they had seen no sign of the captive soldiers during the four days they had been in position. There were also concerns that the West Side Boys might move further inland, and either kill the soldiers or move them to a location from which it would be more difficult for British forces to extract them. The combination of these factors led to the assault being given the green light.

The operation was to commence at first light the next day, 10 September. The two villages were to be assaulted simultaneously - Gberi Bana, where the Royal Irish were held, by the SAS and Magbeni by the paras. In addition to the remaining Royal Irish soldiers, the SAS were also tasked with extracting Lieutenant Musa Bangura and a group of Sierra Leonean civilians who were being held by the West Side Boys.

The task force left Hastings - approximately 15 minutes' flying time from the West Side Boys' camp - at approximately 06h15.

Downstream from the villages - approximately 15 minutes'

flying time, just out of the West Side Boys' visual and hearing range, the helicopters went into a holding pattern to allow the SAS observation teams time to get into position to prevent the West Side Boys from attacking any of the captives before the extraction teams were on the ground.

Once the observation teams were in position, the helicopters proceeded up the line of Rokel Creek, the Chinooks flying low enough that the downdraft tore off the corrugated iron roofs of several huts in the villages, including the roof of the building in which the Royal Irish were being held.

As the helicopters approached, the SAS observation team at Gberi Bana engaged West Side Boys in the vicinity of the captives to prevent any gang members from attempting to kill them before the area was secured.

Upon their arrival, the two Lynx attack helicopters strafed the villages to make the landing zones as safe as possible for the Chinooks and destroy the heavy weapons that had been identified by the SAS observation teams.

After the first sweep by the attack helicopters, two Chinooks carried the SAS to Gberi Bana. The troopers fast-roped into the village and immediately came under fire from the West Side Boys.

Early on in the confrontation, the British operation sustained its first casualty. Trooper Bradley Tinnion was shot and seriously injured. He was dragged back to the helicopter and flown to the medical team aboard the RFA Sir Percivale, dying despite intensive resuscitation at-

tempts on board.

The SAS proceeded to clear the village, engaging those West Side Boys who offered resistance and capturing those who surrendered, including Foday Kallay.

The SAS located the captive British soldiers from the latter's shouts of "British Army, British Army!", though Bangura had been held separately and proved more difficult to locate. He was found in a squalid open pit, which had been used by the West Side Boys as a toilet, and had been starved and beaten during his captivity, and thus had to be carried to the helicopter. Less than 20 minutes after the arrival of the SAS, the remaining members of the Royal Irish patrol, including Bangura, had been evacuated from the area.

The third Chinook carried half of the enhanced A Company group from 1 Para to Magbeni. The helicopter hovered low above the landing zone that had been identified by the second SAS observation team and the paras jumped from the rear ramp.

The returning Chinook, carrying the remainder of the A Company group came under fire from a heavy machine gun in Magbeni, which was promptly strafed by one of the 657 Squadron Lynx helicopters until it ceased firing.

As the company group moved forward, an explosion - possibly a mortar fired by the British fire support group - injured seven men, including company commander Major Matthew Lowe.

The West Side Boys' ammunition store was found and se-

cured and, once the rest of the buildings had been cleared, the paras took up defensive positions to block any potential counter-attack and patrols went into the immediate jungle in search of any West Side Boys hiding in the bushes. The village was completely secure by 08h00.

Conclusion

After medical checks, the Royal Irish soldiers, who had been held for 17 days, were allowed to telephone their families and then rejoined their battalion in Freetown. The paras were flown to RFA Argus, where they spent the night before being flown back to the United Kingdom the next day.

D Squadron, 22 SAS also left Sierra Leone the day after the operation, along with Director Special Forces and his headquarters staff.

Operation Barras achieved its mission of freeing all the hostages. Operation Barras also freed 22 Sierra Leonean civilians who had been held captive by the West Side Boys.

The British suffered one soldier killed and 12 wounded. At least 25 Wild Boys were killed and 18 were captured.

Two Conspicuous Gallantry Crosses, five Military Crosses, and five Distinguished Flying Crosses were awarded. Brigadier John Holmes (Director Special Forces) was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his part in the operation. Trooper Tinnion received a posthumous Mention in Despatches.

Under three flags

Some men have fought in three different wars, but rarely have they fought for three different countries. Lauri Törni was one such man.

Men, and women, fight in wars for different reasons. Often it is because they have no choice in the matter. Many are conscripted or forced to fight. Yet many others fight because they want to do.

Those that choose to fight also do so for different reasons. Some will fight because they feel it is a duty they owe their country. Others will fight to defend their family and home.

Some of those that fall into the above category fought for their country in more than one war.

Many British soldiers fought in both World Wars. Then there were some that fought not only in the two World Wars, but also took part in the Korean War.

This was also true for many French and German soldiers that fought in both World Wars.

Then there were also American soldiers that fought in both World Wars. Some of them also fought in three wars - World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam.

There is probably no-one that fought in more wars than Sir Adrian Carton de Wiart.

He fought in no fewer than six wars. These were the Second Boer War, World War I, Polish-Soviet War, Polish-Ukrainian War, Polish-Lithuanian War, and World War II.

He would end his career with the rank of lieutenant general and was awarded a number

of British medals and awards. These would include the Victoria Cross (VC), Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire, and the Distinguished Service Order (DSO).

More over, he was awarded the *Croix de guerre* (Belgium), *Virtuti Militari* (Poland), and both the *Croix de guerre* and Legion of Honour from France.

Then there are those that choose to fight because of what they believe in. The last type will sometimes fight regardless of what side they are on.

One such man not only fought for three different countries, he also fought in three separate wars. Yet even though he fought for different sides, he fought against what he considered to be the same enemy.

Lauri Allan Törni was born on May 28, 1919 in Viipuri, Finland. As a youngster he enjoyed sports and was friends with Sten "Stepa" Suvio, the welterweight boxer that won a gold medal at the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin.

While Törni was studying at business school he joined the Civil Guard. When he graduated in 1938 at the age of 19, he joined the 4th Independent Jaeger Battalion, an elite infantry unit.

Not long after that, on 30 November 1939, the Soviet Union invaded Finland. It was the start of the Winter War.

The Soviets were confident of a quick victory over Finland.

After all, they had more men and were better armed. This confidence was soon shattered.

The Finns were realistic. They knew that had no hope of defeating the Soviet invaders. Their plan was to fight a war of attrition while they tried to convince the outside world to help.

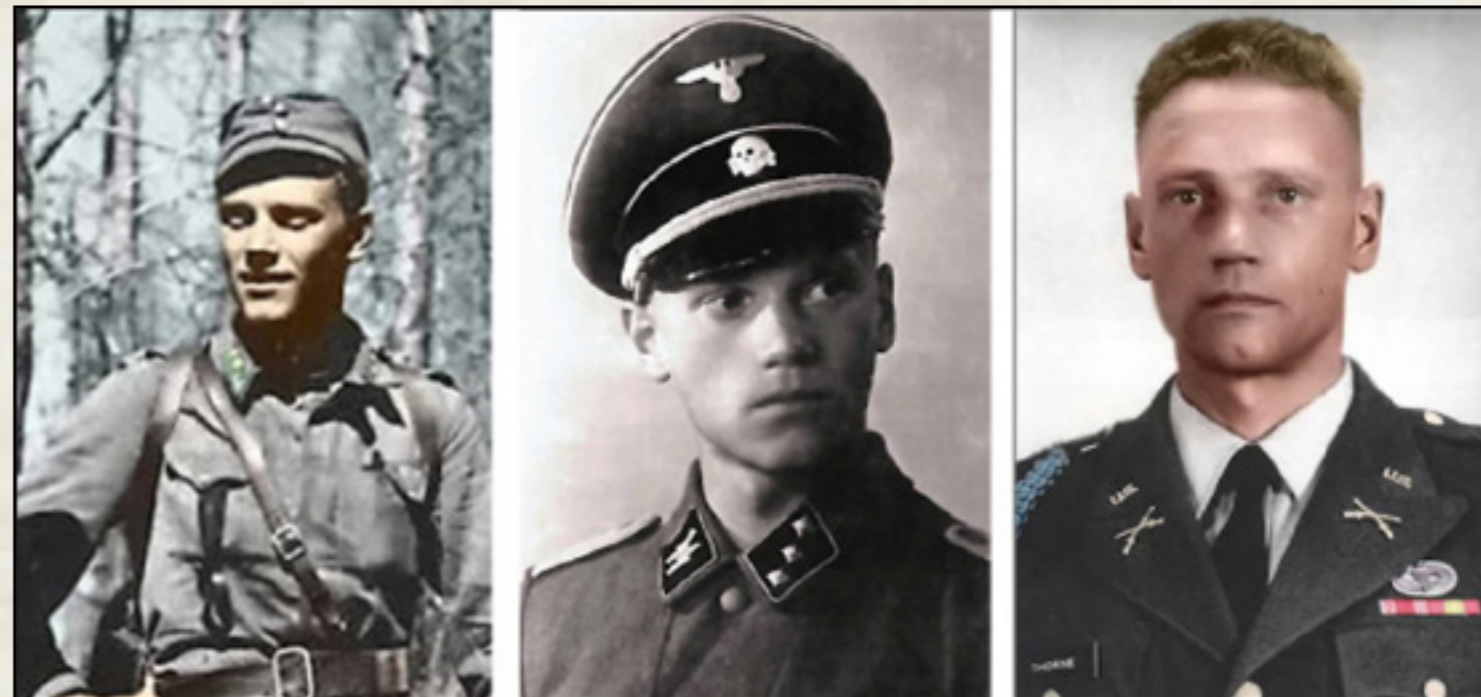
When no outside help was forthcoming, the Finns went it alone. They surprised not only the Russians, but the rest of the world as well.

Törni did his part, fighting against the Soviets at Rautu and again at Lake Ladoga. In this last battle the Finns took advantage of poor Soviet tactics. Using a guerilla tactic known as *motti*, the Finns encircled three enemy divisions near Viipuri on 23 December.

Although the Soviets were defeated at this battle, it came at a heavy price. More than 1,300 Finns were killed. Soviet losses were even higher.

Although the Finns held out for over three months, the end result was inevitable. On 12 March 1940 they signed the Moscow Peace Treaty. The war officially ended the following day, with Finland losing territory in exchange for the guarantee of independence.

Törni had distinguished himself during the Winter War and had been promoted to the rank of 2nd lieutenant. Yet instead of celebrating, he was seething. He vowed revenge against the



THREE COUNTRIES, THREE SIDES: Lauri Törni fought against the communists with three different armies, from left: Finland, Nazi Germany, and the United States Army.

Soviet Union and he was not particular how he achieved it.

Which was probably why in 1941 he headed for Vienna in Austria. He spent the next seven weeks training with the *Waffen Schutzstaffel* (Waffen SS), the 'Protective Squadron' of German's Nazi party. He did so well during his training that he was given the rank of *Untersturmführer*.

Once he had completed his training he returned to Finland, and just in time. On 22 June 1941 the Soviets invaded Finland once again, kicking off the Continuation War.

In the Soviet's defence, they had little choice. That was the same day that Germany invaded Russia and to secure their northwestern border they had to take Finland - or at least try.

This time, however, Finland was not alone. They now had an ally against the Soviets - Nazi Germany.

And Törni would get the revenge he had been seeking. Once again he distinguished

himself and was placed in charge of a unit informally named "Detachment Törni".

His group was a constant thorn in the Soviet's side. They operated behind enemy lines, carrying out attacks and sabotage operations. They were so effective that the Soviets put a bounty on Törni's head for 3 million Finnish marks (more than six million rands). No one ever tried to collect the bounty.

Finland gave a good account of themselves in the fight against Russia. They actually penetrated Soviet territory until the Finns were forced to retreat and sign the Moscow Armistice on 19 September 1944. This was followed by the 1947 Paris Peace Treaty, which formally ended the war. The Finns had to give up territory and pay reparations, but had firm guarantees of their independence - a state of affairs still recognised today.

Törni was awarded Finland's highest military decoration - the Mannerheim Cross of the Order of the Cross of Liberty. The celebrations were, however, very brief.

He was also convinced that Finland had not seen the last of the Soviet Union. So when a pro-German resistance move-

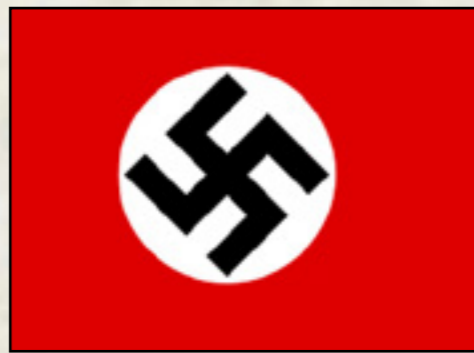
ments were, however, very brief.

As part of the armistice signed with the Soviets, the Finns were required to expel all German forces on their soil. This resulted in the Lapland War between Finland and Germany. The war would last from September to November 1944 and result in over 8,000 casualties.

Törni played no part in this war. Part of the armistice that Finland had signed required them to demobilise its military, leaving only a small force to deal with the Germans. Törni found that by November he was unemployed.

Although Törni was a patriot, he did not agree with his country's decision to expel the German forces. It wasn't that he had become pro-Nazi, it was just that he was fiercely anti-Soviet and fanatically anti-Communist.

He was also convinced that Finland had not seen the last of the Soviet Union. So when a pro-German resistance move-



THREE COUNTRIES, THREE WARS: Lauri Törni hated the communists with a passion. So intense was his dislike of the communists that he fought against them in three different wars.

ment approached him in January 1945, he was all ears. Once again he found himself in Germany, learning to be a saboteur until his training was cut short in March.

Unable to return to Finland, he joined a local unit fighting the Soviets near Schwerin before surrendering to the Allies.

They threw him in a POW camp in Lübeck, which he escaped, finally returning to Finland in June.

The timing couldn't have been worse for Törni. Finland was anxious to disassociate itself from its former ally, so Törni was arrested for fighting for the wrong side. He was charged with treason. He was thrown into prison, but he escaped.

He was recaptured in April 1946 and sentenced to six years in prison. Yet again he escaped, and yet again he was recaptured. He served two years before receiving a pardon from the president in December 1948.

By this stage he was fed up with his country and he made his way to Sweden the following year.

In 1950 he boarded a cargo ship bound for America. In 1954 he joined the US Army. By then he had a new name - Larry Thorne.

With his experience he was soon on his way into the Special Forces. While in the Special Forces, he taught skiing, survival, mountaineering, and guerrilla tactics. In turn he attended airborne school, and advanced in rank; attending Officer Candidate School, he was commissioned as a 1st lieutenant in the Signal Corps in 1957.

In November 1963 he was deployed to South Vietnam as part of Special Forces Detachment A-734. They were stationed in the Tịnh Biên District and assigned to operate Civilian Irregular Defence Group (CIDG) encampments at Châu Lãng and later Tịnh Biên.

During a fierce attack on the CIDG camp in Tịnh Biên, he received two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star Medal for valour during the battle. This attack would later be described by author Robin Moore in his book *The Green Berets*.

His second tour in Vietnam began in February 1965 with 5th Special Forces Group; he then transferred to Military Assistance Command, Vietnam - Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG), a classified US special operations unit focusing on unconventional warfare in Vietnam, as a military advisor.

On 18 October 1965, he was supervising a clandestine mission to locate Viet Cong turnaround points along Ho Chi Minh trail and destroy them with airstrikes.

During the operation his Republic of Vietnam Air Force CH-34 helicopter crashed in a mountainous area of Phước Sơn District, Quảng Nam Province, Vietnam, 40 km from Da Nang. Rescue teams were unable to locate the crash site.

Shortly after his disappearance, he was promoted to the rank of major and posthumously awarded the Legion of Merit and Distinguished Flying Cross.

In 1999 his remains were found by a Finnish and Joint Task Force-Full Accounting team and repatriated to the United States following a Hanoi Noi Bai International Airport ceremony that included Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Ambassador Pete Peterson.

Formally identified in 2003, his remains were buried on 26 June 2003 at Arlington National Cemetery. He was memorialised on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

As for Finland, they consider him a national hero, once more.

Lauri Allan Törni Decorations

Finnish Decorations

- 2nd class medal of Freedom, 26 July 1940
- 1st class medal of Freedom, 24 August 1940
- 3rd class Cross of Liberty, 9 October 1941
- 4th class Cross of Liberty, 23 May 1942
- Mannerheim Cross, 9 July 1944
- 1st Div. Memorial Cross
- Border Jaeger Troops Cross

- Defence Forces Bronze Medal

German Decorations

Iron Cross, 2 class, 11 December 1943

United States Army Badges

- Combat Infantry Badge
- Master Parachutist Badge
-

Decorations and medals

- Legion of Merit
- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Bronze Star Medal with "V"

- device
- Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster
- Air Medal
- Army Commendation Medal
- Good Conduct Medal
- National Defence Service Medal with star
- Vietnam Service Medal with two campaign stars
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

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.

DID YOU KNOW

- **The first issue of Military Despatches was published on 1 July 2017.**
- **This is the 70th issue of the magazine.**
- **Including this issue, we have published 5,947 pages of the magazine.**
- **Military Despatches is read in 43 different countries**

Old School

Imagine if the South African youth of today were conscripted and they had to do national service. How would they cope? We compare them to the youth of yesteryear.

Not long ago I was spending an evening with some of my friends. All of them are military veterans and served either in the permanent force or the citizen force.

As is always the case, the conversation turned to our time spent in the military. One of my friends posed the question, "I wonder how the youth of today would handle national service." This led to an interesting debate that became even more interesting as the bottle of rum decreased.

I'm sure that most of our readers that did national service at some stage will remember the day when 'that' letter arrived.

Inside the brown envelope was a cunningly disguised invitation to spend a year (later two years) all expenses paid holiday with the South African Defence Force. It was also known as "instructions to report for national service."

Most people did as they were told and reported at the indicated time and place. There were a few conscientious objectors of course, but if you didn't report for your call up you would face being arrested and put in prison for a few years. And not a civilian prison either, but in military detention.

"I don't think the kids of today have the same respect for authority as we did," said Steve.

"I don't know about respect for authority," said Dave. "I

think it was more a case of fear of authority. I think that today most of them would just ignore their call up."

We did agree that the youth of today have a number of things that we never had when we were their age.

Telephone Tech

National servicemen were often called up for training a long way from home. The only way of staying in touch with loved ones was via letters or the telephone. Dave remembers that this was not as easy as it sounds.

"We had four coin-operated public telephones at our base. That was it," he remembers. "I would normally try and use the phones after supper, before preparing for inspection the next morning. The problem was that everyone else had the same idea.

"I would try and phone my parents on a Monday night and my girlfriend on a Wednesday night. Thursday night was no good because Friday mornings was the big inspection."

According to Dave there would often be long queues waiting to use the phones. And getting change for the phone was always a problem.

"You have to remember that they were coin-operated phones. So you would need change to use them. I would go to the tuck shop at the base and buy something small, like

a chocolate. The old lady that ran the tuck shop would always moan and bitch that she didn't have change.

"Often you would have to wait in a long queue before it was your turn. And we had a rule that you couldn't speak for longer than three minutes. This was so that everyone could get a chance.

"The worst was trying to speak to your girlfriend. I mean you couldn't exactly be romantic when there was a crowd standing behind you listening to your every word."

These days everyone has a cellphone. Troops would probably have to switch them off during certain times. Otherwise you would get troops answering a call while they're on parade.

The other way of staying in touch was through writing letters. This was especially the case when troops were on the border.

During basic training, troops were encouraged to write letters home. In fact at some bases it was compulsory.

For some troops, however, even writing a letter home was a problem. Mark did his national service at 7 SAI and he remembers one of his fellow conscripts that found the process of writing home very traumatic.

"The guy that had the bed next to mine was from a farm in the middle of nowhere. If I recall his name Pieter and he was



THEN AND NOW: An old South African coin-operated public telephone booth and a new Smartphone.

about 17 or 18.

"At least once a week we had to write a letter home and it was compulsory. I think the army wanted to reassure our parents that we were all having a wonderful time and enjoying our great big adventure," says Mark.

"Pieter's problem was that he was totally illiterate, and I'm not having you on. He couldn't read or write a single word. The first time we had to write home, Pieter sat there with a pen in his hand and stared at the writing pad as if it were a snake. Eventually he turned to me with this sad smile on his face.

"Listen Mark," he would tell me. "I don't write so good. Can you help me?"

"I felt so sorry for him. For the rest of basics I wrote his letters back home for him. He would sit and dictate to me, in Afrikaans, and I would write his letter. When he received

mail, which was only one letter a week from his parents, I would read them out to him.

"The contents of the letters he received from his parents were filled with spelling errors and the handwriting was really terrible. I sometimes battled to read what they had written. I suspected that his parents weren't all that well educated.

"Talking about education, Pieter was always very evasive about where he had done his schooling. I don't think Pieter had ever been to school."

Hardly anyone writes letters these days. Now everyone makes use of e-mail, or text messages via an SMS or something like WhatsApp.

"Remember when we were on the border," asks Steve. "You would write your letter and then put it in an unsealed envelope. This because it first had to be read by a censor. These days youngsters would probably

claim invasion of privacy."

"And remember how long it could take for a letter to reach you," says Mark. "I did a three month camp at Eenhana. About a week before the camp ended I sent a letter home. I actually been back home for about two weeks before the letter arrived."

These days everyone expects things to be instant. If someone sends you an SMS they expect a reply within a few minutes.

Clothes maketh the man

Most troops were proud of their uniform. Even if you weren't proud, you still made sure that you always looked smart. Otherwise there would be consequences.

"Remember how strict the inspections were," says Mark. "Your uniforms had to be cleaned and ironed to perfection. Otherwise you could end up losing your weekend pass."

"But the whole thing with uniforms started even before you went into the army," says Dave. "It started at school."

"I went to school in the Natal midlands. Back then we still used to wear straw bashers. If you were outside the classroom, then you had to have your basher on your head. If you passed any female, irrespective of age or colour, you would have to doff your basher and say 'morning or afternoon mam.'

"And you had to be smartly dressed at all times. Even if you walked between classrooms you had to wear your blazer and it had to be buttoned up. You were allowed to take it off only when you were in the classroom. And you have no idea how hot it got in the midlands

during summer.”

“I live near a high school and I often see kids walking to school in the mornings or coming home in the afternoons,” says Steve. “Their ties are undone or taken off, the top buttons are undone, the blazers are undone if they even bother to wear them, and their shirts are hanging out.”

“I don’t think the youth of today would survive an inspection,” laughs Dave.

Play that funky music

Music played a major part in a serviceman’s life. It was one of his few contacts with real world. In any bungalow or tent at least one person would have a transistor radio and it brightened up many a long night preparing for inspection. Mark relates his memories.

“About three or four guys in our bungalow had radios. One of them had a real ‘Ghetto Blaster’ and it had fairly decent speakers.

At night we used to listen to his radio. Hell, there was some good music in those days. I remember that one of the songs they used to play often was ‘Dancing Queen’ by Abba. That was the time when the ‘Rocky Horror Picture Show’ was popular and they also used to play ‘Time Warp’ often.

“Sometimes the radio was tuned in to Radio Highveld but most of the time though it was on Radio 5 (now 5FM). They had some damn good deejays on Radio 5 in those days. I can still remember people like John Berks, Peter de Nobrega, and Harold West.

“The radio kept us company



and at night we would be washing and ironing our clothes, cleaning rifles and equipment, and polishing the floors, all to the music on the radio. I can’t remember the name of the deejay who was on Radio 5 on a Thursday night but I guess that he must have done national service at some stage because he would always think of us on a Thursday night.

“And to all you guys out there getting ready for inspection tomorrow morning, vasbyt and hope you pass inspection. This next song is just for you guys.”

“We would all cheer like crazy. It felt good to know that someone out there was thinking about us. Those were good deejays, not like some of the ones you get today. My grand kids listen to Radio 5, or whatever they call themselves this week, and I recently listened for a few minutes. The deejay spent most of the time promoting himself and his voice sounded as if he was hysterical.

“Maybe I’m just getting old, but give me the deejays of my day anytime. It’s strange, but whenever I hear ‘Dancing Queen’ I’m instantly transported back to 1976 and back to the Army Gym. Look, I’m not say-

ing that I enjoyed my national service, but it does make me nostalgic for those days.”

Back then you either listened to the radio or to a cassette tape. If you were lucky someone would have a ‘boom box’, a radio/cassette with two speakers and sometimes even two cassette players.

The only problem is that they would go through batteries at a phenomenal rate. If you were on the border it was often difficult to get hold of new batteries.

Another problem with being on the border is was that it was often difficult, of not impossible to pick up any radio reception.

“I was in Owamboland in 1978,” recalls Mark. “The only radio station we could pick up, on FM or AM, was Radio Owambo. The only programme they did in English was the Radio Owambo Top Ten Hit Parade on a Saturday afternoon.”

National service was such an institution in South Africa that there were even radio programmes dedicated to the topic, as Steve explains.

“I did my national service in the navy and did basics at SAS Saldanha. I remember that there was a show on Radio 5 called



‘Stand at Ease’ and it was done by a woman named Marie Van Zyl.

“It was a request programme and people would write to Marie Van Zyl and she would then read out the messages. It would be stuff such as, ‘To my son Rifleman Harry Brown somewhere on the border, vasbyt and keep yourself safe because we all love you. To my boyfriend and love of my life Private Johan van der Merwe in Grootfontein. I love you and can’t wait for you to come back. It was all very soppy and sentimental but a lot of guys listened to it.”

These days the youth have things such as MP3 players and most cellphones can store and play hours of music.

The Silver Screen

“When I was on the border we had an old 16 mm movie projector at our base,” says Dave. “That thing was worth its weight in gold.”

Of course it was one thing

having a projector. It was another thing altogether getting hold of something to watch on it.

“We had a vehicle that would drive through to Oshikati every Tuesday to collect rations. It was known as the ‘Rat Run’. The driver would also pick up a movie from VTB (*Vryetydsbesteding* or Free Time Management in English).”

The movies would come on three large reels. Often the film would break and it would be stuck together with sticky tape.

“We would park a Buffel and then hang a sheet over the side. This was our screen on which they would show the movie. There was a small speaker with the projector and most of the time the sound quality was poor.

“We would show that same movie every night. On a number of occasions there would only be two reels of film. So we would have to watch the start of the movie and the end, with no idea of what happened in the

middle. Even worse was when the last reel was missing.

“I remember a few times when they would mix the reels up. There would be two reels from one movie and then another reel from a completely different movie.”

These days there are portable DVD players and you can watch movies on most smart phones. If you have a laptop computer you can store quite a few movies on a memory stick.

Watch the birdie

“How many of you guys still have photos from when you were in the military,” asked Mark.

All of us had to confess that we had very few photographs, if any.

“I’ve got a photo that was taken when I did a staff officers course,” says Dave. “Other than that I don’t think I have any. I think I had one or two, but I have no idea of what happened to them.”

“The thing is that you didn’t carry a camera around with you all the time,” says Mark. “I could have taken some brilliant pics if I had a camera with me.”

Back then most people would use an instamatic camera. You would need film for the camera and once you had taken your photographs you would have to have them developed and printed.

“I did take a camera with me to the border on one of my camps,” says Mark. “I also took a lot of film with me. When we came back from the border we flew out from Grootfontein.

“At the airport our bags were searched by the Military Police.

The found my film and confiscated the whole lot. I was so bloody angry. It was just photographs of my mates and stuff like that. You'd swear I had been taking pictures of secret military installations or equipment."

These days digital cameras can take hundreds of photographs without the need for film. Most smart phones can take high resolution photographs can also capture HD video and sound.

"I just bought the new Samsung Galaxy S3 Ultra smartphone," said Dave. "The thing has a camera that can take 200 MP photos. Can you believe that. And the quality of the videos it can take is stunning.

"Can you imagine having something like a Go Pro camera back then," says Mark. "I would have had a ball with it."

"The Yanks have them mounted on their helmets and they can transmit live video back to their HQ."

Keeping yourself entertained

For troops on the border there was often little to keep them entertained when they were off duty.

"We had two things to keep us entertained," says Mark. "We had a volley ball and a net. And then we had an old, threadbare pool table. There was only one pool cue that we would have to share. But we had hours of fun on that pool table."

These days the youth are spoiled for choice. All they need is a smart phone and they can listen to music, watch movies, and play games.

"I've got a Tab S6," said Dave.

"It's got a good size screen and a decent amount of memory. I can store electronic books on it, games, and movies. It can also connect to the Internet, so I can watch YouTube. Hell, if I had something like this when I was in the army I can tell you right now that I would never have been bored."

Modern Tech

"I would have killed for some of the technology that's available now," says Dave. "Can you imagine having something like GPS back then?"

"Or how about those drones," says Steve. "My grandson has this drone and he uses his smart phone to fly the thing. It's got a camera on it that can take still photographs or video, and high quality at that.

"He can use his phone screen to see exactly what the camera is seeing. Imagine having one of those in the bush. You could send it up and have a good look at what was in the area."

We all had to agree that some of the new technology would have been really helpful back then. In fact we were downright

jealous of some of it.

The Verdict

"I don't think the youth of today would be able to handle something like national service," says Mark. "The don't have the same discipline we had back then. And the world has become such a nanny state."

The others tended to agree with Mark. I, on the other hand, felt differently.

Sure, there's a big difference between the youth of today and the youth of my generation. But I also believe that young people can be very resilient if they need to be. I think that faced with a challenge they will adapt and find ways to deal with it

Personally I don't think we will ever see compulsory military service in this country again. There are times when I think that this is a good thing, yet times when I'm not that sure.

Let me leave you with a quote from Charles Dickens' Tale of Two Cities - "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

Blitzkrieg? Was ist das?

"Lighting War? What is that?" is probably a question that many senior German commanders asked during World War II. It transpires that it was never a German concept in the first place.

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

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

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

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

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

Even after the war Heinz Guderian, considered the father of the Panzer Army, mentioned the word only once in his memoirs. "After the initial success of rapid blows at the beginning of the Second World War, our opponents spoke about Blitzkrieg." Another famous panzer

general, Erich von Manstein, never used the word once in his memoirs.

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

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

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

A closer look at Prussian and German military history shows

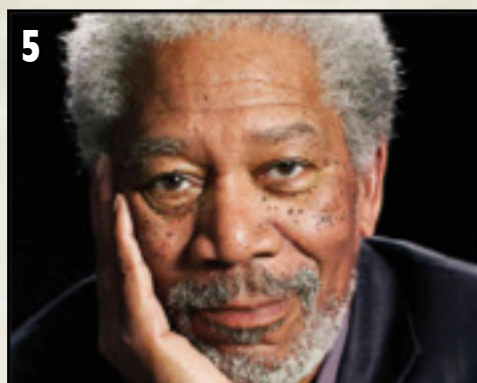
a number of themes that run through it. First is the focus on short wars won by decisive battles. Second is the concept of surprise, mobility and operational manoeuvre. There is a strong emphasis on outflanking the enemy. Third is an aggressive stance, even in defence.

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

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



10 Celebrities that you may not know were in the military



They may have gone on to become stars of the big screen or small screen, or music legends, but these 10 celebrities all spent time in uniform.

I think I would be correct in saying that the vast majority of Military Despatches' readers served in the military at some stage.

They may have been permanent force members, conscripts, or even citizen force or reserve members.

Now if you did serve in the military then you have something in common with the 10 people on this list - at some stage they also served in the military.

1. Mr. T

Lawrence Tureaud is better known as Mr. T. He is best remembered for his role as B.A. Baracus in the 1980s television series *The A-Team*. He also starred as the boxer Clubber Land in the 1982 film *Rocky III*.

His brother had fought in Vietnam and Tureaud enlisted in the United States Army and served in the Military Police Corps.

In November 1975 he was awarded a letter of recommendation by his drill sergeant. In a group of 6,000 troops Tureaud was elected "Top Trainee of the Cycle" and was promoted to squad leader.

In July 1976 while at a training camp at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin, his platoon sergeant

punished him by ordering him to chop down trees. But he never told him how many to chop down.

Tureaud began chopping trees at 06:30. At 10:00 a shocked major superseded the sergeant's orders. In the space of three and a half hours Tureaud had single-handedly chopped down over 70 trees.

2. Bea Arthur

Bea Arthur will be best remembered for her role as Dorothy Zbornak on the 1980s sitcom *The Golden Girls*.

During World War II she served in the United States Marine Corps Women's Reserve where she worked as a truck driver and a typist. She was given an honourable discharge in 1945 with the rank of staff sergeant.

She passed away from cancer on 25 April, 2005 at the age of 86.

3. Gene Hackman

Best remembered for his role as Detective Popeye Doyle in *The French Connection*, Hackman won two Academy Awards, three Golden Globe Awards, and two BAFTA Awards.

In starred in a number of "war" movies that included *A Bridge Too Far*, *Uncommon Valour*, *Crimson Tide* and *Be-*

hind Enemy Lines.

At the age of 16 he lied about his age to enlist in the United States Marine Corps where he served four and a half years as a field radio operator.

4. Chuck Norris

Martial arts champion and actor Carlos Ray Norris is better known as Chuck Norris.

He has starred in numerous movies and the TV series *Walker, Texas Ranger*.

He joined the United States Air Force as an Air Policeman (AP) in 1958 and was sent to Osan Air Base, South Korea.

It was there that Norris acquired the nickname Chuck and began his training in Tang Soo Do, an interest that led to black belts in that art and the founding of his own style, Chun Kuk Do.

When he returned to the United States, he continued to serve as an AP at March Air Force Base in California. Norris was honourably discharged from the U.S. Air Force in August 1962.

5. Morgan Freeman

Academy Award winning actor Morgan Freeman needs little introduction.

His many movie credits include the role of President Nelson Mandela in the 2009 film *Invictus*.

As a youngster he turned down a partial scholarship from Jackson State University. Instead he chose to enlist in the United States Air Force where he wanted to train as a pilot. He ended up serving as an Automatic Radar Repairman, rising to the rank of Airman 1st Class.

6. Arnold Schwarzenegger

Arnold "I'll be back" Schwarzenegger has done it all - actor, producer, businessman, investor, author, philanthropist, activist, world body-building champion, and former Governor of California.

He won the Mr. Universe title at age 20 and went on to win the Mr. Olympia contest seven times, remaining a prominent presence in body building and writing many books and articles on the sport.

Born in Austria, Schwarzenegger had to fulfil the one year of military service required at the time. At the age of 18 he was conscripted into the Austrian Army.

During his army service he won the Junior Mr. Europe contest. Unfortunately he would often go AWOL so he could take part in competitions. He ended up spending a week in military detention.

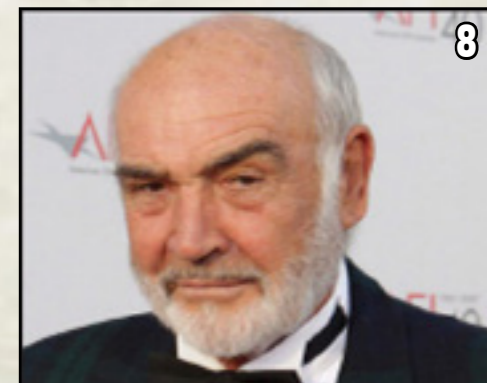
4. Clint Eastwood

Clint Eastwood rose to fame as the "Man with No Name" and as Detective Harry Callahan in the five *Dirty Harry* films.

He starred in war movies such as *Where Eagles Dare* and *Kelly's Heroes*. He also directed the acclaimed *Letters from Iwo Jima*.

He was drafted into the United States Army during the Korean War, but did not serve in Korea.

According to his former long-time companion Sondra Locke, he was a life guard at Ford Ord in northern California for his entire stint in the military.



3. Sean Connery

The original James Bond, Scottish actor, the late Sean Connery, was once polled as “The Greatest Living Scot”.

He joined the Royal Navy during which time he acquired two tattoos. One tattoo is a tribute to his parents and reads ‘Mum and Dad,’ and the other is self-explanatory, ‘Scotland Forever.’”

Connery was later discharged from the navy on medical grounds because of a duodenal ulcer, a condition that affected most of the males in previous generations of his family.



ART IMITATES LIFE: Sean Connery (left) and Gene Hackman starred in the film *A Bridge Too Far*. Connery as Major General Urquhart and Hackman as Polish Major General Sosabowski. Both served in the military.

2. Jimi Hendrix

Regarded by many as one of the best guitarists ever, Jimi Hendrix was only 27 when he died.

Not only did Hendrix serve in the military, he was a paratrooper. At the age of 19, after twice being caught by police for riding in stolen cars, a judge gave him the choice of spending time in prison or enlisting in the military. He chose the later option and entered the US Army in 1961

After basic training he was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division and stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

By February 1962, his personal conduct had begun to draw criticism from his superiors. His platoon sergeant wrote in a report, “It is my opinion that Private Hendrix will never come up to the standards required of a soldier. I feel that the military service will benefit if he is discharged as soon as possible.”

On 29 June 1962 Hendrix

was granted an honourable discharge on the basis of unsuitability.

1. Elvis Presley

Elvis Presley was already a star when he was drafted into the US Army in March 1958.

Presley announced that he was looking forward to his military stint, saying he did not want to be treated any differently from anyone else: “The Army can do anything it wants with me.”

After his basic training, Presley joined the 3rd Armored Division in Friedberg, Germany. Fellow soldiers have attested to Presley’s wish to be seen as an able, ordinary soldier, despite his fame, and to his generosity. He donated his Army pay to charity, purchased TV sets for the base, and bought an extra set of fatigues for everyone in his outfit.

Honourable Mentions

Of course these 10 celebrities were not the only ones to ever serve in the military. Many oth-

er also served. The list is far too long to mention, but here are a few.

- Private First Class Hugh Hefner.
- British singer Captain James Blunt.
- Corporal Mel Brookes.
- Dr. Ruth (Israeli Defence Force).
- Christopher Lee – Finnish Army, British Home Guard, Royal Air Force.
- Tom Selleck (Magnum PI).
- Leonard Nimoy (Dr Spock).
- James Earl Jones.
- Actors Jimmy Stewart, Lee Marvin, Charles Bronson, Clark Gable, Ernest Borgnine, Humphrey Bogart, Michael Caine, Henry Fonda, Charlton Heston, Steve McQueen, Kirk Douglas, Harvey Keitel, Mickey Rooney, Gene Wilder, Paul Newman, Sidney Poitier
- Singers Kris Kristofferson, Tony Bennett, Johnny Cash and Willie Nelson.
- Former heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis.



In silhouette

This month we’re showing you the silhouette of 15 different weapons that date from World War II to the present. You should be able to get these without too many problems. Answers on page 00.

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

Show a little respect

When Ryan Murphy had the opportunity to visit Auschwitz he was left feeling sick to the stomach. Not just by what had happened at Auschwitz, but by the behaviour of the tourists visiting this place of sorrow.

One of the major benefits of being a journalist is that it gave me the opportunity to travel.

While I never served in the military, I have spent a large portion of my life in war zones, covering conflicts and wars.

This has led to me having an interest, you could even call it a passion, for all things military. And this includes military history.

I am a firm believer in the words of philosopher George Santayana who said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

One aspect of World War II that I've had a morbid fascination with is the Holocaust. It was not the first genocide in history, and by no means the last.

Yet this crime against humanity was not committed by some primitive tribe where the spoils of war included, rape, pillage and eating the prisoners.

This was committed by a national that gave the world such great philosophers like Einstein, Kant, Nietzsche, Hegel and Heidegger. Musicians such as Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Mendelssohn, and Wagner.

The genocide committed by the Nazi's was not something that happened in the frenzy of war. It was calculated, planned and carried out with ruthless efficiency. And it's primary goal was the extermination of the Jewish population of Europe. The genocide of the Jews of Europe was the Third Reich's "Final Solution to the Jewish question".

Many people do not realise that there were different types of camps used by the Nazis.

The first Nazi camps were erected in Germany in March 1933 immediately after Hitler became Chancellor.

Concentration camps housed German Communists, Socialists, Social Democrats, Roma, Jehovah Witnesses, homosexuals, and persons accused of 'asocial' or socially 'deviant' behaviour by the Germans.

They were guarded by *SS-Totenkopfverbände* (SS-TV) and the camps were later expanded to hold Jews, Romanis/Sintis, Serbs, Soviet POWs, Poles, disabled people, and clergymen.

The Nazis also built labour camps and transit camps and by the end of the war there were camps in Germany, Poland, Serbia, Norway, Ukraine, Italy, Belgium, France, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Czech Republic and the Netherlands.

It was in 1941 that the Nazis started to build new camps as part of their 'Final Solution'.

These camps were not built to hold prisoners. They were known as *Todeslagers* (death



DEATH CAMPS: A diagram shows the six extermination camps in occupied Poland.

camps) or *Vernichtungslagers* (extermination camps) and their purpose was the systematic murder of those that entered the camp. A total of six death camps were built in Poland.

The first extermination camp built, and probably the most infamous, was Auschwitz. There were actually two camps - Auschwitz, which was a labour camp, and Auschwitz II Birkenau, which was an extermination camp.

The other camps were Majdanek, Chelmno, Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka.

There were also two other extermination camps, Maly Trostnits in Belarus and Sajmište in Serbia.

Today Auschwitz is a UNESCO World Heritage Centre and every year thousands of tourists visit the site.

When I visited Poland one of my main goals was to travel to Auschwitz and experience in person a place that I had read so much about.

It is hard to describe my feeling as I walked up the train track that leads through the main gate into Auschwitz. The sign over the gate reads *Arbeit macht frei* (Work sets your free) gave me the shivers.

I stood on the ramp where the trains would arrive, usually packed with Jews. It was here that the selection took place. The arrivals would have to form two lines, one for the men and the other for the women and children. They were given a cursory examination by SS doctors. Those considered unfit for work, including young children, the elderly, pregnant women and the infirm, were

immediately sent to the gas chambers.

The others would be sent to the labour camp where they would be worked to death.

Those sent to the gas chambers would be stripped naked and their hair was shaved off. They were told that they would be taking showers to disinfect them. The gas chambers were disguised to give the appearance of being shower rooms.

At the end of the war, as the Soviets approached, the Nazis destroyed the gas chambers to try and conceal the evidence. One destroyed gas chamber at Auschwitz was reconstructed after the war to stand as a memorial.

As I stood in this place of horror a young couple decided that this was the perfect time to start kissing and fondling.

When we visited the reconstructed crematorium where fifty-two ovens were used to burn the bodies of up to 6,000 people every 24 hours, people were taking selfies and making insensitive comments.

Later when we visited some of the buildings and were shown rooms filled with suitcases, reading glasses and shoes, our guide asked us not to take any photographs because these items belonged to people that had been murdered. Many people took out their phones and began snapping photographs.

People if you do visit Auschwitz please show some respect. It is not an amusement park or a place for a fun day's outing. If you can't show respect for those that suffered and died in this place of sorrow, then don't go there.



Stick out your tongue and say “Ah”

Anyone that did National Service in the old SADF will surely remember their medical examination.

Anyone that did National Service in the South African Defence Force must remember those hectic first few days.

Besides being put into companies and platoons, getting issued with your kit, and getting to know your corporal, there was also the fun of the medical examination. It wasn't something that you could really forget, was it?

The following are personal recollections of some of those that do remember their medicals. They are taken from the book “Service Rendered”, which was written by Military Despatches' editor Matt Tennyson.

Mel was 18 when he reported for national service and his medical examination is still something he laughs about.

“I was in the July intake and went to 2 Field Engineering Regiment at a place called ‘Lekkerdril’ in Bethlehem. I wasn't there an hour when I decided that I didn't think I was going to like this national service thing.

“My corporal was an Afrikaans boy from some hick town in the Free State. He didn't like English guys and, because I was from Durban, he liked me even less. According to him people from Durban could only do two things. Surf and smoke dagga. This was a load of crap because I had never surfed in my life.

“Anyway, we had to go for these medical exams. I think a bunch of retards could have organised it better. We had to go from office to office where dif-

ferent people checked us out. To speed up the process we all had to strip down to our underpants. Now this was really fun because this was Bethlehem in the middle of winter.

“Before being called up the furthest I had ever been away from Durban was a day trip to Port Shepstone. Back in Durban when the temperature reached 18 degrees I put on a jersey. On the day we did our medical it was minus three. I was blue with cold.

“I remember going into this one office and there was this old auntie in a nurse's kit. She looked like she was about 80 years old. I was hoping that she wasn't going to try and give me the kiss of life or something. Jeez bru, no problems to this old goose. She sticks her

hand down the front of my underpants, grabs me by the nuts, and she tunes me “cough.” She could have at least warmed her hands first. Cough! It was so cold that I couldn't even breathe.

“Then we went to another office and there was this army doctor. I'm sure that this oke did his degree through a correspondence course and that half of his lessons got lost in the post. I stood in front of him while he poked and prodded away at me. Then he took his freezing stethoscope and stuck it all over me, just making me that little bit colder.

“He took this form and asked me some questions, ticking off my answers. Then he asked me if I suffered from any diseases or medical conditions. I told him that I sometimes suffered from eczema. What does this idiot write down on the form? He writes there that I suffer from epilepsy. I pointed out his mistake and told him that it was eczema and not epilepsy that I suffered from. I then had to explain what eczema was to him. What sort of a doctor was this oke?

“Finally we had to go and receive our ‘shots’. The best part of this was that this was done in the hall. It was about 600 metres away from the offices where we had been doing everything until then. Now you must realise that we were still dressed in only a pair of underpants and we had to walk this distance exposed to the elements. Halfway to the hall and I was numb. I still remember thinking ‘Great, my first day in the army and I'm going to die

of hypothermia.’

“Inside the hall was a line of tables and each table was manned by a medic. You went down the line, stopping at each table to get an injection. Jeez bru they injected you against everything known to man. Cholera, polio, VD, rabies, tetanus, yellow fever, scarlet fever and a couple of other colours thrown in as well.

“Because of the cold, the injections hurt like hell. As if all this wasn't bad enough our corporal took childish delight that afternoon in punching us on the arm at every opportunity. Only one thing stopped me from beating the crap out of my corporal that day. The fact that he was twice my size.”

The SADF used a medical classification system to determine the medical condition of a conscript. These were as follows:

- **G1K1:** Medically fit. The conscript could be used in combat.
- **G2K1:** Medically fit but wore glasses or a hearing aid. The conscript was considered fit for combat duties.
- **G2K2:** As above but with the exception that the conscript was not considered fit for combat duties.
- **G3K3:** This classification meant that the conscript suffered from an intermittent condition such as asthma, etc. and was not considered fit for combat duty.
- **G4K4:** These were conscripts with serious medical conditions. The SADF regarded them as ‘oxygen thieves’ and they were usually utilised as clerks and

store men.

- **GT:** Temporary deferment of national service due to medical conditions.
- **G5GP:** Conscripts in this category were regarded as being of no use to the SADF and they were given a medical discharge.

Of course it was during the medical and psychological tests when a fair number of conscripts were deemed to be medically or psychologically unfit for military service. They were then given a discharge and released from all military commitments. Naturally many of the conscripts tried their utmost to obtain a medical discharge.

While many tried for a medical discharge there were those rare individuals that although suffering from a condition that would have warranted a discharge, tried everything in their power to pass the medical.

Derek was 19 and was a medic attached to 8 South African Infantry Battalion. He remembers one youngster who was determined to be classified as at least G2K1.

“We had this one guy who suffered from bad eyesight. When I say bad, I mean real bad. Even with his glasses he was as blind as a bat. Now he wanted to go into a combat unit and there was no ways that he wanted to become a store man or a clerk.

“He had an elder brother who was doing his national service at One Military Hospital at the time. Back in those days we used a simple eye chart to test eyesight. There were rows of letters that were fairly large in

1 Military Hospital



the top row and then became smaller as you went down the rows. You stood on a line, used your hand to cover one of your eyes, and read from the chart. Everyone used the same chart and this guy got hold of a copy of it from his brother.

“He studied it until he knew it off by heart. When it was time to have his eyes tested he took his place on the line and covered his left eye. We had an army nurse who was a PF and held the rank of sergeant.

“Okay,” she told him, “can you read the top letter for me.”

“He stood there and rattled off each row of letters right down to the last row, And that’s where he should have stopped because he continued and said, “and right at the bottom it says in very small print ‘Printed by 1 Military Printing Unit, Pretoria.’”

“He turned and smiled at the sister, obviously proud of himself.

“My, my,” the sister shook her head, “you do have exceptional eyesight young man. The part where it says ‘Printed by 1 Military Printing Unit’ is actually on the back of the chart. Now let me get another chart and we’ll try it again shall we.”

Of course faking a psychological problem was a lot easier, or so some conscripts thought. Yet the SADF had seen it all before. They could usually spot a fake from a mile off. If the medical staff at a unit were unsure of whether a person was faking it or not, said person was usually sent through to One Military Hospital in Pretoria for observation.

They had a special ward at

One Mil that handled the psychiatric patients. If memory serves me correctly it was Ward 22.

Of course there were the odd few who managed to slip through the net and obtain a discharge on psychological grounds.

I have my doubts as to the truth of the following story because I heard it from at least 10 different people who swore that it happened at their unit. Personally I think it is one of those urban legends, or should that be military legends?

Anyway, it’s quite a funny story so I decided to include one version of it. This particular version comes from a person who was a basic training instructor at Personnel Services School in Pretoria.

“When a new intake arrived the first few days would be taken up with admin. There was a pile of forms that had to be completed. Then there were the medical and psychological tests, and finally they would be issued with their kit.

“I remember that in this one particular intake there was this guy who seemed to be on his own mission. While the rest of the recruits were standing in line he would be wandering around on his own. He seemed to have this obsession with paper.

“He would pick up any piece of paper that he could see, read it, and then throw it down again. He would even scratch in the dustbins for paper.

“You could say or do what you liked to this guy, nothing seemed to work. When asked what his problem was, he would just give you this blank



South African Medical Services

look and tell you that he was ‘looking for the paper.’ If you asked him what paper he was looking for, he would just say ‘the paper.’ We tried everything without success.

“It was decided to send him through to One Military Hospital for further observation and evaluation. He continued with his escapades at One Mil. Even when he went before the psychologist for his testing all he did was pick up papers from the desk, read them, and then put them back on the desk. All the psychologist could get out of him was the fact that he was looking for the paper.

“They finally came to the conclusion that this boy wasn’t playing with a full deck of cards and decided to give him a medical exemption from military service.

“When he was given his discharge papers he gave a broad smile and said, “Now these are the papers I was looking for.”

As I said, an amusing story but I doubt whether it was true.

Some of the conscripts did not have to fake psychological problems. Many of them received discharges because they really did have problems.

Colin was 19 when he did his basic training at 5 South African Infantry Battalion in 1976. He tells the following story.

“We had a guy in our section that was a real nut case. From the first day we could see that this guy was really different.

“First of all he had this permanent crazy look in his eyes. And he would come right up to you and stare at you with big smile on his face. It wasn’t a friendly smile though. It was a scary smile and it always unnerved me.

“He never spoke to any of us, even if you asked him a direct question. He would just stare at you and smile. Not that he never spoke, mind you. At night he would sit on his bed for hours, having a very animated conversation with someone none of us could see.

“Another charming thing he used to do was to just drop his pants and relieve himself. No matter where he was. Nothing out corporal did seemed to have any effect on him. He would just stare at the corporal and smile.

“After only three days the doctor at our camp decided to send him to One Military Hospital. Our corporal and our company commander thought that this guy was faking it just to try and get a discharge. Even the doctor thought that this guy was trying it on.

“I wasn’t convinced that he was faking. There was just something about this guy that gave me the creeps. My biggest fear was that at some stage this guy would be given a rifle. All of us in our section were really happy when this guy was sent

away for further examination.

“Anyway, we later heard that he spent some time at One Military Hospital before he was given a discharge. I often wonder what eventually happened to him. Or what was wrong with him in the first place.”

When Tony did his two years national service he was much older than most. He had first studied and qualified as a doctor. He was called up to the South African Medical Services and, after his basic and initial training, he was promoted to lieutenant. He was transferred to an infantry unit where he was in charge of the sick bay.

“When a new intake of conscripts arrived, we would be responsible for doing the medical examinations,” said Tony.

“Most of the people that I saw were healthy enough to do their service. One of two had serious medical conditions and they would be sent on to 1 Mil Hospital for further examination and with my recommendation that they should be given a medical discharge.

“What worried me was the psychological condition of some of them. Look, there was nothing specific where I could have said that this guy should be given a medical discharge on psychological grounds. It’s just that the thought of some of them running around with firearms and live ammunition really worried me.”

The last story is from Ashley. He was a medic and in 1980 he had to assist an intake with their initial medical examinations.

“I sat at a table and recruits would come up to me, at this stage they were wearing noth-

ing but their underpants, and I had to fill out a form. I had to ask their name, rank and serial number. Then I would go through a list of questions. It was all very basic.

“One of the guys approached me and I couldn’t believe what I was looking at. You must remember that this was in 1980 when tattoos were not that common. In fact anyone with a tattoo was either a sailor or someone from the lower end of the gene pool. These days everyone and his wife has a tattoo.

“This guy was covered in tattoos, and I mean covered. His forearms, upper arms, chest, stomach, shoulders, back, thighs and calves were tattooed. The next thing our doctor and a PF woman sergeant arrived and also start giving this guy the once over. They were amazed.

“Eventually just about anyone who was anyone had come to check out the show. Even our OC and RSM had arrived. Our poor RSM looked as if he was going to have a stroke.

“The best was that on his right butt check he had a tattoo which read “PW sucks”. When the OC questioned him about it, he said that it stood for ‘Paul Walters sucks’. He said that it was the name of a friend of his. But we all knew that the PW stood for PW Botha, who was the president of the country at the time.”

If you would like to receive a free electronic copy of the book “Service Rendered”, send an e-mail with the heading Service Rendered to editor@hipe.co.za and we will send you a copy.

Toughest Military Training

One of the things I enjoy when I get together with my mates, most of whom did military service, is to listen to everyone boast about how tough their training was. No matter where they did

their training, or with whatever unit, it was tougher than anywhere else. Let's be honest, military training can often be tough. Especially if you're training to get into some special unit.

This month we looking at military training that goes beyond just be tough and, in many cases, borders on the insane. We'll let you be the judges on which you think is the most brutal.

Taiwanese Marine Corps

If you're one of those that whine and complain when you have to walk bare-foot along a gravel path, spare a thought for those that do their training in the Taiwanese Marine Corps. They have to walk the Road to Heaven, or rather I should say crawl it.

During their tenth and final week at Kaohsiung Military Base each recruit has to tackle the Road to Heaven. This is a 50 metre path covered with sharp fist-sized stones and coral.

Wearing nothing but a pair of shorts they have to crawl, belly down, along, the path without using their arms. And just to make it more fun the instructors stop them halfway and force them to do calisthenics. By the end their bodies are a bloody, torn mess. If they fail they are forced to do it all over again.



North Korea Storm Corps



According to the North Korean Army, every Storm Corpsman must be able to kill 10 armed men with his bare hands.

To prepare for this they wake at 05h00 every morning, go to trees wrapped in heavy ropes, and punch it 5,000 times until their hands are oozing blood and pus.

Then they punch jagged tins cans before punching a pile of salt. This last part must be really fun.

What North Korea lacks in technological advancement they make up for in sheer insanity.

Russian Spetsnaz

Spetsnaz, the Russian Special Forces Group, believe that you should not only be able to dish out pain, you should be able to take it as well.

They undergo 'pain management' drills that are extreme to say the very least. This includes swimming through pools lined with barbed wire, getting tied to chairs and beaten with baseball bats, and being dragged behind trucks.

The purpose of these exercises is to train them to ignore injuries and continue with their mission.



Philippines Special Operations Group



Most of us know how difficult it can be to accomplish even the most simple tasks when you're drunk. Now imagine completing a range of military drills while being absolutely smashed. Troops of the Philippines Special Operations Group do just that. They get totally wasted and then undergo a series of drills aimed at weeding out trainees who don't have the right personality.

Now before you start thinking "How cool is that and where do I enlist", stop and think about it. How about doing a 29 kilometre swim, shooting exercises, and a 10 kilometre run would be when you're plastered. How about doing it with a hangover?

kilometre run would be when you're plastered. How about doing it with a hangover?

South Korean Special Forces

Although the Cold War has been over for more than 20 years, the South Korean Army give the term a whole new meaning. That's because they often conduct training in the snow. And we're not talking about a snowball fight here.

These troops have to carry out exercises in sub-zero temperatures wearing nothing but a pair of pants. Try doing pole PT when the temperature is -30 °C.



People's Liberation Army of China



Want to build trust and team work with your fellow troops? Then the PLA has just the thing for you. Groups of several soldiers stand in a circle around a pit. They then take a hefty chunk of explosives, someone lights the fuse, and they proceed to pass the explosive around.

Some of you have probably played the game 'Hot Potato' at some stage, but this is not the way to do it. After counting down, the last soldier to get the explosive throws it into the pit and everyone dives away before it explodes. Hope they can all count well.

US Marine Corps Sniper

Being a sniper requires a steady hand, great reflexes and a lot of patience. Apparently it also requires a deadened sense of smell. That's because US Marine snipers must prepare themselves and their camouflaged suits, known as ghillie suits, by soaking in a giant pond of stagnant water and rotting vegetation repeatedly.

Once you're nice and wet, you then get to roll around in the dirt, over and over again. All of this is necessary to 'season' the ghillie suit and also acts as great psychological training for the sniper.



US Navy Seals



By all accounts, getting into the US Navy Seals is not that easy. The selection process pushes recruits to their limits, seeing just how much strength and endurance they actually have. One especially demanding part of selection is drown-proofing in a pool. This involves having your hands and feet tied while performing various tasks in the water.

The drill teaches breathing control as well as forcing potential Seals to learn to control fear and panic. And just to throw in a little extra, instructors will also attack trainees in the water.

Belarus Red Berets

Want to join Belarus' Red Berets? Then be prepared to run the obstacle course. And, yes, I know we've all run obstacle courses before, but not like this.

Picture all the usual walls, beams, tires, rope swings and obstacles found on a usual course. Now set most of them on fire. Add a lot of smoke and gunfire and you're good to go. Oh, and just for good measure, the instructors will be trying to knock you off every obstacle.



Indonesian Army



On the surface it all sounds pretty standard. Recruits run around an obstacle course and crawl through mud while instructors fire weapons. There is, however, a small catch.

The instructors fire their assault rifles at the ground, centimetres away from the recruits head. And they use live ammunition. Okay, so it gets the recruits used to having live rounds fired near them. But the slightest slip up by an instructor can turn things deadly.

Russian Special Forces

There's an old military saying, "Train hard, fight easy." Yet the Russian Special Forces take this to the extreme. Recruits, wearing body armour, are intentionally shot in the chest by their instructor.

The drill is meant to prepare recruits for potentially being shot, and teach them how to react.

And here I thought that the whole purpose of training is not to get shot. As General George S. Patton once said, "The purpose is not to die for your country, but to make the other poor bastard die for his country."



Heinrich Himmler

One of Hitler's most loyal sycophants and the architect of the Holocaust, he ruthlessly despatched those that stood in his way as he rose to a position of power second only to that of his Fuhrer. Yet at the end he would spectacularly betray his master.

Reichsführer of the Schutzstaffel and a leading member of the Nazi Party of Germany, Himmler was one of the most powerful men in Nazi Germany and one of the people most directly responsible for the Holocaust.

Heinrich Luitpold Himmler was born in Munich on 7 October 1900. He was the second of three sons born to Joseph Gebhard Himmler and Anna Maria Himmler.

His father, known as Gebhard, was a school teacher while his mother was a devout Roman Catholic.

He was named Heinrich after his godfather, Prince Heinrich of Bavaria, a member of the Bavarian royal family. The prince has been tutored by Gebhard.

While his family was not rich, they were well off and respected within the local community.

Himmler attended a grammar school in Landshut, where his father was the deputy headmaster. Himmler did well at school, although he struggled with sports and athletics.

He was a sickly boy and suffered from life-long stomach complaints and other ailments.

In his youth he trained with weights and exercised to become stronger.

From the age of ten he kept a diary and it shows that he took a keen interest in current events, duelling and the serious discussion of religion and sex.

Himmler the cadet

Himmler joined the Landshut Cadet Corps in 1915 and, through his father's connections

with the royal family, was accepted as an officer candidate. He enlisted with the reserve battalion of the 11th Bavarian Regiment in December 1917.

Himmler was keen to see action. His elder brother, Gebhard, served on the western front. He was awarded the Iron Cross and later promoted to lieutenant.

While Himmler was still in training, the war ended in November 1918, denying him the opportunity to become an officer or to see combat. He was discharged on 18 December and returned to Landshut.

He completed his grammar school education and, following a brief apprenticeship on a farm, studied agronomy at the Munich Technische Hochschule from 1919 to 1922.

During the unification of Germany in 1871 many regulations that discriminated against non-Christians - including Jews and other minority groups - had been eliminated.

Yet while the regulations may have been eliminated, anti-Semitism continued to exist and in fact thrive in Germany and other parts of Europe.

By the time he went to

university Himmler was anti-Semitic, but not exceptionally so. He remained a devout Catholic and spent most of his leisure time with members of his fencing fraternity.

During his second year at university, Himmler increased his attempts to pursue a military career. While he was not successful, he did extend his involvement in the paramilitary scene in Munich.

It was during this period that he first met Ernst Röhm. An early member of the Nazi Party and co-founder of the *Sturmabteilung* (Storm Battalion, SA), Röhm was a decorated combat veteran of World War I. This was something that Himmler admired.

At Röhm's suggestion, Himmler joined his anti-Semitic nationalist group, the *Bund Reichskriegsflagge* (Imperial War Flag Society).

His diary entries in 1922 show that Himmler was becoming more interested in the "Jewish question". His diary contained an increasing number of anti-Semitic remarks and recorded a number of discussions about Jews with his classmates.

His reading lists, as recorded in his diary, were dominated by anti-Semitic pamphlets, German myths, and occult tracts.

After the murder of Foreign Minister Walther Rathenau on 24 June, Himmler's political views veered towards the radical right, and he took part in demonstrations against the Treaty of Versailles. Hyperinflation was raging, and his parents could no longer afford to educate all three sons. Disappointed by his failure to make

a career in the military and his parents' inability to finance his doctoral studies, he was forced to take a low-paying office job after obtaining his agricultural diploma. He remained in this position until September 1923.

Himmler the Nazi activist

In August 1923, with the Party number 14,303, Heinrich Himmler became a member of the Nazi Party.

As a member of Röhm's paramilitary unit, Himmler was involved in the unsuccessful Beer Hall Putsch.

He was questioned by the police about his role in the putsch, but was not charged because of insufficient evidence. However, he lost his job, was unable to find employment as an agronomist, and had to move in with his parents in Munich. Frustrated by these failures, he became ever more irritable, aggressive, and opinionated, alienating both friends and family members.

During the following year he abandoned Catholicism, instead focusing on the occult and in anti-Semitism. Germanic mythology, reinforced by occult ideas, became a religion for him.

Initially Himmler was not all that impressed with Hitler. Not was he swept up in the cult of Führer worship. He did, however, regard him as useful for the party.

Following the disarray of Hitler's arrest in the wake of the Beer Hall Putsch, Himmler took full advantage of the situation to consolidate and advance his own position in the party.

From mid-1924 he worked as

a party secretary and propaganda assistant, travelling all over Bavaria and agitating on behalf of the party.

When the Nazi Party reformed under Hitler in 1925, Himmler was placed in charge of the party office in Lower Bavaria.

In 1925 Himmler joined the *Schutzstaffel* (SS) as an SS-Führer (SS-Leader); his SS number was 168. The SS, initially part of the much larger SA, was formed in 1923 for Hitler's personal protection, and was re-formed in 1925 as an elite unit of the SA.

Himmler's first leadership position in the SS was that of *SS-Gauführer* (district leader) in Lower Bavaria from 1926.

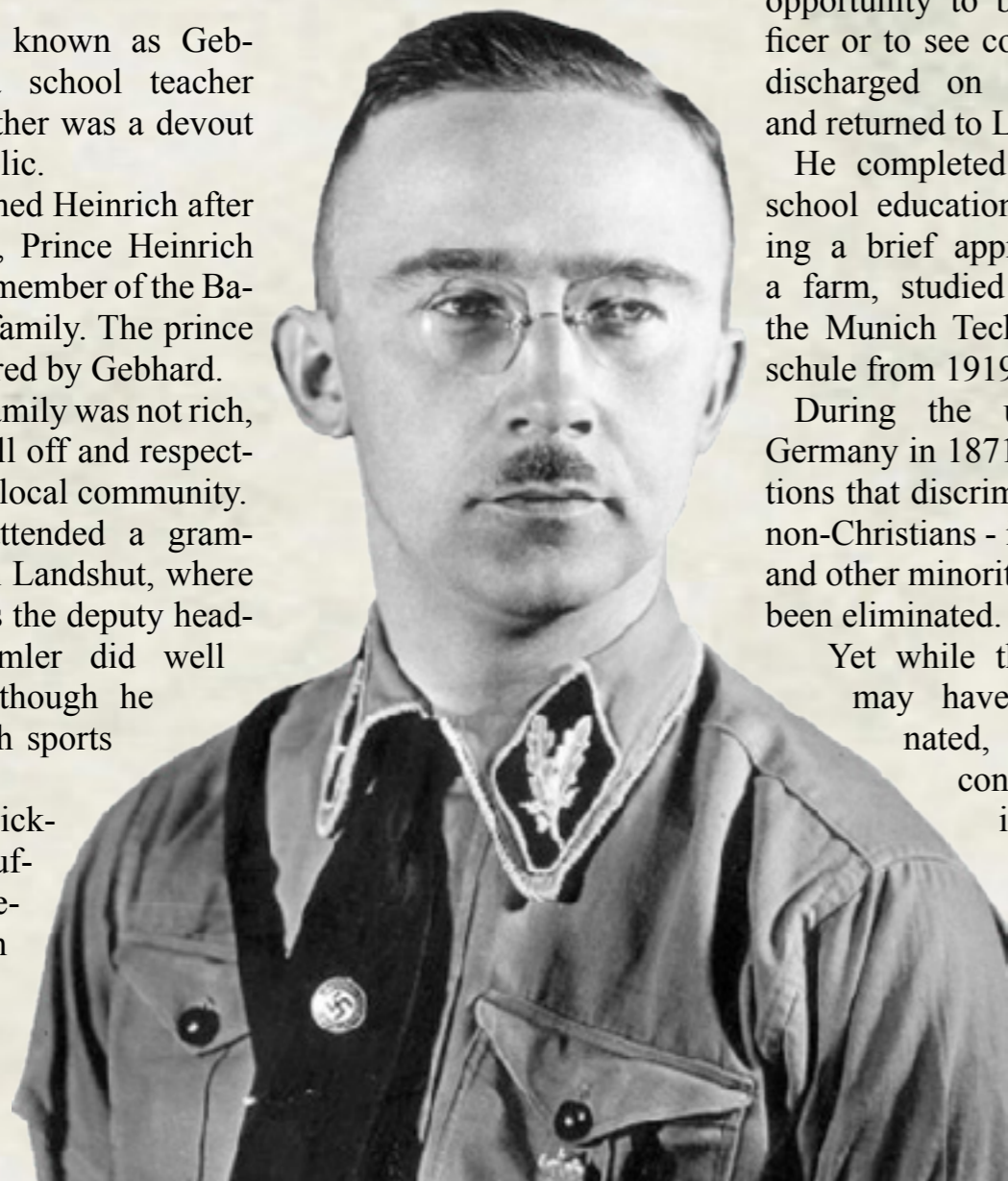
In September 1927, Himmler told Hitler of his vision to transform the SS into a loyal, powerful, racially pure elite unit. Convinced that Himmler was the man for the job, Hitler appointed him Deputy Reichsführer-SS, with the rank of *SS-Oberführer*.

Himmler met his future wife, Margarete Boden, in 1927. Seven years his senior, she was a nurse who shared his interest in herbal medicine and homoeopathy, and was part owner of a small private clinic. They were married in July 1928, and their only child, Gudrun, was born on 8 August 1929.

Himmler, Reichsführer-SS

Upon the resignation of SS commander Erhard Heiden in January 1929, Himmler assumed the position of Reichsführer-SS with Hitler's approval.

One of his first responsibilities



ties was to organise SS participants at the Nuremberg Rally that September.

Over the next year, Himmler grew the SS from a force of about 290 men to about 3,000. By 1930 Himmler had persuaded Hitler to run the SS as a separate organisation, although it was officially still subordinate to the SA.

In the 1932 election, the Nazis won 37.3 percent of the vote and Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany. After the Reichstag building was set on fire only a month after Hitler was sworn in, Hitler forced President Paul von Hindenburg to sign the Reichstag Fire Decree, which suspended basic rights and allowed detention without trial.

Von Hindenburg died on 2 August 1934, and Hitler became both head of state and head of government under the title *Führer und Reichskanzler* (leader and chancellor). The Nazi Party's rise to power provided Himmler and the SS an unfettered opportunity to thrive.

By 1933, the SS numbered 52,000 members. Strict membership requirements ensured that all members were of Hitler's Aryan *Herrenvolk* ("Aryan master race"). Applicants were vetted for Nordic qualities. Naturally no-one was brave enough, or stupid enough, to tell Himmler that, by his own standards, he did not meet the requirements.

In 1931 he appointed Reinhard Heydrich chief of the new Ic Service (intelligence service), which was renamed the *Sicherheitsdienst* (SD: Security Service) in 1932.



MEET AND GREET: Adolf Hitler (left) shakes hands with Heinrich Himmler, the Reichsführer-SS.

That same year, Hitler promoted Himmler to the rank of SS-Obergruppenführer, equal in rank to the senior SA commanders.

Hermann Göring had created a Prussian secret police force, the *Geheime Staatspolizei* or Gestapo in 1933. Its main task was to counteract the power of the SA. Control of the Gestapo was handed over to Himmler on 20 April 1934.

On 21 June 1934 Hitler decided that Röhm and the SA leadership had to be eliminated. In what became known as "The Night of the Long Knives", Röhm and between 80 and 200 members of the SA leadership were killed between 30 June and 2 July 1934. With the SA thus neutralised, the SS became an independent organisation answerable only to Hitler on 20 July 1934.

Himmler, World War II

When Hitler and his army chiefs asked for a pretext for the invasion of Poland in 1939, Himmler, Heydrich, and Heinrich Müller masterminded and

carried out a false flag project code-named Operation Himmler.

German soldiers dressed in Polish uniforms undertook border skirmishes which deceptively suggested Polish aggression against Germany. The incidents were then used in Nazi propaganda to justify the invasion of Poland, the opening event of World War II.

At the beginning of the war against Poland, Hitler authorised the killing of Polish civilians, including Jews and ethnic Poles. The *Einsatzgruppen* (SS Special Action Squads) had originally been formed by Heydrich to secure government papers and offices in areas taken over by Germany before World War II.

Authorised by Hitler and under the direction of Himmler and Heydrich, the *Einsatzgruppen* units - now repurposed as death squads - followed the Heer (army) into Poland, and by the end of 1939 they had murdered some 65,000 intellectuals and other civilians. Under Himmler's orders via



ROGUES GALLERY: Himmler, Ernst Kaltenbrunner, and other SS officials visiting Mauthausen concentration camp in 1941.

the RSHA, these squads were also tasked with rounding up Jews and others for placement in ghettos and concentration camps.

When the German invaded Russia in 1941, they were closely followed by the *Einsatzgruppen* who were tasked with rounding up and killing Jews and others deemed undesirable by the Nazi state.

In addition, 2.8 million Soviet prisoners of war died of starvation, mistreatment or executions in just eight months of 1941-42.

As many as 500,000 Soviet prisoners of war died or were executed in Nazi concentration camps over the course of the war; most of them were shot or gassed.

By early 1941, following Himmler's orders, ten concentration camps had been constructed in which inmates were subjected to forced labour. Jews from all over Germany and the occupied territories were deported to the camps or confined

to ghettos.

As the Germans were pushed back from Moscow in December 1941, signalling that the expected quick defeat of the Soviet Union had failed to materialize, Hitler and other Nazi officials realised that mass deportations to the east would no longer be possible. As a result, instead of deportation, many Jews in Europe were destined for death.

Himmler and the Holocaust

After Germany had declared war on America in December 1941, Hitler finally resolved that the Jews of Europe were to be "exterminated."

Reinhard Heydrich arranged a meeting, held on 20 January 1942 at Wannsee, a suburb of Berlin. Attended by top Nazi officials, it was used to outline the plans for the "final solution to the Jewish question".

Heydrich detailed how those Jews able to work would be worked to death; those unable to work would be killed out-

right. Heydrich calculated the number of Jews to be killed at 11 million, and told the attendees that Hitler had placed Himmler in charge of the plan.

Himmler took over leadership of the RSHA and stepped up the pace of the killing of Jews in *Aktion Reinhard* (Operation Reinhard), named in Heydrich's honour. Heydrich had been assassinated in Prague in an operation carried out by members of Czechoslovakia's army-in-exile who had been trained by the British Special Operations Executive. He ordered the Aktion Reinhard camps, the first extermination camps, to be constructed at Belżec, Sobibór, and Treblinka.

Himmler was a main architect of the Holocaust, using his deep belief in the racist Nazi ideology to justify the murder of millions of victims.

Himmler, the beginning of the end

On 20 July 1944, a group of German army officers led by Claus von Stauffenberg and including some of the highest-ranked members of the German armed forces attempted to assassinate Hitler, but failed to do so.

Though Himmler was embarrassed by his failure to uncover the plot, it led to an increase in his powers and authority.

He formed a special commission that arrested over 5,000 suspected and known opponents of the regime. Hitler ordered brutal reprisals that resulted in the execution of more than 4,900 people.

On 6 June 1944 the Western Allies launched Operation

Overlord, the amphibious invasion of northern France. In response Heeresgruppe Oberrhein (Army Group Upper Rhine) was formed to engage and stop the advancing Allies. In late 1944, Hitler appointed Himmler commander-in-chief of Army Group Upper Rhine.

On 26 September 1944 Hitler ordered Himmler to create special army units, the *Volkssturm* ("People's Storm" or "People's Army"). All males aged sixteen to sixty were eligible for conscription into this militia.

By October 1944, children as young as fourteen were being enlisted. Because of severe shortages in weapons and equipment and lack of training, members of the *Volkssturm* were poorly prepared for combat, and about 175,000 of them lost their lives in the final months of the war.

The *Heeresgruppe Weichsel* (Army Group Vistula) had been hastily formed to stop the Soviet Red Army's advance. On 25 January 1945, in spite of Himmler's lack of military experience, Hitler appointed him as commander.

In early 1945 Himmler could see that the writing was on the wall. The German war effort was on the verge of collapse and Himmler's relationship with Hitler had deteriorated. Himmler decided that it was time to negotiate an independent peace settlement.

His masseur, Felix Kersten, who had moved to Sweden, acted as an intermediary in negotiations with Count Folke Bernadotte, head of the Swedish Red Cross. Letters were exchanged between the two men, and di-

rect meetings were arranged by Walter Schellenberg of the RSHA.

Himmler and Hitler met for the last time in Berlin on Hitler's birthday, 20 April 1945. Once again Himmler swore unswerving loyalty to Hitler.

At a military briefing on that day, Hitler stated that he would not leave Berlin, in spite of Soviet advances. Along with Göring, Himmler quickly left the city after the briefing.

On 23 April, Himmler met directly with Bernadotte at the Swedish consulate in Lübeck. Representing himself as the provisional leader of Germany, he claimed that Hitler would be dead within the next few days. Hoping that the British and Americans would fight the Soviets alongside what remained of the Wehrmacht, Himmler asked Bernadotte to inform General Dwight Eisenhower that Germany wished to surrender to the West. Bernadotte asked Himmler to put his proposal in writing, and Himmler obliged.

Meanwhile, Göring had sent a telegram, a few hours earlier, asking Hitler for permission to assume leadership of the Reich - an act that Hitler, under the prodding of Martin Bormann, interpreted as a demand to step down or face a coup.

On 27 April, Himmler's SS representative at Hitler's HQ in Berlin, Hermann Fegelein, was caught in civilian clothes preparing to desert; he was arrested and brought back to the *Führerbunker*.

On the evening of 28 April, the BBC broadcast a Reuters news report about Himmler's



NEAR THE END: By early 1945 Himmler realised that Germany had lost the war. This photo was taken about a month before Hitler committed suicide.

attempted negotiations with the western Allies.

Hitler, who had long considered Himmler to be second only to Joseph Goebbels in loyalty (he called Himmler "the loyal Heinrich"), flew into a rage at this apparent betrayal. Hitler told those who were still with him in the bunker complex that Himmler's act was the worst treachery he had ever known and ordered his arrest. Fegelein was court-martialed and shot.

By this time, the Soviets had advanced to the Potsdamerplatz, only 300 metres from the Reich Chancellery, and were preparing to storm the Chancellery.

This report, combined with Himmler's treachery, prompted Hitler to write his last will and testament. In the testament, completed on 29 April - one day prior to his suicide - Hitler declared both Himmler and Göring to be traitors. He



THE END: Heinrich Himmler lies dead after committing suicide with a potassium cyanide pill.

stripped Himmler of all of his party and state offices and expelled him from the Nazi Party.

Himmler, the end

Himmler came to the grim realisation that the Allies were not interested in negotiating with him. In fact he had been declared a war criminal.

Rejected by his former comrades and hunted by the Allies, Himmler decided that it was time to go into hiding. He had not really prepared for it, but he had equipped himself with a forged Wehrmacht paybook under the name of Sergeant Heinrich Hitzinger.

He shaved his moustache off, removed his glasses, and wore a patch over one eye. With a small band of companions, he headed south on 11 May to

Friedrichskoog, without a final destination in mind. They continued on to Neuhaus, where the group split up.

On 21 May, Himmler and two aides were stopped and detained at a checkpoint set up by former Soviet POWs. Over the following two days, he was moved around to several camps and was brought to the British 31st Civilian Interrogation Camp near Lüneburg, on 23 May 1945.

Not suspecting for a minute who he had in his custody, the duty officer, Captain Thomas Selvester, began a routine interrogation of the prisoner.

For some reason Himmler admitted who he was. Perhaps he thought he would receive preferential treatment. Captain Selvester had the prisoner

searched before he was taken to the headquarters of the Second British Army in Lüneburg.

Medical officer Doctor Wells conducted a medical exam on Himmler. However, when the doctor tried to examine the inside of Himmler's mouth he was reluctant to open it. Himmler jerked his head away and then bit into a hidden potassium cyanide pill before collapsing to the ground.

Within 15 minutes Heinrich Luitpold Himmler, the man who had been responsible for millions of deaths, was dead. He was 44 years old.

Shortly afterward, Himmler's body was buried in an unmarked grave near Lüneburg. The grave's exact location remains unknown to this day.

SS Symbolism

Himmler was interested in mysticism and the occult from an early age and he viewed the SS as an "order" along the lines of the Teutonic Knights.

When members of the SS were sworn in, they had to take an oath. "I vow to you, Adolf Hitler, as Führer and chancellor of the German Reich, loyalty and bravery. I vow to you and to the leaders that you set for me, absolute allegiance until death. So help me God"

The *SS-Ehrenring* ("SS Honour Ring"), unofficially called *Totenkopfring* ("Death's Head Ring"), was an award of Heinrich Himmler's *Schutzstaffel* (SS). It was not a state decoration, but rather a personal gift bestowed by Himmler. The SS Honour Sword and SS Honour Dagger were similar awards.

Zero

Mitsubishi A6M

The Zero was considered the most capable carrier-based fighter in the world when it was introduced early in World War II and it proved a weapon that was forged in battle.

The Zero was considered the most capable carrier-based fighter in the world when it was introduced early in World War II, combining excellent maneuverability and very long range.

The Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service (IJNAS) also frequently used it as a land-based fighter.

In early combat operations, the Zero gained a legendary reputation as a dogfighter, achieving an outstanding kill ratio of 12 to 1, but by mid-1942 a combination of new tactics and the introduction of better equipment enabled Allied pilots to engage the Zero on generally equal terms.

The A6M is usually known as the "Zero" from its Japanese Navy type designation, Type 0 carrier fighter (*Rei shiki Kanjō sentōki*), taken from the last digit of the Imperial year 2600 (1940) when it entered service.

In Japan, it was unofficially referred to as both *Rei-sen* and *Zero-sen*. Japanese pilots most commonly called it *Zero-sen*, where *sen* is the first syllable of *sentōki*, Japanese for "fighter plane".

In the official designation

"A6M", the "A" signified a carrier-based fighter, "6" meant that it was the sixth such model built for the Imperial Navy, and "M" indicated Mitsubishi as the manufacturer.

The official Allied code name was "Zeke", in keeping with the practice of giving male names to Japanese fighters, female names to bombers, bird names to gliders, and tree names to trainers.

"Zeke" was part of the first batch of "hillbilly" code names assigned by Captain Frank T. McCoy of Nashville, Tennessee (assigned to the Allied Technical Air Intelligence Unit (ATAIU) at Eagle Farm Airport in Australia), who wanted quick, distinctive, easy-to-remember names. The Allied code for Japanese aircraft was introduced in 1942, and McCoy chose "Zeke" for the "Zero". Later, two variants of the fighter received their own code names.

The Nakajima A6M2-N floatplane version of the Zero was called "Rufe", and the A6M3-

32 variant was initially called "Hap".

General "Hap" Arnold, commander of the USAAF, objected to that name, however, so it was changed to "Hamp".

Captured examples were

examined in New Guinea and the Allies realized that it was a variant of the Zero, so it was finally renamed "Zeke 32".

Development

The Mitsubishi A5M fighter was just entering service in early 1937, when the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) started looking for its eventual replacement. On October 5, 1937, they issued "Planning Requirements for the Prototype 12-shi Carrier-based Fighter", sending it to Nakajima and Mitsubishi.

Drop tanks would give the fighter long range. Armament

was to consist of two 20 mm cannons, two 7.7 mm machine guns and two 30 kg or 60 kg bombs.

A complete radio set was to be mounted in all aircraft, along with a radio direction finder for long-range navigation.

No armour protection was provided for the pilot, engine or other critical points of the aircraft, and self-sealing fuel tanks, which were becoming common at the time, were not used.

appearance remarkably close to the Zero.

Gloster had a relationship with the Japanese between the wars, with Nakajima building the carrier-based plane, the Gloster Gambet, under license. However allegations about the Zero being a copy have been discredited by some authors.

Operational history

The first Zeros went into operation with the 12th *Rengo Kōkūtai*

tered by the Americans. Its tremendous range of over 2,600 kilometres allowed it to range farther from its carrier than expected, appearing over distant battlefronts and giving Allied commanders the impression that there were several times as many Zeros as actually existed.

The Zero quickly gained a fearsome reputation. Thanks to a combination of unsurpassed manoeuvrability - even when compared to other contemporary Axis fighters - and excellent firepower, it easily disposed the motley collection of Allied aircraft sent against it in the Pacific in 1941.

It proved a difficult opponent even for the Supermarine Spitfire. "The RAF pilots were trained in methods that were excellent against German and Italian equipment but sui-

cide against the acrobatic Japs", Lt. Gen. Claire Lee Chennault wrote.

Although not as fast as the British fighter, the Mitsubishi fighter could out-turn the Spitfire with ease, sustain a climb at a very steep angle, and stay in the air for three times as long.

Many highly experienced Japanese aviators were lost in combat, resulting in a progressive decline in quality, which became a significant factor in Allied successes. Unexpected heavy losses of pilots at the Battles of the Coral Sea and Midway dealt the Japanese carrier air force a blow from which it never fully re-

This made the Zero lighter, more manoeuvrable, and the longest-ranged single-engine fighter of World War II, which made it capable of searching out an enemy hundreds of kilometres away, bringing them to battle, then returning to its base or aircraft carrier.

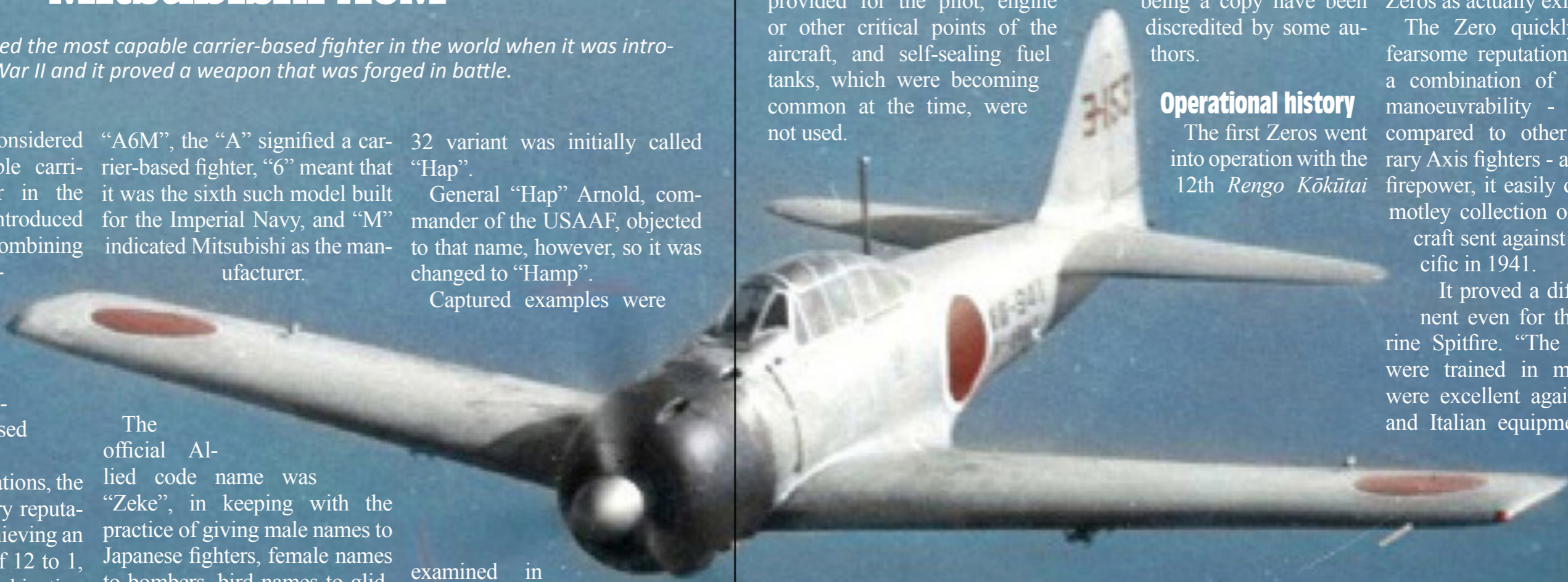
However, that trade-off in weight and construction also made it prone to catching fire and exploding when struck by enemy rounds.

The Zero resembled the 1937 British Gloster F.5/34. Performance of the Gloster F.5/34 was comparable to that of early model Zeros, with its dimensions and

in July 1940. On 13 September 1940, the Zeros scored their first air-to-air victories when 13 A6M2s led by Lieutenant Saburo Shindo attacked 27 Soviet-built Polikarpov I-15s and I-16s of the Chinese Nationalist Air Force, shooting down all the fighters without loss to themselves.

By the time they were redeployed a year later, the Zeros had shot down 99 Chinese aircraft (although some sources claim it was as high as 266).

At the time of the attack on Pearl Harbour, 521 Zeros were active in the Pacific, 328 in first-line units. The carrier-borne Model 21 was the type encoun-



covered and it would cost them dearly.

When the powerfully armed Lockheed P-38 Lightning, armed with four “light barrel” AN/M2 .50 cal. Browning machine guns and one 20 mm auto-cannon, and the Grumman F6F Hellcat and Vought F4U Corsair, each with six AN/M2 heavy calibre Browning guns, appeared in the Pacific theatre, the A6M, with its low-powered engine and lighter armament, was hard-pressed to remain competitive.

In combat with an F6F or F4U, the only positive thing that could be said of the Zero at this stage of the war was that, in the hands of a skilful pilot, it could manoeuvre as well as most of its opponents. Nonetheless, in competent hands, the Zero could still be deadly.

By 1943, due to inherent design weaknesses, such as a lack of hydraulic flaps and rudder rendering it extremely unmanoeuvrable at high speeds, and an inability to equip it with a more powerful aircraft engine, the Zero gradually became less effective against newer Allied fighters.

By 1944, with opposing Allied fighters approaching its levels of manoeuvrability and consistently exceeding its firepower, armour, and speed, the A6M had largely become outdated as a fighter aircraft. However, due to design delays and production difficulties, which hampered the introduction of newer Japanese aircraft models, the Zero continued to serve in a front line role until the end of the war in the Pacific. During the final phases, it was also adapted for use in kamikaze operations.



SLEEK ZEKE: Nicknamed ‘Zeke’ by the Americans, the Zero was one of the most capable carrier-based aircraft at the start of the war.

Allied counter tactics

Allied pilots soon developed tactics to cope with the Zero. Due to its extreme agility, engaging a Zero in a traditional, turning dogfight was likely to be fatal.

It was better to swoop down from above in a high-speed pass, fire a quick burst, then climb quickly back up to altitude. (A short burst of fire from heavy machine guns or cannon was often enough to bring down the fragile Zero.)

Such “boom-and-zoom” tactics were used successfully in the China Burma India Theatre (CBI) by the “Flying Tigers” of the American Volunteer Group (AVG) against similarly manoeuvrable Japanese Army aircraft such as the *Nakajima Ki-27 Nate* and *Nakajima Ki-43 Oscar*.

AVG pilots were trained by their commander Claire Chennault to exploit the advantages of their P-40s, which were very sturdy, heavily armed, generally faster in a dive and level flight at low altitude, with a good rate of

roll.

Another important manoeuvre was Lieutenant Commander John S. “Jimmy” Thach’s “Thach Weave”, in which two fighters would fly about 60 m apart. If a Zero latched onto the tail of one of the fighters, the two aircraft would turn toward each other. If the Zero followed his original target through the turn, he would come into a position to be fired on by the target’s wingman.

This tactic was first used to good effect during the Battle of Midway and later over the Solomon Islands.

Allied analysis of the Zero

American experts who evaluated a captured Zero found that the plane weighed about 2,360 kg fully loaded, some 1,260 kg lighter than the F4F Wildcat, the standard United States Navy fighter of the time.

The A6M’s airframe was “built like a fine watch”; the Zero was constructed with flush rivets, and even the guns were flush with the wings. The instrument panel was a “marvel of simplicity”.



FINAL PREPARATIONS: Mitsubishi A6M2’s on carrier *Shokaku*’s flight deck, prior to the Pearl Harbour attack, 7 December 1941.

What most impressed the experts was that the Zero’s fuselage and wings were constructed in one piece, unlike the American method that built them separately and joined the two parts together.

American test pilots found that the Zero’s controls were “very light” at 320 km/h, but stiffened at faster speeds (above 348 km/h) to safeguard against wing failure.

The Zero could not keep up with Allied aircraft in high-speed maneuvers. While stable on the ground despite its light weight, the aircraft was designed purely for the attack role, emphasizing long range, maneuverability, and firepower at the expense of protection of its pilot. Most lacked self-sealing tanks and armor plating.

Captain Eric Brown, the Chief Naval Test Pilot of the Royal Navy, recalled being impressed by the Zero during tests of captured aircraft. “I don’t think I have ever flown a fighter that could match the rate of turn of the Zero. The Zero had ruled the roost totally and was the finest fighter in the world until mid-1943.”

Zero Aces

Japan had a number of pilots that would become aces during the war. Most of them flew Zeros.

In total 13 of their aces achieved 20 or more kills, four were killed in action.

Tetsuzo Iwamoto (80 kills)

He survived the war only to die from septicemia at the young age of 38.

Shigeo Fukumoto (72 kills)

While he did survive the war, there are no records as to what happened to him afterwards.

Shoichi Sugita (70 kills)

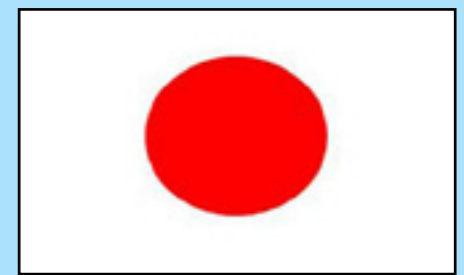
He was killed in action on 15 April 1945.

Hiromichi Shinohara (58 kills)

On his first day in combat he recorded 10 kills. He would also go on to claim a Japanese record by shooting down 11 enemy aircraft in a single day. He was killed in action on 27 August 1939 during the undeclared Soviet–Japanese border conflicts in 1939.

Takeo Okumura (54 kills)

He was killed in action on 22 September 1943.



A6M2 Type 0 Model 21

General characteristics

- Crew: one
- Length: 9.06 m
- Wingspan: 12.0 m
- Height: 3.05 m
- Wing area: 22.44 m²
- Empty weight: 1,680 kg
- Loaded weight: 2,796 kg
- Aspect ratio: 6.4
- Powerplant: 1 × Nakajima NK1C Sakae-12 14 cylinder air-cooled radial engine, 700 kW (940 hp)

Performance

- Never exceed speed: 660 km/h
- Maximum speed: 534 km/h at 4,550 m
- Range: 3,104 km
- Service ceiling: 10,000 m
- Rate of climb: 15.7 m/s
- Wing loading: 107.4 kg/m²
- Power/mass: 294 W/kg

Performance

Guns:

- 2 × 7.7 mm Type 97 aircraft machine guns in the engine cowling, with 500 rounds per gun.
- 2 × 20 mm Type 99-1 cannon in the wings, with 60 rounds per gun.

Bombs:

- 2 × 60 kg bombs or
- 1 × fixed 250 kg bomb for kamikaze attacks

At 07.48 on 7 December 1941, the US Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii came under attack from Japanese carrier-based aircraft. The attack resulted in America entering World War II.

American President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed 7 December 1941, "a date which will live in infamy". Without a declaration of war and without any warning, Japan had launched a devastating attack against the US Pacific Fleet in Hawaii.

The attack on Pearl Harbour was later judged in the Tokyo Trials to be a war crime.

Yet what led Japan to take this action? Why were the Americans taken by surprise? How successful was the attack?

Prelude to War

War between Japan and the United States had been on the cards since the 1920s. The relationship between the two countries was cordial enough that they remained trading partners.

Tensions did not seriously grow until Japan's invasion of Manchuria in 1931. Over the next decade, Japan expanded into China, leading to the Second Sino-Japanese War in 1937.

Starting in December 1937, events such as the Japanese attack on USS Panay, the Allison incident, and the Nanking Massacre swung Western public opinion sharply against Japan.

The USS Panay incident was a Japanese attack on the American gunboat Panay while it was anchored in the Yangtze River outside Nanking, China on 12 December 1937. Three Americans were killed and 43 wounded.

Japan and the United States were not at war at the time. The Japanese claimed that they did not see the American flags painted on the deck of the gunboat, apologized, and paid an indemnity.

The Nanking Massacre, also known as the Rape of Nanking, was an episode of mass murder and mass rape committed by Japanese troops against the residents of Nanking, then the capital of the Republic of China, during the Second Sino-Japanese War.

The massacre occurred over a period of six weeks starting on 13 December 1937, the day

that the Japanese captured Nanking. During this period, soldiers of the Imperial Japanese Army murdered Chinese civilians and disarmed combatants who numbered an estimated 40,000 to over 300,000, and perpetrated widespread rape and looting.

On 26 January 1938, during the period of the Nanking Massacre, John M. Allison, at the time consul at the American embassy in Nanking, was struck in the face by a Japanese soldier.

This incident is commonly known as the Allison incident. Japanese Consul-General Katsumi Okazaki apologized formally on 30 January (after the Americans demanded they do so).

This incident, together with the looting of American property in Nanking that took place at the same time, further strained relations between Japan and the United States, which had already been damaged by the Panay incident less than two months earlier.

Fearing Japanese expansion, the United States, United Kingdom, and France assisted China with its loans for war supply contracts.

In 1940, Japan invaded French Indochina, attempting to stop the flow of supplies reaching China. The United States halted shipments of airplanes, parts, machine tools,



HAVOC: Photograph of Battleship Row taken from a Japanese plane at the beginning of the attack. The explosion in the center is a torpedo strike on USS West Virginia.

and aviation gasoline to Japan, which the latter perceived as an unfriendly act. The United States did not stop oil exports, however, partly because of the prevailing sentiment in Washington: given Japanese dependence on American oil, such an action was likely to be considered an extreme provocation.

In mid-1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved the Pacific Fleet from San Diego to Hawaii. He also ordered a military build-up in the Philippines, taking both actions in the hope of discouraging Japanese aggression in the Far East.

Because the Japanese high command was (mistakenly) certain any attack on the United Kingdom's Southeast Asian colonies, including Singapore, would bring the U.S. into the war, a devastating preventive strike appeared to be the only way to prevent American naval interference. From that moment, war was inevitable. It was just a matter of time.

Planning begins

Full-scale planning was underway by early spring 1941, primarily by Rear Admiral Ryūnosuke Kusaka, with assistance from Captain Minoru Genda and Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto's Deputy Chief of Staff, Captain Kameto Kuroshima. The planners studied the 1940 British air attack on the Italian fleet at Taranto intensively.

Over the next several months, pilots were trained, equipment was adapted, and intelligence was collected. Despite these preparations, Emperor Hirohito did not approve the attack plan until 5 November, after the third of four Imperial Conferences called to consider the matter. Final authorisation was not given by the emperor until 1 December.

Objectives

The planned Japanese attack had several major aims. The first was to cripple the Pacific

Fleet and prevent it from interfering with Japanese conquest of the Dutch East Indies and Malaya and to enable Japan to conquer Southeast Asia without interference.

Secondly, it was hoped that the attack would buy time for Japan to consolidate its position and increase its naval strength.

Thirdly, it was hoped that the attack would undermine American morale such that the U.S. government would drop its demands contrary to Japanese interests, and would seek a compromise peace with Japan.

Many believe that the prime Japanese objective was to sink the American aircraft carriers.

Yet the Japanese knew full well that the three carriers - the USS Enterprise, USS Lexington, and USS Saratoga - would not be in Pearl Harbour when the attack was launched.

The American battleships were chosen as the main targets, since these were the prestige ships of any navy at the time.

Striking Pearl Harbour did, however, have a disadvantage. The targeted ships would be in very shallow water, so it would be relatively easy to salvage and possibly repair them; and most of the crews would survive the attack, since many would be on shore leave or would be rescued from the harbour.

Admiral Yamamoto decided to launch the attack anyway.

The attack

On November 26, 1941, a Japanese task force (the Striking Force) of six aircraft carriers - Akagi, Kaga, Sōryū, Hiryū, Shōkaku, and Zuikaku - departed Hittokapu Bay on

Kasatka (now Iterup) Island in the Kurile Islands, en route to a position north-west of Hawaii. The task force was under strict radio silence.

On 2 December 1941 Vice Admiral Chūichi Nagumo received a message from Admiral Yamamoto, ordering him to open a top secret envelope that had been given to him prior to departure.

The coded message contained just three words, “*Niitaka yama nobore*” (Climb Mount Niitaka).

The message told Nagumo that the Japanese Empire had decided to go to war with the United States, Britain and Holland.

Once in position, the task force intended to launch its 408 aircraft to attack Pearl Harbour. 360 aircraft would be used in

two attack waves and 48 would remain on defensive combat air patrol (CAP).

The first wave was to be the primary attack, while the second wave was to attack carriers as its first objective and cruisers as its second, with battleships as the third target.

The first wave carried most of the weapons to attack capital ships, mainly specially adapted Type 91 aerial torpedoes which were designed with an anti-roll mechanism and a rudder extension that let them operate in shallow water.

The aircrews were ordered to select the highest value targets, with the battleships being top of the list. Then they would go after any aircraft carriers that might be in port. The USS Enterprise was scheduled to be in Pearl

Harbour on 6 December on her way back from Wake Island, but was delayed by bad weather.

If there were no carriers in port, as Japanese intelligence suspected, they would then go after other high value ships such as cruisers and destroyers.

First wave dive bombers were to attack ground targets. Fighters were ordered to strafe and destroy as many parked aircraft as possible to ensure they did not get into the air to intercept the bombers, especially in the first wave.

When the fighters’ fuel got low they were to refuel at the aircraft carriers and return to combat. Fighters were to serve CAP duties where needed, especially over U.S. airfields.

The Japanese also made use of five midget submarines dur-

ing the attack. All five of these submarines were destroyed and one Japanese sailor, Kazuo Sakamaki, was captured.

As the first wave approached Oahu, it was detected by the U.S. Army SCR-270 radar at Opana Point near the island’s northern tip.

This post had been in training mode for months, but was not yet operational. The operators, Privates George Elliot Jr. and Joseph Lockard, reported a target, but Lieutenant Kermit A. Tyler, a newly assigned officer at the thinly manned Intercept Centre, presumed it was the scheduled arrival of six B-17 bombers from California.

The Japanese planes were approaching from a direction very close (only a few degrees difference) to the bombers, and while the operators had never seen a formation as large on radar, they neglected to tell Tyler of its size. Tyler, for security reasons, could not tell the operators of the six B-17s that were due (even though it was widely known).

As the first wave planes approached Oahu, they encountered and shot down several U.S. aircraft. At least one of these radioed a somewhat incoherent warning. Other warnings from ships off the harbour entrance were still being processed or awaiting confirmation when the attacking planes began bombing and strafing. Nevertheless, it is not clear any warnings would have had much effect even if they had been interpreted correctly and much more promptly.

The air portion of the attack began at 07h48 Hawaiian Time.

A total of 353 Japanese planes in two waves reached Oahu.

Slow, vulnerable torpedo bombers led the first wave, exploiting the first moments of surprise to attack the most important ships present (the battleships), while dive bombers attacked U.S. air bases across Oahu, starting with Hickam Field, the largest, and Wheeler Field, the main U.S. Army Air Forces fighter base.

The 171 planes in the second wave attacked the Army Air Forces’ Bellows Field near Kaneohe on the windward side of the island, and Ford Island. The only aerial opposition came from a handful of P-36 Hawks, P-40 Warhawks, and some SBD Dauntless dive bombers from the carrier Enterprise.

In the first wave attack, about eight of the forty-nine 800 kg armour-piercing bombs dropped hit their intended battleship targets. At least two of those bombs broke up on impact, another detonated before penetrating an unarmoured deck, and one was a dud. Thirteen of the forty torpedoes hit battleships, and four torpedoes hit other ships.

Men aboard U.S. ships awoke to the sounds of alarms, bombs exploding, and gunfire, prompting bleary-eyed men to dress as they ran to General Quarters stations. (The famous message, “Air raid Pearl Harbour. This is not drill.”, was sent from the headquarters of Patrol Wing Two, the first senior Hawaiian command to respond.)

The defenders were very unprepared. Ammunition lockers were locked, aircraft parked wingtip to wingtip in the open

Isoroku Yamamoto



Japanese Marshal Admiral of the Navy and the commander-in-chief of the Combined Fleet during World War II until his death.

Born: 4 April 1884
Died: 18 April 1943

Yamamoto decided to make an inspection tour throughout the South Pacific to boost morale following the defeat at Guadalcanal.

US naval intelligence intercepted and decrypted a message containing specifics of Yamamoto’s tour, including arrival and departure times and locations, as well as the number and types of aircraft that would transport and accompany him on the journey.

Sixteen P-38 Lightnings intercepted the flight over Bougainville and a dogfight ensued between them and the six escorting Mitsubishi A6M Zeeros. Yamamoto’s plane was shot down and he was killed.



to prevent sabotage, guns un-manned (none of the Navy's 57/38s, only a quarter of its machine guns, and only four of 31 Army batteries got in action). Despite this low alert status, many American military personnel responded effectively during the attack.

US Casualties and damage

Ninety minutes after it began, the attack was over. Two thousand and eight sailors were killed, and 710 others wounded; 218 soldiers and airmen (who were part of the Army until the independent U.S. Air Force was formed in 1947) were killed and 364 wounded; 109 marines were killed and 69 wounded; and 68 civilians were killed and 35 wounded.

In total, 2,335 American servicemen were killed and 1,143 were wounded. Eighteen ships were sunk or run aground, including five battleships. One hundred eighty-eight U.S. aircraft were destroyed

All of the Americans killed or wounded during the attack were non-combatants, given the fact there was no state of war when the attack occurred.

US ships lost or damaged

Twenty-one ships were damaged or lost in the attack, of which all but three were repaired and returned to service.

Battleships

- Arizona (RADM Kidd's flagship of Battleship Division One): hit by four armour-piercing bombs, exploded; total loss. 1,177 dead.
- Oklahoma: hit by five torpedoes, capsized; total loss.

429 dead.

- West Virginia: hit by two bombs, seven torpedoes, sunk; returned to service July 1944. 106 dead.
- California: hit by two bombs, two torpedoes, sunk; returned to service January 1944. 100 dead.
- Nevada: hit by six bombs, one torpedo, beached; returned to service October 1942. 60 dead.
- Pennsylvania (ADM Kimmel's flagship of the United States Pacific Fleet): in drydock with Cassin and Downes, hit by one bomb and debris from USS Cassin; remained in service. Nine dead.
- Tennessee: hit by two bombs; returned to service February 1942. Five dead.
- Maryland: hit by two bombs; returned to service February 1942. Four dead (including floatplane pilot shot down).

Ex-battleship (training ship)

- Utah: hit by two torpedoes, capsized; total loss. 64 dead.

Cruisers

- Helena: hit by one torpedo; returned to service January 1942. 20 dead.
- Raleigh: hit by one torpedo; returned to service February 1942.
- Honolulu: Near miss, light damage; remained in service.

Destroyers

- Cassin: in drydock with Downes and Pennsylvania, hit by one bomb, burned; returned to service February 1944.
- Downes: in drydock with Cassin and Pennsylvania, caught fire from Cassin,

burned; returned to service November 1943.

- Helm: underway to West Loch, damaged by two near-miss bombs; continued patrol; dry-docked 15 January 1942 and sailed 20 January 1942.
- Shaw: hit by three bombs; returned to service June 1942.

Auxiliaries

- Oglala (minelayer): Damaged by torpedo hit on Helena, capsized; returned to service (as engine-repair ship) February 1944.
- Vestal (repair ship): hit by two bombs, blast and fire from Arizona, beached; returned to service by August 1942.
- Curtiss (seaplane tender): hit by one bomb, one crashed Japanese aircraft; returned to service January 1942. 19 dead.
- Sotoyomo (harbour tug): damaged by explosion and fires in Shaw; sunk; returned to service August 1942.
- YFD-2 (yard floating dock): damaged by 250 kg bombs; sunk; returned to service 25 January 1942

Japanese casualties

Fifty-five Japanese airmen and nine submariners were killed in the attack, and one was captured.

Of Japan's 414 available planes, 29 were lost during the battle (nine in the first attack wave, 20 in the second), with another 74 damaged by anti-aircraft fire from the ground.

Aftermath

In the wake of the attack, 15

Medals of Honour, 51 Navy Crosses, 53 Silver Stars, four Navy and Marine Corps Medals, one Distinguished Flying Cross, four Distinguished Service Crosses, one Distinguished Service Medal, and three Bronze Star Medals were awarded to the American servicemen who distinguished themselves in combat at Pearl Harbour. Additionally, a special military award, the Pearl Harbour Commemorative Medal, was later authorized for all military veterans of the attack.

The day after the attack, Roosevelt delivered his famous Infamy Speech to a Joint Session of Congress, calling for a formal declaration of war on the Empire of Japan. Congress obliged his request less than an hour later. On 11 December Germany and Italy declared war on the United States, even though the Tripartite Pact did not require it. Congress issued a declaration of

war against Germany and Italy later that same day.

The UK actually declared war on Japan nine hours before the U.S. did, partially due to Japanese attacks on Malaya, Singapore and Hong Kong, and partially due to Winston Churchill's promise to declare war "within the hour" of a Japanese attack on the United States.

The biggest mistake the Japanese made at Pearl Harbour was that they didn't attack the important base installations.

The power station, dry docks, shipyard maintenance, fuel and torpedo storage facilities, submarine pens and headquarters building, which also housed the intelligence section, were not attacked.

Had they been attacked and damaged or destroyed, the Americans would have been denied Pearl Harbour as a base.

While the attack accomplished its intended objective,

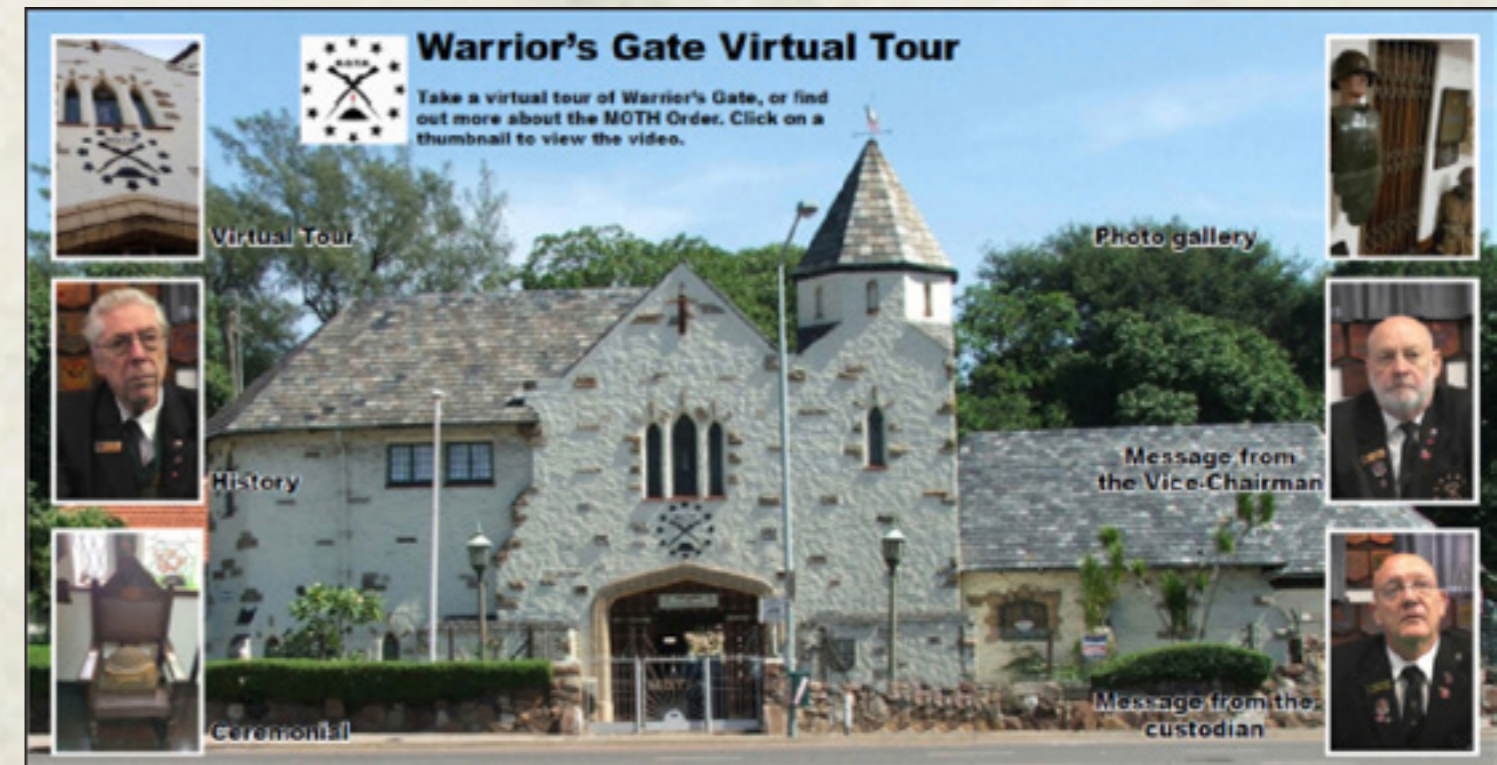
it turned out to be largely unnecessary. Unbeknownst to Yamamoto, who conceived the original plan, the U.S. Navy had decided as far back as 1935 to abandon 'charging' across the Pacific towards the Philippines in response to an outbreak of war.

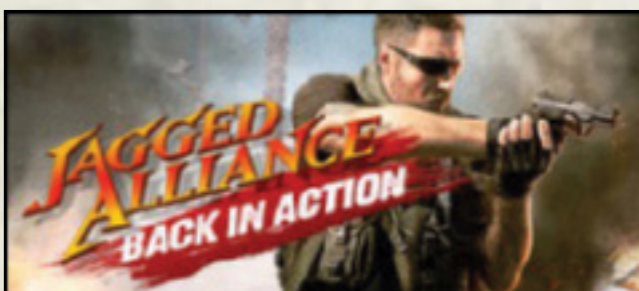
The U.S. instead adopted "Plan Dog" in 1940, which emphasized keeping the IJN out of the eastern Pacific and away from the shipping lanes to Australia, while the U.S. concentrated on defeating Nazi Germany.

Admiral Hara Tadaichi summed up the Japanese result by saying, "We won a great tactical victory at Pearl Harbour and thereby lost the war."

Perhaps it is best summed up by Admiral Yamamoto who said, directly after the attack, "I fear all I have done is awakened a sleeping giant and filled him with terrible resolve."

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





*Cry havoc and let slip the dogs of war. Although in this case **Matt O' Brien** is more a mangy mutt than a thoroughbred as he plans to overthrow a dictator with his force of motley mercenaries.*

Gaming publisher THQ Nordic has announced that Jagged Alliance 3 will soon be available. I for one can't wait.

Jagged Alliance 3 will be a follow up to "Jagged Alliance: Back in Action", which was released in 2012. While the game is now eight years old, it's still a lot of fun to play. And it's a good intro to play before JA 3 comes along.

The concept of the game is that the king of a fictitious island called Arulco has been overthrown by his wife, Queen Dedriana. She is not a nice lady by any means. The king wants his crown back, and he has hired you to do the job.

You begin the game with a laptop and a budget. The first thing you need to do is go onto a website called AIM. This stands for Association of International Mercenaries.

There are a large number of mercenaries available to choose from. Each of them comes with a background story and certain attributes and skills.

The attributes are: agility, dexterity, strength, intelligence, and perception. The skills are: medical, explosives, mechanical, marksmanship, and stealth.

You can have up to six mercenaries in a squad, and you can

have up to three squads. You can contact each mercenary via a video call on the AIM website. You can then hire them or hang up the call.

Now the obvious thing to do is hire the best 18 mercenaries, and off you go. Nope, that's not going to happen.

First of all, some mercenaries may not be currently available. They may already be on an assignment somewhere, and you'll have to wait until they are available before you can hire them.

Then there's your budget. The better mercenaries do not come cheap. When you start the game there is no ways that you can afford them. And even if you can afford them, many of them will refuse to work with you. They consider you an amateur and a danger to yourself. When you've earned a bit of a reputation they may then consider working for you.

So you'll probably end up starting with two or three mercenaries that would battle to shoot themselves in the foot.

Your first objective is to capture Drassen Airport. The map of the island is divided up into sectors and you will need to capture them to control them.

Drassen is vital. This is where new mercenaries will arrive and

where any new weapons, ammunition and equipment will be delivered.

Talking about weapons and the like, each mercenary has a load-out screen. This is where you will equip them. There are slots for headgear (helmet, bush hat, beret, etc), eye wear such as night vision or sunglasses, shirt, pants, footwear, and protection gear such as a Kevlar vest and pants.

There are also three weapon slots and 15 slots for other equipment. The range of weapons is vast. They range from knives, axes, machetes, pistols, revolvers, submachine guns, assault rifles, light machine guns, sniper rifles, and rocket launchers. Some weapons can be fitted with items such as silencers or scopes.

Other items include everything from grenades (HE, smoke, stun & gas), first aid kits, medical kits, weapon cleaning kits, tool box, explosives, lock pick kit, crowbar and much more.

You will want to equip your team with the best weapons and gear. This costs money. You can loot the corpses of enemies and often you will find 'cases' with items in them. But the real good stuff needs to be bought.

There are various merchants



around that buy and sell stuff. Their stock is often limited. The best place to buy stuff is online at Bobby Ray's Guns. He has a wide range of stock to choose from, but it comes at a cost. You order what you want from him, pay for it, and he will deliver it to Drassen Airport. This will often take a few days. You can pay extra for priority delivery.

When putting a team together you need to make sure that it is balanced. A mercenary with a high marksmanship value will be excellent in combat or for long range sniping. While all mercenaries are able to patch themselves up with a first aid kit, those with high medical skills will be able to treat serious wounds with a medical kit. The last thing you want is for one of your better mercs to bleed out because there is no one able to treat them.

A mercenary with high explosive skills can defuse landmines or use an explosive charge to

take down a door or wall.

Weapons and equipment will deteriorate with use, to the point where weapons will jam. A merc with high mechanical skills can repair them or make modifications to them. They are also able to pick locks.

The game play consists of two parts. You can give your team orders to move to a certain location on the map, and off they go. When there are enemy nearby you enter the combat phase of the game.

You can use a pause function to give each member of your team specific orders, such as go prone, crawl to there, aim at that enemy, and fire.

When you kill all the enemy in an area you take control of it. But be aware that they will often launch a counter-attack and retake an area.

Jagged Alliance is a pretty decent game that will keep you occupied for hours.

With each mercenary having

their own unique characteristics, it means that each team will be different. Some of them refuse to work with each other because of past incidents.

Jagged Alliance is well worth the price.



Publisher - Kalypso

Genre - RTS

Score - 8.5/10

Price - R219 (on Steam)



Movie Review

Memphis Belle

Released: 1990
Running time: 107 minutes
Directed by: Michael Caton-Jones

Released in 1990, Memphis Belle is a British-American war drama directed by Michael Caton-Jones and written by Monte Merrick.

The film is a fictionalization of the 1943 documentary Memphis Belle: A Story of a Flying Fortress by director William Wyler, about the 25th and last mission of an American Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress bomber, the Memphis Belle, based in England during World War II.

The 1990 version was co-produced by David Puttnam and Wyler's daughter Catherine and dedicated to her father. The film closes with a dedication to all airmen, friend or foe, who fought in the skies above Europe during World War II.

The film features an all-star cast with Matthew Modine, Eric Stoltz, and Harry Connick Jr. (in his film debut) in leading roles.

In May 1943, the crew of the Memphis Belle, a Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress of the US Army Air Force, are grounded while their aircraft is being serviced and repaired.

They are part of a bomber squadron under the command of Col. Craig Harriman.

Bomber crews are taken off active duty once they have flown 25 missions. The Memphis Belle has flown 24 missions.

An Army publicist, Lt. Col. Bruce Derringer (John Lithgow) is visiting the base, to interview

the Belle crew in anticipation of their flying their 25th mission.

Derringer is eager to use the crew on a war bonds tour stateside. He believes their success would help the war effort and confides to Harriman that many people back home are upset at the losses the Air Force has suffered. Some are beginning to think daylight bombing is ineffective, while Harriman openly favours it.

The target chosen for the day is Bremen in Germany. One of the most heavily defended targets.

Back at base Harriman and Derringer get into an argument. Derringer accuses Harriman of being cold-hearted and concerned only with advancing his military career. In response Harriman shows him letters he has received from the grieving families of lost airmen.

Over the Bremen the bomber squadron comes under fierce attack by German fighters. The Memphis Belle ends up becoming the lead bomber.

Will the Memphis Belle make it back to England? And will all of the crew survive?

Cast

- Matthew Modine as Captain Dennis Dearborn, pilot.
- Tate Donovan as 1st Lt. Luke Sinclair, co-pilot.
- D.B. Sweeney as 1st Lt. Phil Lowenthal, navigator.

- Billy Zane as 1st Lt. Val Kozlowski, bombardier.
- Eric Stoltz as Staff Sgt Danny "Danny Boy" Daly, radio operator.
- Reed Diamond as Staff Sgt Hoogesteger, top turret gunner and flight engineer.
- Sean Astin as Staff Sgt. Richard "Rascal" Moore, ball turret gunner.
- Courtney Gains as Staff Sgt. Eugene "Genie" McVey, right waist gunner.
- Neil Giuntoli as Sgt. Jack Bocci, left waist gunner.
- Harry Connick, Jr. as Staff Sgt. Clay Busby, tail gunner.
- David Strathairn as Col. Craig Harriman.
- John Lithgow as Lt. Col. Bruce Derringer.



Click on the poster to watch a trailer of the film.

North of the Red Line

Over the years, much has been written about individuals and the forces and their operations in what became commonly known as South Africa's Border War, or *Grensoorlog*, but never before has the human spirit of this 23-year-old conflict been so graphically and unashamedly captured and chronicled as in this book.

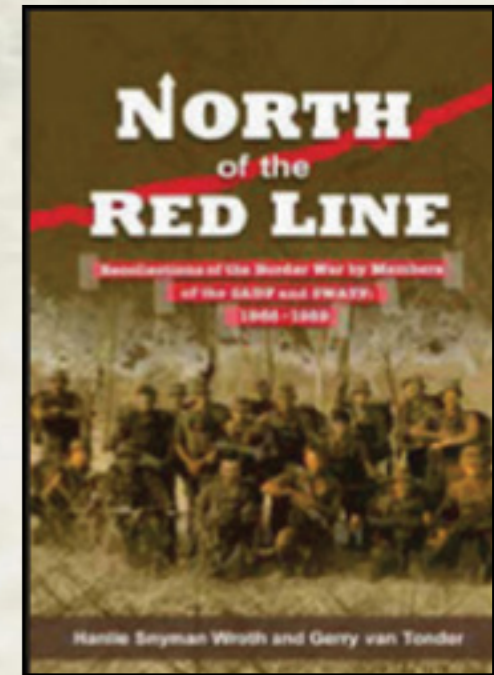
Equally unique, was the exclusive use of social media to invite and encourage individuals to tell their personal stories, without apology or recrimination, and so provide an indelible oral history of the war.

Over a period of three years, 21,000 of them spoke: national service troops, permanent force officers, aviators, aircrew,

medics, submariners and padres.

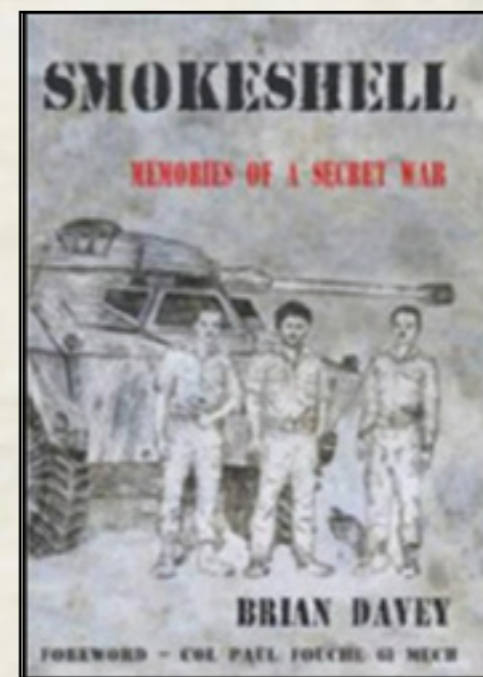
Erstwhile antagonists also stepped up to the plate, placing their own personal first-hand experiences amongst those of their enemies of yesterday: Russians, Cubans, Angolans and SWAPO. The story is further enriched by the inclusion of a rich plethora of hitherto unseen 'unofficial' photographs of stolen memories, in a war situation where the taking of any such photographs was strictly prohibited.

Veterans unabashedly wear their hearts on their sleeves, speaking of the psychological impact of untold tragedy and grief; of bravery and unmitigated fear; of shenanigans and mischievous escapades to re-



lieve the pressures of war; of miracles and fate; and of camaraderie.

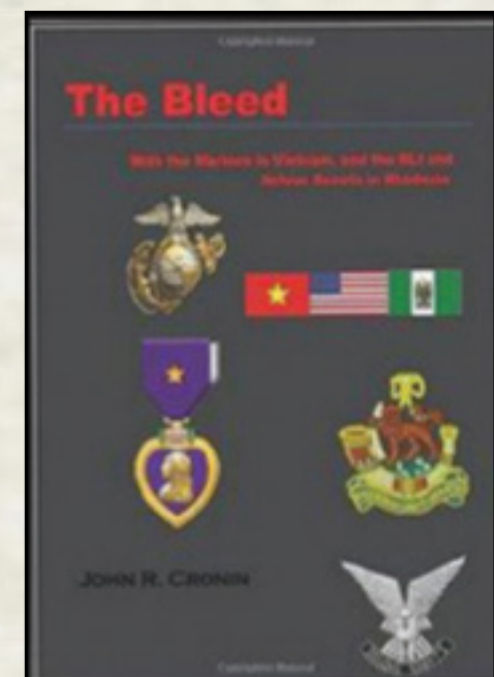
Softcover, 540 pages
Cost: R400



Smokeshell
R375



Anglo Boer War
R460



The Bleed
R395

All books are available from [Bush War Books](#)

Some of the significant military events that happened in April. Highlighted in blue are the names of those members of the South African Defence Force (SADF) that lost their lives during the month of April.

1 April

- **1865** - During the American Civil War, Confederate troops of General George Pickett were defeated and cut off at Five Forks, Virginia. This sealed the fate of Confederate General Robert E. Lee's armies at Petersburg and Richmond and hastened the end of the war.
- **1893** - USN establishes the rate of Chief Petty Officer.
- **1913** - South African Police (SAP) is founded.
- **1922** - The South African Naval Service is founded. With the ships the Protea, Sonneblom and Immortelle it formed the nucleus of a South African navy.
- **1933** - Heinrich Himmler becomes Police Commander of Germany.
- **1943** - Japanese aircraft attack the Russell Islands.
- **1945** - Okinawa: 60,000 U.S. soldiers and Marines land, on Easter Sunday.
- **1945** - US First & Ninth Armies meet to form the Ruhr pocket.
- **1954** - The US Army forms its first helicopter battalion at Fort Bragg.
- **1955** - The Greek nationalist EOKA movement makes several bomb attacks against British facilities in Cyprus.
- **1960** - France detonates her second atom bomb, in the Sahara.
- **1967** - JARIC, voted best support unit of the SA Air Force 2003, is established as a section of the Central Phototechnical Establishment (CPE), initially based at AFB Swartkop.
- **1977** - An unsuccessful military coup is staged in Chad.
- **1985** - Rifleman Daniel Aupini from 201 Battalion SWATF was killed when struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 22.
- **1985** - Rifleman D. Haupindi from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 21.
- **1986** - Special Constable Andrek Mwandinovanhu from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 27.
- **1989** - South Africa reports major clashes with guerrillas in Namibia on eve of ceasefire.
- **1989** - Five members from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) were Killed in Action. The casualties were: Special Constable George Dawid (24). Special Constable Mathais Lukas (29). Special Constable Uutafehe Rjipo-

sa (27). Special Constable Daniel Sakaria (28). Special Constable Zaako Uaapulatena (25).

- **1994** - Soldiers roll into Natal to quell unrest threatening the national election.
- **1997** - The strike crafts SAS Kobie Coetzee, P.W. Botha and Frederic Creswell are renamed SAS Job Maseko, SAS Shaka and SAS Adam Kok on the occasion of the Navy's 75th anniversary.
- **2002** - The South African Navy (SAN) is 80 years old.
- **2003** - USMC Task Force Tarawa secures An Nasiriyah in Iraq after a hot week-long fight.

2 April

- **1879** - Relief of British garrison besieged by Zulus at Eshowe.
- **1879** - The battle of Gingindlovu during the Anglo-Zulu War takes place. The British defeat Cetshwayo and the kraal is destroyed.
- **1904** - Herero tribesmen near Okaharui, German West Africa (now Namibia) defeat German forces under Major Von Glasenapp.
- **1916** - German Zeppelins bomb a distillery in Rosyth, causing a flood of fine whiskey.
- **1917** - US President Wilson asks Congress to declare war against Germany.
- **1941** - German Afrika Korps, commanded by General

Erwin Rommel, take Agedabia and Zuetania, Libya.

- **1941** - Nazi occupiers disband the Dutch Boy Scouts.
- **1943** - Allied air raid on Tunis causes considerable damage just before Axis troops start their final withdrawal from Tunisia.
- **1952** - The United States posthumously awards SA Cheetah Squadron pilot, Lieutenant R.M. du Plooy, with the Silver Star for "gallantry in action". Du Plooy was killed the previous year in the Korean War.
- **1957** - The Union Jack is lowered and British occupation of Simon's Town comes to an end after 143 years. South Africa takes formal possession of the historic base.
- **1978** - Rifleman Carvalho Esals from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action in Southern Angola during a contact with enemy forces near Omalappa. He was 26.
- **1981** - Lance Corporal Ean Andrew Chapman Pettit



Erwin Rommel

- from H Company, 1 Parachute Battalion was accidentally killed after he and his
- **1982** - The beginning of the Falkland Islands War as troops from Argentina invaded and occupied the British colony located near the tip of South America. The British retaliated and defeated the Argentineans on June 15, 1982, after ten weeks of combat, with about 1,000 lives lost.
- **1983** - Gunner Lodewyk Jozef Engelbrecht from 4 Artillery Regiment attached to 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion during operations against SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in the Tsumeb area. He was 19.
- **1984** - Gunner Alfred Lokington Tomes from 17 Field Regiment was critically wounded during a contact with the enemy forces in Southern Angola on 29 Mar 1984. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria where he succumbed to his wounds on 2 April 1984. He was 27.
- **1984** - Four South Africans and a British national charged with illegally ex-

porting military equipment to South Africa.

- **1987** - A US State Department report says Israel, France and Italy have continued to maintain and upgrade a major weapons systems for South Africa since the 1977 UN arms embargo was imposed.
- **1987** - Rifleman Domingos Cassela from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action in a contact with enemy forces near Evale in Southern Angola during Operation Kakebeen. He was 27.
- **1987** - Rifleman N. Ngombe from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 23.
- **1988** - 2nd Lieutenant Jacobus Hendrick Diedericks from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 24.
- **1988** - Two members from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. They were: Special Sergeant Kandjunga Tenaseu (27). Special Sergeant Usebiu Ndemwimba (29).
- **1989** - Rifleman Marius van der Merwe from 32 Battalion was Reported Missing while on patrol near Buffalo. He went for a swim amongst the

reeds and it is thought that he was taken by a crocodile. He remains unaccounted for and has no known grave. He was 21.

- 1989 - Ten members of the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) Units were killed during a number of contacts with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. The casualties were: Special Warrant Officer Leonard Benjamin (34) Sergeant Sarel Hercules van Tonder (25). Special Sergeant Daniel Teteiko (25). Constable Johannes Jacobus Badenhorst (24). Constable Leon Thorne (21). Special Constable Nambahu Abiatal (27). Special Constable Joseph Andreas (29). Special Constable Thomas Johannes (26). Special Constable Filippus Joseph (24). Special Constable Muyunga Kakonyi (28). Special Constable Fernando Tyipoya (25). Special Constable Aktofel Silvanus (26).

3 April

- 1865 - The Confederate capital of Richmond surrendered to Union forces after the withdrawal of General Robert E. Lee's troops.
- 1900 - The battle of Mostertshoek, near Reddersburg, takes place. The beginning of a two-day battle between General De Wet's forces (400 men, no artillery) and British encamped behind stone breastworks on the

heights of Mostertshoek. De Wet sends a note to the British demanding their surrender and claims to have three Krupp guns and reinforcements on the way.

- 1900 - General P.A. Cronje and his wife, with Colonel Adorf Schiel and about 1,000 Republican prisoners of war, sails from Cape Town for St Helena.
- 1941 - The British forces evacuate Benghazi, major seaport of north-eastern Libya, in the face of the German advance. Date given as 7 April 1941 in another source.
- 1942 - Bataan: Japanese launch a major offensive.
- 1944 - British bombers attack the German battleship 'Tirpitz' in Norwegian waters.
- 1945 - USSR renounces April '41 non-aggression pact with Japan.
- 1974 - Ordinary Seaman Leonard Arthur Farmer from SAS Saldanha was accidentally killed during basic training while doing pole PT. He had to hold the pole behind his head and do press-ups. The pole slipped and fell on his head, severely injuring him. He died a short while later. He was 18.
- 1977 - Rifleman Carel Hendrik Kotze from the South Coast Commando was accidentally killed during training manoeuvres at Umtentweni. He was 32.
- 1978 - Rifleman Steven Dennis Oscar Pearson from 5 SAI Died of Wounds re-

ceived when his patrol was ambushed by SWAPO/PLAN insurgents.

- 1981 - Rifleman Hendrik Kasper Jordaan from SWA SPES Unit SWATF was Killed in Action while attached to 53 Battalion out on a patrol north of Etale. When returning to base, the patrol crossed Oom Willie se pad and one of the horses detonated an Anti-Tank mine, killing him instantly. He was 20.
- 1982 - Rifleman Lourens Maritz Bieldt from Infantry School was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned approximately 20 km outside Oshakati. He was 21.
- 1982 - Captain Michael Norman Amos Giani from Army Intelligence, attached to 72 Motorised Brigade, was killed in a military vehicle accident at Muldersdrift. He was 30.
- 1982 - Security Council demands Argentina withdraw from the Falkland Islands.
- 1985 - Rifleman Heilia Mikael from 101 Battalion SWATF was accidentally killed in Southern Angola when a Casspir Armoured Vehicle drove over him while he was sleeping. He was 19.
- 1985 - Special Constable Johannes Tjiposa from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 26.

- 1986 - Lance Corporal Jan Hendrik Labuschagne from the Technical Service Corps was killed when struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 23.
- 1989 - Constable Daniel Johannes Jacobus Fourie from Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was killed in action. He was 25.

4 April

- 1884 - Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto was born in Nagaoko, Honshu.
- 1900 - The battles of Reddersburg, where the Boers under Gen. De Wet defeat the Royal Irish Rifles, and Mostertshoek, take place. British surrender at Mostert's Hoek. Boer forces capture nearly 500 Lee-Metford rifles.
- 1902 - Second Anglo-Boer War. The siege of Okiep in Namaqualand starts as Gen. Smuts demands the surrender of the town but is curtly rejected by Col. W.A.D.



Isoroku Yamamoto

Shelton, commander of the British forces.

- 1940 - Katyn Forest: The Soviets begin mass executions of Polish military officers, police officials, and intellectuals, about 20,000 die over several weeks.
- 1941 - Rommel takes Benghazi.
- 1943 - The US 4th Marine Division is established at San Diego.
- 1945 - Heavy fighting begins in southern Okinawa.
- 1945 - Hungary liberated from Nazi occupation.
- 1949 - Twelve nations signed the treaty creating NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The nations united for common military defense against the threat of expansion by Soviet Russia into Western Europe.
- 1961 - UN troops defending an airfield in Katanga province, Congo (now Democratic Republic of Congo), are attacked by 'mobs'.
- 1978 - Barend Hendrik Janse van Rensburg (Ben) (80), founder of the War Museum in Bloemfontein, dies.
- 1978 - Two members of SWA SPES accidentally drowned in the Olifants River near Doornkop. They were: Rifleman Wayne Darrell Norman Meyers (18). Rifleman Marius van Zyl (20).
- 1980 - ANC insurgents launch a rifle, rocket and grenade attack on Boosens Po-

lice Station, Johannesburg. Pamphlets are scattered demanding the release of Walter Sisulu from Robben Island.

- 1986 - Second Lieutenant Izak Johan Lourens from 911 Battalion SWATF died in the Opuwa Hospital after contracting Meningitis & Malaria. He was 19.
- 1986 - Corporal Alfonso Alberto from 32 Battalion died from causes unknown. He was 27.
- 1987 - Corporal Fernandez Andre from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces near Evale in Southern Angola during Operation Kakebeen. He was 26.
- 1988 - SADF Gaborone raid kills four.
- 1989 - Corporal Hermann Carstens from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during fierce fighting with a numerically superior force of heavily armed SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near Eenhana. He was 20.
- 1989 - Three members from 101 Battalion Romeo Mike, SWATF were Killed in Action during fierce fighting in Northern Owamboland as 101 Battalion Romeo Mike and Koevoet elements continued to intercept and engage large groups of very heavily armed SWAPO/PLAN insurgents crossing into Owamboland from Southern Angola. The casualties in this contact were: Rifleman E. Anunyela. (26).

Rifleman J. Mandume (24). Rifleman N. Kapentse (23).

- **1989** - Lieutenant Christiaan Phillipus Els from 1 Special Service Battalion Died in Hospital at Ruacana from Wounds sustained during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near Ongandjera on 03 April 1989. He was 20.

5 April

- **1900** - Combat-General Georges-Henri Anne Marie Victor Compte de Villebois-Mareuil, a former commander in the French Foreign Legion, makes a valiant last stand against the British at Boshof and is killed. He tried to attack the nearby railway with a force of 75 foreign volunteers (mostly French and Dutch) and eleven burghers but was trapped by General Lord Methuen and a force of over 750, assisted by four field-guns. De Villebois-Mareuil's men attempt to escape whilst he makes his stand but are captured.
- **1916** - Battle of El Hanna: Unsuccessful British attempt to break the Turkish siege of Kut.
- **1939** - Germany: "Aryan" youth ordered to join the *Hitlerjugend*.
- **1942** - Eighty-six South Africans survive a Japanese attack on the HMS Cornwall near the coast of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka).
- **1948** - As riots rage around Cairo, the Egyptian army kills twenty-five civilians.

- **1964** - Douglas MacArthur dies at the age of 84.
- **1979** - Special Constable Wilino Shamoketa from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 28.
- **1979** - Captain Martin Charles Silberbauer from 85 Combat Flying School was killed during a training exercise at the Roodewal Bombing Range near Pietersburg when his Dassault Mirage IID2Z struck the ground while trying to recover after carrying out a practice rocket attack. He was 28.
- **1983** - Private Patrick Cornelius Engel from 16 Maintenance Unit was killed when his Withings recovery vehicle collided into the rear of a stationary vehicle at Oshivello. He was 19.
- **1984** - Rifleman Joseph Sindimba from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 23.
- **1986** - A bomb exploded at a popular discotheque frequented by American military personnel in West Berlin, killing two U.S. soldiers and a Turkish woman. American intelligence analysts attributed the attack to Muammar Qaddafi of Libya. Nine days later, President Ronald Reagan ordered a retaliatory

air strike against Libya.

- **1988** - Special Constable Uakandjangu Tjiumbu from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 26.
- **1996** - Heavy fighting in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, leaves seventeen dead.

6 April

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Lord Methuen buries Combat-General De Villebois-Mareuil with full military honours. 1500 men of the Loyal North Lancshires form the Guard of Honour.
- **1916** - German parliament approves unrestricted submarine warfare
- **1917** - Following a vote by Congress approving a declaration of war, the U.S. entered World War I in Europe.
- **1939** - Great Britain & Poland sign military pact.
- **1941** - The SA Brigade enters Addis Ababa during World War II.
- **1941** - Germans bomb Belgrad, 17,000 reportedly die.
- **1943** - The British and US armies link up in Africa.
- **1944** - The Supreme Allied Commander cancels all further military leaves throughout the British Isles, in preparation for D-Day.
- **1977** - Rifleman S. Henrique

from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 29.

- **1981** - Rifleman Petrus Jacobus Venter from SWA SPES Unit SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut Line. He was 23.
- **1982** - Rifleman Hymje Landsman from 8 SAI was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident in Eastern Kavan-goland. He was 19.
- **1983** - Corporal I.S. Kamunoko from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 23.
- **1984** - The elite republican guard mounts an unsuccessful coup against President Paul Biya of Cameroon.
- **1987** - Private Russell Joseph Brissett from 1 Medical Battalion Group was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident in Mamelodi during Operation Xenon. He was 23.



Paul Biya

7 April

- **1996** - Thousands of Liberians flee their homes amid fierce fighting between government troops and members of an ethnic faction.
- **1917** - US Navy takes over all wireless stations for the duration of World War I.
- **1945** - The Japanese battleship Yamato is sunk by American carrier-based bombers and torpedo bombers with the loss of most of her crew.
- **1966** - US recovers lost H-bomb from sea off Palomares, Spain.
- **1984** - Rifleman Daniel Stephanus Venter from 1 Parachute Battalion was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion during anti-insurgent operations just north of the Cut-line. He was 22.
- **1985** - Special Sergeant Sakaria Naholo from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 32.
- **1985** - Rifleman Willem Jacobus Du Randt from 3 SAI Oscar Company (Mortars) was Reported Missing after being attacked by a crocodile approximately 1km below the Epupa Falls where he and others in his

section were swimming. He has no known grave and remains unaccounted for. He was 20.

- **1989** - Soviet submarine 'K-278 Komsomolets' sinks after a fire in the Norwegian Sea, 42 die.
- **1994** - Rampaging troops kill Rwanda's acting premier and eleven Belgian UN soldiers and civil war erupts in Rwanda, a day after a mysterious plane crash claimed the lives of the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi.
- **1997** - Government soldiers in Lubumbashi, Zaire's second largest city lay down their arms and join the cause of rebels advancing on the city.

8 April

- **1940** - Royal Navy destroyer HMS Glowworm is sunk after a gallant fight with the German heavy cruiser Admiral Hipper.
- **1945** - Okinawa: Marines probe Japanese lines on the Motobu Peninsula.
- **1950** - Unarmed US Navy patrol plane is shot down over the Baltic Sea by Soviet aircraft.
- **1958** - Corporal Francois Willem Bornman from 4th Field Regiment died from injuries received in a collision between a car and a train at the Meyer Street level crossing at Potchefstroom. He was 22.
- **1980** - Lieutenant Christo Stephan Grundling from 2 Field Engineer Regiment

was killed in a military vehicle accident at Impala Base. He was 20.

- **1980** - Rifleman Lesley Andrew Scholtz from 3 SAI was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Kavangoland. He was 20.
- **1981** - Omar Bradley, the "Soldier's General," last US 5-star officer, dies at the age of 88.
- **1986** - Two members from 101 Battalion were Killed in Action during a Contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola. They were: Corporal Noag Kavari (23). Rifleman Joao Domingos (26).
- **1988** - Staff Sergeant Marius Horn from 5 SAI was killed while returning in a convoy from Eshowe. He was 27.
- **1988** - Lance Corporal Carlos Thomas Moon from the South African Cape Corps was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 21.
- **1997** - Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko declares a nationwide state of emergency in response to rebel advances.

9 April

- **1868** - After over 500,000 American deaths, the Civil War effectively ended as General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant in the village of Appomattox Court House. The surrender occurred in the

home of Wilmer McLean. Terms of the surrender, written by General Grant, allowed Confederates to keep their horses and return home. Officers were allowed to keep their swords and side arms.

- **1917** - After a massive mine explosion, Canadian troops storm Vimy Ridge, initiating the Battle of Arras.
- **1940** - Germany invades Denmark, which promptly surrenders.
- **1940** - Germany invades Norway.
- **1944** - Japan offers to mediate peace between Germany and Russia.
- **1945** - RAF sinks Pocket Battleship Admiral Scheer in port.
- **1945** - Wilhelm Canaris, German admiral and chief of the *Abwehr*, the German military intelligence service, was executed in Flossenbürg concentration camp for high treason on the orders of Adolf Hitler.
- **1965** - Lance Corporal Johannes Burger from the South African Corps of Military Police was killed at Fochville when his motorcycle was involved in a collision with a vehicle while he was doing military convoy duty. He was 33.
- **1969** - Candidate Officer Marthinus Jacobus Hendrik Krugel from 4 Squadron was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed near Leslie during a routine training flight. He was 22.

- **1976** - Corporal Michael Barnett from 2nd Battalion, Regiment Bloemspruit was killed when the bus he was driving was involved in a head-on collision with a civilian vehicle approximately 100km from Grootfontein. He was transporting school children from Grootfontein back to Rundu at the time of the accident. He was 22.

- **1977** - Rifleman Graham Werner Hempstead from 8 SAI was killed in a non-operational military vehicle accident in Northern Owamboland. He was 20.
- **1978** - Candidate Officer Fred Johan Forster from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was accidentally shot and killed at Katima Mulilo while participating in a "live fire" shooting exercise. He was 20.
- **1981** - Private Jacob Johannes Kotze from 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Tsumeb. He was 19.
- **1984** - Trooper Jacobus Francois Engels from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 19.
- **1987** - Corporal Charles Pierre Du Plessis from Walvis Bay Command was accidentally killed when he was crushed between two vehicles at Walvis Bay. He was 27.
- **1997** - Rebels in Zaire conquer Lubumbashi, second

largest city in the country.

- **1999** - Members of his own Presidential Guard gun down Niger's president, Ibrahim Bare Mainassara.
- **2003** - Corporal Edward Chin, US Marine Corps, plants the US and Free Iraq flags on the statue of Saddam Hussein in Firdos Square, Baghdad, which is then pulled down.

10 April

- **1918** - Near Toul, in eastern France, the 104th Infantry begins four days determined defense against a German assault, to become the first American regiment to be awarded the *Croix de guerre*.
- **1940** - First Battle of Narvik: Royal Navy destroyers defeat German destroyers, two of which are lost.
- **1942** - During World War II in the Pacific, the Bataan Death March began as American and Filipino prisoners were forced on a six-day march from an airfield on Bataan to a camp near Cabanatuan. Some 76,000 Allied POWs including 12,000 Americans



Omar Bradley

were forced to walk 60 miles under a blazing sun without food or water to the POW camp, resulting in over 5,000 American deaths.

- **1945** - The Nazi concentration camp at Buchenwald was liberated by U.S. troops.
- **1972** - The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxic Weapons and their Destruction, to which SA is a party, is signed in Moscow, London and Washington.
- **1975** - Sergeant Nicolaas Johannes Steyn from the Technical Service Corps, attached to the Rundu Military Base was killed instantly while travelling between Rundu and Katima Mulilo when, approximately 20km from Rundu, the rear tyre on his vehicle burst, causing the vehicle to leave the road and overturn. He was 27.
- **1978** - Rifleman S.M. Chicoto from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 27.
- **1982** - Major Helmuth Adolf Kessler from 1 South West Africa Air Commando Squadron SWATF was Killed in Action during Operation Yahoo while flying in support of Koevoet anti-insurgent operations in the Elundu area. He was 52.
- **1982** - Special Constable

Shitelgipo Hamukwaya from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 27.

- **1983** - Rifleman John Kernerels Samson from the South African Cape Corps died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained. He was 19.
- **1985** - Rifleman Douw Gerbrand Du Plessis from 4 Reconnaissance Regiment accidentally drowned during a training exercise. He was 19.
- **1986** - Petty Officer Desmond John Pekeur from SAS Wingfield was killed near Schmidtsdrift when the rear tyre of his Landrover burst causing the vehicle to overturn. He was 29.
- **1991** - Though the government refused to comply with the ANC ultimatum issued on 5 April, defence minister Magnus Malan offers to resign if it is in the interests of SA or the SADF. He also announces the firing of Civilian Co-operation Bureau (CCB) head, Joe Verster and twenty-seven other members of the CCB.
- **1993** - Chris Hani, the leader of the South African Communist Party and chief of staff of *uMkhonto we Sizwe*, the armed wing of the African National Congress, is gunned down as he steps out of his car in the driveway of

his Boksburg home.

11 April

- **1838** - Zulu warriors ambush Petrus Lafras (Piet) Uys and his men at Italeni. Uys, his son Dirkie and seven of his followers are killed in battle.
- **1898** - US President McKinley asks for Declaration of War against Spain.
- **1902** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Kemp, in charge of the Lemmer, Du Toit, Liebenberg, Celliers, and Potgieter commandos (approximately 2,600 burghers), suffers a defeat at Roodewal, Transvaal, after attacking a British force of 11,000 men. Cmdt Potgieter and fifty burghers are killed.
- **1942** - Burma: Japanese begin a major offensive against the British.
- **1956** - France sends 200,000 reservists to Algeria.
- **1961** - Trial of Adolf Eichman begins in Israel.
- **1979** - Signaller Gerhardus Johannes Jacobus Senekal from Grootfontein Headquarters Signal Unit, attached to 52 Battalion was critically wounded while sitting on his bed at the Unit. He was 19.
- **1980** - Rifleman John Edward McEwan from 5 SAI was Killed after suffering a gunshot wound accidentally inflicted while attached to Alpha Company, 5 SAI. He was 18.
- **1982** - Sapper Brian Robert Gibbs from 2 Field Engineer Regiment attached to

the Army Battle School was killed instantly at Olifantshoek after receiving multiple shrapnel wounds in an accidental rifle grenade explosion. He was 19.

- **1982** - Special Constable Pedro Sakaria from the SWA Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO Insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 28.
- **1986** - Special Constable Matias Vilho from the SWA Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO Insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 26.
- **1990** - Angolan Government agrees to begin peace talks with rebel group Unita in Portugal.
- **1991** - Major Robert Michael Turner from 85 Combat Flying School was killed after his Atlas MB326KM Impala Mk II suffered engine failure while on final approach to land at AFB Pietersburg. He ejected from the aircraft too late and directly into trees that killed him instantly. He was 34.

12 April

- **1861** - The American Civil War began as Confederate troops under the command of General Pierre Beauregard opened fire at 04:30 on Fort Sumter in Charleston,

South Carolina.

- **1902** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Peace negotiations commence in Pretoria between delegations of the Boer Republics and General Lord Kitchener and Alfred Milner. An initial request by the Boers to retain their independence is met with incredulity.
- **1945** - Okinawa: 150 kamikaze attack the Allied fleet, sinking one destroyer.
- **1966** - First B-52 raids on North Vietnam.
- **1972** - Private Willem Ockert van den Heever from North West Command Headquarters was killed in a military vehicle accident at Kroonstad. He was 19.
- **1972** - Sergeant Martin Christoffel Klue from the Army Service Corps, attached 4 Artillery Regiment Headquarters was killed after being knocked down by a civilian vehicle while standing by the roadside when their convoy stopped for a rest break while travelling between Bloemfontein and Potchefstroom. He was 46.
- **1975** - Atlas Corporation completes deliveries to the South African Air Force (SAAF) of a first series of Impala MK-2 jet fighters.
- **1978** - Gunner William Arthur Wienand from 10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment was killed when his Unimog vehicle overturned in Kavanogoland. He was 18.
- **1979** - Corporal Willem Johannes de Beer from 3 SAI,

attached to 2 Special Service Battalion was accidentally killed in Zeerust after being knocked down by a civilian bus while on a weekend pass. He was 19.

- **1979** - Prime Minister P.W. Botha announces that three members of the staff of the United States Embassy in South Africa have been given a week to leave the country. They have photographed sensitive military installations by a secret camera installed in a diplomatic aircraft.
- **1986** - Rifleman Kefas Kalenga Dala from 32 Battalion died from Meningitis in the hospital at Buffalo. He was 24.

13 April

- **1846** - Xhosa tribesmen attack British forces at Burn's Hill in the Amatola, in the War of the Axe.
- **1868** - British forces under Robert Napier capture Magdala in Ethiopia.
- **1906** - Battle of Oviumbo: The Herero defeat the Germans.
- **1940** - Second Battle of Narvik: Royal Navy battleship

Warspite and accompanying destroyers sink eight German destroyers.

- **1941** - Heavy German attack on Tobruk.
- **1942** - Burma: the British Burma Corps breaks.
- **1943** - Katyn: Nazis find graves of 13,000 Polish officers killed by Soviets.
- **1945** - Soviets capture Vienna.
- **1950** - The Arab League signs a mutual defence treaty in Cairo.
- **1960** - France becomes fourth nuclear power, with an atomic bomb test in the Sahara.
- **1974** - Two members of 11 Squadron SAAF were Killed when their Cessna 185D crashed shortly after take-off from Mpalela Island in Eastern Caprivi during a ration re-supply flight for the South African Police. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant (Pilot) Jacobus Hendrik Louw Bonthuys (23). Private Johan Hugo Human (19).
- **1975** - A military coup in Chad overthrows President Ngarta Tombaloaye, who is killed. Felix Malloum takes over at the head of a seven-member junta.
- **1976** - Corporal Anton Leon Broodryk from 1 Parachute Battalion Died of Wounds received in a landmine explosion in Southern Angola while on patrol near the Cutline. He was 20.

- **1976** - Captain Granville Duvenhage from Benoni Commando suffered a fatal heart attack while on duty at Leydsdorp and died shortly afterwards. He was 26.
- **1976** - Rifleman Eugene Medhurst from 5 SAI was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 19.
- **1979** - Corporal Rian Rix from 11 Commando Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near Okatope Base south of Ondangwa. This was his last patrol before going home from the Border. He was 18.
- **1979** - An attempt is made by Rhodesian forces to kill guerrilla leader Joshua Nkomo.
- **1982** - Rifleman Eugene James Ashford from 8 SAI was accidentally shot dead during live firing exercises at Riemvasmaak. He was 18.
- **1983** - A Defence Amendment Bill provides for an alternative form of national service for conscientious objectors, who oppose military service on religious grounds. The offer is not extended to objectors motivated by political values.
- **1987** - Private Frederick Wayne Childsmith from the Provost School was killed while standing in a "Ride Safe" zone on his way back from Weekend pass after completion of Basic Training when he was run over by an South African Police ve-



PW Botha

hicle driven by an underage scholar (the Senior Police Superintendent's son) who was not authorised to drive the vehicle. He was 18.

- 1988 - Captain H Pienaar from the South African Infantry Corps, attached to Group 70 Headquarters at Katima Mulilo was killed instantly after suffering fatal head injuries while driving to Windhoek to attend an Information/Intelligence Conference. He was 25.

14 April

- 1900 - Second Anglo-Boer War: The first Boer prisoners of war arrive at St Helena, on board of the Milwaukee.
- 1902 - Second Anglo-Boer War: Cndt Jan H. Theron, Danie Theron's successor as commander of Theron's Scouts, dies of gastric fever in the Calvinia district, Namaqualand.
- 1914 - The first air attack on a warship: Mexican revolutionary pilot Gustavo Adolfo Salinas Camiña bombs the Federalista gunboat 'Guerrero', at Topolobampo, Mexico, causing slight damage.
- 1940 - British and French troops land in Norway to help fight Germans.
- 1943 - The German Fifth Panzer Army under General Gustav von Vaerst begins to evacuate from Tunis. Rommel departed on 9 March.
- 1945 - Tokyo fire bomb raids: B-29s damage Imperial Palace.
- 1953 - Viet Minh offensive

in Laos.

- 1983 - Rifleman Barend Christoffel Dippenaar from the Infantry School was killed in a private vehicle accident on the Clocolan - Ladybrand road. He was 21.
- 1986 - U.S. warplanes, on orders from President Ronald Reagan, bombed the Libyan cities of Tripoli and Benghazi in retaliation for the April 5th terrorist bombing of a discotheque in West Berlin in which two American soldiers were killed.
- 1994 - Dissident soldiers shoot dead Lesotho's deputy prime minister and seize four cabinet ministers in a mutiny over a planned government probe into the army.

15 April

- 1936 - Italian forces occupy the Abyssinian town of Dessye, having advanced 201 kilometres in five days.
- 1942 - George VI awards the George Cross to the people of Malta.
- 1943 - US code breakers discover Admiral Yamamoto will visit the Solomon Islands.
- 1945 - British Army liberates Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.
- 1952 - First test flight of a prototype B-52.
- 1982 - Rifleman Brian Richard Buttland from the South African Cape Corps, attached to the Army Catering Corps died in hospital after contracting malaria in the Operational Area. He was

25.

- 1982 - Eight SADF and SWATF members attached to 61 Mechanised Battalion Group were Killed in Action when their Ratel was ambushed and knocked out by RPG-7 anti-tank rockets near Tsintsabis by a group of heavily armed SWAPO/PLAN insurgents during Ops Yahoo. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant Daniele Rudolf van der Westhuizen (49). Corporal Maartin Jacobus van Jaarsveld (20). Lance Corporal Johannes Jacobus van den Berg (20). Rifleman Leonard Patrick Hough (20). Rifleman Marius Petersen (19). Rifleman Johan Hendrik Potgieter (30). Rifleman Barend Jacobus Wolfaardt (19). Rifleman Jan Kouswab (40).
- 1983 - Nine recruits from 202 Battalion SWATF were murdered by SWAPO/PLAN Special Forces Typhoon Unit members in a Kraal in Northern Owamboland. The casualties were: Rifleman T. Sikwaya (18). Rifleman A. Mushambe (19). Rifleman V. Muyota (19). Rifleman T.K. Mukwambi (20). Rifleman M. Matamu (19). Rifleman V. Tobias (21). Rifleman L. Sindere (20). Rifleman F. Shikusho (20). Rifleman J. Muyevu (19).
- 1985 - South Africa's Foreign Minister announces that South African troop withdrawal from Angola is to be completed within a week.
- 1986 - US attempts an air

strike at Colonel Muammar Kadhafi's home in Libya in the biggest US air strike since the Vietnam War. Libya claims forty people have been killed. The US says the raids are in response to an explosion at a Berlin discotheque in which two Americans were killed on 5 April.

- 1990 - Rifleman Stoney van Wyk from the Cape Regiment was Killed in Action after being shot dead by persons unknown while on foot patrol during anti-riot operations in a township in Mpu-mulanga. He was 24.

16 April

- 1916 - The French Army forms the *Escadrille Americaine*.
- 1938 - Britain recognizes the Italian annexation of Abyssinia.
- 1944 - US begins planning "Operation Olympic" - the invasion of Japan.
- 1945 - US troops enter Nuremberg.
- 1947 - Rudolf Höss, 45, German SS commandant of Auschwitz, is hanged in Poland.



Ronald Reagan

- 1971 - Major Jan Wilhelm Arnhem Loubser from 1 Maintenance Unit was accidentally killed in a train accident at Kimberley. He was 42.
- 1981 - Two members from Infantry School were killed in a private vehicle accident on the National Highway near Richmond while on weekend pass. The casualties were: Corporal Cornelius Johannes Potgieter (19). Rifleman Jacobus Albertus Cilliers (18).
- 1982 - Rifleman Jan Daniels Gerhardus Du Toit from 1 SAI, attached to 61 Mech Battalion was Killed in Action during Ops Yahoo when he detonated a landmine during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 18.
- 1998 - The military commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Khalil al-Wazir, is assassinated in Tunisia. Israeli gunmen are blamed.

17 April

- 1838 - Zulu warriors near the Tugela River overwhelm Robert Biggar, leader of a force of about seventeen Englishmen, twenty Khoi with guns and about fifteen hundred Africans from around Port Natal. Thirteen of the English and most of their African followers are killed.

- 1916 - General Jan Christiaan Smuts, in charge of British, South African and Indian troops in Kenya, finally has the Germans on the run. Colonel Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck's troops (3,000 Europeans and 11,000 Askari) had heavily outnumbered the British East African Rifles.
- 1941 - Yugoslavia surrenders to the Germans.
- 1942 - Germans begin to destroy the Sobibor Concentration Camp.
- 1945 - Mussolini flees from Salo, heading for Milan.
- 1961 - A U.S.-backed attempt to overthrow Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba failed disastrously in what became known as the Bay of Pigs fiasco.
- 1975 - Khmer Rouge capture Phnom Penh, initiating a reign of terror.
- 1980 - Sergeant Carel Petrus Greyling HC from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was killed in a military vehicle accident in the Eastern Caprivi. He was 33.
- 1981 - Corporal Clive Fisher from the Infantry School was killed in a private vehicle accident on the National road near Mossel Bay. He was 21.
- 1982 - Rifleman Derek Jurgens Deysel from 5 SAI was accidentally killed at the Jozini Training Base when he was struck by a bullet resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 20.
- 1983 - General Mark W

Clark, dies at the age of 87.

- **1984** - Rifleman Johann Christiaan Rheeder from the Infantry School was killed in a private vehicle accident on the Beaufort West - Richmond road. He was 19.
- **1984** - Two members from 7 SAI were killed at Nehone in Southern Angola after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in an accidental rifle grenade explosion. The casualties were: Corporal Phillipus Botha (20). Rifleman Cecil Rhodes Dippenaar (19).
- **1994** - Lance Corporal W.Z. Matwa from 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was accidentally killed during operations connected with Operation Jumbo. He was 22.

18 April

- **1934** - The U.S. Army ends use of sabers as a combat weapon for the cavalry.
- **1942** - The first air raid on mainland Japan during World War II occurred as General James Doolittle led a squadron of B-25 bombers taking off from the carrier Hornet to bomb Tokyo and three other cities. Damage was minimal, but the raid boosted Allied morale following years of unchecked Japanese military advances.
- **1983** - Two members from the SWA Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) were Killed in action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owam-

boland. They were: Special Sergeant Jacob Saulo (34). Special Constable Thimotheus Maritina (25).

- **1988** - Lance Corporal Pieter Gerhardus Viljoen Du Toit from the South African Medical Corps, attached to 201 Battalion SWATF was killed in action. He was 19.
- **1988** - Major Lucas Frederick Lotter, the 53 Battalion SWATF Intelligence Officer, was Killed in Action in Southern Angola just north of Alpha Tower early / mid-evening while following enemy spoor. He was 29.
- **1988** - Rifleman Alberto Nunes Dinu from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 29.
- **1989** - Lance Corporal Bernardus Lambertus Saayman from 110 Air Commando Squadron SAAF was killed while participating in a 2-day Commando Camp when his Cessna 182 flew into high ground in the Montague Mountains east of Robertson. He was 39.

19 April

- **1775** - At dawn in Massachusetts, about 70 armed militiamen stood face to face on Lexington Green with a British advance guard unit. An unordered 'shot heard around the world' began the American Revolution. A volley of British rifle fire was followed by a charge with bayonets leaving eight Americans dead and ten

wounded.

- **1906** - Bambatha Rebellion: Over 7,000 British troops are called out to quell Zulu aggression in Natal.
- **1915** - World War I: West Africa. Combined Anglo-French forces take Manderu, Cameroon.
- **1919** - Britain sends more troops to Egypt to help quell nationalistic unrest.
- **1941** - US Marines begin construction of an airfield on Wake Island.
- **1943** - Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto staged an armed revolt against Nazi SS troops attempting to forcibly deport them to death camps.
- **1960** - The South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) is founded in Windhoek with Sam Nujoma as leader.
- **1961** - Portuguese forces are reinforced for continuing conflict against the Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola (MPLA, Popular Liberation Movement of Angola) based near Luanda.
- **1976** - Guerrillas launch two separate raids in the far south of Rhodesia near the Transvaal border, killing three Easter holidaymakers from South Africa and blowing up a Rhodesian Railways train and part of the track on the Rutenga link to Beit Bridge.
- **1980** - Rifleman Jacobus Petrus Koekemoer from 7 SAI was killed after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in a mortar bomb explosion during a live firing exercise

in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.

- **1981** - Rifleman Karel Johan Cronje from 5 SAI was based at Okalongo and had been feeling ill for approximately two weeks. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital after being diagnosed with cerebral malaria. He succumbed not long after admission. He was 19.
- **1984** - Rifleman Frank Corrie from the South African Cape Corps was killed after being struck by a bullet resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 21.
- **1985** - Special Warrant Officer Alfons Kumulo from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 37.
- **1988** - Corporal Edward Clive Yeo from the South African Engineer Corps was attached to 101 Battalion SWATF. He was Killed in Action while disarming an

enemy anti-tank mine that was booby-trapped with an anti-lifting device. He was 20.

- **1990** - Truce ends the Nicaraguan Civil War.

20 April

- **1889** - Adolf Hitler was born in Braunau am Inn, Austria on this day.
- **1934** - Heinrich Himmler becomes head of the Prussian secret police.
- **1941** - German bombers raid Athens.
- **1945** - Okinawa: U.S. forces capture Motobu Heights, in the north.
- **1947** - Peleliu: 27 Japanese troops surrender, 18 months after World War II ended.
- **1976** - Two members from Regiment President Steyn and one member of the South African Police were killed when their Eland Armoured Car was involved in a head-on collision with a South African Police vehicle at Ruacana. They were: Staff Sergeant Leon Blaauw (21). Trooper Denis Aden Naude (22). SAP Constable Coenraad Hermanus Dreyer (21).
- **1979** - Lieutenant Commander Dennis Mallalieu from the Simonstown Naval Base died after suffering a fatal heart attack while at the Base. He was 57.
- **1980** - Rifleman Simon Stumbo from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed

in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 18.

- **1981** - Leading Seaman Peter James Henderson from SAS Inkonkoni accidentally drowned in Durban during a naval training exercise. He was 22.
- **1982** - Rifleman Gerhardus Petrus Cornelius Hattingh from 1 SAI, attached to 61 Mechanised Battalion Group was killed at Tsumeb when a Ratel Infantry Fighting Vehicle accidentally drove over him. He was 20.
- **1982** - Sergeant Frederick Albertus Francois Claasen from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K Division (Koevoet) Died of Wounds received on 10 April 1982 during Operation Yahoo. He was 25.
- **1987** - Rifleman Wilson Adams from the South African Cape Corps was accidentally shot dead by a fellow soldier while he was standing guard at the Van Der Stel Shooting Range. He was 17.

21 April

- **1836** - The Battle of San Jacinto between Texans led by Sam Houston and Mexican forces led by Santa Anna took place near present day Houston. The Texans decisively defeated the Mexican forces thereby achieving independence.
- **1918** - During World War I, the Red Baron (Manfred von Richtofen) was shot down



Adolf Hitler

and killed during the Battle of the Somme. He was credited with 80 kills in less than two years, flying a red Fokker triplane. British pilots recovered his body and buried him with full military honours.

- **1941** - Greece surrenders to Nazi Germany.
- **1945** - Red Army reaches the outskirts of Berlin.
- **1956** - A military pact between Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Yemen is finalised.
- **1966** - Two members of 17 Squadron and three passengers were drowned when their Alouette III, Serial No. 65 suffered engine failure and crashed into the sea off Terrace Bay, South West Africa. They Air Force casualties were: Lieutenant Tobias Johannes Winterbach (22). Air Corporal Henry George Morton (21).
- **1967** - Military coup in Greece.
- **1977** - Corporal Heinrich Rudolph Bigalke from 3 SAI was killed when his military vehicle overturned 20km from Rundu. He was 19.
- **1978** - Private Barry Craig Rieder from SWA SPES Unit SWATF was accidentally killed at Oshivello during a night practice ambush. He was 20.
- **1983** - Glen Joseph Fleischer from 3 SAI was found dead at Potchefstroom with a gunshot wound to the head, apparently self-inflicted as no foul play was suspected. He was 18.

- **1987** - Two members of the SADF were killed when their military vehicle was involved in a head-on collision with a civilian vehicle at Rundu. The casualties were: Lance Corporal Clifton David Kilroe (21). Rifleman Hans Harold Scheepers (25).
- **1992** - Three members of the South African Medical Corps Training Centre were killed in a Military Vehicle Accident on the Potchefstroom to Westonaria Road. They were: Lance Corporal Efstratios Kladis (18). Private Bradley John Gordon (19). Private Roelof Frederick Malan (19).

22 April

- **1915** - Second Battle of Ypres: Germany introduces poison gas.
- **1941** - World War II: Tripoli comes under bombardment by British warships.
- **1944** - Hitler & Mussolini confer at Berchtesgarden.
- **1945** - Soviet and Polish troops liberate the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, near Oranienburg in Brandenburg, which held many political leaders from Captive Nations and special military prisoners.
- **1961** - French army rebels seize Algiers.
- **1976** - Three members from the Regiment Christiaan Beyers were Killed in Action when their patrol was ambushed by a numerically superior force of SWAPO/PLAN insurgents while they

were escorting a work team, busy on the Ruacana to Ovamboland pipeline, back to Etale Base. The casualties were: Lieutenant Douglas Gerald Hinds (20). Rifleman Johannes Roelof Fouche (26). Rifleman Jozua Francois Naude (21).

- **1983** - Corporal Jan de Klerk Botha from 5 SAI was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 20.
- **1988** - Lance Corporal Steven Charles Trollip from the 2nd Battalion Regiment De La Rey drowned after falling into a crocodile infested river near Skukuza in the Kruger National Park while on patrol. He was 26.
- **1990** - Nigeria's ruling generals crushed a six-hour rebellion by junior officers.

23 April

- **1873** - Ashanti War breaks out in Africa.
- **1911** - French, Algerian, and Senegalese troops are to be sent to help put down the tribesmen revolt in Morocco. However, Germany has protested that France will be breaking the terms of the 1906 Algerias accords on Moroccan independence.
- **1918** - The Zeebrugge Raid: At heavy cost the Royal Navy & Royal Marines earn eight Victoria Crosses blocking the harbour exit
- **1925** - Rebel leader Abdel Krim's troops enter French Morocco.

- **1945** - Allies in Italy reach the Po River.
- **1979** - Rifleman Alfredo Manuel Tchizondo from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 26.
- **1980** - Soviet sub catches fire off Japan, nine die.
- **1982** - Rifleman Noe Vasco from 32 Battalion was killed when he was accidentally run over by a military vehicle at Buffalo Base. He was 32.
- **1984** - Rifleman Johannes Kankara from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1987** - Rifleman Kobus Christopher Du Preez from the South African Cape Corps was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident on the Ben Rossouw Highway at Kuilsriver. He was 18.
- **1988** - Three members of 102 Battalion SWATF were Killed in Action in Southern Angola, South West of Tchi-

pa when their Romeo Mike Teams were ambushed by a superior force of SWAPO/PLAN and FAPLA troops. The casualties were: Lance Corporal I. Handura (23). Rifleman K. Kapulke (19). Rifleman U. Mbinge (20).

- **1988** - Sapper Carl Sachse from 13 Field Engineer Regiment was killed when he accidentally detonated an anti-personnel mine while in the process of laying out a minefield. He was 26.

24 April

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: A dynamite factory, which forms part of the Begbie Engineering Workshop, Johannesburg, is destroyed in an explosion. The destruction is blamed on British sabotage.
- **1916** - The Irish "Easter Rebellion" begins.
- **1942** - Japanese troops advance on all fronts in Burma.
- **1954** - Security forces round up more than 10,000 men in the biggest anti-Mau Mau operation since the state of emergency was declared in Kenya eighteen months ago.
- **1969** - US B-52s drop 3,000 tons of bombs on VC positions inside Cambodia.
- **1975** - Under an amendment to the Defence Act the definition of superior officer is changed with the effect that White and Black members

of the Defence Force will have equal status.

- **1980** - "Desert One": US operation to save 52 hostages in Iran, fails, eight die.
- **1982** - One member from 5 SAI and one member from 101 Battalion SWATF were killed when the Buffel Troop carrier in which they were traveling overturned near Eenhana in Northern Owamboland. The Casualties were: Rifleman Glen Bjorn Du Plooy (21). Rifleman Ronald Andreas (26).

25 April

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Relief of Jammersberg Drift: The relief columns under Generals Hart and Barbazon arrive at Wepener. General De Wet returns to his primary goal of disrupting British supply lines.
- **1902** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Jan Christiaan Smuts surrenders to the British under a flag of truce. Deneys Reitz who agrees to act as Smuts' orderly joins him. However, on discovering that orderlies are not treated as officers, Reitz is instantly promoted to chief-of-staff.
- **1915** - Gallipoli Campaign: 78,000 British & ANZAC troops undertake an amphibious landing
- **1941** - General Erwin Rommel's Deutsches Afrika Korps forces the British out of Halfaya Pass, just south-east of Sollum, and back to the Buq Buq-Sofafi line in



Manfred von Richtofen

- Egypt.
- **1945** - The Red Army completely surrounds Berlin.
- **1945** - US & Soviet forces meet at Torgau on the Elbe River.
- **1961** - Fourth nuclear bomb test by France in the Sahara.
- **1977** - The Chief of Staff (Operations) says that the development of South Africa's defence has made the country completely self-sufficient from an arms point of view.
- **1978** - Private Alan David Dixon from 16 Maintenance Unit at Grootfontein was killed just outside the town of Rundu when his Magirus Deutz truck, loaded with supplies for the 32 Battalion element stationed at Nkurenkuru, overturned when the vehicles front tyre suffered a blow-out, causing him to lose control of the vehicle. He was 19.
- **1980** - Lieutenant Peter Henry Hollis from 8 Squadron was Reported Missing in Action over Southern Angola while flying an Impala Mk II. His body was later recovered. He was 25.
- **1980** - Sapper Adeo Marais from the School of Engineers was killed instantly in an accidental explosion at the Units ammunition store. He was 17.
- **1981** - Corporal Barend Frederick Burger from the South African Catering Corps was killed in a military vehicle Accident at Elandsfontein. He was 20.

26 April

- **1679** - The Castle of Good Hope, oldest and most historic building in SA, is completed.
- **1936** - Italian troops assemble for an attack on Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- **1937** - During the Spanish Civil War, the ancient town of Guernica was attacked by German warplanes. After destroying the town in a three hour bombing raid, the planes machine-gunned fleeing civilians.
- **1941** - East Africa: The Abyssinian fortress of Dessie, roughly half-way between Addis Ababa and Amba Alagi, is captured by General Alan Cunningham's South African divisions.
- **1941** - North Africa: Following the fall of the Halfaya Pass, three columns of Rommel's Deutsches Afrika Korps have crossed the border from Libya to Egypt.
- **1943** - North Africa: Access to the Tunisian plain is open to the Allies following the capture of Longstop Hill.
- **1944** - Allied troops begin concentrating at assembly areas in Britain for D-Day.
- **1961** - French Army rebels once again try to take power in Algeria.
- **1966** - Lieutenant Herman Alan Day from 1 Squadron was killed when his Canadair CL13B Sabre crashed near Pilansberg during a routine training flight. He was 24.

- **1975** - Corporal John Cornelius Hanekom from 5 Military Works Unit was accidentally drowned while swimming at Rundu. He was 27.
- **1982** - Lance Corporal Gert Gotlieb Gouche from 1 Parachute Battalion was accidentally killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Kombat near Grootfontein. He was 20.
- **1982** - Rifleman Dawid Lukas from SWA SPES Unit, SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop carrier overturned in Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1982** - The Falklands War: Argentine forces on South Georgia surrender to the British.
- **1983** - Rifleman Thomas Andrew Ross from 1 SWA Spes Unit, SWATF was Killed in Action in Northern Owamboland when he accidentally detonated a booby-trap in an enemy weapons cache that his patrol had located. He was 20.
- **1994** - Rifleman Shadrack Vusi Mnisi from 121 Battalion was shot dead by persons unknown while on foot patrol during anti-crime operations at Loskop in KZN. He was 33.

27 April

- **1940** - Himmler orders establishment of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp.
- **1941** - German troops occupy Athens.
- **1945** - Italian partisans

- capture Mussolini and Clara Petacci, near Lake Como.
- **1984** - Corporal Reginald Patrick Briggs from 1 SWA SPES Unit, SWATF was critically injured when his Buffel Troop Carrier was involved in a collision with civilian vehicle on the Ondangwa-Oshivello road causing the Buffel to overturn. He was 20.
- **1984** - Rifleman Glen Scott Maitland Clark from 5 SAI contracted malaria while on operations in South Eastern Angola and was admitted to the Rundu Sickbay where he unfortunately died. He was 21.
- **1987** - Special Constable Stefanus Willem Kanhende from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 28.

28 April

- **1919** - The League of Nations is established, with General Jan Smuts and Prime Minister Louis Botha as the two



Muhammad Ali

- representatives of the Union of South Africa. Smuts played an important role in the drafting of the Covenant of the League.
- **1945** - Twenty-three years of Fascist rule in Italy ended abruptly as Italian partisans shot former Dictator Benito Mussolini. Other leaders of the Fascist Party and friends of Mussolini were also killed along with his mistress, Clara Petacci. Their bodies were then hung upside down and pelted with stones by jeering crowds in Milan.
- **1956** - The French leave Vietnam.
- **1966** - Seven guerrillas are killed in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) at Sinoya in the first engagement of the bush war.
- **1967** - Muhammad Ali refuses induction into the US Army.
- **1971** - Samuel Lee Gravely, Jr., is promoted to rear admiral; the first black admiral in the US Navy.
- **1975** - Signaler Josef Jacobus Mare' from 2 Signal Regiment was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 18.
- **1982** - Corporal Marcus Anthony Harris-Dewey from 701 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 20.
- **1984** - Rifleman Phillip Fou-

- rie van Vuuren from 4 SAI was accidentally killed outside Amsterdam when Ratel 22C drove into the rear of Ratel 22B in conditions of extremely poor visibility during a sandstorm. He was 19.
- **1998** - Nigeria's former deputy leader, General Oladipyo Diya, and five others are sentenced to death by firing squad for plotting to overthrow military leader General Sani Abacha.

29 April

- **1781** - French fleet under Admiral Suffren prevents Britain from seizing Cape of Good Hope.
- **1916** - The Irish "Easter Rebellion" ends.
- **1918** - Germany's main offensive on the Western Front in World War I ends.
- **1945** - German representatives in Italy surrender during World War II.
- **1945** - The SA 6th Division crosses Brenta River and is then redirected to Milan in Italy in World War II.
- **1945** - US troops liberate the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau.
- **1946** - Tokyo: 28 former Japanese leaders indicted as war criminals.
- **1970** - US & South Vietnamese troops invade Cambodia.
- **1975** - Last US personnel pull out of Vietnam.
- **1978** - Two members from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment were accidentally killed at Fort Rev, the Special Forces

base at Air Force Base Ondangwa, when an explosive device they were preparing for an external operation, detonated prematurely. The casualties were: Warrant Officer Class 1 Johannes Lambertus Conradie HC VRM (34). Corporal Cecil James Eayrs (23).

- **1980** - Rifleman S.D. Ernesto from 5 Recce Regiment was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces while on operations in Southern Angola. He was 25.
- **1980** - Rifleman Albertus Johannes Oosthuizen from 1 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident in Bloemfontein. He was 19.
- **1983** - Rifleman Tjaart Jacobs from 6 SAI was accidentally killed when a bunker wall collapsed on top of him. He was 20.
- **1984** - Rifleman Antonio Paulus from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 26.
- **1987** - Lance Corporal Paul Douglas Elliot Hayes from the South African Medical Services College, was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 20.

War: The ZAR's fourth and last Creusot 'Long Tom' is dynamited before falling into British hands, only 200 metres from the charging enemy.

- **1902** - Second Anglo-Boer War: An official report states that British columns have completely or partially destroyed 158 farms and an unknown number of Black villages.
- **1936** - The Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, is lost to the Italians.
- **1942** - British troops evacuate Mandalay in Burma.
- **1943** - Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp for Jews established.
- **1945** - Red Army liberates the Ravensbruck concentration camp.
- **1945** - The Red Banner is raised over the Reichstag Building in Berlin.
- **1945** - Adolf Hitler (56) commits suicide in his bunker.
- **1979** - Private Martinus Johannes Schroeder from the Technical Service Corps was critically injured in a private vehicle accident between

Vrede and Standerton on 09 March 1979. He succumbed to his injuries in 1 Mil Hospital on 30 April 1979. He was 19.

- **1980** - Terrorists seize the Iranian Embassy in London.
- **1982** - Rifleman Eddie James Barnard from 4 SAI was critically wounded by a fellow soldier while on duty in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1983** - Sergeant B. Mukosho from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 27.
- **1987** - Three members from 5 Maintenance Unit were killed in a military vehicle accident at Ondangwa. The casualties were: Private Boo Julies (21). Private Nicolaas Koopman (18). Private Esau Oosthuizen (19).
- **1991** - A military coup is executed in Lesotho.
- **1996** - In Liberia, shells and gunfire rip through central Monrovia and a diplomatic enclave. US Marines shoot and kill three Liberians firing toward the US Embassy.



**Military Despatches needs
YOU**

If you're a member of a Veteran's Organisation, a military history organisation, or have a story to tell, then why not tell us about it?

Or if there is any particular subject that you would like us to write about, why not let us know.

Send us an e-mail at editor@hipe.co.za

30 April

- **1881** - France invades Tunisia from Algeria on a pretext, and later establishes a protectorate.
- **1828** - King Shaka is murdered by his brothers.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer



QUIZ

In silhouette

- 1. MP40 submachine gun
- 2. Uzi SMG
- 3. 9mm Luger pistol
- 4. M16A1
- 5. Glock 17
- 6. AK-47
- 7. R4 rifle
- 8. Thompson M1A1
- 9. R1 rifle
- 10. SA80 rifle
- 11. H&K MP5
- 12. Steyr AUG
- 13. RPG-7
- 14. FAMAS
- 15. Walther P38



Useful links

Every month we feature a few useful links to military websites, newsletters and online magazines. Stuff that we think our readers will appreciate.

Here are two of our favourites. The first one is Nongqai, the unofficial police newsletter for veterans of the former South African Police Force and for those interested in Police History. The second is Jimmy's Own, the official newsletter of the South African Signals Association. Click on the magazine covers to go to the respective websites.



Military Despatches Website



“Things don't have to change the world to be important.”
Steve Jobs

Our aim is to make the Military Despatches website easy to use. Even more important to us, we want to make the website informative and interesting. The latest edition of the magazine will be available, as will all the previous editions. More over, there will be links to videos, websites, and articles that our readers may find interesting. So check out the website, bookmark it, and pass the URL on to everyone that you think may be interested.

Have you checked out the bookshelf on the website? Here you can gain access to individual articles.

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.



Video Production

Scripting, storyboard, filming and editing done to any video format required. We also do aerial and underwater video and stills.



Still Photography

If you're thinking digital media then think Hipe Media.