



Military Despatches

Vol 73 July 2023

Thanks, but no thanks

The man that gave back his Medal of Honour

Operation Thunderbolt

One of the most audacious raids ever



Alvin York

The most decorated pacifist of World War I

The Warthog

The A-10 Thunderbolt II



For the military enthusiast



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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.

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Military Firearms Quiz

Military Firearms Quiz

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

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Army Speak 101

Military slang from the SADF and around the world

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.

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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

New videos each week

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

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.

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We look at ten of the best fighter aircraft flown during World War II.

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We don't talk about that

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Thanks, but no thanks

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The Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg was not only a training unit. It was also home to the South African Corps of Signals. Currently a book is being compiled on the history of the Army Gymnasium - and they're looking for your contribution.

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Speed is of the essence

During World War II the Nazi regime used drugs regularly, from the soldiers of the Wehrmacht all the way up to Hitler himself.

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Nicknames

The military loves nicknames and slang. Here are a few questions about nicknames. See if you know the answers.

Please remember to subscribe to our channel.

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



Editor's Sitrep

The good news - I survived my knee surgery. And, while it has been painful, I am on the mend.

I am currently only using one crutch and can walk short distances without a crutch.

Now let's get to the bad news. It never just rains, it pours. Before my surgery I had to undergo all sorts of tests. This included a full medical check-up and also involved a stress ECG and Heart Echo.

This all went well. I had, however, picked up an infection in both my index fingers. This was because someone had cut my finger nails and made a mess of them.

One of the specialists that had checked me out made a big deal of my finger infections. He contacted my wife - not me mind you - and said that both index fingers were basically dead due to a lack of oxygen. He recommended that they both be amputated. Luckily my wife is a medical specialist and she said 'No!'.

I suffer from poor circulation in my hands and feet. So when it is cold, I really feel it. It has been cold and this didn't do the infections in my two fingers much

good at all.

I've been using Infra Red Light to treat my fingers and the infections are slowly clearing.

My problem has been that I can't really straighten my index fingers, they are extremely painful, and hypersensitive to the touch.

So imagine what fun it has been putting this month's edition of the magazine. Trying to type or use a computer mouse has been so much fun.

I have shed more than a few tears, exhausted my entire repository of foul language, and said "Screw that. There isn't going to be a magazine this month."

Still, being Irish, I'm as stubborn as can be. So here is this month's Military Despatches. I trust that you will enjoy it as much as I haven't enjoyed putting it together.

Now I'm going to wrap myself in a duvet, sit in front of the television, and feel sorry for myself.

Until next time, stay safe and stay healthy.

Matt

Hipe! media

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Front Cover

The Battle of Fallujah in November 2004 saw U.S. Marines involved in the heaviest urban combat since the Battle of Hue in 1968.

This month we look at a mil-sim that deals with this battle.



10 best fighter aircraft of World War II

During World War II control of the air became vital for control of the battlefield. To achieve air superiority an attacking or even defending force needed to have fighter aircraft capable of achieving this. This month we look at 10 fighter aircraft that were considered to be the best at the time.

On 17 December 1903, Orville Wright made the first powered flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. It was not a long flight, lasting a mere 12 seconds.

Eleven years later and the world was at war. New weapons and technology were being introduced. In the skies above the trenches, the aircraft was fast becoming an important component of warfare.

By the start of World War II the aircraft had become an integral part of armed forces. Not only would a country have an army and a navy, they would also now have an air force.

Aircraft such as dive-bombers could carry out attacks with pin-point accuracy on specific targets. Heavy bombers could travel vast distances to deliver heavy payloads of explosives on enemy targets or industry.

Yet the kings of the skies were the fighter planes. They could attack enemy bomber formations, or protect their own bombers.

Some fighters were dual-purpose aircraft, designated as fighter-bombers. Not only could they drop bombs of their own, they were also highly effective fighter aircraft.

Ultimately, it was the fighter

aircraft that could take control of the skies and establish air superiority or even total air supremacy.

German *Luftwaffe* pilot Eric "Bubi" Hartman was the top fighter ace of World War II with 352 kills.

This month we look at ten fighter aircraft that were considered to be the best fighters of their time. Four are American, two are British, three are German, and one is Japanese.

Once again, they are presented in alphabetical order.

See if you agree with our choice.



10. F4U-4 Corsair

The Corsair was designed and operated as a carrier-based aircraft, and entered service in large numbers with the U.S. Navy in late 1944 and early 1945.

It quickly became one of the most capable carrier-based fighter-bombers of World War II.

The Japanese gave it the nickname "Whistling Death". After World War II it saw service in the Korean War, as well as during the French colonial wars in Indochina and Algeria.

During its period of service the F4U-4 Corsair was credited with 2,155 kills.

Characteristics

- Crew: One



- Length: 10.26 metres
- Powerplant: 1 × Pratt & Whitney R-2800-18W radial engine, 2,380 hp (1,770 kW)

Performance

- Max speed: 717 km/h
- Range: 1,617 km
- Service ceiling: 12,600 metres

Armament

- 6 × 12.7 mm M2 Browning machine guns, 400 rounds per gun or 4 × 20 mm AN/M3 cannon, 231 rounds per gun
- It could also carry rockets or bombs

9. Focke-Wulf Fw 190

The Fw 190A started flying operationally over France in August 1941 and quickly proved superior in all but turn radius to the Spitfire Mk. V, the main front-line fighter of the Royal Air Force (RAF), particularly at low and medium altitudes.

The 190 maintained superiority over Allied fighters until the introduction of the improved Spitfire Mk. IX.

It was credited with 20,000 kills during World War II.

Characteristics

- Crew: One
- Length: 8.95 metres
- Powerplant: 1 × BMW 801D-2 14-cylinder air-cooled radial piston engine



- 1,700 PS (1,677 hp; 1,250 kW)

Performance

- Max speed: 652 km/h
- Range: 900 - 1,000 km
- Service ceiling: 10,350 metres

Armament

- 2 × 13 mm synchronized MG 131 machine guns; 2 × 20 mm MG 151/20 E cannons, synchronized in the wing roots; 2 × 20 mm MG 151/20 E cannons in mid-wing mounts
- Bombs: 1 bomb under fuselage or four bombs under wings.
- bombs

8. Hawker Hurricane

The Hurricane went into production for the Air Ministry in June 1936 and entered squadron service in December 1937.

It fought in all the major theatres of World War II and numerous Hurricanes were provided to the Soviet Air Forces.

The Hurricane saw extensive combat during the Battle of Britain. While it was more than capable in a dogfight, its prime function during the Battle of Britain was to go after the German bomber formations, with the Spitfire taking on the Luftwaffe fighter escorts.

The Hurricane inflicted 60% of the losses sustained by the Luftwaffe in the Battle of Britain.

The Hurricane was credited with 1,200 kills.



Characteristics

- Crew: One
- Length: 9.38 metres
- Powerplant: 1 × Rolls-Royce Merlin XX V-12 liquid-cooled piston engine

Performance

- Max speed: 550 km/h
- Range: 970 km

- Service ceiling: 11,000 metres

Armament

- Guns: 4 × 20 mm Hispano Mk II cannon
- Bombs: 2 × 110 or 230 kg bombs

7. Lockheed P-38 Lightning

The large two-engined P-38 looked nothing like your typical World War II fighter.

The Japanese called it “Two Planes One Pilot”. It was an extremely fast and manoeuvrable plane, with a heavy armament packed into the nose.

The P-38 was used most successfully in the Pacific Theatre of Operations and the China-Burma-India Theatre of Operations.

It was one of the earliest Allied fighters capable of performing well at high altitudes.

The Lightning was credited with 3,785 kills.



- Powerplant: 2 × Allison V-1710 V-12 liquid-cooled turbo-supercharged piston engine, 1,600 hp

Performance

- Max speed: 666 km/h
- Range: 2,100 km
- Service ceiling: 13,000 metres

Armament

- 1 × Hispano M2(C) 20 mm cannon with 150 rounds; 4 × M2 Browning machine gun 12.7 mm machine guns with 500 rounds per gun
- It could also carry rockets or bombs

Characteristics

- Crew: One
- Length: 11.53 metres

6. Messerschmitt Bf 109

Often called the Me 109 by Allied aircrew and some German aces, the Messerschmitt Bf 109 was by far the most successful fighter of World War II.

It scored in excess of 20,000 kills during the war.

No fewer than 13 Luftwaffe pilots scored more than 200 kills with the Bf 109, while two scored more than 300.

In fact the top 120 aces of the war were all German, and the majority flew the Bf 109.



Characteristics

- Crew: One
- Length: 8.65 metres
- Powerplant: 1 × Daimler-Benz DB 605A-1 V-12 inverted liquid-cooled piston engine 1,475 PS

Performance

- Max speed: 520 km/h
- Range: 880–1,144 km
- Service ceiling: 12,000 metres

Armament

- Guns: 2 × 13 mm synchronized MG 131 machine guns

- with 300 rounds per gun; 1 × 20 mm MG 151/20 cannon or 1 × 30 mm MK 108 cannon; 2 × 20 mm MG 151/20 under-wing cannon pods
- Bombs: 1 × 250 kg bomb or 4 × 50 kg bombs

5. Messerschmitt Me 262

The Messerschmitt Me 262 was the world’s first operational jet-powered fighter aircraft.

The fighter version was nicknamed *Schwalbe* (Swallow) and the fighter-bomber version *Sturmvogel* (Storm Bird).

The Me 262 was faster and more heavily armed than any Allied fighter, including the British jet-powered Gloster Meteor.

The Allies countered by attacking the aircraft on the ground and during take off and landing.

It was credited with 735 kills.



Characteristics

- Crew: One
- Length: 10.6 metres
- Powerplant: 2 × Junkers

- Jumo 004B-1 axial-flow turbojet engines, 8.8 kN thrust each

Performance

- Max speed: 900 km/h
- Range: 1,050 km
- Service ceiling: 11,450 metres

Armament

- Guns: 4 × 30 mm MK 108 cannon
- Rockets: 24 × 55 mm R4M rockets
- Bombs: 2 × 250 kg bombs or 2 × 500 kg bombs

4. Mitsubishi A6M Zero

The Zero is considered to have been the most capable carrier-based fighter in the world when it was introduced early in World War II, combining excellent manoeuvrability 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 reputation as a dogfighter, achieving an outstanding kill ratio of 12 to 1.

It was credited with 1,500 kills.

Characteristics

- Crew: One
- Length: 9.06 metres
- Powerplant: 1 × Nakajima NK1C Sakae-12 14-cylinder



der air-cooled radial piston engine

Performance

- Max speed: 533 km/h
- Range: 1,870 km
- Service ceiling: 10,000 metres

Armament

- 2 × 7.7 mm Type 97 aircraft

machine guns in the engine cowling, with 500 rounds per gun; 2 × 20 mm Type 99-1 Mk.3 cannon in the wings, with 60 rounds per gun
 Bombs: 2 × 60 kg bombs or 1 × fixed 250 kg bomb for kamikaze attacks

3. P-51D Mustang

The North American P-51D Mustang was used by the USAAF's Eighth Air Force to escort bombers in raids over Germany, while the RAF's Second Tactical Air Force and the USAAF's Ninth Air Force used the Merlin-powered Mustangs as fighter-bombers.

It was the first Allied aircraft that could escort bombers to any target in Germany.

Despite the advent of jet fighters, the Mustang remained in service with some air forces until the early 1980s.

It was credited with 5,994 kills.

Characteristics

- Crew: One
- Length: 9.83 metres



Powerplant: 1 × Packard (Rolls-Royce) V-1650-7 Merlin 12-cylinder liquid cooled engine

Performance

- Max speed: 710 km/h
- Range: 2,660 km
- Service ceiling: 12,800 metres

Armament

- 6 × 12.7mm AN/M2 Browning machine guns with 1,840 total rounds
- It could also carry rockets or bombs

2. P-47 Thunderbolt

The Republic P-47 Thunderbolt was effective as a short- to medium-range escort fighter in high-altitude air-to-air combat and ground attack in both the European and Pacific theatres.

When fully loaded, the P-47 weighed up to eight tons, making it one of the heaviest fighters of the war.

The P-47 was noted for its firepower, as well as its ability to resist battle damage and remain airworthy.

The P-47 was one of the main United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) fighters of World War II, and also served with other Allied air forces

It was credited with 3,752 kills.



Characteristics

- Crew: One
- Length: 11.02 metres
- Powerplant: 1 × Pratt & Whitney R-2800-59 18-cylinder air-cooled radial piston engine, 2,000 hp

Performance

- Max speed: 686 km/h

- Range: 1,660 km
- Service ceiling: 13,000 metres

Armament

- 8 × 12.7 mm M2 Browning machine guns (3400 rounds)
- Up to 1,100 kg of bombs
- 10 × 127 mm HVAR unguided rockets

1. Supermarine Spitfire

Many variants of the Spitfire were built, from the Mk 1 to the Rolls-Royce Griffon-engined Mk 24 using several wing configurations and guns.

It was the only British fighter produced continuously throughout the war.

During the Battle of Britain, Spitfires were generally tasked with engaging Luftwaffe fighters - mainly Messerschmitt Bf 109E-series aircraft, which were a close match for them.

It was regarded by many as one of the best fighters of the war.

It was credited with 4,000 kills.

Characteristics

- Crew: One
- Length: 9.96 metres



Powerplant: 1 × Rolls-Royce Griffon 65 supercharged V12

Performance

- Max speed: 710 km/h
- Range: 2,660 km
- Service ceiling: 13,300 metres

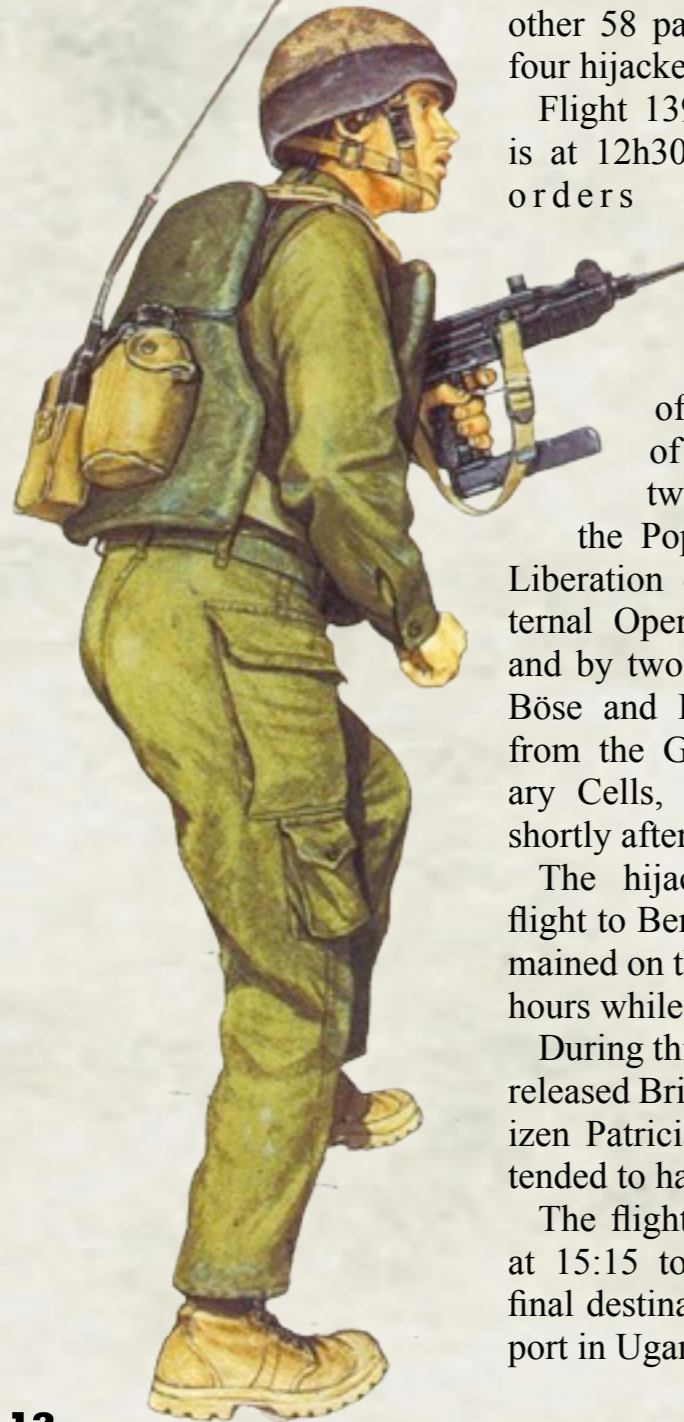
Armament

- 2 × 20 mm Hispano Mk II cannon, 120 rounds per gun; 4 × 7.7 mm Browning machine guns, 350 rounds per gun. Replaced by 2 x 12.7 mm M2 Browning machine guns 250 rounds per gun

Operation Thunderbolt

On the night of 3 and 4 July, 1976, a group of Israeli commandos carried out one of the most audacious special forces raids in history - and they travelled more than 5,000 kilometres to carry it out.

- **Date:** 3-4 July 1976
- **Location:** Entebbe Airport, Uganda
- **Units involved:** Sayeret Matkal, various support personnel



On the morning of 27 June, 1973, Air France Flight 139 departed from Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, Israel.

There were 246 passengers and a crew of 12 on board. Most of the passengers were Israeli.

The plane flew to Athens, Greece, where it picked up another 58 passengers, including four hijackers.

Flight 139 departed for Paris at 12h30. Acting under the orders of Wadie Haddad (who had earlier broken away from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) of George Habash), two Palestinians from

the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – External Operations (PFLP-EO), and by two Germans, Wilfried Böse and Brigitte Kuhlmann, from the German Revolutionary Cells, sprung into action shortly after takeoff.

The hijackers diverted the flight to Benghazi, Libya. It remained on the ground for seven hours while it was refueled.

During this time the hijackers released British-born Israeli citizen Patricia Martell who pretended to have a miscarriage.

The flight left Benghazi and at 15:15 touched down at its final destination - Entebbe Airport in Uganda.

Hostage situation

It soon became evident that not only was the Ugandan government expecting the hijackers, they were openly supporting them. They were personally welcomed by Ugandan dictator Idi Amin.

The four original hijackers were met at Entebbe by at least four others.

The passengers and crew were transferred to the transit hall of the disused former airport terminal where they were kept under guard for the following days. Amin came to visit the hostages almost on a daily basis, updating them on developments and promising to use his efforts to have them freed through negotiations.

The hijackers separated all Israelis and several non-Israeli Jews from the larger group and forced them into a separate room.

Over the following two days, 148 non-Israeli hostages were released and flown out to Paris. Ninety-four, mainly Israeli, passengers along with the 12 member Air France crew, remained as hostages and were threatened with death.

On 28 June, a PFLP-EO hijacker issued a declaration and formulated their demands: In addition to a ransom of five million US Dollars for the release of the airplane, they demanded the release of 53 Palestinian and

Pro-Palestinian militants, 40 of whom were prisoners in Israel.

They threatened that if these demands were not met, they would begin to kill hostages on 1 July 1976.

Plans are prepared

Israel tried using political avenues to obtain the release of the hostages. A retired Israeli Defence Force (IDF) officer, Baruch “Burka” Bar-Lev, had known Idi Amin for many years and was considered to have a strong personal relationship with him. At the request of the cabinet, he spoke with Amin on the phone many times, trying to gain the release of the hostages, without success.

The Israelis also approached the United States government to deliver a message to Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, asking him to request Amin to release the hostages.

Meanwhile the IDF was tasked to prepare a military solution.

On the 1 July deadline the Israeli cabinet said that they were willing to negotiate with the hijackers if they were prepared to extend the deadline to 4 July.

Unknown to the Israelis, Amin had also asked the hijackers to extend the deadline to 4 July. He needed to take a diplomatic trip to Port Louis, Mauritius, to officially hand over chairmanship of the Organisation of African Unity to Seewoosagur Ramgoolam.

This extension of the deadline would prove crucial in giving the IDF enough time to get to Entebbe.

Of course Idi Amin was having the time of his life. The hi-

jacking was headline news in the world media, and Amin was lapping up the attention.

The raid

Even though the Israelis were trying to negotiate a political solution, they realised that their only real option was a military operation to rescue the hostages.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told Chief of Staff of the IDF (Israeli Defence Force), Lt. Gen. Mordechai Gur to plan a military solution.

Gur tasked Brigadier General Dan Shomron, commander of the Paratroop Brigade at the time, to plan the rescue mission.

Naturally a rescue mission posed certain problems. First of all Entebbe was more than 5,000 km away from Tel Aviv. They would have to cross the airspace of at least three countries to get there.

They initially conceived a plan that involved dropping naval commandos into Lake Victoria.

Entebbe Airport is located on the edge of the huge lake. The commandos would then use rubber boats to travel to the airport. They would then kill the hijackers and free the hostages. They would then ask Amin for safe passage home.

The plan was abandoned because of three important factors. First of all they lacked the necessary time to plan the operation. Secondly, Amin was supporting the hijackers and would probably have not been prepared to give the commandos safe passage out of the country. The third reason was because the Israelis received word that Lake Victoria was infested with crocodiles.



Sayeret Matkal

The plan that was adopted was simple. Fly a rescue force from Israel to Entebbe, rescue the hostages, and fly back to Israel.

The planes selected to be used were Lockheed C-130 Hercules aircraft. The problem was that they would have to be refueled during the journey. The Israelis did not have the capacity to refuel four to six aircraft in flight so far from Israeli airspace. They would have to find somewhere they could land and refuel.

While several East African nations, including the logistically preferred choice Kenya, were sympathetic, none wished to incur the wrath of Amin or the Palestinians by allowing the Israelis to land their aircraft within their borders.

The raid could not proceed without assistance from at least one East African government. The Jewish owner of the Block hotels chain in Kenya, along with other members of the Jewish and Israeli community in Nairobi, may have used their political and economic influence to help persuade Kenya's President Jomo Kenyatta to help Israel. The Israeli government secured permission from Kenya for the IDF task force to cross Kenyan airspace and refuel at what is today Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

The Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency, built an accurate picture of the whereabouts of the hostages, the number of hijackers, and the involvement of Ugandan troops from the released hostages in Paris.

Then the Israelis had a lucky break. The terminal where the hostages were being held had actually been built by Solel Boneh, a large Israeli construction company. While planning the military operation the IDF erected a partial replica of the airport terminal with the assistance of civilians who had helped build the original.

One of the French-Jewish passengers that had been released by the hijackers had a military background and a 'phenomenal memory'. He was able to provide Mossad with detailed information about the number of weapons carried by the hijackers, their number, and the location of where the hostages were being kept.

Task Force

On 3 July, at 18:30, the Israeli cabinet approved a rescue mission, presented by Major General Yekutiel "Kuti" Adam and Brig. Gen. Dan Shomron. The rescue mission was code named 'Operation Thunderbolt'.

The Israeli ground task force would comprise of approximately 100 personnel. They would be made up as follows:

The ground command and control element

This small group comprised the operation and overall ground commander, Brigadier General Dan Shomron, the air force representative Col. Ami



AMIN'S WHEELS: The black Mercedes Benz used during the raid stands in front of one of the C-130s that took part.

Ayalon and the communications and support personnel.

The assault element

A 29 man assault unit led by Lt. Col. Yonatan Netanyahu – this force was composed entirely of commandos from *Sayeret Matkal* (The Unit), and was given the primary task of assaulting the old terminal and rescuing the hostages.

The securing element

The Paratroopers force led by Col. Matan Vilnai – tasked with securing the civilian airport field, clearing and securing the runways, and protection and fuelling of the Israeli aircraft in Entebbe.

The Golani force led by Col. Uri Sagi – tasked with securing the C-130 Hercules aircraft for the hostages' evacuation, getting it as close as possible to the terminal and boarding the hostages; also while acting as general reserves.

The Sayeret Matkal force led by Major Shaul Mofaz – tasked with clearing the military airstrip, and destroying the squadron of MiG fighter jets on the

ground, to prevent any possible interceptions by the Ugandan Air Force; also with holding off hostile ground forces from the city of Entebbe.

The route in

The task force took off from Sharm el-Sheikh and flew along the international flight path over the Red Sea. The flew at a height of no more than 30 metres to avoid radar detection by Egyptian, Sudanese, and Saudi Arabian forces.

Near the south outlet of the Red Sea the C-130s turned south and passed south of Djibouti. From there, they went to a point northeast of Nairobi, Kenya, likely across Somalia and the Ogaden area of Ethiopia. They turned west, passing through the African Rift Valley and over Lake Victoria.

Following the C-130s were two Boeing 707 jets. One contained medical facilities and it landed at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, Kenya. The commander of the operation, General Yekutiel Adam, was on board the second Boeing, which circled over En-



SCRAP METAL: Some of the remains of the Ugandan Air Force that were stationed at Entebbe.

tebbe Airport during the raid.

The first C-130 landed at Entebbe on 3 July at 23h00 with their cargo bay doors already open. The control tower had turned the landing lights on.

The aircraft stopped at the end of the runway and three vehicles were driven out. One was a black Mercedes Benz that looked like Idi Amin's vehicle. It was accompanied by two Land Rovers that usually acted as his escort.

The Israelis were hoping that the vehicles would allow them to bypass security checkpoints. The vehicles drove to the terminal building just as Amin himself would do.

At they approached the terminal two Ugandan sentries ordered them to stop. The sentries were aware that Amin had recently purchased a new white Mercedes Benz.

The commandos shot the sentries with silenced pistols, but did not kill them. As they pulled away, an Israeli commando in one of the following Land Rovers killed the sentries with an unsuppressed rifle.

The task force now feared that the hijackers would have been alerted by the gunfire, so the assault team quickly approached the terminal.

The hostage rescue

The Israelis leapt from their vehicles and sprinted towards the terminal.

The hostages were in the main hall of the airport building, directly adjacent to the runway. Entering the terminal, the commandos shouted through a megaphone, "Stay down! Stay down! We are Israeli soldiers," in both Hebrew and English.

Jean-Jacques Maimoni, a 19 year old French immigrant to Israel, stood up and was killed when Israeli company commander Muki Betzer and another soldier mistook him for a hijacker and fired at him.

Another hostage, Pasco Cohen, 52, a region manager at the Meuhedet health fund, was also fatally wounded by gunfire from the commandos. In addition, a third hostage, 56 year old Ida Borochovit, a Russian Jew who had emigrated to

Israel, was killed by a hijacker in the crossfire.

At one point, an Israeli commando called out in Hebrew, "Where are the rest of them?" referring to the hijackers. The hostages pointed to a connecting door of the airport's main hall, into which the commandos threw several hand grenades. Then, they entered the room and shot dead the three remaining hijackers, ending the assault.

In the meantime the runway lights had been switched off. This was not a problem as the Israelis had placed infra-red markers along the runway. Two more C-130s landed. Each of the C-130s carried two armoured personnel carriers. Two were used to guard against a possible attack by Ugandan forces.

The Israelis were worried that the Ugandans might scramble the squadron of MiG fighters based at Entebbe. They could have pursued the Israeli C-130s and attacked them. To prevent this the other two armoured personnel carriers were used to destroy the MiGs. They then conducted a sweep of the airfield to gather intelligence.

The forth C-130 landed and taxied directly up to the terminal building. It would be used to evacuate the assault team and the hostages.

The departure

After the assault was completed the Israelis began loading the hostages onto the waiting C-130.

Ugandan soldiers began to shoot at them from the airport control tower. A brief but intense fire-fight took place as the

Israelis returned fire with the AK-47s.

At least five commandos were wounded and the Israeli unit commander, Lt. Col Yonatan Netanyahu was killed. His second in command, Major Muki Betzer, then took command.

They returned fire at the control tower with light machine guns and a rocket-propelled grenade, suppressing the Ugandans fire. One of Idi Amin's sons later said that the soldier who shot Netanyahu, a cousin of the Amin family, was killed in the return fire.

The Israelis finished evacuating the hostages, loaded Netanyahu's body onto the plane, and one by one the planes took off.

They flew to Nairobi, Kenya, where they refueled before setting off on the return leg of the journey.

The C-130 carrying the hostages arrived in Tel Aviv shortly after midday on 4 July. They were given a rapturous welcome by family and friends. Spontaneous celebrations broke out all over Israel as the news of the rescue spread.

The Ugandan reaction

Dora Bloch, a 74 year old Israeli who also held British citizenship, was left behind in Uganda.

During the hostage drama she had choked on a chicken bone while eating. She was taken to Mulago Hospital in Kampala.

After the raid she was murdered by officers of the Ugandan Army, as were some of her doctors and nurses that had tried to intervene.

Amin also ordered the killing of hundreds of Kenyans living in Uganda in retaliation for

Kenya's assistance to Israel in the raid.

It was Kenyan Minister of Agriculture Bruce MacKenzie that had persuaded Kenyan President Kenyatta to permit Mossad to collect intelligence prior to the operation, and to allow the Israeli Air Force access to the Nairobi airport.

In retaliation, Ugandan President Idi Amin ordered Ugandan agents to assassinate MacKenzie. He was killed on 24 May 1978 when a bomb attached to his aircraft exploded.

The Aftermath

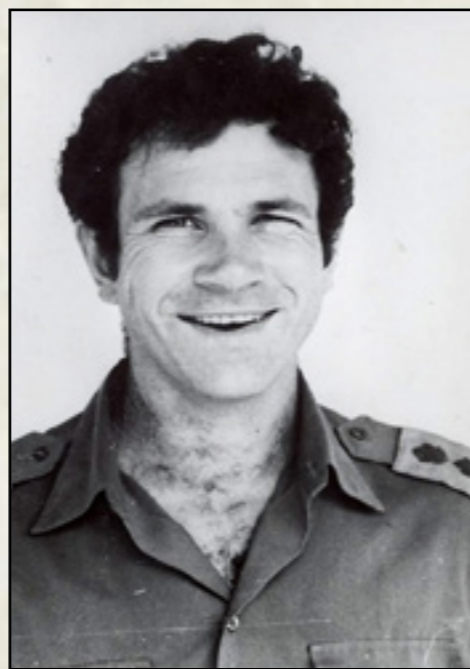
During Operation Thunderbolt, of which the actual assault lasted only 30 minutes, All seven hijackers were killed, as were between 33 and 45 Ugandan soldiers. Eleven Soviet-built MiG-17 and MiG-21 Ugandan Air Force fighter planes were destroyed on the ground at Entebbe Airport.

Of the 106 hostages, three were killed, one was left in Uganda, and approximately 10 were wounded. The Israeli casualties were one dead and five wounded.

The new Chairman of the Organisation of African Unity laid a charge with the United Nations Security Council, accusing Israel of an "act of aggression."

The resolution failed to receive the required number of affirmative votes due to two abstentions and seven absences.

Western nations, however, spoke in support of the raid. West Germany called the raid "an act of self-defence". Switzerland and France praised the operation. Representatives of



**Lt Col Yonatan
"Yoni" Netanyahu**

the United Kingdom and United States offered significant praise, calling the Entebbe raid "an impossible operation".

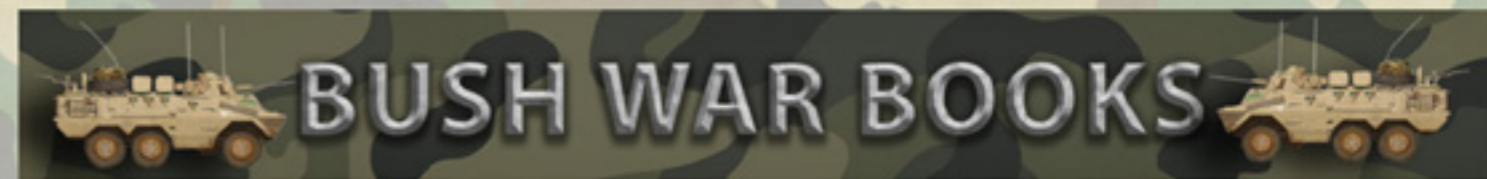
It was an audacious military operation, planned and executed in only six days and carried out more than 5,000 km away.

Something that is interesting to note is that no fewer than three future Israeli prime ministers played a role in the raid.

Yitzhak Rabin was the serving prime minister who signed off on the rescue. His Defence Minister was Shimon Peres, a future PM, and Ehud Barak, yet another future PM was dispatched to Keya to make the arrangements for the refueling on the C-130 aircraft on the way home.

Finally, Benjamin Netanyahu, the current Prime Minister of Israel, was a member of *Sayeret Matkal* at the time of the raid.

He did not take part in the raid because his elder brother, Lt. Col Yonatan "Yoni" Netanyahu, was already taking part.



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"War does not determine who is right - only who is left"

World War II German Field Marshals (Part One)

During World War II no country had more field marshals than Nazi Germany. In Part One of a four part article we will look at seven German field marshals and the role they played in the war.

In many armed forces, field marshal is the most senior military rank, ordinarily senior to the general officer ranks. Usually, it is the highest rank in an army, and as such, few persons are appointed to it.

Promotion to the rank of field marshal in many countries historically required extraordinary military achievement by a general (a wartime victory). However, the rank has also been used as a divisional command rank and also as a brigade command rank.

The origin of the term dates to the early Middle Ages, originally meaning the keeper of the king's horses (from Old German *Marh-scalc* - "horse-servant"), from the time of the early Frankish kings; words originally meaning "servant" were sometimes used to mean "subordinate official" or similar.

The German Holy Roman Empire and the kingdom of France had officers named *Feldmarschall* and *Maréchal de camp* respectively as far back as the 1600s.

The exact wording of the titles used by field marshals varies: examples include "marshal" and "field marshal general".

The air force equivalent in Commonwealth and many Middle Eastern air forces is marshal of the air force (not to be confused with air marshal).

Navies, which usually do not use the nomenclature employed by armies or air forces, use ti-

les such as "fleet admiral," "grand admiral" or "admiral of the fleet" for the equivalent rank.

The traditional attribute distinguishing a field marshal is a baton. The baton nowadays is purely ornamental, and as such may be richly decorated.

That said, it is not necessary for the insignia to be a baton (Such is the case in Russia post-1991 and the former Soviet Union, which use a jewelled star referred to as a Marshal's star).

World War II

During World War II many countries had field marshals. The British, for example had a total of eight field marshals, with Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery probably being the most famous.

Other commonwealth countries, including Australia, India, and South Africa also had field marshals. South African statesman and prime minister Jan Smuts was appointed a field marshal of the British Army on 24 May 1941.

Russia was another nation that had field marshals. They, however, bore the title of Marshal of the Soviet Union.

During World War II a total of 17 Russians held the title of Marshal of the Soviet Union. Of these two of the most well known were Georgy Zhukov and Semyon Timoshenko.

Naturally Soviet leader Jo-

seph Stalin made himself a Marshal of the Soviet Union on 6 Mar 1943. On 27 June 1945 it was proposed that Stalin be awarded the rank of *Generalissimus* of the Soviet Union.

However, to his credit, Stalin eventually rejected the rank, deeming it too ostentatious. It would have been the highest military rank in the Soviet Union.

Germany

After the loss of the First World War, Germany was transformed into what became known as the Weimar Republic, which was subject to the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

It required the reduction of the German Army to 100,000 men, a reduction of the German Navy, and the abolition of the German Air Force. As a result of the new military arrangements, there were no field marshals created during the Weimar Republic.

Yet when Adolf Hitler came to power in 1933 he set about changing all that. Between 1936 and 1945 no fewer than 27 German officers of the Wehrmacht were promoted to the rank of field marshal or equivalent.

Of these, 20 were members of the *Heer* (Army) and six were from the *Luftwaffe* (Air Force). Two held the rank of *Großadmiral* in the *Kriegsmarine* (Navy).

The *Waffen-SS* was not part of the armed forces, and there-

fore their members could not be appointed Field Marshal. The highest rank that a member of the *Waffen-SS* could achieve was *SS-Oberst-Gruppenführer und Generaloberst der Waffen-SS* (SS-Supreme group leader and colonel general of the *Waffen-SS*). This was equivalent to the rank of *Generaloberst* (General in the Army).

German Field Marshals

Let's take a brief look at the German field marshal's of World War II.

We've placed them in order of seniority, in other words the date on which they were promoted.



Werner von Blomberg

Born: 2 September 1878
Promoted: 20 April 1936

He was a German General Staff officer and the first Minister of War in Adolf Hitler's government.

He served on the Western Front during World War I. Following the Nazis' rise to power, he was named Minister of War and Commander-in-Chief of the German Armed Forces. In this capacity, Blomberg played a central role in Germany's military build-up during the years

leading to World War II.

However, by 20 January 1938, he was forced to resign after his rivals, Hermann Göring and Heinrich Himmler, presented Hitler with evidence that his wife had posed in the past for pornographic photos. Died: 13 March 1946 (aged 67)
Cause of death: Colorectal cancer.



Hermann Göring

Born: 12 January 1893
Promoted: 4 February 1938

A veteran World War I fighter ace and early member of the Nazi Party, Göring would go on to become one of the most powerful figures in the Nazi Party.

Göring was among those wounded in Adolf Hitler's failed Beer Hall Putsch in 1923. While receiving treatment for his injuries, he developed an addiction to morphine which persisted until the last year of his life.

He oversaw the creation of the Gestapo, which he ceded to Heinrich Himmler in 1934.

He was appointed commander-in-chief of the *Luftwaffe* (air force), a position he held until the final days of the regime.

In September 1939, Hitler designated him as his successor

and deputy in all his offices. After the Fall of France in 1940, he was bestowed the specially created rank of *Reichsmarschall*, which gave him seniority over all officers in Germany's armed forces.

By 1941, Göring was at the peak of his power and influence. As the Second World War progressed, Göring's standing with Hitler and with the German public declined after the *Luftwaffe* proved incapable of preventing the Allied bombing of Germany's cities and resupplying surrounded Axis forces in Stalingrad.

Around that time, Göring increasingly withdrew from military and political affairs to devote his attention to collecting property and artwork, much of which was stolen from Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

Informed on 22 April 1945 that Hitler intended to commit suicide, Göring sent a telegram to Hitler requesting his permission to assume leadership of the Reich.

Considering his request an act of treason, Hitler removed Göring from all his positions, expelled him from the party, and ordered his arrest.

After the war, Göring was convicted of conspiracy, crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity at the Nuremberg trials in 1946.

Died: 15 October 1946 (aged 53)

Cause of death: He was sentenced to death by hanging but committed suicide by ingesting cyanide hours before the sentence was to be carried out.



Erich Raeder

Born: 24 April 1876

Promoted: 1 April 1939

Erich Johann Albert Raeder was a German admiral who played a major role in the naval history of World War II.

Raeder attained the highest possible naval rank, that of grand admiral, in 1939, becoming the first person to hold that rank since Henning von Holtzendorff in 1918.

Raeder led the Kriegsmarine for the first half of the war. On 30 January 1943, following Hitler's outrage over the Battle of the Barents Sea, Karl Dönitz, the supreme commander of the Kriegsmarine's U-boat arm, was promoted to grand admiral, and Raeder was named admiral inspector, a ceremonial office.

Raeder had failed to inform Hitler of the battle, which Hitler learned about from the foreign press. Hitler thought the Lützwitz and Admiral Hipper lacked fighting spirit, according to Albert Speer.

The reorganisation fitted Speer's goal of working more closely with Dönitz.

At the Nuremberg trials he was sentenced to life imprisonment but was released early owing to failing health.

Died: 6 November 1960 (aged 84)

Cause of death: Natural causes.



Fedor von Bock

Born: 3 December 1880

Promoted: 19 July 1940

Bock served as the commander of Army Group North during the Invasion of Poland in 1939, commander of Army Group B during the Invasion of France in 1940, and later as the commander of Army Group Centre during the attack on the Soviet Union in 1941; his final command was that of Army Group South in 1942.

Bock commanded Operation Typhoon, the ultimately failed attempt to capture Moscow during the autumn and winter of 1941. The Wehrmacht offensive was slowed by stiff Soviet resistance around Mozhaisk, and also by the rasputitsa, the season of rain and mud in Central Russia.

The Soviet counter-offensive soon drove the German army into retreat, and Bock was subsequently relieved of command by Adolf Hitler.

A monarchist, Bock was not heavily involved in politics and he did not sympathize with plots to overthrow Adolf Hitler. Bock

was also uncommonly outspoken, a privilege Hitler extended to him only because he had been successful in battle.

Died: 4 May 1945 (aged 64)

Cause of death: Bock, his second wife and his stepdaughter were killed by a strafing Royal New Zealand Air Force fighter-bomber as they travelled by car towards Hamburg.



Walther von Brauchitsch

Born: 4 October 1881

Promoted: 19 July 1940

During World War I, he served with distinction on the corps-level and division-level staff on the Western Front.

After the 1933 Nazi seizure of power, Brauchitsch was put in charge of Wehrkreis I, the East Prussian military district. He borrowed immense sums of money from Adolf Hitler and became dependent on his financial help.

Brauchitsch served as Commander-in-Chief of the German Army from February 1938 to December 1941. He played a key role in the Battle of France and oversaw the German invasions of Yugoslavia and Greece.

For his part in the Battle of France, he became one of

twelve generals promoted to field marshal.

After suffering a heart attack in November 1941 and being blamed by Hitler for the failure of Operation Typhoon, the Wehrmacht's attack on Moscow, Brauchitsch was dismissed as Commander-in-Chief. He spent the rest of the war in enforced retirement.

Died: 18 October 1948 (aged 67)

Cause of death: After the war, Brauchitsch was arrested on charges of war crimes, but he died of pneumonia before he could be prosecuted.



Albert Kesselring

Born: 30 November 1885

Promoted: 19 July 1940

In a career which spanned both world wars, Kesselring became one of Nazi Germany's most highly decorated commanders, being one of only 27 military personnel awarded the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves, Swords and Diamonds.

During World War II, he commanded Luftwaffe forces in during German invasions of Poland and France, the Battle of Britain and Operation Barbarossa. As Wehrmacht Com-

mander-in-Chief South, he was the overall German commander in the Mediterranean theatre, which included the North African campaign.

Kesselring conducted a defensive campaign against Allied forces in Italy, being involved in ordering several massacres, until he was injured in an accident in October 1944. In his final campaign of the war, he commanded German forces on the Western Front. During the war, he won the respect of his Allied opponents for his military accomplishments.

After the war, Kesselring was convicted of war crimes and sentenced to death for ordering the murder of 335 Italian civilians in the Ardeatine massacre, and for inciting and ordering his troops to kill civilians as part of reprisals against the Italian resistance movement. The sentence was subsequently commuted to life imprisonment. A political and media campaign resulted in his release in 1952, ostensibly on health grounds.

Died: 16 July 1960 (aged 74)

Cause of death: Natural causes.



Wilhelm Keitel

Born: 22 September 1882

Promoted: 19 July 1940

Wilhelm Bodewin Johann Gustav Keitel held office as chief of the *Oberkommando der Wehrmacht* (OKW), the high command of Nazi Germany's armed forces, for most of World War II. In that capacity, Keitel was Germany's de facto war minister. He signed a number of criminal orders and directives that led to numerous war crimes.

Keitel's rise to the Wehrmacht high command began with his appointment as the head of the Armed Forces Office at the Reich Ministry of War in 1935. Having taken command of the Wehrmacht in 1938, Adolf Hitler replaced the ministry with the OKW and Keitel became its chief. He was reviled among his military colleagues as Hitler's habitual "yes-man".

After the war, Keitel was indicted by the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg as one of the "major war criminals". He was found guilty on all counts of the indictment: crimes against humanity, crimes against peace, criminal conspiracy, and war crimes. He was sentenced to death.

Died: 16 October 1946 (aged 64)

Cause of death: Executed by hanging.

Next month we will look at seven more German Field Marshals of World War Two in Part Two of the four part article.

They will include Wilhelm Ritter von Leeb, Günther von Kluge and Gerd von Rundstedt.

The highest honour

While most military forces award medals and decorations, it is the ones awarded for bravery that are held in the highest regard. We look at medals awarded for valour by a few different countries.

I'm pretty confident that any of our readers that served in the old SADF (South African Defence Force) will remember the name of the medal that was awarded for bravery. It was, of course, the *Honoris Crux*.

Most readers will also be familiar with America and Britain's highest award for bravery, the Medal of Honour (MOH) and the Victoria Cross (VC).

Yet they may not be as familiar with medals awarded for bravery by other countries. And, while on the subject, where did the idea of medals come from in the first place?

The Roman Republic adopted an elaborate system of military awards that included medals called *phalerae* to be issued to soldiers and units for a variety of achievements.

The practice was revived in the Early Modern period, and medals began to be worn on the chest as part of standard military uniform.

Medals may be awarded for a number of reasons and these include campaign medals and medals for long service.

The medals held in the highest regard are normally those that have been awarded for bravery, and most countries will have such an award.

According to many sources, medals issued for bravery originated in the 1700s. One of these

was the *Tapferkeitsmedaille* or Medal for Bravery. This was awarded by Austria-Hungary from 19 July 1789 and continued to the end of World War I in 1918.

Numerous awards for bravery no longer exist due to a number of reasons. Take the former Rhodesia for example. They awarded the Bronze Cross (BCR) and the Silver Cross (SCR) for conspicuous acts of valour by members of the Security Forces in combat.

The highest Rhodesian award was the Grand Cross of Valour (DCV). It was instituted in 1970 and only two were ever awarded.

The first was in 1978 to Acting Captain Chris F. Schulenberg of the Selous Scouts. He had previously been awarded the Silver Cross of Rhodesia (SCR), the country's second highest award for bravery.

The second recipient was Major Grahame Wilson, second-in-command of the Rhodesian Special Air Service (SAS). He had previously won the SCR and the BCR, making him Rhodesia's most highly decorated soldier.

In 1980 Rhodesia became Zimbabwe and the Grand Cross of Valour was superseded by the Gold Cross of Zimbabwe.

One of Germany's highest awards for bravery was the *Pour le Mérite*, also known by

its nickname 'The Blue Max'.

The *Pour le Mérite* was founded in 1740 by King Frederick II of Prussia. It was named in French, which was the leading international language and the favoured language at Frederick's court. Both a military class and civil class of the medal could be awarded.

The award ceased with the end of the Prussian monarchy in November 1918.

The military class of the medal was awarded 5,415 times. Notable recipients of the medal during World War I included Manfred von Richthofen (The Red Baron), Ernst Udet, Oswald Boelcke, Max Immelmann, and Hermann Göring - all of the German Air Force.

Members of the German Army included Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck, Fedor von Bock, and Erwin Rommel.

During the Napoleonic Wars, King Friedrich Wilhelm III of Prussia instituted another award for bravery. It was called the Iron Cross (*Eisernes Kreuz*, abbreviated EK).

It was also awarded during the Franco-Prussian War (EK 1870), World War I (EK 1914), and World War II (EK 1939). The Iron Cross that was awarded during World War II had a swastika in the centre.

There were two versions of the award: the Iron Cross Second Class (EKII) and the Iron



GROUND ATTACK ACE: During World War II, Hans-Ulrich Rudel was the only German to be awarded the Iron Cross with Golden Oak Leaves, Swords, and Diamonds.

Cross First Class (EKI).

During World War I, approximately 218,000 EKIs, 5,196,000 EKIIs and 13,000 non-combatant EKIIs were awarded.

Exact numbers of awards are not known, since the Prussian military archives were destroyed during World War II. The multitude of awards reduced the status and reputation of the decoration. Among the holders of the 1914 Iron Cross 2nd Class and 1st Class was Adolf Hitler.

During World War II the colour of the Iron Cross ribbon was changed from black and white to black, red and white as these were the colours of Nazi Germany. A new class of the Iron Cross was also introduced - The Knights Cross.

The Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross (*Ritterkreuz des Eisernen Kreuzes*, often simply *Ritterkreuz*) recognized military valour or successful lead-

ership. The Knight's Cross was divided into five degrees:

- Knight's Cross (*Ritterkreuz des Eisernen Kreuzes*)
- Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves (*mit Eichenlaub*)
- Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords (*mit Eichenlaub und Schwertern*)
- Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves, Swords, and Diamonds (*mit Eichenlaub, Schwertern und Brillanten*)
- Knight's Cross with Golden Oak Leaves, Swords, and Diamonds (*mit Goldenem Eichenlaub, Schwertern und Brillanten*)

In total, 7,313 awards of the Knight's Cross were made. Only 883 received the Oak Leaves and Swords; and 27 with Oak Leaves, Swords and Diamonds.

Only one person was awarded the Golden Oak Leaves, Swords, and Diamonds and that was *Oberst* Hans-Ulrich Rudel of the *Luftwaffe*. A ground attack ace, he was credited with the destruction of 519 tanks, as well as one battleship, one cruiser, 70 landing craft and 150 artillery emplacements. The award ceased at the end of World War II.

Since World War II, Germany has seen its military as a defensive force, but during the 1990s Germany began playing a bigger role with its military within the European Union. After the 11 September 2001 attacks on the United States, Germany joined International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan and has continued to deploy *Bundeswehr* troops to areas under combat conditions.

In 2007, the Petitions Committee of the *Bundestag* made a recommendation to create a decoration to recognize military personnel for valour.

In 2008, Ernst-Reinhard Beck, the president of the German Reservists Association, suggested the re-establishment of the Iron Cross. However, the historical connotations assigned to the Iron Cross from World War II provoked criticism from some groups.

On 13 August 2008 the *Bundeswehr* Cross of Honour for Valour (*Ehrenkreuz der Bundeswehr für Tapferkeit*) was created. Since the inception of the medal it has been awarded 28 times.

The South African Defence Force (SADF) medal for bravery was the *Honoris Crux* Decoration. There were two distinct versions. The first type, introduced on 6 April 1952, was awarded for gallantry in action against the enemy in the field. Only five awards were made, all to members of the South African Air Force, the first in 1973 and the others in 1975.

The second type was introduced on 1 July 1975 and there were four classes - *Honoris Crux*, *Honoris Crux Silver*, *Honoris Crux Gold*, and *Honoris Crux Diamond*.

The *Honoris Crux* was awarded 201 times. The *Honoris Crux Silver* was awarded 27 times. The *Honoris Crux Gold* was awarded six times. The *Honoris Crux Diamond* was never presented.

The only *Honoris Crux Diamond* Class decoration ever to be produced was donated to the South African National Muse-

um of Military History by the Department of Defence on 21 May 2009.

Major Andre Diedericks of Special Forces Headquarters was awarded the Honorix Crux Silver on 1 June 1985. In 1976, while a serving as a corporal with 1 Reconnaissance Commando, he was awarded the Honoris Crux.

Captain Arthur W. Walker of the South African Air Force won the Honoris Crux Gold, not once, but twice. He was awarded the Honoris Crux Gold on 15 January 1981. Later during the same year, 29 December 1981, he was awarded a bar to his HCG.

In April 1994 the SADF was replaced by the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). The Honorix Crux Decorations were discontinued and replaced with new awards on 27 April 2003. The Honoris Crux was superseded by the *Nkwe ya Boronse*. The Honoris Crux Silver by the *Nkwe ya Selefera*, and the Honoris Crux Gold by the *Nkwe ya Gauta* decoration.

Most people know that the United Kingdom's highest award for bravery is the Victoria Cross. They also know that the United States highest award is the Medal of Honour.

There are in fact three different types of Medal of Honour - one for the US Army, one for the US Navy, US Marine Corps and US Coast Guard, and one for the US Air Force.

In the remainder of this article we will look at some lesser known awards from a number of countries.

Argentina



Argentine Nation to the Heroic Valour in Combat Cross (*La Nación Argentina Al Heroico Valor En Combate*) is the highest national military decoration in Argentina.

It is awarded for "acts of heroic valour in action in hazardous circumstances".

The medal has been awarded a total of 18 times, with the last award being in 1982 during the Falklands War (*Guerra de las Malvinas*).

The Victoria Cross for Australia (VC) is the pre-eminent award for acts of bravery in wartime and Australia's highest military honour.

A total of 101 Australians have been awarded the medal.

Bangladesh



The *Bir Sreshtho* (The Most Valiant Hero), is the highest military award of Bangladesh. It was awarded to seven freedom fighters who showed utmost bravery and died in action for their nation. They are considered martyrs.

The other three gallantry awards are named, in decreasing order of importance, *Bir Uttom*, *Bir Bikrom* and *Bir Protik*. All of these awards were introduced immediately after the Liberation War in 1971.



FOR VALOUR: Andre Diedericks was awarded the Honorix Crux Silver (HCS) and Honorix Cross (HC).

Brazil



The Order of Military Merit (*Ordem do Mérito Militar*) is an award of the Brazilian Army, established on 11 June 1943 by President Getúlio Vargas.

The order is presented in five grades and recognizes distinguished service and exceptional contributions to Brazil by members the Brazilian Army and the armies of friendly nations.

The grades, in descending order, are: Grand Cross, Grand Officer, Commander, Officer, and Knight.

First awarded 26 June 1857, The Victoria Cross (VC) is the United Kingdom's highest military award for bravery.

It has been awarded 1,358 times and three people have won the VC twice.

Spain



The Royal and Military Order of Saint Ferdinand (*Real y Militar Orden de San Fernando*), is a Spanish military order whose decoration, known as Laureate

Cross of Saint Ferdinand (*Cruz Laureada de San Fernando*), is Spain's highest military decoration for gallantry.

It is awarded in recognition of action, either individual or collective, to protect the nation, its citizens, or the peace and security of the international community in the face of immediate risk to the bearer. Those eligible are current and former members of the Spanish Armed Forces.

Since it was instituted on 1 January 1812 it has been awarded 336 times.



DOUBLE GOLD: Arthur W. Walker of the South African Air Force was awarded the Honorix Cross Gold (HCG) not once, but twice. In January 1981 he won the HCG and in December 1981 he was awarded a bar.

Israel



The Medal of Valour (*Itur HaGvura*) is the highest Israeli military decoration.

The medal was established in 1970 by the Knesset in an act of law as a replacement for the Hero of Israel military decoration.

To this day, 40 medals have been awarded: 12 for actions in the War of Independence (Hero of Israel recipients automatically awarded the Medal of Valour), four for the Sinai War, 12 for the Six-Day War, one for the War of Attrition, eight for the Yom Kippur War and three others awarded on other occasions.

India



The *Param Vir Chakra* (PVC) is India's highest military decoration, awarded for displaying distinguished acts of valour during wartime.

Param Vir Chakra translates as the "Wheel of the Ultimate Brave", and the award is granted for "most conspicuous bravery in the presence of the enemy".

As of January 2018, the medal has been awarded 21 times, of which 14 were posthumous and 16 arose from actions in Indo-Pakistani conflicts. Of the 21 awardees, 20 have been from the Indian Army, and one has been from the Indian Air Force.

China



The Order of August First is a military decoration of the People's Republic of China awarded by the Chairman of the Central Military Commission, and

is the highest military award given to Chinese military personnel and civilians of the People's Liberation Army, People's Armed Police and public security active troops.

Established on 12 June 2017 it has been awarded 10 times.

The Medal of Honour (MOH) is America's highest military award for bravery.

First awarded on 25 March 1863, it has been awarded 3,530 times to 3,511 recipients. 19 people have been awarded the MOH twice.

Pakistan



Nishan-e-Haider is Pakistan's highest military gallantry award. "Nishan-e-Haider" literally means "Emblem of the Lion" in the Urdu language.

The *Nishan-e-Haider* can only be awarded to members of the Pakistan Armed Forces for the highest acts of extraordinary bravery in the face of the enemy in air, land or sea. Its exclusivity can be gauged by the fact that, since Pakistan's independence in 1947, it has been awarded only 11 times.

We don't talk about that

The military often likes to boast and dazzle people with facts and figures, telling everyone just how great they are. Yet there are topics that they would rather avoid. Like for instance how much money they spend annually, their mistakes and other topics that are taboo.

Most of our stories look at subjects such as military history, weapons, military technology, famous figures in military history, battles and so on.

Yet what about those topics that the military doesn't really like to talk about? From military *faux pas* to military spending, from deception to desertion.

Big budgets

Many countries around the world spend billions upon billions on their armed forces. And you may have guessed, correctly, that the United States leads the way in military spending.

The US yearly spends about \$600 billion (R8,58 trillion) per year on its military.

China comes in at number two with \$129 billion.

In fact even if you added up the budgets of the next seven military forces in the world they still wouldn't surpass that of the United States.

Insane training

Every nation prides itself on the level of training its soldiers and, especially, special forces have to go through.

In fact, many of you will probably remember your own military training and try to convince everyone that it was tougher than anywhere else.

Then there is Spetsnaz, the Russian Special Forces. Fair enough, they do all sorts of

stressful training. But it's one exercise that really stands out. Spetsnaz are known to actually shoot each other with hand guns – using live ammunition. Sure they wear body armour – but seriously.

Gas guzzlers

Today we are more environmentally aware than ever before. We've become tree huggers par excellence. We use less packaging, we recycle, we cut down on electricity usage, and we conserve water as much as possible. Then we have the military.

All over the world, ships, planes and tanks burn an incredible amount of fuel. And who wins the prize for being the worst culprit? You guessed it – of course it's the United States.

Various estimates and official figures put the yearly petrol consumption of the US Military at upwards of three to four billion litres.

In World War II the US Military was using 3,7 litres of fuel per soldier per day, in the 21st century that level has gone as high as 83 litres.

Female Special Forces

Over the past few decades the role of women in the military has expanded greatly. This includes roles in operational units and even special forces.

But can you guess which military has the first all-female special forces unit? Surprisingly,

it's Norway.

Known as Hunter Troop this all-female force was created to respond to new challenges on the battlefield.

Specifically, the force came about when all-male units reported difficulty in interacting with female civilians in Muslim countries. The big question is, are these ladies tough enough?

Well the women who make it in to Hunter Troop can do all the things their male counterparts can do.

The fact that only 4% of applicants make it through the selection and training suggests that these ladies can probably kick some serious butt.

Desertion

If you're a soldier who runs away from your post or leaves your unit without permission, then you have just gone AWOL (absent without leave).

If, however, you're a soldier who runs away from your post or leaves your unit without permission, and have no intention of ever coming back, then you have just deserted.

Desertion happens in every military, but usually not on any great scale. Well, unless you were the Afghan Army that is.

Over the last few years of America's involvement in Afghanistan, this force was given more responsibility for fighting insurgents and groups such as the Taliban. It has also experi-

enced a huge surge in desertion. According to reports, 4,000 men deserted every month.

Given that the starting salary of a soldier was just \$130 (R1,860) a month and the fact that they were fighting against people who didn't bother taking prisoners, it kind of makes sense why so many left and never came back

Nukes, nukes and more nukes

Okay, we all know that there are many nuclear weapons all over the world and things could get really ugly, really quickly if they are ever used.

But do you realise just how many and how powerful these weapons actually are?

Latest figures put the number of warheads at around 15,000. Listen, if it makes you feel any better that's actually a lot less than there used to be.

On the other hand, almost every one of these weapons is at least several times more powerful than the bombs that levelled Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Sci-fi reality

As kids, most of us watched TV shows and movies where spaceships and people armed with lasers blasted away at each other.

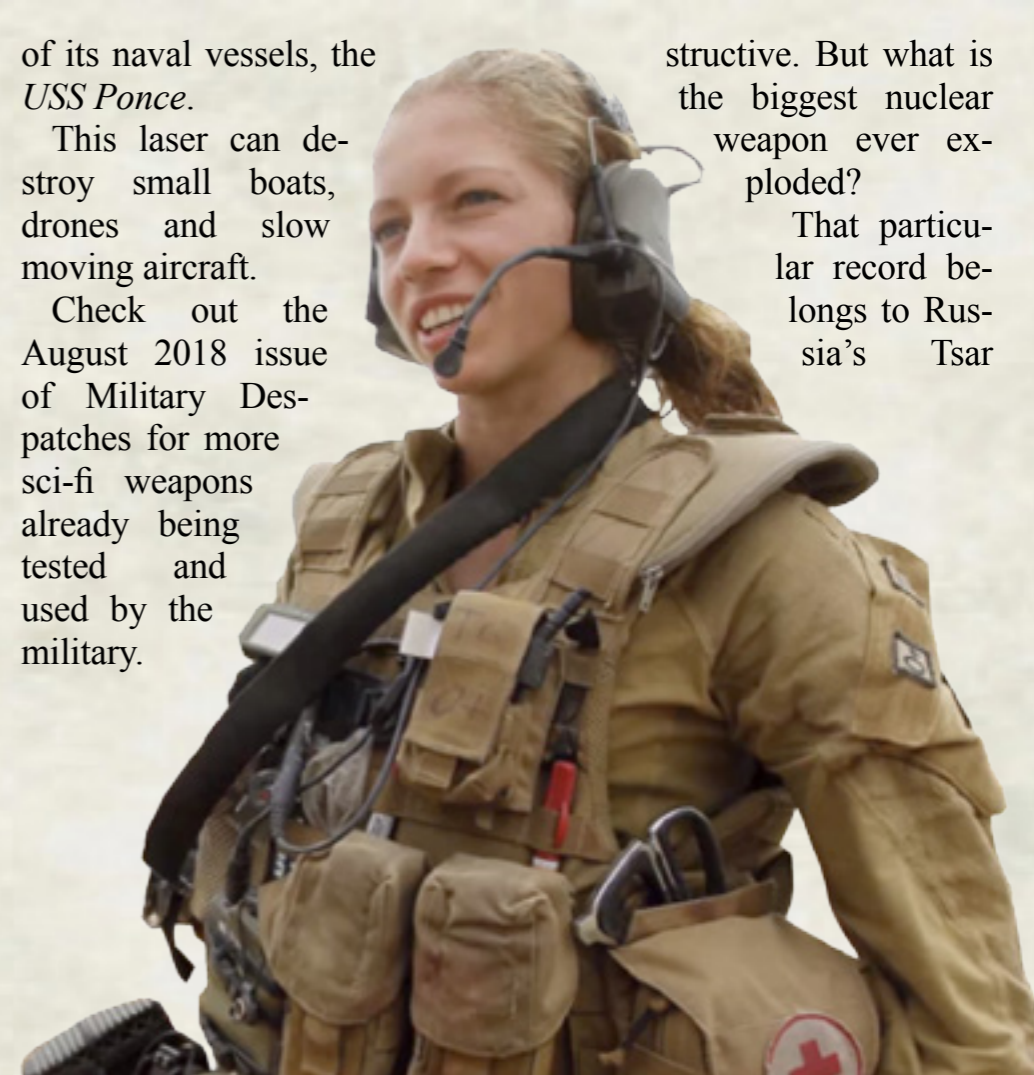
There were even rumours that the military had laser guns, but hey, these were just rumours weren't they? The problem is that the equipment needed to shoot a laser is big and clunky. Or at least, it used to be.

Today the US Military is actively testing lasers and even has one deployed aboard one

of its naval vessels, the *USS Ponce*.

This laser can destroy small boats, drones and slow moving aircraft.

Check out the August 2018 issue of *Military Dispatches* for more sci-fi weapons already being tested and used by the military.



Norway's Hunter Troop

Under the sea

Would it surprise you to know that the largest submarine fleet in the world isn't American, Russian or even Chinese? This honour actually goes to North Korea.

While definitely not the most power or capable force in the world, it is estimated that North Korea operates over 70 diesel-electric submarines.

Most of them are pretty old and most likely very unsafe.

Nonetheless, some have been outfitted to fire ballistic missiles, which could one day give the isolated state a much greater nuclear deterrent.

The Tsar Bomb

Your probably know that nuclear weapons are pretty de-

structive. But what is the biggest nuclear weapon ever exploded?

That particular record belongs to Russia's Tsar

Bomb. With a blast equivalent to 50 million tons of TNT, when this thing was tested in 1961 people sat up and took notice.

The bomb created a fireball eight kilometres in diameter. The blast wave shattered windows five miles away. It was so bright that people could see the flash 965 kilometres away – even through thick clouds.

A fair chunk of change

Let's face it, like the rest of us, the military are concerned about soaring prices. Take the F-35 Stealth fighter for example.

This high-tech fighter will end up averaging out at \$85 million (R 1,216,082,250) per plane. That's a lot of money in anyone's books.

Thanks, but no thanks

The Medal of Honour (MOH) is the United States Armed Forces' highest military decoration and is awarded to recognize American soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, guardians and coast guardsmen who have distinguished themselves by acts of valour. It has been awarded 3,530 times. Yet one recipient of the medal voluntarily returned his medal. Who was he, and why did he do it?

The Medal of Honour (MOH) is the United States Armed Forces' highest military decoration and is awarded to recognize American soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, guardians and coast guardsmen who have distinguished themselves by acts of valour.

According to the Medal of Honour Historical Society of the United States, there have been 3,530 Medals of Honour awarded to 3,511 individuals since the decoration's creation, with over 40% awarded for actions during the American Civil War.

In 1990, the United States Congress designated 25 March annually as "National Medal of Honour Day".

The first Medals of Honour were awarded and presented to six U.S. Army soldiers on 25 March 1863, by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, in his office of the War Department.

Private Jacob Parrott, a U.S. Army volunteer from Ohio, became the first actual Medal of Honour recipient, awarded for his volunteering for and participation in a raid on a Confederate train in Big Shanty, Georgia, on 12 April 1862, during the American Civil War.

After the medal presentations, the six decorated soldiers met with President Lincoln in

the White House.

Since then the medal has been awarded 3,530 times. A total of 19 recipients were awarded the Medal of Honour twice.

Those that have won a Medal of Honour qualify for a number of benefits. This includes a monthly pension and special retirement pay.

As of 1 December 2020, Medal of Honour recipients receive a \$1,406.73 monthly pension with annual cost-of-living increases. This comes on top of any disability or retirement pay. Enlisted military retirees who receive the medal also get a 10% increase in retirement pay.

Of the 3,530 medals awarded, 618 were awarded posthumously. To date, no person nominated for a Medal of Honour has ever refused to accept it.

Yet there has been one recipient of the medal that has returned it. And this was 19 years after he was awarded the Medal of Honour. Who was he, and why did he take this action?

Charles Liteky

Charles James "Charlie" Liteky, formerly known as Angelo Liteky, served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1971.

On 6 December 1967, near Phuoc-Lac in South Vietnam's Biên Hòa Province, he was part Company A, 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 199th Light



Charles James Liteky

Infantry Brigade.

They were conducting a search and destroy mission when they came under heavy fire from a numerically superior enemy force, estimated at being battalion strength.

For his actions during the contact, he was nominated for the Medal of Honour. He received his medal from U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson on 19 November 1968 at a ceremony at the White House.

So who was Charles Liteky? Was he a seasoned combat veteran, or a member of Special Forces? And what exactly did he do to win his Medal of Honour?

First of all, he was no combat veteran. In fact the ambush on 6 December 1967 was the first time Liteky had seen action.

And far from being a member of Special Forces, he was an In-



U.S. Army Medal of Honour

U.S. Navy Medal of Honour

U.S. Air Force Medal of Honour

fantry Captain. His actual rank was Captain (Chaplain). Liteky was, in fact, a Roman Catholic priest.

During the initial shock and confusion of the ambush, Liteky had spotted two wounded men lying 15 metres from an enemy machine gun. He had rushed to their side and used his own body to shield them from further fire.

Once the volume of fire had sufficiently decreased, he dragged them to the relative safety of a helicopter landing zone.

Although wounded in the neck and foot, he continued to expose himself to hostile fire in order to rescue more of the wounded and administer last rites to the dying.

When the landing zone came under fire, he stood in the open and directed the medical evacuation helicopters in and out of the area.

After the wounded had been evacuated, he returned to the perimeter to encourage the remaining soldiers until Com-

pany A was relieved the next morning. Liteky carried a total of 20 soldiers to safety during

the battle. It was for these actions that he was awarded the Medal of Honour.

At the time Liteky was a firm supporter of the war in Vietnam.

"I was 100 percent behind going over there and putting those Communists in their place. I had no problems with that. I thought I was going there doing God's work."

After his initial tour of duty in Vietnam, he volunteered for a second tour of duty.

Peace Activist

Liteky left the army in 1971 with the rank of Major (Chaplain). In 1975 he left the priesthood and, in 1983, he married a former nun named Judy Balch.

She introduced him to refugees from Central America, specifically El Salvador. She also encouraged his involvement in social justice activities.

In the years that followed, he became a peace activist and anti-war protester because of the stories he learned from those refugees.

He was especially concerned with American policies in Central America and U.S. support for Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

He wanted the Army to shut down the School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia, because South and Central American troops would use what they learned there on their own people.

This institute was founded in 1946 and by 2000, more than 60,000 Latin American military, law enforcement, and security personnel had attended the school. The school was located in the Panama Canal Zone until its expulsion in 1984.

The school is strongly associated with the dirty wars carried out by U.S.-supported military juntas in South America, particularly in the 1970s and 1980s.

Many of its alumni served in repressive, undemocratic governments and engaged in human rights abuses, such as torture and enforced disappearances.

Liteky was a man of action rather than words. He led a 47-day hunger strike to protest the school and was arrested for trespassing on Fort Benning in 1986.

In 1990, he was sentenced to six months in federal prison for

defacing portraits at the school with blood. He was sentenced to a year in prison for the same thing in 2000.

His motivation to march against conflict, the Reagan administration's policies and the School of the Americas, in particular, was the same motivation that prompted him to run into the jungles of Vietnam and pull out 20 soldiers. He wanted to save lives.

"The reason I do what I do now is basically the same," he said at the time. "It's to save lives. In the case of the School of the Americas, it's to stop training the military from the Third World, who take the training back and employ it in the oppression of their people."

Returning his medal

Yet for Liteky, what he had done was not enough. To protest the ongoing policy, Liteky placed his award at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, along with a letter to President Reagan, in 1986.



UNDER ARREST: On 16 November 1990 Charles Liteky was arrested by Military Police during a blood-pouring incident at the headquarters of the School of the Americas.

Photo: SOA Watch

He also renounced all the benefits and stipends that come with the award.

The renunciation of the Medal of Honour was enough to catch the Army's attention.

Liteky was personally invited to attend a symposium on human rights by the then-commander of Fort Benning, Maj. Gen. John LeMoyné. The School of

the Americas also changed its curriculum to include courses on democracy and international law.

Liteky's Medal of Honour was picked up by the National Park Service and is currently in the collection of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. Charles James Liteky died in January 2017 at age 85.

The Army Gymnasium

The Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg was not only a training unit. It was also home to the South African Corps of Signals. Currently a book is being compiled on the history of the Army Gymnasium - and they're looking for your contribution.

During the Border War, there were Training Units. The Army Gymnasium was such a training unit. Every year an intake of national service recruits was received and trained in signal aspects.

A book is now being compiled on the history of the Army Gymnasium during that period. The idea is to capture the training aspects and to capture the stories of the people that participated during that period.

The unit trained a diverse group of people – officers, warrant officers and NCO's of the Signal Corps – on their career courses. It also included the permanent and Citizen Forces.

The yearly national service intake was 1600 national servicemen.

It trained the PTI's of the SA Army, it was responsible for training the Formative Officers course of the SA Army and the National Service Chaplains of the different churches were also trained here.



ARMY GYM: A part of the Army Gymnasium. In the foreground stands Danie Theron building. It was (and maybe still is) the tallest building in Heidelberg, and the only one with elevators.

After training, the intake was deployed at all the Signal Units of South Africa. Selected servicemen were deployed after basic training to 2 and 5 Signal Regiment as well as 3 Electronic Workshop.

The border units received their trained signal recruits to support the border effort.

The Army Gymnasium had an HQ unit to give support to the training units of the Army Gymnasium.

The book to be published will be done by previous publishers like Walter Volker, Maruis Scheepers and Arnold Theron together with Col Diederick Reinecke, an OC of the Army Gymnasium during the height of the border war, who later be-

came the Chief of Staff of the Signal Formation.

Any contribution will be appreciated, whether it was during National Service basic training, courses attended and/or whilst stationed at Heidelberg and where signalmen were deployed in the operational area and their experiences.

It can also be about specific persons/instructors whom you had experiences (humorous or serious) or made a specific impact on you as person.

Contact details for contributions: tappa@mweb.co.za

Springbok



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

Click on the logo to the left to visit the SA Legion website.



Speed is of the essence

During World War II the Nazi regime used drugs regularly, from the soldiers of the Wehrmacht all the way up to Hitler himself.

Most people that have any sort of interest in matters military will at least have heard of Sun Tzu.

This Chinese general, military strategist, writer, and philosopher, who lived in the Eastern Zhou period of ancient China, is credited as being the author of 'The Art of War'.

This influential work of military strategy has affected both Western and East Asian philosophy and military thinking. In the Art of War, Sun Tzu wrote that speed is "the essence of war."

During World War II this bit of military wisdom was something the Germans took to heart. Yet probably not in the way that Sun Tzu had envisioned.

Amphetamines - often called "pep pills," "uppers" or "speed" - are a group of synthetic drugs that stimulate the central nervous system, reducing fatigue and appetite and increasing wakefulness and a sense of well-being.

Nazi ideology was fundamentalist in its anti-drug stance. Social use of drugs was considered both a sign of personal

weakness and a symbol of the country's moral decay in the wake of a traumatic and humiliating defeat in World War I.

German chemist Friedrich Hauschild was well aware that during the 1936 Olympic Games, held in Berlin, many athletes had used an American amphetamine called Benzedrine to enhance their performances.

He began experimenting and the following year he managed to synthesize methamphetamine, a close cousin of amphetamine.

He began selling methamphetamine under the brand name Pervitin in the winter of 1937. Partly thanks to the company's aggressive advertising campaign, Pervitin became well known within a few months. The tablets were wildly popular and could be purchased without a prescription in pharmacies.

Dr. Otto F. Ranke, director of the Research Institute of Defence Physiology, had high hopes that Pervitin would prove advantageous on the battlefield.

His goal was to defeat the enemy with chemically enhanced soldiers - soldiers who could give Germany a military edge by fighting harder and longer than their opponents.

While other drugs were banned or discouraged, meth-

amphetamine was touted as a miracle product when it appeared on the market in the late 1930s. Indeed, the little pill was the perfect Nazi drug.

Energizing and confidence boosting, methamphetamine played into the Third Reich's obsession with physical and mental superiority. In sharp contrast to drugs such as heroin or alcohol, methamphetamines were not about escapist pleasure.

Rather, they were taken for hyper-alertness and vigilance. Aryans, who were the embodiment of human perfection in Nazi ideology, could now even aspire to be superhuman - and such super humans could be turned into super soldiers.

"We don't need weak people," Hitler declared, "we want only the strong!" Weak people took drugs such as opium to escape; strong people took methamphetamine to feel even stronger.

The invasion of Poland on 1 September 1939 served as the first real military test of the drug in the field. And the results proved to be an eye-opener.

By October 1939 the Germans had crushed their eastern neighbour, with more than 100,000 Polish soldiers killed during the operation.

It also introduced a new form of warfare - *Blitzkrieg*. This "lightning war" emphasized speed and surprise, catching the enemy off guard by the unprec-



TANKERS CHOCOLATE: Panzerschokolade, chocolate laced with methamphetamine, was dispersed to tank crews to keep them going for days.

edented quickness of the mechanized attack and advance.

It is interesting to note that 'Blitzkrieg' was not a term used by the Germans. It was the Allied media that coined the term. German tactics had always relied on speed and mobility. It was just that with modern armour, air power, and excellent communication both speed and surprise were enhanced.

There was, however, a weak link in this 'Blitzkrieg' strategy - human beings. Machines such as tanks and aircraft could keep going as long as they had fuel and were maintained.

Soldiers, on the other hand, were humans rather than machines. They suffered from fatigue and needed regular rest and sleep. This of course slowed down the military advance.

This is where Pervitin came in - part of the speed of Blitzkrieg literally came from speed.

Yet after the invasion of Poland, things slowed down. After Germany had invaded Poland on 1 September 1939, Britain and France had both declared war on German on 3 Septem-

ber 1939. Yet for the next eight months not a lot happened.

To the Germans this period became known as the *Sitzkrieg*, while the French called it *Drôle de guerre*. At first the British called this period the 'Bore War'. Later it became known as the Phoney War.

The quiet of the Phoney War was punctuated by a few Allied actions. In the Saar Offensive in September, the French attacked Germany with the intention of assisting Poland, but it fizzled out within days and they withdrew.

The British began a naval blockade and they created elaborate plans for numerous large-scale operations designed to cripple the German war effort.

These included opening an Anglo-French front in the Balkans, invading Norway to seize control of Germany's main source of iron ore and a strike against the Soviet Union, to cut off its supply of oil to Germany. Only the Norway plan came to fruition, and by April 1940, it was too little, too late.

In May 1940 the Phoney War

came to an abrupt end. The Germans launched *Fall Gelb* (Case Yellow) - the Battle of France.

The fall of France was one of the most important campaigns of the Second World War. The total victory the Germans achieved was made possible by two advances - one through the low countries, the other a dramatic breakthrough around Sedan.

The German invasion began on the 10th of May 1940. Preceded by bombardments from artillery and aircraft, German armies poured across their western borders. Rather than face the French in their concrete defences of the Maginot Line, the advancing armies went through Holland and Belgium.

Army Group A provided the southern advance. They travelled through the Ardennes forest, which the Allies wrongly considered impassable to armoured formations.

A quick trip through the southern tip of Belgium brought them into France facing a weakly defended part of the line. German tanks covered 386 kilometres of challenging terrain, including the Ardennes Forest, in just 11 days.

The Germans had several big advantages in this sector. First, surprise. Second, air superiority, including the presence of the famous Stuka dive bombers. Third, superior armoured formations under the leadership of two great generals - Heinz Guderian and Erwin Rommel.

The Battle of Sedan, which took place between 12 and 15 May 1940, was vital to the German plans.

Sedan is situated on the east



bank of the Meuse. Its capture would give the Germans a base from which to take the Meuse bridges and cross the river. The German divisions could then advance across the open and undefended French countryside to the English Channel.

On 12 May, Sedan was captured without resistance and the Germans defeated the French defences around Sedan on the west bank of the Meuse.

Luftwaffe bombing and low morale prevented the French defenders from destroying the bridgeheads. The Germans captured the Meuse bridges at Sedan allowing them to pour forces across the river.

On 14 May, the Allied air forces - the Royal Air Force (RAF) and *Armée de l'Air* (French Air Force) - tried to destroy the bridges. The Luftwaffe prevented them from doing so. In large air battles, the Allies suffered high losses which depleted Allied bomber strength in the campaign.

Key to the German success at Sedan was the fact that German troops were able to keep advancing for three days and three nights without stopping to rest or sleep. This was thanks to the heavy use of Pervitin.

The use, and abuse, of Pervitin would continue for the remainder of the war. German tank crews and Luftwaffe air crew were issued with the drug in the form of chocolate bars known as *Panzerschokolade* (tanker's chocolate) and *Fliegerschokolade* (flyer's chocolate).

Yet it was not only the common soldiers that used drugs. In his best selling book, "*Der To-*



PRISONERS OF WAR: German troops with French prisoners crossing the Meuse on 15 May 1940 near Sedan.

ale Rausch" (The Total Rush) by Norman Ohler, he found that many of the Nazi leadership used drugs on a regular basis - all the way up to Hitler himself. Forget 'Heil Hitler'. It was more a case of 'High Hitler'.

Some of the Nazi leadership made regular use of Pervitin, such as Ernst Udet, the Chief of Aircraft Procurement and Supply.

Others preferred strong anaesthetics such as morphine. Head of the Luftwaffe Hermann Göring was given the nickname 'Möring' because of his fondness for morphine.

Ohler, an award-winning novelist and screenwriter, had initially planned to write a novel about the Nazis' long-rumoured drug use. But his plans changed when he found the detailed records left by Dr. Theodor Morell, Hitler's personal physician. He ended up spending years studying Morell's records.

Theodor Morell was an interesting, if not shady, character.

He studied medicine in Grenoble and Paris, then trained in obstetrics and gynaecology in Munich in 1910. On 23 May 1913, he completed his doctoral degree and was fully licensed as a physician.

During World War I Morell served as an army battalion medical officer until 1917. By 1918, he was in Berlin with his own medical practice, and in 1920 he married Hannelore Moller, a wealthy actress. He furnished his office with the latest medical technology through his wife's fortune.

Morell joined the Nazi Party when Hitler came to power in 1933. In 1935, Hitler's personal photographer, Heinrich Hoffmann, was successfully treated by Morell. Hoffmann told Hitler that Morell had saved his life.

Hitler met Morell in 1936, and Morell began treating Hitler with various commercial preparations, including a combination of vitamins and hydrolyzed E. coli bacteria called



HIGHEST HONOURS: Hitler presents Morell the Knight's Cross in 1944.

Mutaflor, which successfully treated Hitler's severe stomach cramps.

Through Morell's prescriptions, a leg rash which Hitler had developed also disappeared. Hitler was convinced of Morell's medical genius and Morell became not only a part of his social inner circle, but his personal physician.

Hitler recommended Morell to others of the Nazi leadership, but most of them, including Hermann Göring and Heinrich Himmler, dismissed Morell as a quack.

Morell was not popular with Hitler's entourage, who complained about the doctor's crude table manners, poor hygiene and body odour. Hitler is said to have responded "I do not employ him for his fragrance, but to look after my health."

Hermann Göring called Morell *Der Reichsspritzenmeister*, ("Reich Master of Injections"), and variations on that theme, implying that Morell resorted to using drug injections when faced with medical problems, and overused them.

Morell kept a medical diary

of the drugs, tonics, vitamins and other substances he administered to Hitler, usually by injection (up to 20 times per day) or in pill form.

Most were commercial preparations, some were Morell's own mixes. Since some of these compounds are considered toxic, historians have speculated that Morell inadvertently contributed to Hitler's deteriorating health.

Morell administered some 74 substances (in 28 different mixtures) to Hitler, including psychoactive drugs such as heroin as well as commercial poisons.

Hitler awarded Morell the title of Professor and gave him the Golden Party Badge and the Knights Cross of the War Merit Cross.

Morell was able to use his relationship with Hitler to sell his various products to the Wehrmacht. In addition to an annual salary of 60,000 Reichsmark, these business ventures earned Morell a fortune of about seven million Reichsmark.

Morell was one of the occupants of the *Führerbunker*, located in the garden of the Reich

Chancellery, once Hitler and his entourage relocated there from the Wolf's Lair in Rastenburg in East Prussia.

As the Battle of Berlin progressed and the outlook became dire, it was Morell who provided the cyanide capsules which Eva Braun would later use to kill herself, and which Joseph Goebbels and his wife Magda used to murder their six children before killing themselves.

On 20 April 1945, Morell, Albert Bormann, Admiral Karl-Jesko von Puttkamer, Dr. Hugo Blaschke, secretaries Johanna Wolf, Christa Schroeder, and several others were ordered by Hitler to leave the bunker and Berlin by aircraft for the Obersalzberg. Morell escaped Berlin on 23 April 1945.

Morell was captured by American forces and interrogated on 18 May 1945. One of his interrogators was reportedly "disgusted" by his obesity and lack of hygiene.

Although he was held in an American internment camp on the site of the former Buchenwald concentration camp, and questioned because of his proximity to Hitler, Morell was never charged with a crime.

Grossly obese and suffering from poor health, he died in a Tegernsee hospital on 26 May 1948. He was 61 years old.

Editor's Note: The use of drugs by the military goes back centuries. Even the Allies used drugs during World War II.

Yet never before, and never since, were drugs used on such a massive scale as by the Germans in World War II.

Small arms of the Bush War

The South African Border War took place in South West Africa (now Namibia), Angola and Zambia between 1966 and 1990.

It was fought between the South African Defence Force (SADF) and the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), the armed wing of the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO), the People's Armed Forces of Liberation of Angola

(FAPLA), and Cuban troops sent in Angola. The Russians also sent military advisors to Angola.

The weapons on the Angolan side were all Soviet weapons. Towards the end of the conflict Russia was supplying some of their latest and most sophisticated weapons.

On the South African side they were armed with weapons that came from countries such as Belgium, France and Israel.

As the war continued South Africa needed to modernize much of their equipment. Due to international sanctions against the country this was not freely available. South Africa developed their own arms industry and went on to produce some of the best weapon systems in the world, such as the G5 and G6 cannons and the Ratel Infantry Fighting Vehicle.



South African Defence Force

Star Model BM

The Star Model BM is a single-action semi-automatic pistol that fires the 9mm Parabellum pistol cartridge

The pistol is fed by an 8-round detachable box magazine.

It was issued mainly to officers and senior non-commissioned officers in the SADF. Certain units, such as the Military Police, were also issued with the weapon.

It was produced by Star Bonifacio Echeverria, SA in Spain.



Weight:	708 grams
Length:	18 cm
Barrel length:	10 cm
Caliber:	9 mm Parabellum
Feed system:	8-round box magazine
Sights:	Fixed sights

Uzi

The Uzi is an Israeli open bolt, blowback-operated submachine gun designed by Major Uziel Gal in the late 1940s.

It was one of the first weapons to use a telescoping bolt design which allows the magazine to be housed in the pistol grip for a short weapon. This made it ideal for the crews of armoured vehicles.

It was manufactured under license in South Africa.



Weight:	3.5 kg	Rate of fire:	600 rounds/min
Length:	640 mm, stock extended	Effective range:	200 metres
Barrel length:	260 cm	Sights:	Iron sights
Caliber:	9 mm Parabellum		
Feed system:	25-round box magazine		

R1 Assault Rifle

Until it was replaced by the R4, the R1 was the standard assault rifle of the SADF.

It was based on the Belgian FN FAL rifle and was produced under licence in South Africa by Lyttleton Engineering Works.

The FN FAL is one of the most widely used rifles in history, having been used by more than 90 countries. A folding-butt version of the R1 was used by paratroopers.



Weight:	4.3 kg	Rate of fire:	700 rounds/min
Length:	1,090 mm	Effective range:	200 - 600 metres
Barrel length:	533 cm	Sights:	Aperture rear sight, post front sight, sight radius
Caliber:	7.62 NATO (7.62 x 51mm)		
Feed system:	20-round box magazine		

R4 Assault Rifle



The R4 assault rifle replaced the R1 as the standard service rifle of the SADF in 1980.

It is based on the Israeli Galil ARM with several modifications. The stock and magazine are made of high-strength polymer and the

stock was lengthened.

It was produced by Lyttleton Engineering Works (now Denel Land Systems).

Weight:	4.3 kg	Rate of fire:	750 rounds/min
Length:	1,005 mm	Effective range:	300 - 500 metres
Barrel length:	460 cm	Sights:	Flip rear aperture and hooded forward post
Calibre:	5.56 x 45 mm NATO		
Feed system:	35-round box magazine		

Bren LMG

The Bren gun was a light machine gun developed in Britain in the 1930s.

It was used during World War II, the Korean War and in the Falklands War in 1982.

In the SADF each infantry section would normally include a Bren gun.

It was produced by Lyttleton Engineering Works (now Denel Land Systems).



Weight:	10.35 kg	Rate of fire:	500 rounds/min
Length:	1,156 mm	Effective range:	500 m
Barrel length:	635 cm	Sights:	Iron sights
Calibre:	7.62 x 51 mm NATO		
Feed system:	20-round box magazine		

FN MAG



The FN Mag is a Belgian GPMG (General Purpose Machine Gun).

While it uses the same calibre ammunition as the Bren, it had the advantage of being a belt-fed weapon.

Weight:	11.79 kg	Rate of fire:	650 - 1,000 rounds/min
Length:	1,263 mm	Effective range:	800 metres
Barrel length:	630 cm	Sights:	Folding leaf sight with aperture and notch, front blade
Calibre:	7.62 x 51 mm NATO		
Feed system:	Disintegrating linked belt		



FAPLA, PLAN & Cuba

Tokarev TT-33

The Tokarev was the standard service pistol for the Soviet military until it was replaced by the Makarov in 1952.

It was, however, still supplied to countries that were supported by the Soviet Union.

One of the unique features of the Tokarev was that it did not have a safety catch.



Weight:	854 grams	Rate of fire:	650 - 1,000 rounds/min
Length:	194 mm	Effective range:	50 metres
Barrel length:	116 cm	Sights:	Front blade, rear notch
Calibre:	7.62 x 25 mm		
Feed system:	8-round box magazine		

AK-47



The Avtomat Kalashnikova or AK-47 is a Russian assault rifle.

It is one of the most common and popular rifles in the world and has seen action where ever

there has been a revolution or guerilla war.

The weapon is simple to use and easy to maintain, making it perfect for guerilla armies.

Weight:	3.47 kg	Rate of fire:	600 rounds/min
Length:	880 mm	Effective range:	350 metres
Barrel length:	415 cm	Sights:	Adjustable iron sights
Calibre:	7.62 x 39 mm		
Feed system:	30-round box magazine		

AKM

The AKM or Avtomat Kalashnikova Modernizirovanniy is a modernised version of the AK-47.

The easiest way to spot the difference is that the AKM has a muzzle brake.



Weight:	3.1 kg	Rate of fire:	600 rounds/min
Length:	880 mm	Effective range:	350 metres
Barrel length:	415 cm	Sights:	Rear sight notch on sliding tangent, front post
Calibre:	7.62 x 39 mm		
Feed system:	30-round box magazine		

SKS



The SKS or Samozaryadny Karabin sistemy Simonova is a Russian semi-automatic carbine.

It was developed in 1945 and replaced by the AK-47.

Weight:	3.85 kg	Rate of fire:	30 - 40 rounds/min
Length:	1,020 mm	Effective range:	400 metres
Barrel length:	520 cm	Sights:	Hooded post front sight, tangent notch rear sight
Calibre:	7.62 x 39 mm		
Feed system:	10-round box magazine		

RPD

The RPD or Ruchnoy Pulemyot Degtyaryova is a light machine gun that was created as a replacement for the DP machine gun.

The RPD has a very distinctive sound.



Weight:	7.4 kg	Rate of fire:	650 - 750 rounds/min
Length:	1,037 mm	Effective range:	1,000 metres
Barrel length:	520 cm	Sights:	Open-type sights with rear sliding notch and semi-hooded front post,
Calibre:	7.62 x 39 mm		
Feed system:	segmented belt stored in a drum container		

AK-47 Assault Rifle



Cleaning kit

Recoil spring

Bolt carrier

Rear Sight

Front Sight

Trigger

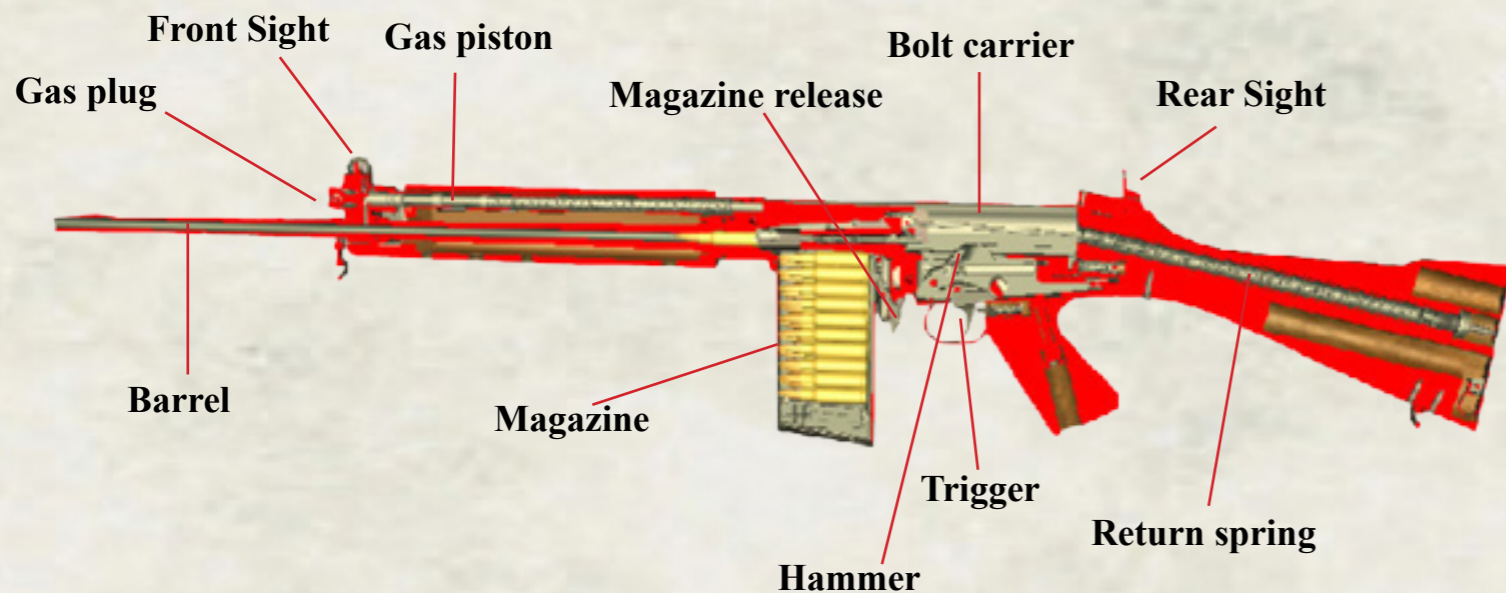
Magazine release

Cleaning rod

Magazine

Barrel

FN FAL Assault Rifle



Front Sight

Gas piston

Magazine release

Bolt carrier

Rear Sight

Barrel

Magazine

Trigger

Hammer

Return spring



RPK

The RPK or Ruchnoy Pulemyot Kalashnikova is a Russian light machine gun. It was created to replace the RPD and is still used by former Soviet Union and African and Asian nations.

Weight: 4.8 kg

Length: 1,040 mm

Barrel length: 590 cm

Calibre: 7.62 x 39 mm

Feed system: 20-, 30-, 40-round curved magazine, 75-round drum magazine

Rate of fire: 600 rounds/min

Effective range: 1,000 metres

Sights: Iron sights: semi-shrouded front post and rear sliding tangent with an adjustable notch

RPG-7

The RPG-7 or Ruchnoy Protivotankoviy Granatomyot is a portable, reusable, unguided, shoulder-launched, anti-tank rocket-propelled grenade launcher.

It is simple to use and it is the most widely used anti-armour weapon in the world. It was a major threat to SADF vehicles such as the Ratel, Buffel and Casspir.



Weight: 7 kg

Length: 950 mm

Barrel length: 590 cm

Calibre: 40 mm

Feed system: Single rocket

Effective range: 200 metres

Max firing range: 500 m, self detonates at 920 m

Sights: PGO-7 (2.7x), UP-7V Telescopic sight and 1PN51/1PN58 night vision sights Red dot reflex sight

Alvin York

Poorly educated and a violent alcoholic, Alvin York would become a devoted Christian and turn his life around. When America entered World War I, he initially claimed conscientious objector status. Drafted into the U.S. Army he would have a change of heart and go on to become the most decorated pacifist of World War I.

A devoted Christian and a pacifist, he initially claimed conscientious objector status on the grounds that his denomination forbade violence. Yet Alvin York would go on to win the Medal of Honour and become one of the most decorated United States Army soldiers of World War I.

Alvin Cullum York was born on 13 December 1887 in Pall Mall, Tennessee. He was the third oldest of 11 children.

The York family was dirt poor. The family farmed and harvested their own food, while the mother made all of the family's clothing.

Each of the boys, including Alvin, attended school for only nine months. They received no further education because William York, the father of the family, needed his sons to help him work the family farm and hunt and fish in order to feed the family.

When William York died in November 1911 at the age of 49, it was left to Alvin to help his mother raise his younger siblings.

His two elder brothers, Henry and Joseph, had already married and relocated. To supplement the family's income, York worked in railroad construction and then as a logger.

Although he was devoted to the welfare of his family, York was also a violent alcoholic. He would often be involved in bar room brawls and had been arrested on a number of occasions.

His mother was a member of a pacifist Protestant denomination and she was forever trying to get him to change his ways.

York would regularly attend church and often led the hymn singing, despite his history of drinking and fighting.

It was a revival meeting at the end of 1914 that changed his life. On 1 January 1915 he underwent a conversion experience and he became a devoted born-again Christian.

His congregation was the Church of Christ in Christian Union, a Protestant denomination that shunned secular politics.

Although the church had no specific doctrine of pacifism, York was a firm believer in the fifth commandment, "Thou shalt not kill".

With the outbreak of World War I, he was worried that at some stage America may become involved. "I was worried clean through. I didn't want to go and kill. I believed in my Bible," he said.

In June 1917 all American men between the ages of 21 and 31 years of age were required to register for the draft. York was 29 years old at the time.

When he registered for the draft, he answered the question "Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)?" by writing "Yes. Don't Want To Fight."

His request for conscientious objector status was denied and he appealed.

In World War I those with conscientious objector status were not exempt from military duties. They could still be drafted and were given assignments that did not conflict with their anti-war principles.

In November 1917, while his application was considered, York was drafted and began his army service at Camp Gordon in Georgia.

He served in Company G, 328th Infantry Regiment, 82nd Infantry Division. York was deeply troubled by the conflict between his pacifism and his training for war.

He spoke at length with his company commander, Captain Edward Courtney Bullcock Danforth, and his battalion commander, Major G. Edward Buxton.

Buxton, a devout Christian himself, cited three biblical verses for York to think about.

- "He that hath no sword, let him sell his cloak and buy one." - Luke 22:36.
- "Render unto to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are

God's." - Mark 12:17.

- "... if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight..." - John 18:36.

It caused York to reconsider the morality of his participation in the war.

He was given 10 days leave to visit home, and it was a very different Alvin York that returned.

He was now convinced that God meant for him to fight and would keep him safe. He was no as committed to his new mission as he had been to pacifism.

His Division was sent to France and in October 1918 took part in the St. Mihiel Offensive.

During an attack by his battalion to capture German positions near Hill 223 along the Decaerville rail-line north of Chatel-Chéhéry, France, on October 8, 1918, York's actions earned him the Medal of Honour.

He recalled:

The Germans got us, and they got us right smart. They just stopped us dead in our tracks. Their machine guns were up there on the heights overlooking us and well hidden, and we couldn't tell for certain where the terrible heavy fire was coming from ... And I'm telling you they were shooting straight. Our boys just went down like the long grass before the mowing machine at home. Our attack just faded out ... And there we were, lying down, about halfway across [the valley] and those German machine guns and big shells getting us hard.

With Sergeant Bernard Early in command, four non-commissioned officers, including the recently promoted Corporal York, and 13 privates were ordered to infiltrate behind the German lines and silence the machine guns.

The Germans were preparing for a counter-attack when their headquarters were overrun by Early's group and taken prisoner.

While they were dealing with the prisoners the area was hit by machine gun fire, killing six Americans and wounding three others.

The fire came from German machine guns on the ridge.

With the loss of the nine men, York found himself in charge of the remaining seven US soldiers.

York told his men to remain under cover and guard the prisoners. He then worked his way into position to silence the German machine guns. He recalled:

And those machine guns were spitting fire and cutting down the undergrowth all around me something awful. And the Germans were yelling orders. You never heard such a racket in all of your life. I didn't have time to dodge behind a tree or dive into the brush... As soon as the machine guns opened fire on me, I began to exchange shots with them. There were over thirty of them in continuous action, and all I could do was touch the Germans off just as fast as I could. I was sharp shooting... All the time I kept yelling at them to come down. I didn't



Nicknames

The military loves nicknames and slang. Here are a few questions about nicknames. See if you know the answers. Answers on page 84.

want to kill any more than I had to. But it was they or I. And I was giving them the best I had.

It must be remembered that York had spent much of his youth hunting, so he was an excellent shot.

During the assault, six German soldiers in a nearby trench rushed at York with fixed bayonets.

He had already fired all the round in his M1917 Enfield rifle. He drew his M1911 semi-automatic pistol and shot all six soldiers before they could reach him.

While York was contending with the German machine guns, German First Lieutenant Paul Jürgen Vollmer, commander of the First Battalion, 120th Landwehr Infantry, emptied his pistol trying to kill York.

After failing to hit York with even a single shot and seeing his losses mounting, Vollmer called out in English, offering to surrender his unit to York. The offer was accepted by York.

By the end of the engagement York and his seven men marched 132 German prisoners back to the American lines.

When York reported back, his brigade commander, Brigadier General Julian Robert Lindsey, remarked, "Well York, I hear you have captured the whole damn German army."

"No sir. I got only 132," was York's reply.

His actions silenced the German machine guns and were responsible for enabling the 328th Infantry to renew its attack to capture the Decauville Railroad.

York's actions had silenced or captured 35 machine guns,

killed at least 25 enemy soldiers, and taken 132 prisoners.

York was promptly promoted to Sergeant and received the Distinguished Service Cross. A few months later, an investigation by York's chain of command resulted in an upgrade of his Distinguished Service Cross to the Medal of Honour, which was presented by the commanding general of the American Expeditionary Forces, General John J. Pershing.

The French Republic awarded him the *Croix de Guerre*, the *Medaille Militaire* and the Legion of Honour.

When decorating York with the *Croix de Guerre*, Marshal Ferdinand Foch told York "What you did was the greatest thing accomplished by any soldier of all the armies of Europe."

In addition to his French medals, Italy awarded York the *Croce al Merito di Guerra* and Montenegro decorated him with its War Medal. He eventually received nearly 50 decorations.

York's Medal of Honour citation reads: *After his platoon suffered heavy casualties and 3 other noncommissioned officers had become casualties, Cpl. York assumed command. Fearlessly leading seven men, he charged with great daring a machine gun nest which was pouring deadly and incessant fire upon his platoon. In this heroic feat the machine gun nest was taken, together with 4 officers and 128 men and several guns.*

In attempting to explain his actions during the 1919 investigation that resulted in the Med-

al of Honor, York told General Lindsey "A higher power than man guided and watched over me and told me what to do." Lindsey replied "York, you are right."

When America entered World War II, York attempted to re-enlist in the army.

However at fifty-four years of age, overweight, near-diabetic, and with evidence of arthritis, he was denied enlistment as a combat soldier. Instead, he was commissioned as a major in the Army Signal Corps and he toured training camps and participated in bond drives in support of the war effort, usually paying his own travel expenses.

Although York served during the war with the rank of major in the Army Signal Corps and as a Colonel with the 7th Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard, newspapers continued to refer to him as "Sgt. York."

York died at the Veterans Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee, on 2 September 1964, of a cerebral hemorrhage. After a funeral service in his Jamestown church, with Gen. Matthew Ridgway representing President Lyndon Johnson, York was buried at the Wolf River Cemetery in Pall Mall.

He left behind his wife Grace and eight children, six sons and two daughters

Seven public buildings have been named for Alvin York, including the Alvin C. York Veterans Hospital located in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

1. What nickname was given to the M3 Stuart tank?
2. Which World War II German fighter ace had the nickname 'Dolfo'?
3. By what nickname was US Civil War General Thomas J. Jackson better known?
4. Which World War II American tank was known as the 'Ronson' by the British and the 'Tommycooker' by the Germans?
5. Who earned the nickname 'Butcher of the Somme'?
6. Which German weapon did American GI's nickname 'Screaming Mimi'?
7. What aircraft was better known as the 'Stuka'?
8. Who was known as 'Blood-n-Guts'?
9. Which American unit is nickname 'Screaming Eagles'?
10. What as the nickname given to the leading fighter ace of World War II, Erich Hartmann?
11. What was the BM-13 Katyusha better known as?
12. What was the nickname given to the America M3 sub-machine gun?
13. Which former British officer and mercenary leader was nicknamed 'Mad Mike'?
14. Which South African fighter ace was nicknamed 'Sailor'?
15. What was the nickname given to members of the South African Corps of Signals?
16. What nickname did the Russians give to Finish sniper Simo Häyhä?
17. What did the Allies call the German Stielhandgranate.
18. What was a 'Chicago Typewriter'?
19. What was the nickname given to the Royal Air Force 617 Squadron?
20. What nickname was given to the South African Valkiri 127 mm multiple rocket launcher?
21. To Allies he was known as the 'Red Baron'. But what nickname did the Germans give Manfred von Richthofen?
22. By what name were the British Home Guard known during World War II?
23. What was the nickname given to the British Parachute Regiment?
24. Who or what was a 'Noddy Car'?
25. What derogatory nickname did German General Erich von Manstein give to Adolf Hitler?



A-10 Thunderbolt II

Although it entered service back in 1976 the Fairchild Republic A-10 Thunderbolt is still regarded by many as one of the best airborne ground attack platforms. It is hard to shoot down, packs a deadly punch, and has earned its nickname 'Warthog'.

The Fairchild Republic A-10 Thunderbolt II is a single-seat, twin turbofan engine, straight wing jet aircraft developed by Fairchild-Republic for the United States Air Force (USAF).

It is commonly referred to by the nicknames "Warthog" or "Hog", although the A-10's official name comes from the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt, a World War II fighter-bomber effective at attacking ground targets.

The A-10 was designed for close air support (CAS) of friendly ground troops, attacking armoured vehicles and tanks, and providing quick-action support against enemy ground forces.

It entered service in 1976 and is the only production-built aircraft that has served in the USAF that was designed solely for CAS. Its secondary mission is to provide forward air controller – airborne support, by directing other aircraft in attacks on ground targets.

The A-10 was intended to improve on the performance of the A-1 Skyraider and its lesser firepower. The A-10 was designed around the 30 mm

GAU-8 Avenger rotary cannon. Its airframe was designed for durability, with measures such as 540 kg of titanium armour to protect the cockpit and aircraft systems, enabling it to absorb

a significant amount of damage and continue flying. Its short take off and landing capability permits operation from airstrips close to the front lines, and its simple design enables maintenance with minimal facilities.

The A-10 served in the Gulf War (Operation Desert Storm),

the American led intervention against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, where the A-10 distinguished itself. The A-10 also participated in other conflicts such as in Grenada, the Balkans, Afghanistan, Iraq, and against Islamic State in the Middle East.

The A-10A single-seat variant was the only version produced. In 2005, a program was started

to upgrade remaining A-10A aircraft to the A-10C configuration, with modern avionics for use with precision weaponry.

The U.S. Air Force had stated the F-35 would replace the A-10 as it entered service, but this remains highly contentious within the USAF and in political circles. With a variety of upgrades and wing replacements, the A-10's service life can be extended to 2040; the service has no planned retirement date as of June 2017.

Background

After World War II American aircraft design focused more on the delivery of nuclear weapons using high-speed designs like the F-101 Voodoo and F-105 Thunderchief.

During the Korean War the Douglas A-1 Skyraider took on the role of conventional ground

attack aircraft. It was also the Skyraider that would have to fulfil the same role in the Vietnam War.

While a capable aircraft for its era, with a relatively large payload and long loiter time, the propeller-driven design was also relatively slow and vulnerable to ground fire.

The U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps lost 266 A-1s in action in Vietnam, largely from small arms fire. The A-1 Skyraider also had poor firepower.

The lack of modern conventional attack capability prompted calls for a specialized attack aircraft. On 7 June 1961, Secretary of Defence McNamara ordered the USAF to develop two tactical aircraft, one for the long-range strike and interdiction role, and the other focusing on the fighter-bomber mission.

The former became the Tactical Fighter Experimental, or

TFX, which emerged as the F-111, while the second was filled by a version of the U.S. Navy's F-4 Phantom II.

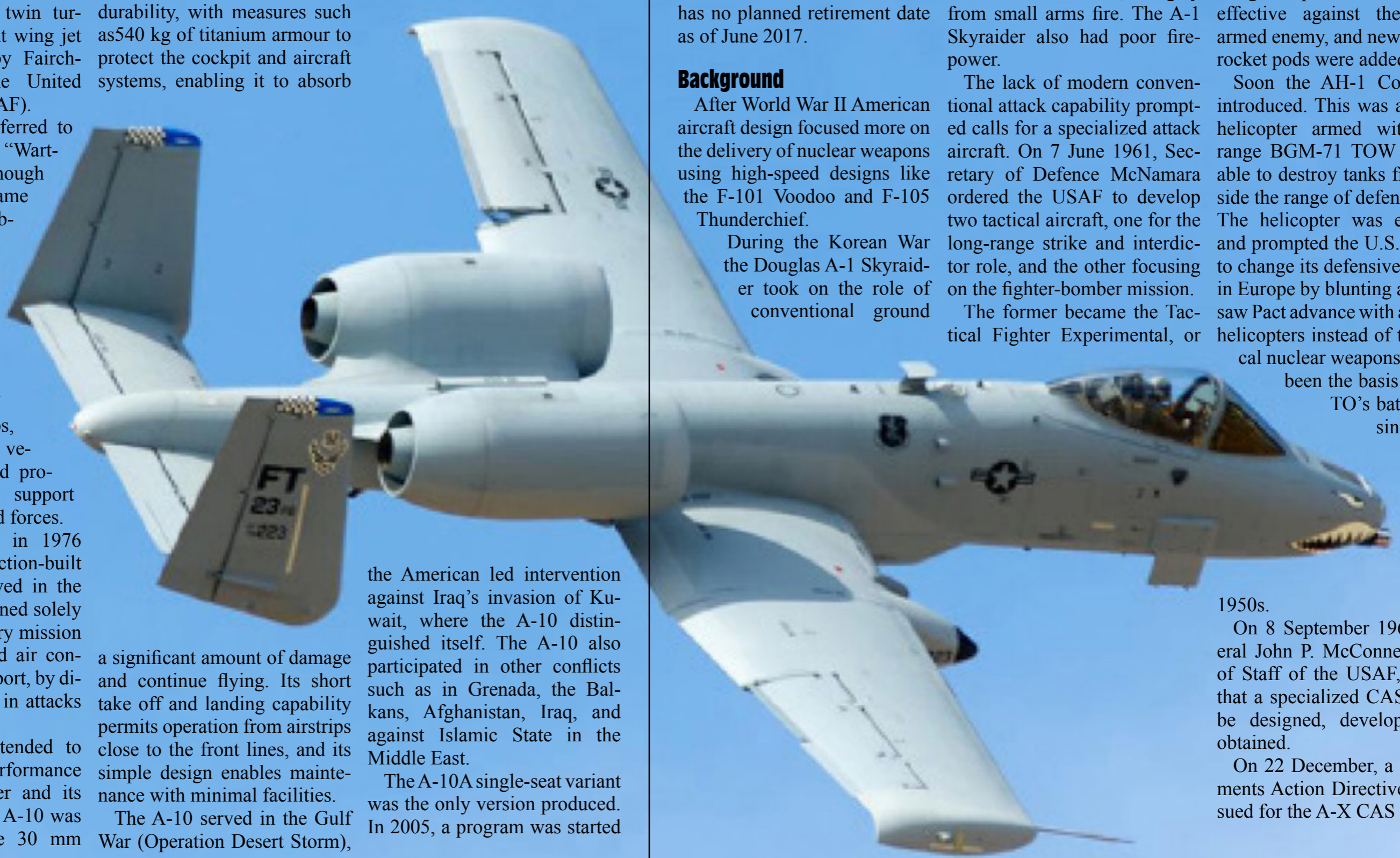
During this period, the United States Army had been introducing the UH-1 Iroquois into service. First used in its intended role as a transport, it was soon modified in the field to carry more machine guns in what became known as the helicopter gunship role. This proved effective against the lightly armed enemy, and new gun and rocket pods were added.

Soon the AH-1 Cobra was introduced. This was an attack helicopter armed with long-range BGM-71 TOW missiles able to destroy tanks from outside the range of defensive fire. The helicopter was effective, and prompted the U.S. military to change its defensive strategy in Europe by blunting any Warsaw Pact advance with anti-tank helicopters instead of the tactical nuclear weapons that had been the basis for NATO's battle plans since the

1950s.

On 8 September 1966, General John P. McConnell, Chief of Staff of the USAF, ordered that a specialized CAS aircraft be designed, developed, and obtained.

On 22 December, a Requirements Action Directive was issued for the A-X CAS airplane.



A-X Program

On 6 March 1967, the Air Force released a request for information to 21 defence contractors for the A-X. The objective was to create a design study for a low-cost attack aircraft.

The ideal aircraft should have long loiter time, low-speed manoeuvrability, massive cannon firepower, and extreme survivability. The specifications also demanded that each aircraft cost less than \$3 million (equivalent to \$20.9 million today).

In May 1970, the USAF issued a modified, more detailed request for proposals (RFP) for the aircraft. The threat of Soviet armoured forces and all-weather attack operations had become more serious.

The requirements now included that the aircraft would be designed specifically for the 30 mm rotary cannon. The RFP also specified a maximum speed of 740 km/h, take off distance of 1,200 metres, external load of 7,300 kg, 460 km mission radius, and a unit cost of US\$1.4 million (\$9.2 million today).

The A-X would be the first USAF aircraft designed exclusively for close air support. During this time, a separate RFP was released for A-X's 30 mm cannon with requirements for a high rate of fire (4,000 round per minute) and a high muzzle velocity.

Six companies submitted aircraft proposals, with Northrop and Fairchild Republic selected to build prototypes: the YA-9A and YA-10A, respectively. General Electric and Philco-Ford were selected to build and test GAU-8 cannon prototypes.



TANK KILLER: Click on the video link to see the A-10 in action.

Production and upgrades

On 10 February 1976, Deputy Secretary of Defence Bill Clements authorized full-rate production, with the first A-10 being accepted by the Air Force Tactical Air Command on 30 March 1976. Production continued and reached a peak rate of 13 aircraft per month. By 1984, 715 airplanes, including two prototypes and six development aircraft, had been delivered.

The A-10 has received many upgrades since entering service. In 1978, the A-10 received the Pave Penny laser receiver pod, which receives reflected laser radiation from laser designators to allow the aircraft to deliver laser guided munitions.

The Pave Penny pod is carried on a pylon mounted below the right side of the cockpit and has a clear view of the ground. In 1980, the A-10 began receiving an inertial navigation system.

In the early 1990s, the A-10 began to receive the Low-Altitude Safety and Targeting Enhancement (LASTE) upgrade, which provided computerized weapon-aiming equipment, an autopilot, and a ground-collision

warning system.

In 1999, aircraft began receiving Global Positioning System navigation systems and a multi-function display. The LASTE system was upgraded with an Integrated Flight & Fire Control Computer (IFFCC).

Overview

The A-10 has a cantilever low-wing monoplane wing with a wide chord. The aircraft has superior manoeuvrability at low speeds and altitude because of its large wing area, low wing aspect ratio, and large ailerons. The wing also allows short take off and landings, permitting operations from primitive forward airfields near front lines.

The aircraft can loiter for extended periods and operate under 300 metre ceilings with 2.4 km visibility. It typically flies at a relatively low speed of 560 km/h, which makes it a better platform for the ground-attack role than fast fighter-bombers, which often have difficulty targeting small, slow-moving targets.

The A-10 is designed to be refuelled, rearmed, and serviced with minimal equipment. Its simple design enables main-

tenance at forward bases with limited facilities.

An unusual feature is that many of the aircraft's parts are interchangeable between the left and right sides, including the engines, main landing gear, and vertical stabilizers.

The sturdy landing gear, low-pressure tires and large, straight wings allow operation from short rough strips even with a heavy aircraft ordnance load, allowing the aircraft to operate from damaged airbases, flying from taxiways, or even straight roadway sections.

The front landing gear is offset to the aircraft's right to allow placement of the 30 mm cannon with its firing barrel along the centreline of the aircraft.

During ground taxi, the offset front landing gear causes the A-10 to have dissimilar turning radii. Turning to the right on the ground takes less distance than turning left.

The wheels of the main landing gear partially protrude from their nacelles when retracted, making gear-up belly landings easier to control and less damaging. All landing gears retract forward; if hydraulic power is lost, a combination of gravity and aerodynamic drag can lower and lock the gear in place.

Durability

The A-10 is exceptionally tough, being able to survive direct hits from armour-piercing and high-explosive projectiles up to 23 mm.

It has double-redundant hydraulic flight systems, and a mechanical system as a backup if hydraulics are lost. Flight without hydraulic power uses

the manual reversion control system; pitch and yaw control engages automatically, roll control is pilot-selected.

In manual reversion mode, the A-10 is sufficiently controllable under favourable conditions to return to base, though control forces are greater than normal. The aircraft is designed to be able to fly with one engine, one half of the tail, one elevator, and half of a wing missing.

The cockpit and parts of the flight-control system are protected by 540 kg of titanium aircraft armour, referred to as a "bathtub". The armour has been tested to withstand strikes from 23 mm cannon fire and some strikes from 57 mm rounds.

It is made up of titanium plates with a thickness between 13 to 38 mm determined by a study of likely trajectories and deflection angles.

The armour makes up almost six percent of the aircraft's empty weight. Any interior surface of the tub directly exposed to the pilot is covered by a multi-layer nylon spall shield to protect against shell fragmentation. The front windscreen and canopy are resistant to small arms fire.

The A-10 was intended to fly from forward air bases and semi-prepared runways with high risk of foreign object damage to the engines. The unusual location of the General Electric TF34-GE-100 turbofan engines decreases ingestion risk, and allows the engines to run while the aircraft is serviced and rearmed by ground crews, reducing turn-around time. The wings are also mounted closer to the ground, simplifying ser-

vicings and rearming operations.

Weapons

Although the A-10 can carry a considerable amount of munitions, its primary built-in weapon is the 30×173 mm GAU-8/A Avenger auto-cannon. One of the most powerful aircraft cannons ever flown, it fires large depleted uranium armour-piercing shells that can literally chew tanks and armoured vehicles to pieces.

The GAU-8 is a hydraulically driven seven-barrel rotary cannon designed specifically for the anti-tank role with a high rate of fire. The cannon's original design could be switched by the pilot to 2,100 or 4,200 rounds per minute; this was later changed to a fixed rate of 3,900 rounds per minute.

The cannon takes about half a second to reach top speed, so 50 rounds are fired during the first second, 65 or 70 rounds per second thereafter.

The gun is accurate enough to place 80 percent of its shots within a 12.4 metre diameter circle from 1,220 metres while in flight.

The GAU-8 is optimized for a slant range of 1,220 metre with the A-10 in a 30-degree dive.

The fuselage of the aircraft is built around the cannon. The GAU-8/A is mounted slightly to the port side; the barrel in the firing location is on the starboard side at the 9 o'clock position so it is aligned with the aircraft's centreline.

The gun's 1.816 metre ammunition drum can hold up to 1,350 rounds of 30 mm ammunition, but generally holds 1,174 rounds.

To protect the GAU-8/A rounds from enemy fire, armour plates of differing thickness between the aircraft skin and the drum are designed to detonate incoming shells.

The AGM-65 Maverick air-to-surface missile is a commonly used munition for the A-10, targeted via electro-optical (TV-guided) or infrared. The Maverick allows target engagement at much greater ranges than the cannon, and thus less risk from anti-aircraft systems.

Other weapons include cluster bombs and Hydra rocket pods. The A-10 is equipped to carry GPS and laser-guided bombs, such as the GBU-39 Small Diameter Bomb, Paveway series bombs, JDAM, WCMD and glide bomb AGM-154 Joint Standoff Weapon.

A-10s usually fly with an ALQ-131 ECM pod under one wing and two AIM-9 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles under the other wing for self-defence.

Combat

The A-10 was used in combat for the first time during the Gulf War in 1991, destroying more than 900 Iraqi tanks, 2,000 other military vehicles and 1,200 artillery pieces.

A-10s also shot down two Iraqi helicopters with the GAU-8 cannon. The first of these was shot down by Captain Robert Swain over Kuwait on 6 February 1991 for the A-10's first air-to-air victory.

Four A-10s were shot down during the war by surface-to-air missiles. Another two battle-damaged A-10s and OA-10As returned to base and were written off. Some sustained ad-

ditional damage in crash landings.

The A-10 had a mission capable rate of 95.7 percent, flew 8,100 sorties, and launched 90 percent of the AGM-65 Maverick missiles fired in the conflict.

Shortly after the Gulf War, the Air Force abandoned the idea of replacing the A-10 with a close air support version of the F-16.

Since then the A-10 has seen combat in the Balkans, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya.

The future of the platform remains the subject of debate. In 2007, the USAF expected the A-10 to remain in service until 2028 and possibly later, when it would likely be replaced by the Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II.

However, critics have said that replacing the A-10 with the F-35 would be a "giant leap backwards" given the A-10's performance and the F-35's high costs.

In 2012, the Air Force consid-

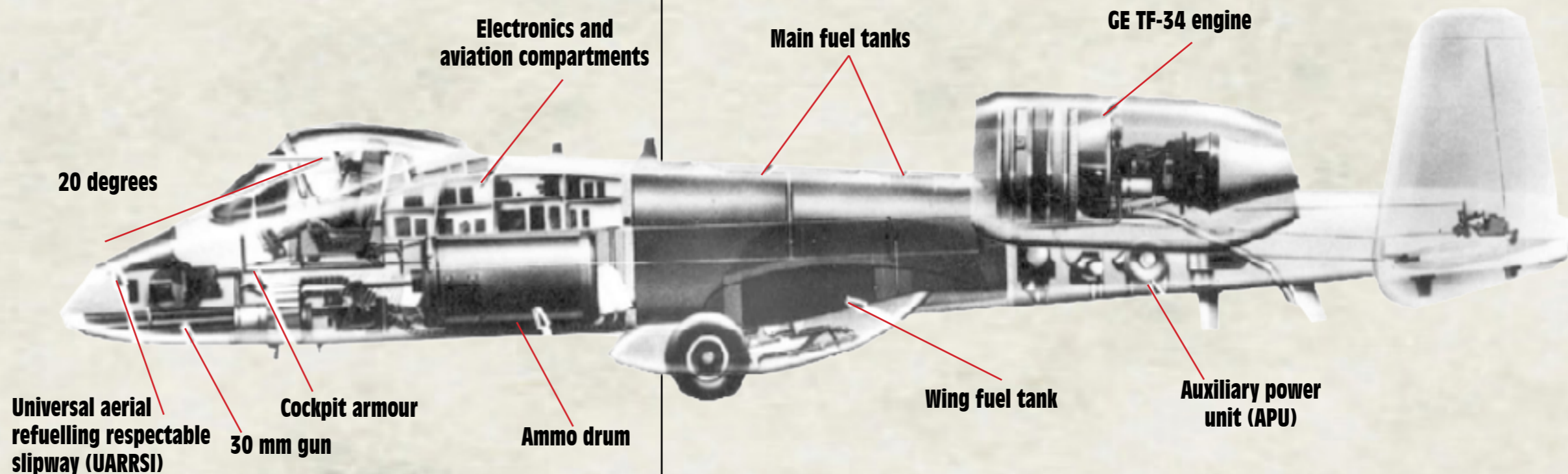
ered the F-35B STOVL variant as a replacement CAS aircraft, but concluded that the aircraft could not generate sufficient sorties.

In August 2013, Congress and the Air Force examined various proposals, including the F-35 and the MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aerial vehicle filling the A-10's role.

Proponents state that the A-10's armour and cannon are superior to aircraft such as the F-35 for ground attack, that guided munitions other planes rely upon could be jammed, and that ground commanders frequently request A-10 support.

General characteristics

- Crew: 1
- Length: 16.26 metres
- Wingspan: 17.53 metres
- Height: 4.47 metres
- Wing area: 47.0 m²
- Airfoil: NACA 6716 root, NACA 6713 tip
- Empty weight: 11,321 kg
- Loaded weight: 13,782 kg



- CAS mission: 21,361 kg
- Anti-armour mission: 19,083 kg
- Max. take off weight: 22,700 kg
- Internal fuel capacity: 4,990 kg
- Powerplant: 2 × General Electric TF34-GE-100A turbofans, 9,065 lbf (40.32 kN) each

Performance

- Never exceed speed: 833 km/h
- Maximum speed: 706 km/h
- Cruise speed: 560 km/h
- Stall speed: 220 km/h

Combat radius:

- CAS mission: 460 km at 1.88 hour loiter at 1,500 metres, 10 min combat
- Anti-armour mission: 467 km, 30 min combat
- Service ceiling: 13,700 metres
- Rate of climb: 30 m/s
- Wing loading: 482 kg/m²
- Thrust/weight: 0.36

Armament

- Guns: 1 × 30 mm GAU-8/A Avenger rotary cannon with 1,174 rounds (capacity 1,350 rounds)
- Hardpoints: 11 (8 × under-wing and 3 × under-fuselage pylon stations) with a capacity of 7,260 kg and provisions to carry combinations of:

Rockets:

- 4 × LAU-61/LAU-68 rocket pods (each with 19 × 7 × Hydra 70 mm/APKWS rockets, respectively)
- 6 × LAU-131 rocket pods (each with 7 × Hydra 70 rockets)

Missiles:

- 2 × AIM-9 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles for self-defence
- 6 × AGM-65 Maverick air-to-surface missiles

Bombs:

- Mark 80 series of unguided iron bombs or
- Mk 77 incendiary bombs or
- BLU-1, BLU-27/B, CBU-

20 Rockeye II, BL755 and CBU-52/58/71/87/89/97 cluster bombs or

- Paveway series of Laser-guided bombs or
- Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) (A-10C) or
- Wind Corrected Munitions Dispenser (A-10C)

Other:

- SUU-42A/A Flares/Infrared decoys and chaff dispenser pod or
- AN/ALQ-131 or AN/ALQ-184 ECM pods or
- Lockheed Martin Sniper XR or LITENING targeting pods (A-10C) or
- 2 × 2,300 litre Sargent Fletcher drop tanks for increased range/loitering time.

Avionics

- AN/AAS-35(V) Pave Penny laser tracker pod (mounted beneath right side of cockpit) for use with Paveway LGBs (currently the Pave Penny is no longer in use)
- Head-up display (HUD)

With the Germans retreating from Poland ahead of the Soviet advance, the Polish underground resistance, led by the Home Army, launched an operation to liberate Warsaw. What followed was one of the most tragic betrayals of the war.

Every year, at precisely 17h00 on 1 August sirens will begin to wail in Warsaw, Poland. People will stop and stand with their head bowed solemnly. Cars will stop and people will get out and stand next to the vehicle. At various places flares are set off.

After a minute people will resume whatever they were doing and get on with their lives. This is how Warsaw remembers one of the central events in its history - the Uprising of 1944.

Background

By the Summer of 1944 the tides of war were turning against the Germans. The Americans and the British had landed in Normandy, and the Red Army was rapidly advancing from the East. And the Russian were approaching Warsaw, the capital of Poland.

The Poles had been waiting for their opportunity since the Nazi's first occupied Warsaw.

On 1 August 1944 General 'Bor' Komorowski finally ordered the *Armia Krajowa* (AK), the Home Army, to rise up and claim Warsaw back from the Nazis.

The Nazis had held the city for four years. Now it was time to take it back.

At 17h00 on 1 August between 25,000 and 50,000 soldiers and civilian volunteers (including women and children) took up arms and began an assault on key strategical positions throughout the city.

Only about 10% of them were armed at the start, but they quickly helped themselves to captured German weapons.

The timing of the operation seemed perfect. The Germans were retreating and the Red Army was approaching the outskirts of Warsaw.

The Germans were taken by surprise and in the first few days the Home Army won several bloody skirmishes. The red and white of the Polish national flag flew over the Old Town.

The mood was triumphant in those areas liberated by the Home Army. Varsovians, as those

from Warsaw are known, held concerts, had poetry reading, and generally celebrated their newly earned freedom. Unbeknown to them it was to be the city's last taste of freedom for forty-four years.

Betrayal

General Komorowski knew from the outset that the Home Army had no chance of ever holding Warsaw against the Germans, and it had never been part of the plan.

All they needed to do was displace the German troops stationed in the city and hold the town for several days before the Russians arrived.

For some time the Polish service of Radio Moscow had been appealing for Warsaw to rise up.

On 25 July, the Union of Polish Patriots, in a broadcast from Moscow, stated: "The Polish Army of Polish Patriots ... calls on the thousands of brothers thirsting to fight, to smash the foe before he can recover from his defeat ... Every Polish home-stead must become a stronghold in the struggle against the invaders ... Not a moment is to be lost."

On 29 July 1944 Radio Station Kosciuszko located in Moscow emitted a few times its "Appeal to Warsaw" and called to "Fight The Germans!": "No doubt Warsaw already hears the guns of the battle which is



RESISTANCE: Female members of the Polish resistance. Many are dressed in captured German uniforms and most use captured German weapons.

soon to bring her liberation. ... The Polish Army now entering Polish territory, trained in the Soviet Union, is now joined to the People's Army to form the Corps of the Polish Armed Forces, the armed arm of our nation in its struggle for independence. Its ranks will be joined tomorrow by the sons of Warsaw. They will all together, with the Allied Army pursue the enemy westwards, wipe out the Hitlerite vermin from Polish land and strike a mortal blow at the beast of Prussian Imperialism."

While the Germans may have initially been taken by surprise, they soon reacted. When German *Reichsführer* of the SS Heinrich Himmler heard about the uprising he decreed that the whole city and its population should be destroyed as an example to the rest of Europe.

"The city must completely disappear from the surface of the earth and serve only as a transport station for the *Wehrmacht*.

No stone can remain standing. Every building must be razed to its foundation," Himmler told an SS officers conference on 17 October 1944.

The Germans brought in heavy reinforcements and the full force of their firepower: tanks, rocket launchers, and air raids were just some of the hazards the ill-equipped Poles had to contend with. The city became a giant war zone and civilians were not spared.

What was supposed to have been a coup lasting two or three days turned into a bloody and bitter struggle that lasted for 63 days.

But wait! Where was the Red Army? Why had they not come to the rescue of the doomed Poles? They were sitting on the sidelines, watching the events unfold.

Betrayal

The Red Army had reached the Vistula River. All they had

to do was cross the river, and Warsaw was theirs for the taking.

Yet when they reached the Vistula, they halted on the orders of none other than Soviet leader Joseph Stalin. They sat and watched while the Germans regained control of the city.

But what was the reason for this inaction? It was simple. Stalin hated the Poles almost as much as he hated the Germans.

Stalin considered the Poles his arch-enemy. And it all stemmed back to the Soviet-Polish War between 1919 and 1921. It was a war in which the Bolsheviks were humiliated and the Poles were able to claim all disputed territories from the Russians, including Lwow (now Lviv, in the Ukraine) and Wilno (now Vilnius, in Lithuania).

It was during the same war that Stalin was almost court-martial led for his inadequacies as a military commander.

Now that the Germans were doing such a good job of destroying his bitter enemies, Stalin certainly didn't want to stop them. Moreover, with the last of Poland's home-based soldiers and leaders destroyed, he would be free to work his will over the ruined country.

Moreover, kindly 'Uncle Joe' deliberately obstructed the rest of the Allies from dispatching aid to the insurgents - refusing even to allow the Americans and the Brits to use precious air bases that were now under Soviet control.

The Wola Massacre

The Uprising reached its peak on 4 August when the Home Army soldiers managed to es-

establish front lines in the westernmost boroughs of Wola and Ochota.

It was at this stage, however, that German reinforcements began to arrive. On the same day SS General Erich von dem Bach was appointed commander of all the forces employed against the Uprising.

As the Germans advanced, special SS, police and Wehrmacht groups went from house to house, shooting the inhabitants regardless of age or gender and burning their bodies. Estimates of civilians killed in Wola and Ochota range from 20,000 to as high as 100,000.

The main perpetrators were Oskar Dirlewanger and Bronislav Kaminski, whose forces committed the cruelest atrocities.

The actions against the civilian population were designed to crush the Poles' will to fight and put the uprising to an end without having to commit to heavy city fighting. All it did was stiffen the Pole's will to fight.

Until mid-September, the Germans shot all captured resistance fighters on the spot, but from the end of September, some of the captured Polish soldiers were treated as POWs.

Airdrops

From 4 August the Western Allies began supporting the Uprising with airdrops of munitions and other supplies.

The flights were carried out by the 1568th Polish Special Duties Flight of the Polish Air Force, No. 148 and No. 178 RAF Squadrons, and No. 31 and No. 34 Squadrons of the South African Air Force.

The Soviet Union did not al-



SEARCH AND DESTROY: A pair of German STuG III self-propelled guns operating in the suburbs of Warsaw.

low the Western Allies to use its airports for the airdrops for several weeks, so the planes had to use bases in the United Kingdom and Italy which reduced their carrying weight and number of sorties. The Allies' specific request for the use of landing strips made on 20 August was denied by Stalin on 22 August.

Stalin referred to the Polish resistance as "a handful of criminals" and stated that the Uprising was inspired by "enemies of the Soviet Union".

Thus, by denying landing rights to Allied aircraft on Soviet-controlled territory the Soviets vastly limited effectiveness of Allied assistance to the Uprising, and even fired at Allied airplanes which carried supplies from Italy and strayed into Soviet-controlled airspace.

American support was also limited. After Stalin's objections to supporting the uprising, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill telegraphed U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt on 25 August and proposed

sending planes in defiance of Stalin, to "see what happens".

American wanted Russia to declare war on Japan. Unwilling to upset Stalin before the Yalta Conference on 26 August, Roosevelt was not willing to upset Stalin in any way. And Stalin knew it.

Finally on 18 September the Soviets allowed a USAAF flight of 107 B-17 Flying Fortresses of the Eighth Air Force's 3rd Division to re-fuel and reload at Soviet airfields used in Operation Frantic, but it was too little too late.

The planes dropped 100 tons of supplies but only 20 were recovered by the resistance due to the wide area over which they were spread. The vast majority of supplies fell into German-held areas.

The inevitable end

There was no way that the Home Army could compete with the reinforced German troops.

The Polish insurgents were forced into hiding, often into

the sewers, from where they continued to orchestrate and co-ordinate attacks.

The Home Army lacked supplies of any kind. They were almost out of ammunition and food was almost non-existent. Every animal in the city had been eaten - even the vermin.

Moreover, the Germans were in control of the water and power supplies.

As the battle for the city raged on, with Varsovians dying at a rate of 2,000 a day, it became only a matter of time before the rebels were forced to capitulate. They finally did so on October 2nd, 63 days after the Uprising began.

In the two month struggle 18,000 Home Army soldiers died and 12,000 were wounded with the survivors either

sent to German POW camps or managing to go into hiding. A staggering 250,000 civilians were killed during the Uprising. Meanwhile the German suffered 10,000 fatalities with nearly as many again wounded.

The aftermath

For 63 days the people of Warsaw had struggled and suffered. Yet that was only the beginning of their suffering.

The Germans were the first to punish Warsaw and its people for daring to defend its freedom. Hitler ordered the city to be all but wiped off the face of the earth and special units were brought in to systematically detonate any building of the remotest importance to Polish culture.

The city was effectively de-

stroyed block by block, and when the Russians finally crossed the Vistula to liberate the city, they inherited only ruins.

Later, in the years directly following the War, as the Poles tried to rebuild their shattered country under Communist leadership, it was forbidden to talk of the brave soldiers of the Uprising.

The movement was denounced as illegal and every effort was made to slander those involved. Keen to behead Polish society of its heroes and intelligentsia Stalin sent many of the surviving members of the AK to Siberia for lengthy spells of hard labour, whilst he executed those whom he perceived as particularly dangerous.



WARSAW IN RUINS: After the siege had ended, Hitler gave orders for the city to be all but wiped from the face of the earth. Special units were brought in to systematically demolish any buildings of the remotest importance to Polish culture.



FIRST SERGEANT MATT O'BRIEN *has been invited for Fish & Chips. He still thinks it's a lunch invite. It stands for Fighting In Someone's House & Causing Havoc In People's Streets.*

Six Days in Fallujah is a realistic first-person tactical shooter based on true stories of Marines, Soldiers, and Iraqi civilians during the toughest urban battle since the Battle of Hue during the 1968 Tet Offensive in Vietnam.

The game is based on real events and real experiences. It deals with the Second Battle of Fallujah, codenamed *Operation al-Fajr* (Arabic: 'The Dawn') and Operation Phantom Fury, and was an American-led offensive of the Iraq War that lasted roughly six weeks.

The Second Battle of Fallujah was the bloodiest battle of the entire conflict for American troops, and is notable for being the first major engagement of the Iraq War that was fought solely against insurgents as opposed to the government military forces of the former Ba'athist Iraq.

The game's plot follows a squad of United States Marines from 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines (3/1), fighting in the Second Battle of Fallujah of the Iraq War over the span of six days in November 2004.

The game was originally going to be released by Konami in 2009. In April 2009 they announced that they would no longer be publishing the game due to the controversy sur-

rounding it. Another company, Atomic Gaming, were going to take over and release it in 2010. They, however, went bankrupt.

Then developer Highwire Games said that the game would be finally published by Victura and would be released in early 2024.

On 22 June 2023 Victura released the game on early access. This means that you can already start playing and get involved with this game as it develops.

Based on true stories from one of the world's toughest modern battles, Six Days drops you and your team into real-world scenarios that require real-life tactics to overcome.

Just like real combat, it is difficult to survive on your own in Six Days. Otherwise, it would not be realistic. Currently you can play the game in four player co-op or solo. In other words you can play on-line with three friends, or find three other players on-line. And trust me, there are plenty of players out there.

Six Days in Fallujah begins Early Access with a uniquely tactical all-human 4-player fireteam experience in which coordination and proficiency are essential. Stay tight with your team and move carefully, because these AI enemies use the same tactics against you

that made the Second Battle of Fallujah among the bloodiest in half a century.

Marines never knew what was behind the next door. In Six Days, neither do you. Each time you start a mission, buildings are re-shaped inside and out, enemies take up new positions, and different threats emerge. You'll never know what to expect - just like actual combat.

Unlike most games, AI enemies in Six Days can move anywhere on the battlefield and deploy a wide range of tactics against you. They will stalk, flank, and ambush you, coordinate attacks against you, lure you into traps, and much more. It's very difficult to survive without your team.

There are no front lines here. Enemies can attack from anywhere. To make matters worse, you're constantly moving between blindingly bright outdoors and terrifyingly dark indoors. The defender has all the advantages. And you're not the defender.

There are no linear "golden paths" in Six Days. You're free to attack challenges from any direction, indoors and outdoors. Climb to rooftops to attack buildings from the top down. Cross wooden planks between buildings. Kick down the front door or climb through a win-



dow. The decisions are yours. And so are the consequences.

Naturally I went out and obtained a copy of Six Days in Fallujah the day after it was released.

I must confess that I was a bit dubious about paying nearly 400 Bucks for a game that is still in very early release.

Another thing that had me worried was if there would be enough players that had bought into early access. After all, it's no good needing three team mates to play the game and you can't find anyone on line.

No problems there because there were plenty of players on line and it was easy to join a team.

The games currently has it's pros and cons. Let's start with the pros. First up, the graphics are excellent. The lighting is fantastic, moving from bright sunlight to dark interior of buildings.

The audio is phenomenal.

The game developers have used combat vets and Iraqi civilians to help in getting the atmosphere, sounds and sights just right.

The cons are that there is not a lot of content at the moment. You can do missions, but there are no campaigns or anything at the moment and there are a few bugs.

The again, the game is still early access and the developers do seem to listen when you make suggestions or report bugs.

During my first attempt at the game I decided to try it solo. Not a good idea. I didn't get very far before I was wiped out.

I then hooked up with three youngsters, and this was a nightmare. They ran around like headless chickens, laughing and shouting, firing off random shots on automatic, and attracting the attention of every insurgent within earshot. We also didn't last long.

Then I joined up with three more mature gamers, two of whom were former Marines. Then it became really interesting.

Six Days in Fallujah has all the potential to become a really great mil-sim. And it's worth getting it.



Publisher - Victura

Genre - Simulation

Score - 9/10

Price - R399.00 (on Steam)



Movie Review

Down Periscope

Released: 1996
Running time: 93 minutes
Directed by: David S. Ward

Down Periscope is a 1996 American military comedy submarine film directed by David S. Ward, produced by Robert Lawrence, and starring Kelsey Grammer, Lauren Holly, and Rob Schneider along with Bruce Dern, Harry Dean Stanton, William H. Macy, and Rip Torn in supporting roles.

The film focuses on Lieutenant Commander Thomas Dodge (Kelsey Grammer - *Fraser* and *Cheers*), a capable, if somewhat unorthodox U.S. Navy officer who fights to save his career after being saddled with a group of misfit seamen who have been brought together as the crew of his first command, USS Stingray, a rusty, obsolete World War II-era diesel submarine that is the focus of a special naval war game, supervised by a bitter rival (Bruce Dern) who is fighting to bury Dodge's career by any means necessary.

Lieutenant Commander Thomas Dodge, is currently the executive officer of the Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Orlando under its commanding officer Commander Carl Knox (William H. Macy), is being considered for a third time to captain a submarine.

He has been previously rejected because of his unorthodox command methods that include a "brushing" incident with a Russian submarine near

the port of Murmansk, Russia, and a genital tattoo reading "Welcome Aboard" that he acquired afterward while drunk on shore leave. If denied again, he will be dismissed from the Navy's submarine command program.

Rear Admiral Yancy Graham, who dislikes Dodge, opposes his promotion, but Vice Admiral Dean Winslow (Rip Torn), Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic, who likes Dodge and his methods, selects him to participate in a war game to test the Navy's defences against attack from diesel-powered submarines.

As Russia has been selling off their diesel fleet to America's adversaries, Winslow orders him to restore the rusty World War II-era Balao-class diesel-powered submarine USS Stingray, assigned to him by Graham, and use it to "invade" Charleston Harbour undetected, and if successful, to sink a dummy warship in Norfolk Harbor with two live torpedoes.

Though initially reluctant to participate, Dodge offers Winslow a wager: if he successfully completes both tasks, Winslow will give him a nuclear submarine to command. Winslow agrees to consider it, subtly instructing Dodge to not follow the conventional war-game rules, to "think like a pirate."

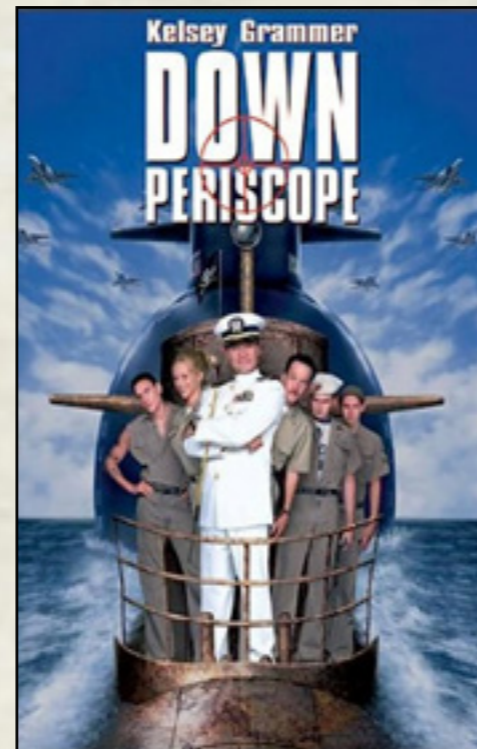
Dodge is given the crew from

hell, hand picked by Admiral Yancy. They include hot-tempered, uptight Lieutenant Martin G. Pascal (Rob Schneider) as the executive officer, Dive Officer Lieutenant Emily Lake (Lauren Holly) and other misfits.

It's not a serious movie by any standards, but I found it a decent laugh and a good way to relax for an hour and a half.

Will Dodge manage to complete his mission or will Admiral Yancy (who has never lost a war game) get the better of him? You'll just have to watch the movie to find out.

I'll give Down Periscope a thumbs up.



Click on the poster to watch a trailer of the film.

The Special Task Force

The South African Police Special Task Force is the Special Operation element of the South African Police. They are considered to be amongst the best of such Units in the world. They have a formidable reputation in Counter-Terrorism, Counter-Insurgency, and Hostage Rescue.

The Special Task Force, like their Military Special Forces counterparts, is internationally regarded as being deadly experts in the art of bush warfare.

This book is written as accurately as possible: the content coming from years of research and straight from the Operators on the ground; some of the best the Task Force has ever seen. It goes deep into the heart of the Unit, it tells of the history, the rise

and some of the most successful and daring hostage release dramas the Task Force has completed with their impeccable record and more.

In 1967, about 2,000 members of the South African Police were deployed to guard the northern border of Rhodesia (modern day Zimbabwe) to assist Rhodesian security forces in maintaining law and order in the country as guerrilla attacks became more frequent during the Rhodesian Bush War.

These police members proved to be ill-equipped and ineffective at dealing with guerrilla warfare and terrorism. As a result of these events the Security Branch of the Police began to envision a special police unit to deal with high-risk situations such as hostage

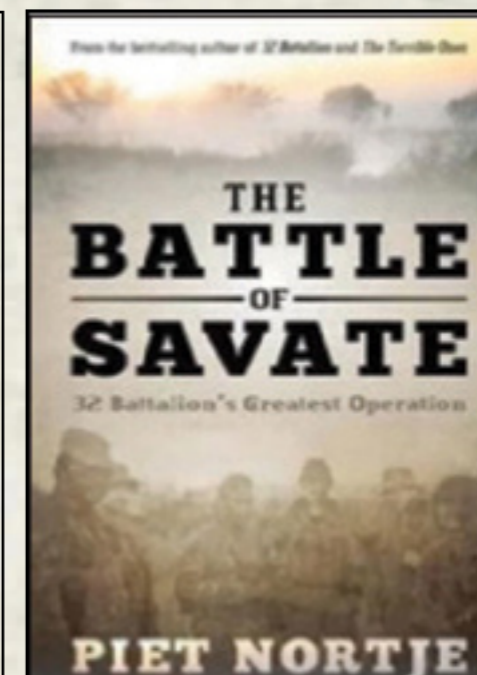


situations. The SAP Special Task Force was formed in 1976.

Paperback: 300 pages
Cost: R450
Available from 31 January



Born To Storm
R395



The Battle of Savate
R300



Surviving the Ride
R500

All books are available from [Bush War Books](#)

This month in military history

Some of the significant military events that happened in July. Highlighted in blue are the names of those members of the South African Defence Force (SADF) that lost their lives during the month of July.

1 July

- **1863** - Beginning of the Battle of Gettysburg during the American Civil War.
- **1911** - A German gunboat, *Panther*, reaches Agadir, Morocco, claiming that the French has ignored the terms of the 1906 Algeciras Conference. Thereby Germany precipitates the second Moroccan crisis, deepening divisions, which would ultimately lead to the outbreak of World War I in 1914.
- **1912** - The South African Department of Defence becomes a separate state department under Law no 13 of 1912.
- **1913** - The 12th Infantry (Pretoria Regiment) later known as the Princess Alice's Own Pretoria Regiment, but since 31 May 1961 again known as Pretoria Regiment, is formed from the Northern Mounted Rifles, part of the Central South African Railways volunteers.
- **1913** - Second Balkan War: Serbia & Greece declare war on Bulgaria.
- **1916** - Battle of the Somme begins.
- **1918** - The US 4th Marine Brigade secures Belleau Wood.
- **1940** - German troops occupy the Channel Islands.
- **1942** - World War II: North Africa. Hampered by sandstorms, General Erwin Rommel's Panzerarmee Afrika overrun an infantry brigade at Dier el Shein as his troops move towards El Alamein.
- **1942** - The Germans capture Sevastopol after a long siege.
- **1943** - The "Women's Army Auxiliary Corps" is renamed the "Women's Army Corps".
- Admiral Chuichi Nagumo, Victor of Pearl Harbour, Loser of Midway, commits suicide on Saipan at the age of 57.
- **1946** - US atomic bomb test at Bikini Atoll, the forth nuclear explosion.
- **1948** - The Berlin airlift, in which South Africa also takes part, starts. It lasted until 12 May 1949.
- **1950** - First US ground troops arrive in Korea.
- **1955** - The basic agreement about the transfer of Simonstown naval base to the Union of South Africa by the United Kingdom is concluded. The formal transfer took place at a historic ceremony on 2 April 1957.
- **1961** - British troops land in Kuwait to prevent an Iraqi invasion.
- **1968** - Britain, Soviet Union, United States and fifty-eight non-nuclear nations, includ-

ing South Africa, sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, to curb the spread of nuclear weapons.

- **1968** - Two members from Central Flying School Dunnottar were killed when their AT-6 Harvard crashed shortly after take-off after striking High Tension Cables near Dunnottar. They were: Captain Ernest Lodewicus Groenewald (27). 2nd Lieutenant Anton Fick Bosch (21).
- **1982** - 2nd Lieutenant Campbell Uys from 32 Battalion died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while he was at Buffalo Base. He was 19.
- **1983** - Sapper Andries Petrus Burger from 1 Construction Regiment was killed when he was accidentally run over by a construction vehicle. He was 19.
- **1983** - Two members from 32 Battalion were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces during Ops Dolfyn in Southern Angola. They were: Sergeant Gerrit Hendrik Du Rand (21). Rifleman Edwin Kasera (23).
- **1983** - Corporal Andries Petrus Malan from 701 Battalion SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop carrier overturned in the Operational Area. He was 19.

- **1983** - Rifleman Johannes Albertus Wessels from Regiment Christiaan Beyers died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while he was stationed at Vhembe Base. He was 18.
- **1986** - Rifleman Gavin Bazil Glinski from 7 SAI was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Ackorhoek. He was 18.
- **1989** - Lieutenant Nikolaos Sataras from Group 13 was Killed in a private motor vehicle accident at Gravelotte near Tzaneen while on official duty. He was 19.
- **1983** - Rifleman Daniel Gerhardus van Brakel from 61 Mechanised Battalion died from a gunshot wound sustained at stand-to as a result of an accidental discharge at of a fellow soldiers rifle while at Omathiya. He was 19.
- **1982** - Special Sergeant Hilalius Thomas 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 32.
- **1987** - Rifleman Augustinus Mbambo from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN Insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 19.
- **1988** - Corporal Anton Prinsloo from 203 Battalion SWATF was killed in action East of Cuito Cuanavale in South Eastern Angola. He was 21.
- **1988** - A car bomb explodes
- battle last well into the night with Rommel's limited forces holding off the British through the use of 88 mm Flak Guns used as anti-tank artillery.
- **1943** - Lt Charles Hall, 99th Pursuit Sqn, becomes the first black USAAF pilot to shoot down a Nazi plane, a Focke-Wulf 190 over Pantelleria.
- **1944** - Marshal von Kluge replaces von Rundstedt in command in France.
- **1966** - First French nuclear explosion, Mururoa atoll.
- **1976** - Gunner Cornelius Johannes Holtzhausen from 14 Field Regiment was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident, at Potchefstroom. He was 18.
- **1979** - Gunner Rolf Eduard Ortmann from 10 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment was killed when the military ambulance he was driving at high speed, overturned and caught fire in Wynberg, Cape town. He was 20.
- **1979** - Gunner Rolf Eduard Ortmann from 10 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment was killed when the military ambulance he was driving at high speed, overturned and caught fire in Wynberg, Cape town. He was 20.

2 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: the British forces occupy Utrecht after the defending burgers had to retire the previous day.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Six unarmed Boer prisoners (later called the Geyser group) are murdered by members of the Bushveld Carabineers who operated as a special British unit in the Spelonken area, not far from Louis Trichardt.
- **1926** - Congress authorizes the Distinguished Flying Cross.
- **1942** - World War II: North Africa. British Commander-in-Chief (Middle East) Claude Auchinleck, acting on information obtained by Ultra, sends troops south to outflank General Erwin Rommel's Panzerarmee Afrika but hits them head-on instead. The ensuing tank

Claude Auchinleck



at the Ellis Park Rugby Stadium. Two spectators are killed and thirty-seven injured.

3 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The British abandon Utrecht, occupied the previous day, on receiving reports of General Grobler's approach.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Lord Roberts orders Col. Baden-Powell to evacuate Rustenburg and to occupy Commando Nek and Silkaatsnek.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: A general council of war with President Steyn presiding, hears the case against Barend Cilliers, accused of the murder of Lieut. Cecil Boyle. The accused is acquitted. The court finds that Cilliers had received a direct order from General Philip Botha to shoot the prisoner. General Botha has subsequently been killed in action.
- **1940** - World War II: The British Royal Navy sinks the French fleet in North Africa.
- **1950** - First US-North Korean clash during the Korean War.
- **1954** - World War II food rationing ends in Britain.
- **1962** - The Algerian Revolution against the French ends. Algeria eventually gains independence after 132 years of French rule. Abderrahman Farès is appointed as President of the Provisional

Executive.

- **1976** - 103 hostages are rescued by an Israeli commando unit at the raid on Entebbe airport in Uganda in operation Thunderball (later re-named Operation Yoni). Seven pro-Palestinian guerrilla hijackers, twenty Ugandan soldiers and three hostages are killed in the raid.
- **1983** - Corporal Frederick Coenraad Greyling from 5 SAI was accidentally killed at Itenga Base near Opuwa in an explosion inside the Ops Room. The Platoon Commander and Signaller were both injured in the explosion and they were evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria. He was 21.
- **1983** - Lance Corporal Karoos Jonkers from the South African Cape Corps was Killed in Action when his patrol walked into a PLAN ambush in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1987** - Two members from 1 Special Service Battalion, attached to the 10th Armoured Car Regiment were Killed in Action when they walked into a "kraal", unaware that two PLAN insurgents were hiding in one of the huts. The casualties were: Trooper Joseph Johannes Cloete (18). Trooper Van Zyl Jac van Heerden (19).
- **1988** - Iran Air Flight 655 was destroyed while flying over the Persian Gulf after the U.S. Navy Warship Vincennes fired two surface-to-air missiles, killing all

290 passengers aboard. A subsequent U.S. military inquiry cited stress related human failure for the mistaken identification of the civilian Airbus as an enemy F-14 fighter jet.

- **1992** - Two members from 116 Battalion were killed near Punda Maria, in the Kruger National Park when their Mamba vehicle collided with a tree during a follow-up operation against MK Operatives that had entered the area from Mocambique. The casualties were: Lance Corporal Nicholas Bizeki (34). Rifleman Tonki Frans Kekana (18).

4 July

- **1879** - The Battle of Ulundi, decisive battle during the Zulu War, takes place with the British forces gaining the upper hand and Cetshwayo, king of the Zulus, suffers his final defeat.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Republican General C.F. Beyers captures a troop train near Naboomspruit, Transvaal, killing nine soldiers.
- **1913** - Fighting breaks out as a riotous crowd on the Johannesburg market square is confronted by police and mounted soldiers during the first miners' strike.
- **1936** - League of Nations applies sanctions on Italy for the invasion of Ethiopia.
- **1940** - World War II: East Africa. British posts at Kassala and Gallabat, on the

borders of Abyssinia (now Ethiopia), Eritrea, and Sudan, are attacked and captured by the Italian Northern Army under the command of the Duke of Acosta.

- **1942** - First American bombing mission over Nazi-occupied Europe.
- **1955** - The basic agreement about the transfer of Simonstown naval base to the Union of South Africa by the United Kingdom is concluded. The formal transfer took place at a historic ceremony on 2 April 1957.
- **1960** - The Congolese army mutinies.
- **1974** - Trooper Jan Albertus Kotze from 1 Special Service Battalion was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident in Eastern Caprivi. He was 19.
- **1979** - Rifleman Balthazer Johannes Carolus van der Walt from SWA SPES was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned near Ruacana. He was 19.
- **1979** - Rifleman Carlo Johannes Kotze from 1 SAI was critically injured in a military vehicle accident at Otjiwarongo Base on 3 July 1979. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria where he succumbed to his injuries on 4 July 1979. He was 19.
- **1981** - Rifleman Pieter Adriaan van Niekerk from 6 SAI was accidentally shot dead by own forces in Southern Angola in a friendly fire incident during Ops

Carnation. He was 20.

- **1983** - Staff Sergeant John Christian Anthony Oliver from the South African Engineer Corps was critically injured when his Samil 50 vehicle overturned at Moshesh near Rundu. He succumbed to his injuries a short while later. He was 33.
- **1984** - Sergeant Johnny Ralph Adams from the Army Catering Corps was grievously burned on 2 July 1984 when a phosphorus grenade exploded while he was playing with it in a bunker at Hurricane Base, Ruacana. He died in 1 Military Hospital on 4 Jul 1984. He was 23.
- **1986** - Two members from 1 Parachute Battalion were killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Richmond in the Cape. They were: Corporal Jacobus Nicolaas Claase (21). Rifleman Richard Alexander Knipe (20).
- **2001** - Congolese President Joseph Kabila and Ugandan

President Yoweri Museveni meet for first face-to-face peace talks in Tanzania as part of an effort to end the three-year war in Congo.

5 July

- **1830** - The French occupy the North African city of Algiers. The colonisation of Algeria was seen as a way of providing employment for veterans of the Napoleonic wars.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Commandant-General Louis Botha receives a telegram from President Kruger urging him to continue fighting.
- **1943** - The Battle of Kursk: Despite a massive German assault; the Soviets lose some ground, but halt the attack in about a week.
- **1975** - Otto Skorzeny, World War II Waffen SS *Obersturmbannführer* and the man that led the rescue mission that freed the deposed Italian dictator Benito Mus-



Otto Skorzeny

solini from captivity, dies at the age of 67.

- **1977** - Pakistan: coup by General Mohammad Zia ul-Haq.
- **1977** - Corporal Peter Noel Wiggell HC from the Technical Services Corps was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents while attached to Bravo Company Regiment Algoabaai. He was 25.
- **1977** - Sapper William Thomas Wiggell from 2 Field Engineer Regiment was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Bethlehem. He was 20.
- **1980** - Rifleman J. Dingombo from 31 Battalion (210 Battalion) SWATF was accidentally killed when he fell from a horse and broke his neck. He was 23.
- **1981** - Rifleman Aubrey Leonard Neveling from 6 SAI was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 18.
- **1982** - Corporal Andre van der Walt from 4 Vehicle Reserve Park was killed in a private motor vehicle accident approximately 20km from Bloemfontein on the Winburg - Bloemfontein road. He was 21.
- **1985** - Airman Benjamin Arthur Nell from the South African Air Force was accidentally shot dead at his Guard Post at Eros Airport, Windhoek as a result of an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 18.

6 July

- **1865** - The Pretoria Rifle Corps is founded under Stephanus Schoeman as a volunteer corps to defend Pretoria and surroundings. The local police force was instituted at a later date.
- **1916** - Second-Lieutenant William Nimmo Brown of the 1st SA Infantry is killed in the Battle of the Somme and becomes the first South African officer killed in France during World War I.
- **1917** - Arab horsemen led by British officer T.E. Lawrence also known as Lawrence of Arabia capture the heavily garrisoned Turkish fort at Aqaba.
- **1942** - German troops capture Voronez, USSR.
- **1945** - Movement to the US of captured German scientists and equipment begins.
- **1967** - The Biafran War erupts as Nigerian forces invade the Republic of Biafra. The war claimed some 600,000 lives. About one million died of starvation.
- **1976** - Women are admitted to the U.S. Naval Academy for the first time.
- **1980** - Rifleman Francis Mukweli from 33 Battalion SWATF was killed in a Military Vehicle accident in the Caprivi Strip. He was 37.
- **1982** - Five members from 201 Battalion SWATF were Killed when their Buffel Troop carrier overturned on the White Road between Bagani and Rundu, just east of Mashari. They were: Cor-

poral Frans Adonio (31). Rifleman Kafuru Bango (29). Rifleman Pedro Kadamba (30). Rifleman Petrus Kapango (28). Rifleman Oscar Nando (23).

- **1983** - Rifleman B. Ngarukua from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in an accidental Hand Grenade Explosion in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.

7 July

- **1798** - Napoleon Bonaparte's army begins its march towards Cairo from Alexandria, Napoleon's desert nemesis.
- **1944** - RAF drops 2,572 tons on Caen, to support ground attack.
- **1944** - Saipan: Japanese troops make a final "banzai" charge.
- **1944** - U.S. B-29s from China attack Japan.
- **1944** - US troops capture Rosignano, NW of Rome.
- **1948** - First women sworn into the US Naval Reserve.
- **1960** - USSR shoots down a US aircraft over the Barents Sea.
- **1960** - Belgium sends troops to the newly independent Congo.
- **1966** - Vietnam: Marines initiate "Operation Hasting" - to clear NVA from the DMZ.
- **1976** - Rifleman Leon Hendrik Delpont from the Durban Regiment was accidentally shot dead at the Oshivelo shooting range when he took up a position behind one of the targets

during a fire and movement drill. He was 23.

- **1980** - Rifleman Johannes Jacobus Joubert from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed when he accidentally fell off the rear of a moving military vehicle. He was 23.
- **1981** - Private Wayne Ivor Purdon from the Jozini Military Base was killed in a military vehicle accident between Magudu and Candover. He was 18.
- **1983** - Lance Corporal Alexander John Tucker from 1 Parachute Battalion was Killed in Action when his Patrol was ambushed by combined FAPLA/Cuban force while operating in an area North of Xangongo, approximately 32km from Cahama, He was 19.
- **1983** - Rifleman V. Kamundiro from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 19.
- **1990** - An illegal demonstration in Kenya becomes known as the "Saba Saba" (Seven Seven - the date in Swahili). The government sends in police and military, killing at least twenty and arresting several hundreds, including politicians, human rights activists and journalists.

8 July

- **1943** - During the Nazi occupation of France, Resistance leader Jean Moulin died following his arrest and

subsequent torture by the Gestapo.

- **1944** - British troops capture Caen, a month behind schedule.
- **1950** - General Douglas MacArthur is named commander-in-chief of United Nations (UN) forces in Korea, including more than 800 South Africans.
- **1960** - The newly independent Republic of Congo's army mutinies against Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba's government. Europeans are reported to be fleeing the country. Belgium sends troops to Congo Republic. Patrice Lumumba appeals to the UN for military assistance.
- **1979** - Lance Corporal Gerhardus Johannes Jordaan (SAAF) from 2 Satellite Radar Station, Ellisras died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained. He was 18.
- **1980** - Corporal Pierre Babin from 1 Construction Regiment was accidentally killed while towing a broken down military vehicle when he lost control of his vehicle, causing it to overturn between Omega and Chetto. He was 24.

- **1981** - Rifleman T. Tjakuva from 102 Battalion SWATF died from Malaria contracted while serving in the Operational Area. He was 27.
- **1982** - Rifleman Vegkurid Kavari from 102 Battalion SWATF was killed when the Buffel Troop carrier in which he was travelling, overturned at Opuwa. He was 24.
- **1982** - Two members from 201 Battalion SWATF were Killed when the Buffel Troop carrier in which they were travelling, overturned. The casualties were: Rifleman T.A.S. Mesongo (27). Rifleman Joas Masonga (29).
- **1987** - Angolan news agency Angop reports that South African troops, backed by planes, tanks and artillery, used chemical weapons in attacks inside Angola. The SA Defence Force says the allegations are an attempt to minimise setbacks incurred



T.E. Lawrence

by Unita victories in the area.

- **1988** - Rifleman Leon Volschenk was critically wounded in the stomach on 30 June 1988 after being accidentally shot by an LMG during a live fire and movement exercise at Oshivello. He was evacuated to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria where he succumbed to his wounds on 8 July 1988. He was 20.

9 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Lieutenant General Hunter and Brigadier-General Sir Hector A. MacDonald arrive at Bethlehem, OFS. Hunter takes over command of all the British forces in the north-eastern Free State.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: 'Long Cecil', the gun designed and manufactured by G.F. Labram and used by the British during the siege, is taken from Kimberley by train to be exhibited during the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, later King George V and Queen Mary.
- **1915** - World War I: Dr Theodore Seitz, governor of German South West Africa, surrenders at the farm Khorab, between Otavi and Tsumeb, to General Louis Botha.
- **1934** - Reichsführer-SS Himmler takes command of German Concentration Camps.

- **1940** - RAF bombs Germany.
- **1941** - The British break Germany's air-ground ops code used on the Russian Front.
- **1944** - US secures Saipan: 3,200 US, 27,000 Japanese KIA, & many civilian suicides.
- **1979** - Rifleman Stephanus Petrus Janse van Vuuren from SWA SPES (SWATF) was Killed in Action when his horse detonated a landmine while on patrol along the pipeline North of Etale. He was 18.
- **1980** - Rifleman H. Muhenje from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 26.
- **1985** - Corporal Pieter Apollis from the South African Cape Corps attached to 53 Battalion was killed after suffering a fatal gunshot wound as a result of an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 24.
- **1985** - Chad and Zaire sign an agreement on military co-operation.
- **1988** - Corporal M. Kavetu from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action when he triggered a Soviet POMZ-2 Anti-Personnel Picket Mine while on patrol. He was 27. Corporal Kavetu was the last 102 Battalion Bush War Operational Casualty.

10 July

- **1899** - Second Anglo-Boer

War: Queensland, Australia, offers military aid to Britain.

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: In a letter to Lord Roberts, Chief Commandant de Wet protests against the indiscriminate destruction of private property by British troops.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Colonel Lawson reports that the De Beer and Van Rooyen's commando, raiding the upper Tugela from the Free State, includes thirty armed Basotho and twenty other armed Blacks.
- **1913** - Second Balkan War: Romania declares war on Bulgaria.
- **1943** - The Allied invasion of Italy began with an attack on the island of Sicily. The British entry into Syracuse was the first Allied success in Europe. General Dwight D. Eisenhower labelled the invasion "the first page in the liberation of the European Continent."
- **1953** - American troops abandon Pork Chop Hill, Korea.
- **1960** - Belgium sends troops to Congo.
- **1978** - A military coup takes place in Mauritania.
- **1980** - Corporal Clive Roland Hardenberg from 4 Reconnaissance Regiment accidentally drowned during a training exercise at Salamander Bay, Langebaan. He was 20.
- **1981** - Rifleman Lionel van Rooyen from 1 South African Infantry attached

61 Mechanised Battalion Group died from multiple shrapnel wounds accidentally sustained when a 120mm mortar round exploded prematurely during a live fire training exercise between Tsintsabis and Omuthiya, prior to the launch of Ops Protea. He was 19.

- **1982** - Two members from 42 Squadron were flying over an Army column near Ondangwa in their Atlas AM3C Bosbok when the pilot decided to execute an unauthorised stall turn at low level for the benefit of the troops on the ground. The aircraft failed to recover and crashed nearby, killing both crew members on board. The casualties were: Lieutenant Otto Carel Janse van Rensburg (24). Candidate Officer Anton Geno Roux (20).
- **1985** - Corporal A.L. Tefo from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was killed instantly after being struck by lightning during a thunderstorm while on operations in Southern Angola. He was 24.
- **1985** - Four British men are jailed for conspiring to smuggle military components into South Africa.
- **1986** - Rifleman R Tjiposa from 102 Battalion SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
- **1986** - Special Constable Tjiposa Virero from the

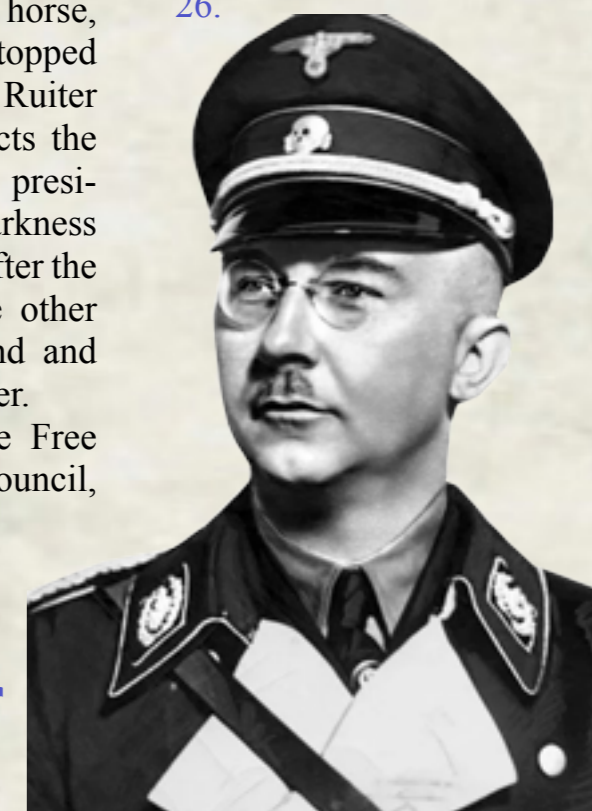
South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 29.

11 July

- **1882** - The British fleet bombards Alexandria, Egypt.
- **1899** - The Battle of Silkaatsnek, west of Pretoria, starts with General De la Rey launching a three-pronged attack on the British forces. The British, under Colonel Roberts, surrenders the next morning.
- **1901** - With dawn approaching, General Broadwood surprises the Free State force, accompanied by President Steyn, in Reitz. Pres. Steyn's Griqua groom, Jan Ruiter, wakes the President, borrows a saddle and helps the president to mount and, mounting another horse, gallops away. When stopped by a British soldier, Ruiter dismounts and distracts the soldier, allowing the president to escape into darkness without hat or coat. After the battle Ruiter and the other Blacks are left behind and he rejoins his employer.
- **1901** - The complete Free State Executive Council,

except the president who escaped with the help of Ruiter, 29 persons, is captured in Reitz by General Broadwood and sent to Heilbron as prisoners.

- **1915** - The German cruiser 'Konigsberg' is scuttled near Dar-es-Salam, Tanganyika.
- **1942** - Japanese GHQ acknowledges the results of the Battle of Midway.
- **1979** - Rifleman Peter Wayne Bowry Atherton from 11 Commando Regiment died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained at Jan Kemp Dorp as a result of an accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 17.
- **1982** - Rifleman Munehemba Muharukua from 102 Battalion SWATF was killed when the Buffel Troop Carrier in which he was a passenger, overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 26.



Heinrich Himmler

- **1985** - Sapper Kenneth Claude Cole from 2 Field Engineer Regiment died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained as a result of the accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was standing guard duty at 2 Field Engineer Regiment in Bethlehem at the time of the incident. He was 19.
- **1985** - Special Constable U. Ngombe from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 27.
- **1986** - Rifleman L. Sivanda from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents. He was 22.
- **1989** - WO I Johannes Petrus Coetzee from 16 Maintenance Unit was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident 10km from the Mangetti Dunes. He was 50.
- **1990** - Private Iain Bruce Robertson from the Technical Service Corps was critically injured when the Ratel in which he was travelling, overturned on the road in front of Special Forces Head Quarters in Pretoria. He succumbed to his injuries a short while later. He was 27.

12 July

- **1899** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Lord Brassey of Victoria, Australia, offers Britain volunteers for service in

- South Africa.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: A court martial at Fouriesburg confirms Boer ex-Commandant S.G. Viljoen's sentence of five years hard labour for treason.
- **1902** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Lord Kitchener receives a hero's welcome in London on his return.
- **1941** - First Luftwaffe air raid on Moscow.
- **1943** - During World War II, in the Battle of Kursk, the largest tank battle in history took place outside the small village of Prohorovka, Russia. About nine hundred Russian tanks attacked an equal number of German tanks fighting at close range. When Hitler ordered a cease-fire, 300 German tanks remained strewn over the battlefield.
- **1944** - Theresienstadt Concentration Camp disbanded, with 4,000 people gassed.
- **1984** - A car bomb explodes in Durban, killing five and injuring twenty-seven people.
- **1973** - Rifleman Abraham Frederik Greeff from 3 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident at Rundu. He was 18.
- **1979** - Lance Corporal J.L. Samutiki from 33 Battalion SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop carrier overturned in the Operational Area. He was 27.
- **1980** - Rifleman T. Josef from 35 Battalion SWATF died from a gunshot wound

- accidentally sustained in the Operational Area. He was 24.
- **1982** - Rifleman Katopora Tjiharukua from 102 Battalion SWATF was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned near Opuwa. He was 25.
- **1983** - Lieutenant Bruce Charles Chinery from 40 Squadron was killed when his Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I suffered engine failure shortly after take-off from Air Force Base Waterkloof. He was 22.
- **1994** - Germany's Constitutional Court ended the ban on sending German troops to fight outside the country. The ban had been in effect since the end of World War II. The ruling allowed German troops to join in United Nations and NATO peace-keeping missions.

13 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: At a council of war, Chief Commandant De Wet explains the shortcomings of the Republican concentration in the Brandwater Basin and the importance of moving out before they are bottled up.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: J.P. Coetzee, Cape rebel, is executed by the British and all male adults are ordered to attend.
- **1936** - 15,000 World War I veterans from all nations swear an "Oath of Peace" and observe a minute of si-

- lence at the Ossuary at Ft. Douaumont, Verdun.
- **1966** - Candidate Officer Christo Cornelius Johannes Joubert from Air Operations School Langebaanweg was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed near Velddrif during a routine training exercise. He was 19.
- **1971** - Firing squads in Morocco execute ten army officers accused of trying to overthrow King Hassan.
- **1982** - Rifleman Jean Louis Moerdyk from SWA SPES (SWATF) was killed in a military vehicle accident at Bagani. He was 20.
- **1982** - Rifleman Karetu Muhenje from 102 Battalion SWATF was critically wounded on 12 July 1982 during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He succumbed to his injuries at 05h00 the following morning. He was 26.
- **1998** - Unita again occupies two towns in Angola and hundreds of inhabitants flee.

14 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The Free State government is to dispense with the idea of a capital, and they become a government 'in the field'.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British General French drives Scheepers out of the Camdeboo Mountains and Major Moore, with a detachment of Connaught Rangers, defeats the Boers under

- Myburgh at Zuurvlaakte and captures his laager.
- **1942** - Japanese Admiral Yamamoto creates the Eighth Fleet for operations in the South Pacific.
- **1972** - Vietnam: Jane Fonda makes first of 10 broadcasts on Radio Hanoi.
- **1976** - Two members from 11 Squadron and two ground crew personnel from 19 Squadron were killed when an 11 Squadron Cessna 185A crashed at the Umtali River Mouth. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant Mario Almeroe Janse van Rensburg (21). Corporal Charles Lloyd van der Merwe (23). Private Izak Jacob Joubert Geysler (18). Private Gerhard Nicholaas van Rooyen (19).
- **1982** - Three crew and five passengers of a SAAF 21 Squadron Swearingen Merlin 4A and four members of a civilian Piper Navajo were killed when the aircraft were involved in a mid-air collision at night over the residential area of Swartkops. The SADF casualties were: Captain Jan

- Izak Tobias de Villiers (25). Lieutenant Leon Goldstein (21). Flight Sergeant (Miss) (Air Hostess) Annerie Niemand (23). Major General Dirk Johannes van Niekerk (53). Major General Jacobus Marthinus Crafford (48). Colonel Johan Adam Coetzer (48).
- **1992** - President de Klerk announces the future disbandment of two security force units, the 31 and 32 battalions, and the dissolution of the controversial police unit, Koevoet.
- **1993** - Somali militiamen fire on UN headquarters in a new wave of assaults hours after Somali militants distribute leaflets calling for revenge attacks on American soldiers.
- **1995** - South Africa and Russia sign a military cooperation agreement.



Isoroku Yamamoto

15 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Chief Commandant De Wet, Pres. Steyn and members of the Free State government break out of the Brandwater Basin through Slabbert's Nek, with about 2,000 men, 400 vehicles and five field-guns. Their column passes within three km of Paget's (British) camp at Sebastopol, OFS.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Dr K. Franks, camp doctor at the Mafeking concentration camp reports that the camp is "overwhelmed" by 1,270 women and children brought in after sweeps on the western ZAR. Lack of facilities adds to the hardships encountered by the new arrivals.
- **1916** - World War I: The Battle of Delville Wood, the bloodiest battle ever fought by South Africans, starts. It lasted till 20 July. Of the 121 SA officers and 2,032 soldiers, only 750 soldiers survived.
- **1918** - World War I: During the Battle of the Marne in World War I, German General Erich Ludendorff launched Germany's fifth, and last, offensive to break through the Chateau-Thierry salient.
- **1937** - Buchenwald Concentration Camp opens.
- **1944** - Britain's Greenwich Observatory is damaged by a German V-1 flying bomb.
- **1948** - US World War I General of the Armies John J

Pershing, dies at the age of 87.

- **1960** - UN troops arrive to help deal with the political crisis following Moïse Kapependa Tshombe's declaration of independence for Katanga province on 11 July. Meanwhile the province of South Kasai also declares independence, calling itself the Federal State of South Kasai, with Joseph Ngalula as head of parliament.
- **1981** - Rifleman Ettienné Zwanepoel from 1 SAI was accidentally shot dead during a training exercise at the Wepener Training Area. He was 18.
- **1982** - Special Constable Vusi Tsiposa from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops K (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 27.
- **1984** - Three members from the Special Forces Headquarters Unit were killed when their Unimog Troop Carrier overturned near M'pacha. The casualties were: Rifleman Christoffel Booysen (21). Rifleman Marthinus Hendrik Grobler (20). Sapper Nicolaas Jacobus Gerhardus Helberg (17).
- **2000** - In a rare display of force, UN troops launch a rescue mission that frees all 222 peacekeepers and eleven military observers trapped by rebels inside a UN base in eastern Sierra Leone.

16 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Lord Methuen reoccupies Rustenburg. This is the third British occupation of the town.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Three commandos under the newly appointed Combat General Viljoen, attack about 4,650 British soldiers with twenty field guns and four to five machine guns under General Hutton at Tierpoort, Rietvlei and Olifantsfontein, ZAR. The burghers are supported by three field guns and two pom-poms, but they have to charge over open ground. Commandant-General Botha, who observes the Republican charge from a vantage point, later says he has never seen a braver and more determined attack. The heaviest resistance comes from the New Zealanders and Irish Fusiliers.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The British Colonial Office appoints a Ladies Commission to investigate the concentration camps in SA. The commission, whose members are reputed to be impartial, includes Mrs Millicent G. Fawcett who recently criticised Emily Hobhouse and Dr. Jane Watson, daughter of a British general, who recently wrote against "the hysterical whining going on in England" while "we feed and pamper people who had not even the grace to say thank you for

the care bestowed on them".

- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: In the Free State, Lieutenant-General E.L. Elliot's drive ends. At the cost of only three British casualties, the drive has resulted in three burghers killed and wounded, sixty-one prisoners, 7,000 horses, 7,000 cattle, 6,000 rounds of ammunition and 300 vehicles captured.
- **1916** - World War I: The South African brigade is called to capture Delville Wood in France in a fierce two-day battle.
- **1940** - Hitler orders preparations for "Operation Sea Lion".
- **1944** - With the aid of the Polish Resistance, the Soviets capture Vilna, Lithuania, from the Germans.
- **1945** - The experimental Atomic bomb "Fat Boy" was set off at 05h30. in the desert of New Mexico desert, creating a mushroom cloud rising 12,497 metres. The bomb emitted heat three times the temperature of the interior of the sun and wiped out all plant and animal life within 1,6 kilometres.
- **1946** - A US court sentences 46 SS-men to death for the Malmedy massacre.
- **1960** - Albert Kesselring, German airman and field marshal, dies at the age of 74.
- **1977** - Soviet advisers are expelled from the Republic of Somali by orders of the president, Muhammad Si-

yad Barre.

- **1977** - Rifleman Christiaan Michael Albert Tesnar from the Lydenburg Commando was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents near Ruacana. He was 24.
- **1981** - Rifleman G. Ruhuzo from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents. He was 26.
- **1984** - Private Gabriel Johannes Jacobus Frederik Crouse from 72 Motorised Brigade was killed in a military vehicle accident in Alberton. He was 19.
- **1984** - Rifleman Daniel Adonis Douwrie from the South African Cape Corps was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion in Northern Owamboland. He

was 25.

- **1986** - Flight Sergeant Edward Michael Bloem from 31 Squadron was Killed in Action when his Alouette III Helicopter collided with a radio mast stay-wire at Okankolo in Northern Owamboland during late afternoon counter-insurgency operations in the area. He was 39.
- **1993** - Staff Sergeant Richard Ebanhaezer Gericke from 31 Battalion SWATF was killed in a motor vehicle accident between Schmidtsdrift and Kimberley. He was 27.
- **2006** - The first of South Africa's fleet of Gripen aircraft ordered to re-equip the SA National Defence Force is transported by road to Ysterplaat Air Force Base from Cape Town Harbour.
- **2006** - Maluleke George, the deputy defence minister, attends the 90th commemoration of the Battle of Delville Wood in France. During the ceremony, a new South African coat of arms is unveiled at the South African memo-



Albert Kesselring

rial on the site. The names of Black members of the South African Labour Corps who died at Arques-la-Bataille and those who perished on board the SAS Mendi are also unveiled at the museum.

17 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Lieutenant-Colonel M.O. Little, commanding the 3rd Cavalry Brigade of 738 mounted men, is ordered in the direction of Lindley to join the hunt for De Wet.
- **1917** - World War I: King George V orders the British royal family to dispense with German titles and surnames. Saxe-Coburg becomes Windsor and Battenburg becomes Mountbatten.
- **1943** - RAF bombs German rocket research base at Penemunde, on the Baltic.
- **1944** - Having helped the Russians to liberate Vilna from the Germans, the leaders of the Polish resistance "Army Krajowa" are arrested by Stalin.
- **1945** - US Third Fleet undertakes surface and air attacks on targets near Tokyo.
- **1975** - Captain Geoffrey Dennis Law from 40 Squadron was killed instantly during a weapons demonstration exercise at Bloemfontein when the complete main plane of his AT-6 Harvard separated in flight while the aircraft was diving onto the target. He was 29.
- **1976** - Rifleman Andries Jo-

hannes Blaauw from 2 Parachute Battalion was Killed in Action after he and his twin brother Pieter, had a brief contact with a group of SWAPO/PLAN insurgents while on patrol.

- **1981** - Private David Gordon Munro from Sector 70 Headquarters died in 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria from Malaria contracted while serving in the Operational Area. He was 18.
- **1986** - Trooper Willem Jan Pienaar from the School of Armour died in the Universitas Hospital in Bloemfontein after being critically injured in a military vehicle accident in Bloemfontein. He was 18.

18 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: In the first drive in the Cape Colony, the British under overall command of General French are deployed along the Beaufort West Graaff-Reinet line and march north.
- **1914** - The British Royal Navy extends an invitation to the German Imperial Navy to take part in a fleet week in August
- **1935** - Ethiopian King Haile Selassie urges his countrymen to fight to the last man against the invading Italian army.
- **1936** - The Spanish Civil War begins in the early morning hours with a revolt at Melilla in Spanish Morocco.

- **1942** - Maiden flight of the Messerschmitt Me 262, the first operational jet fighter.
- **1944** - US troops capture St. Lo, Normandy.
- **1963** - Candidate Officer Matthys Marthinus Hattingh from Air Operations School at Langebaanweg was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed into a mountain-side near Porterville in bad weather. He was 19.
- **1972** - Egypt demands the Soviet Union remove its 20,000 advisers from the country, accusing it of failing to supply promised arms.
- **1973** - Rifleman Keith Hahn from 1 SAI was killed when the Bedford vehicle in which he was travelling as a passenger, overturned at Kandelaars River Station. He was 18.
- **1980** - Lance Corporal Nicolaas Jacobus van der Merwe from 1 Special Service Battalion was Killed in Action while on patrol 10km from Ondangwa.
- **1981** - Rifleman James Findlay-Marshall from the Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident on the National road between De Rust and Uniondale while on weekend pass. He was 18.
- **1982** - Rifleman Frisiano Dala from 201 Battalion SWATF died in 1 Military Hospital from injuries received in a Military Vehicle Accident at Rundu on 06 July 1982. He was 24.
- **1983** - Rifleman Jan Harm

Kruger from 1 Parachute Battalion died after suffering severe brain injuries in a non-military related accident. He was 23.

- **1985** - Rifleman George Mike Thompson from the Army Catering Corps was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Oshakati. He was 22.
- **1988** - Angola, Cuba, and South Africa, after talks in New York from 11-13 July under US mediation, announce that they have reached tentative agreement on a document containing principles for a settlement in south-western Africa.
- **2005** - General William Westmoreland, Commander of the US forces in Vietnam, between 1964-1968, dies at the age of 91.

19 July

- **1863** - During the American Civil War, Union troops made a second attempt to capture Fort Wagner near Charleston, South Carolina. The attack was led by the 54th Massachusetts Coloured Infantry, commanded by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, who was killed along with half of the 600 men in the regiment. This battle marked the first use of black Union troops in the war.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Lord Kitchener writes in a letter concerning the Ladies' Commission sent out to investigate into conditions in the concentration

camps: "... I doubt there being much for them to do here as the camps are very well looked after. Kendal Franks was quite astonished at the excellence of some of the camps ...".

- **1918** - German armies retreat across the Marne.
- **1941** - Winston Churchill flashes "V for Victory" for the first time.
- **1942** - German occupiers confiscate bicycles in the Netherlands.
- **1991** - In a report published in the New Nation, a former South African army sergeant, Mr. Felix Ndimene, alleges that members of the Five Reconnaissance Regiment, which is part of South Africa's special forces, carried out an attack on a Soweto-bound train in September 1990. Twenty-six persons died in that attack.

- **1997** - Charles Taylor, a rebel leader with a reputation for brutality, wins Liberia's first peaceful presidential election following a seven-year civil war.

20 July

- **1871** - Queen Victoria abolishes the practice of purchasing commissions in the British Army.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Boer General C.J. Spruyt is killed in action while attempting to cross the railway line between Val Station and Vlaklaagte on his way to invade Natal.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: At Paardekop, in the Gatsrand, near Vereeniging, General J.C. Smuts and a small party are surprised in their sleep. His Black orderly, Kleinbooi, is shot and

William Westmoreland



killed but General Smuts manages to get away by shouting orders in English and stealing away on bare feet. He later retrieves all the documents he has had to leave behind in the dark.

- **1916** - World War I: Only three SA officers and 140 men march out of Delville Wood. Six days earlier, on moving in, the strength of the brigade was 3,433. In 1920 the SA government bought the wood and erected a monument.
- **1922** - The League of Nations agrees to award former German colonies as mandates.
- **1944** - US Marines land on Guam.
- **1944** - A plot by senior army officers to assassinate Adolf Hitler fails.
- **1949** - Israel's 19 month war of independence ends.
- **1954** - An agreement was signed in Geneva, Switzerland, ending hostilities between French forces in Vietnam and the People's Army of Vietnam.
- **1976** - Last US troops leave Thailand.
- **1982** - Corporal Michael Daniel Otto from 912 Battalion SWATF was killed when his SAMIL 20 vehicle overturned at Okahandja.
- **1983** - Rifleman James Tjuima a SWATF basic trainee, died in hospital from complications after contracting Pneumonia while undergoing basic training. He was 19.

- **1983** - 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 Constable Frans Hamutewa (27). Special Constable Klemens Mpase (22).
- **1987** - Captain Barend Jacobus Vorster from 8 Squadron was killed when his Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I crashed into the sea off Durban during a joint training exercise with the South African Navy. He was 24.
- **1988** - Corporal Johannes David Gerhardus van der Merwe from 3 Parachute Battalion was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Batavia. He was 25.
- **1988** - South Africa, Angola and Cuba formally accept the principles of an Angola/Namibia peace plan. The three countries, in separate statements, announce their agreement on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Angola and independence for South West Africa/Namibia.

21 July

- **1798** - Napoleon defeats the Arab Mameluke warriors at the Battle of the Pyramids in Egypt.
- **1899** - Second Anglo-Boer War: New South Wales, Australia, offers 1,860 of-

ficers, non-commissioned officers and men to Britain for service in SA.

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British General Lord Robert's advance along the eastern line begins, starting from his outposts east of Pretoria along the Delagoa Bay railway line for more than 56 km. Commandant-General Louis Botha split his force of about 2,200 men into small groups to render isolated local resistance to the huge army moving eastwards.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Captain Danie Theron and his men capture a train from the Welsh fusiliers. After looting what they could carry, they placed the wounded under medical care in a railway carriage, which they push out of danger and set the train on fire. The next day he was congratulated by De Wet and promoted to the rank of commandant.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The burning of Bremersdorp.
- **1941** - Himmler orders building of Majanek Concentration Camp.
- **1944** - Colonel Claus Schenk von Stauffenberg (37), executed by firing squad, & General Ludwig Beck (64), assisted suicide, for their part in the plot to assassinate Hitler.
- **1945** - U.S. radio broadcasts demand that Japan surrender or be destroyed.
- **1962** - Indian and Chinese

troops skirmish in the Himalayas.

- **1975** - Lance Corporal Douglas Brian Snell from 11 Commando Regiment died from a gunshot wound resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle while stationed in Northern Owamboland. He was 18.
- **1984** - Private Johannes Ricardo Matthee from 16 Maintenance Unit died from a gunshot wound resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle while stationed at Grootfontein. He was 21.
- **1985** - Rifleman Christiaan Jack from the Army Catering Corps was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Oshikuku. He was 26.
- **1986** - Corporal Mark Twain Whiteley from 701 Battalion SWATF was accidentally shot dead by own forces. He left the TB at night to relieve himself and was mistaken for a SWAPO/PLAN insurgent on his return. He was 24.
- **1987** - Rifleman George Immelman was stationed at the Army Battle School. He was accidentally killed when he was crushed between a loader and a tipper during construction work. He was 22.
- **2004** - An Egyptian and three Kenyans, along with four other truck drivers, are taken hostage by a militant Iraqi group.

22 July

- **1942** - Defeated on all fronts in 16 day war with Peru, Ecuador agrees to a cease fire.
- **1942** - 1st Battle of Alamein: British halt German-Italian drive under Rommel.
- **1942** - 300,000 Warsaw Ghetto Jews are sent to Treblinka extermination camp.
- **1943** - Patton captures Palermo.
- **1946** - Jerusalem: The Irgun bombs British HQ in the King David Hotel, 90 die.
- **1983** - Sergeant Walter Alexander Robinson from 61 Base Workshop, Technical Service Corps died in his sleep in the Single Quarters at TEK Base after apparently suffering a fatal heart attack. He was 42.
- **1984** - Rifleman Gerhard Ernst De Lange from 1 Parachute Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents while on patrol north of Ondangwa. He was 20.
- **1987** - Corporal Adriaan Jonker from 2 SWA SPES (SWATF) was accidentally killed in Windhoek when his parachute failed during a practice jump at the J. G. Strydom Airport. He was 20.
- **1987** - Rifleman Lyall Gregory Sole from 2 SAI died of injuries sustained during

a training exercise when he was accidentally run over by an armoured vehicle in conditions of poor visibility. He was 20.

- **1987** - Soviet PM Gorbachev agrees to negotiate a ban on intermediate-range nuclear missiles.
- **2001** - Bertie Felstead of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, the last known survivor of the Christmas Truce of 1914, dies at the age of 106.

23 July

- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Lord Milner is presented with the freedom of the City of London at the Guildhall.
- **1940** - The "Blitz" begins: the first all-night Luftwaffe raid on London.
- **1942** - German troops capture Rostov.
- **1942** - World War II: Hurricanes of No.1 Squadron shoot down thirteen Ju-87s over the South African positions in the Alamein line, North Africa.



Claus von Stauffenberg

- **1943** - Battle of Kursk ends: Soviets win the greatest tank battle in history.
- **1944** - Soviet Army captures Lublin, Poland.
- **1951** - Lieutenant FM Bekker and Lieutenant RM du Plooy, serving with the SAAF Cheetah Squadron in the Korean War, are killed in action.
- **1951** - Henri Philippe Pétain, Marshal of France, Vichyite, dies in prison at the age of 95.
- **1952** - Egyptian military officers led by Gamal Abdel Nasser overthrow King Farouk I.
- **1970** - UN Security Council adopts resolution 282 (1970) calling on States to take a series of measures to strengthen the arms embargo against South Africa. The vote was 12 in favour and 3 abstentions (France, UK, USA).
- **1973** - Eddie Rickenbacker, the top American ace of World War I with 26 kills, dies at the age of 82.
- **1973** - Rifleman Stuart Craig McGregor from 4 SAI died from a gunshot wound to the stomach while stationed at Greefswald. He was 18.
- **1974** - Greek military dictatorship collapses.
- **1984** - Rifleman K. Muringo from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 22.
- **1988** - A surprise top-level military meeting between

Angola, South Africa and Cuba ends in Cape Verde. The talks follow reports that a fresh contingent of 2,000 Cuban troops, combined with Angolan forces, is moving along the front.

- **1989** - Airman (Miss) Marianna Christina Murphy from the Highveld Airspace Control Sector died in the H.F. Verwoerd Hospital from injuries received in a private motor vehicle accident on the N1 highway near Witbank. She was 18.
- **1994** - Gambian soldiers proclaim military government in Dakar, Senegal.

24 July

- **1897** - A combined force of the Seventh Hussars, local troops and the newly recruited British South Africa Police attacks Mashona chief Mashayamombe's kraal. The Chief was killed and the rebellion, started in June 1896, came to an end in November 1897, with the surrender of Nyanda and Kagubi.
- **1936** - Spanish Nationalists form a junta to conduct the civil war with the Spanish Republic.
- **1943** - RAF bombs Hamburg, initiating a firestorm.
- **1943** - During World War II in Europe, the Royal Air Force conducted Operation Gomorrah, raiding Hamburg, while tossing bales of aluminum foil strips overhead to cause German radar screens to see a blizzard

of false echoes. As a result, only twelve of 791 Allied bombers involved were shot down.

- **1945** - At the conclusion of the Potsdam Conference in Germany, Winston Churchill, Harry Truman and China's representatives issued a demand for unconditional Japanese surrender. The Japanese, unaware the demand was backed up by an Atomic bomb, rejected the Potsdam Declaration on 26 July.
- **1969** - Muhammad Ali is convicted of refusing induction in the US Army.
- **1973** - Four men from the Japanese Red Army, a militant group dedicated to a worldwide communist revolution, hijack a Japan Airlines plane. They release the 137 occupants, then blow it up and are arrested in Libya.
- **1977** - Egypt's President Anwar Sadat orders his troops to observe immediate ceasefire in fighting with Libya.
- **1977** - Sergeant Izak Cornelius Du Plessis from 1 Air Depot died in 1 Military Hospital. He was suffering from cancer. He was 25.
- **1984** - Rifleman Arthur James Henn from the South African Cape Corps died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained. He was 20.
- **2000** - In Sierra Leone, dozens of rebels, including children, surrender to UN forces in the eastern city of Kenema and turn over their weapons.

25 July

- **1866** - Ulysses S. Grant is named the first full general in the history of the US Army.
- **1898** - During the Spanish-American War, the U.S. invaded Puerto Rico, which was then a Spanish colony. In 1917, Puerto Ricans became American citizens and Puerto Rico became an unincorporated territory of the U.S. Partial self-government was granted in 1947 allowing citizens to elect their own governor.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: In the month since 25 June, Emily Hobhouse has addressed 26 public meetings in Britain on the concentration camps, raising money to improve conditions.
- **1934** - Nazi coup fails in Austria.
- **1938** - Spanish Republican Army begins an offensive on the Ebro.
- **1943** - RAF bombs Fokker airplane factory in Amsterdam.
- **1943** - Mussolini was deposed just two weeks after the Allied attack on Sicily.
- **1944** - Allied breakthrough at St-Lo, Patton begins his drive across France.
- **1944** - First jet fighter used in combat, the Messerschmitt 262.
- **1945** - Japan says it will surrender, but not unconditionally.
- **1946** - US detonates an underwater A-bomb at Bikini,

the fifth atomic explosion.

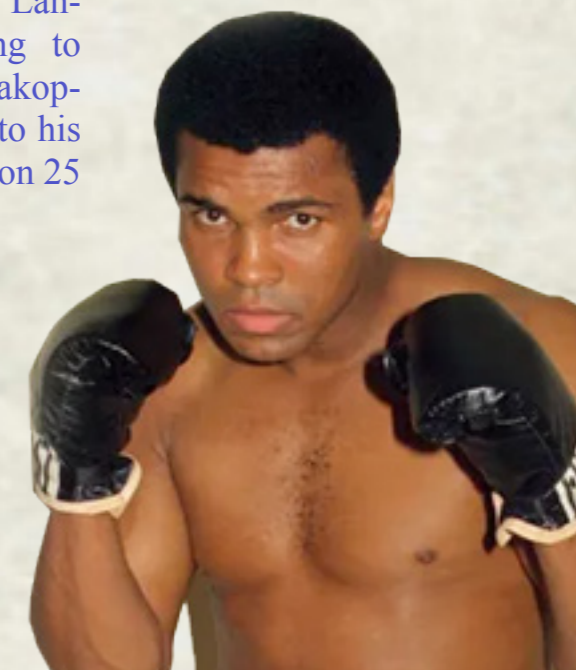
- **1947** - The US Army, Navy, & Air Force are subordinated to the new Department of Defence.
- **1982** - Rifleman M.J.J. Mahlio from 113 Battalion died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while stationed at Phalaborwa. He was 26.
- **1983** - Special Sergeant Leonard Mattheus from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was the Driver of Koevoet Casspir Zulu Foxtrot 2. He was Killed in Action when his vehicle was hit by a Soviet RPG-7 Anti-Tank Rocket after the vehicle ran into a SWAPO/PLAN ambush just North of Okatopi. He was 26.
- **1987** - Flight Sergeant Hendrik Andries Prinsloo Engelbrecht from Air Force Base Rooikop was critically injured on 22 July 1987 when he accidentally fell off the backing of a moving Landrover while returning to AFB Rooikop from Swakopmund. He succumbed to his injuries in Walvis Bay on 25 July 1987. He was 35.

- **1987** - Private Cornelius Johannes Kriel from 93 Ammunition Depot was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Jan Kempdorp. He was 21.
- **1988** - Rifleman Roelof van Aswegen from the Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident near Curries Post while on leave pass. He was 18.
- **1990** - Liberian rebels attack an airfield in Monrovia, closing off that city's last link to outside world.
- **1994** - Israel & Jordan formally end a state of war that existed since 1948.
- **2006** - Carl M. Brashear, the first black diver in the US Navy, dies at the age of 75.
- **2009** - Harry Patch, the last British Army veteran of the World War I trenches, dies at the age of 111.

26 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Piet de Wet, brother of Chief Comman-

Muhammad Ali



- dant C.R. de Wet, and his staff lay down their arms at Kroonstad. The two brothers were never reconciled again.
- **1942** - RAF bombs Hamburg.
 - **1944** - The U.S. Army began desegregating its training camp facilities. Black platoons were then assigned to white companies in a first step toward battlefield integration. However, the official order integrating the armed forces didn't come until July 26, 1948, signed by President Harry Truman.
 - **1944** - Russian troops arrive on the Vistula.
 - **1945** - The U.S. Cruiser Indianapolis arrived at Tinian Island in the Marianas with an unassembled Atomic bomb, met by scientists ready to complete the assembly.
 - **1953** - The beginning of Fidel Castro's revolutionary "26th of July Movement." In 1959, Castro led the rebellion that drove out dictator Fulgencio Batista. Although he once declared that Cuba would never again be ruled by a dictator, Castro's government became a Communist dictatorship.
 - **1957** - USSR launches its first intercontinental multi-stage ballistic missile.
 - **1968** - Candidate Officer Bruce Spafford Human from Central Flying School Dunnottar was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed near Balfour while on a routine general flying training flight. He was flying solo at

- the time of the accident. He was 19.
- **1973** - Rifleman Joseph Petrus Hermanus Viviers from 3 SAI accidentally drowned while his patrol was crossing the Kavango River. His foot got stuck between rocks in deep water and by the time assistance arrived and he was freed, he had already drowned. He was 18.
 - **1979** - Corporal David Michael Muller from 2 Special Service Battalion died from injuries sustained in a military vehicle accident on the 23 July 1979 when his Landrover overturned approximately 8km from Jozini. He was 22.
 - **1981** - Lance Corporal Michael Steven Hadlow from 44 Parachute Regiment Pathfinder Company was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 25.
 - **1981** - Two members from Jozini Military Base were killed when their military vehicle overturned near Jozini. They were: Corporal Rory Clyde Joliffe (19). Rifleman Samuel Matenjwa (34).
 - **1988** - Swapo claims SA is moving military equipment and troops to the Angola-South West Africa border.
 - **1989** - Private Johannes Gysbertus de Klerk from 16 Maintenance Unit was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident 15 km south of To-

- sca. He was 18.
- **1991** - Rifleman Mohapi Petrus Mdakane from 21 Battalion was accidentally killed when he was run over by a Samil 20 in Lenz Base. He was 23.
 - **1994** - The Department of Defence is allocated some R10.5 billion, more than 8.7 per cent of the budget.

27 July

- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Chief Commandant C.R. De Wet, operating in the Bethlehem district, issues instructions to Commandant Willem D. Fouche in the Eastern Cape Colony to summarily execute any armed Blacks they capture.
- **1909** - Orville Wright demonstrates a plane for the US Army, flying 72 minutes.
- **1943** - Stalin issues Order No. 227: "Panic makers and cowards must be liquidated on the spot. Not one step backward . . . !"
- **1944** - First British jet fighter enters combat, the Gloster Meteor.
- **1944** - Soviets liberate Majanek Concentration Camp.
- **1953** - The undeclared Korean War ends, after three years of fighting between North Korean and Chinese Communists against the United Nations forces (mainly South Korean and American).
- **1954** - Armistice divides Vietnam in two.
- **1954** - Britain and Egypt

- initial an agreement to end British occupation of the Suez Canal Zone.
- **1978** - UN Security Council endorses Western plan for ending guerrilla warfare in Southwest Africa and making it independent new state of Namibia.
 - **1985** - Rifleman James Richard Willard Rudd from 3 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident at Omauni. He was 18.
 - **1987** - Rifleman Andre Hartzenberg from Infantry School was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at the Infantry School Training Centre in Oudtshoorn. He was 19.
 - **1990** - Rifleman Alan Fuller from 3 SAI was accidentally killed at the Vooruitsig Shooting Range after being struck by a bullet that ricocheted off a stone wall at the range. He was 21.
 - **1995** - Korean War Veterans Memorial dedicated in Washington.
 - **2004** - Sixty-seven of the sixty-nine suspected mercenaries plead guilty to lesser charges of violating Zimbabwe's immigration and civil aviation laws.

28 July

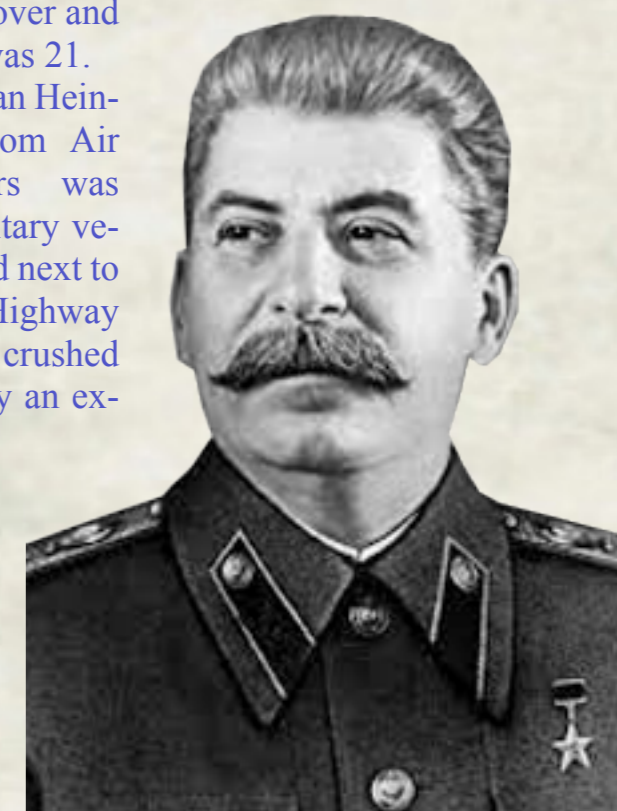
- **1914** - World War I: Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia a month after the murder on Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo. World War I begins.
- **1943** - During World War II, a firestorm killed 42,000 ci-

- vilians in Hamburg, Germany. The firestorm occurred after 2,326 tons of bombs and incendiaries were dropped by the Allies.
- **1945** - Kamikaze sink their last ship, the USS 'Callaghan' (DD-792), off Okinawa.
 - **1960** - Dag Hammarskjold, secretary-general of the UN, arrives in the Congo to try to end the civil war.
 - **1972** - Two members from the Army Services School were killed in a military vehicle accident at Voortrekkerhoogte. They were: Private Carel David Aucamp Labuschagne (18). Private Jonathan Peter Knight (18).
 - **1979** - Rifleman Ignatius Matheus Fick Du Plessis from 5 SAI was accidentally killed at Elundu after being struck by a bullet from a fellow soldiers unattended rifle when the weapon discharged after it fell over and hit the ground. He was 21.
 - **1980** - Corporal Johan Heinrich Wasserman from Air Force Headquarters was killed when his military vehicle that was parked next to the Ben Schoeman Highway near Pretoria, was crushed after being struck by an ex-

- tra heavy articulate vehicle. He was 23.
- **1983** - Rifleman Eduard Cornelius Mostert from 5 SAI, attached to SWA SPES (SWATF) was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Northern Owamboland. He was 18.
 - **1988** - Rifleman Siphon Brian Msoni from 121 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with FRELIMO Forces at Muzi, near Jozini on the Mozambique border. He was 27.

29 July

- **1900** - The Alabama, American raider of the Southern States during the American Civil War, arrives in Saldana Bay for provisions.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Marthinus Prinsloo, leader of the Republican forces in the Brandwater Basin, sends



Joseph Stalin

an emissary to Gen. Hunter, asking a 4-day armistice. Hunter refuses and insists on unconditional surrender.

- **1949** - Berlin Airlift ends, as Soviets end blockade.
- **1953** - Soviets shoot down US patrol bomber northeast of Vladivostok.
- **1965** - Private Petrus Frederick Johannes Kruger from the Army Service Corps died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained at Brits. He was 18.
- **1969** - Lieutenant Andrew le Roux from 8 Squadron was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed into the Rustfontein Dam. He was 23.
- **1980** - Sapper Hans Wolfgang Pfeffer from the South African Engineer Corps died in 1 Military Hospital after contracting cerebral meningitis while serving in the Operational Area. He was 24.
- **1982** - Rifleman Johan Wilhelm Christiaan Scheepers from 5 SAI was killed while on official duty when his private motor vehicle overturned while he was on his way to attend a military parade. He was 18.
- **1983** - Rifleman Andre Jordaan from 3 SAI was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion in Northern Owamboland. He was 19.
- **1986** - Rifleman Martin Johannes Botes from 2 SAI was killed while standing guard duty at the Selelekele High School in Soweto when a fellow guard acci-

dentally dropped his loaded rifle and a shot went off, hitting him in the head. He was 19.

- **1988** - Sergeant Zacharias Eduardo from 32 Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 35.
- **1991** - Major Wilfred de Koker from 1 Reconnaissance Regiment was accidentally killed while participating in a night parachute training exercise at the Hellsgate Training Area. He was 32
- **2003** - Sierra Leonean rebel leader Foday Sankoh, who had been in United Nations custody since 2000 and was awaiting trial on charges of mass murder and other crimes, dies at a hospital in Freetown, after a stroke.

30 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Marthinus Prinsloo surrenders in the Brandwater Basin, near Clarens. Some generals refuse to surrender and escape through Golden Gate with about 1,500 men.
- **1909** - US Army accepts delivery of its first military airplane.
- **1966** - US airplanes bomb demilitarized zone in Vietnam.
- **1979** - Sapper Colin Stephen Rees from the School of Engineers died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while he was stationed at Kroonstad. He was 24.

• **1982** - Rifleman Daryl Peter Croeser of 61 Mechanised Battalion was Killed in Action in Southern Angola during Ops Meebos when Ratel 72 detonated a double boosted Yugoslavian TMA-3 Cheese mine. He was 19.

- **1986** - Lance Corporal R.H. Makaranga from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 25.
- **1987** - Rifleman Johannes Petrus Wessels Groenewald from 8 SAI was critically Injured and paralysed in a landmine explosion near Katima Mulilo on 14 July 1983. He was placed into a care facility after discharge from 1 Military Hospital but three years later, complications arose as a result of these injuries and gangrene set in. He was re-admitted to 1 Military Hospital where he died on 30 July 1987. He was 24.
- **1987** - An ANC car bomb attack directed at the headquarters of the Wits Command, takes place in Quartz Street, Johannesburg. One person is killed and sixty-eight are injured.
- **2002** - President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwandan President Paul Kagame sign a peace agreement intended to bring an end to the civil war that started in 1998. More than 2,5-million people died.

31 July

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General De la Rey arrests ex-General Schoeman on his farm near Pretoria for refusing to obey an order to escort a convoy of supply wagons.
- **1917** - World War I: Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) begins (ends Nov. 10th), perhaps 500,000 die or are injured on both sides.
- **1925** - Last Allied occupation forces leave the Rhineland.
- **1970** - Black Tot Day: Parliament abolishes the Royal Navy's 330 year tradition of a daily issue of grog, replacing it with a daily can of beer.
- **1978** - Sapper Louis Francois Porter from 46 Survey Squadron, South African Corps of Engineers, was

killed in a military vehicle accident at Kimbezi in Eastern Caprivi. He was 21.

- **1982** - Rifleman Domingo Dala Denge from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 30.
- **1987** - Airman Jacques de Villiers Snyders from TEK Base was killed in a private motorcycle accident in Central Pretoria when his motorcycle collided with a truck at the intersection of Church and Rebecca Street. He was 18.
- **1987** - Rifleman Louis Samuel Du Piesanie from Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident 8km from Beaufort West. He was 23.
- **1989** - Private Edward Stephen Cooper from the Prov-

ost School was killed when his SAMIL 50 overturned at the Army Battle School. He was 18.

- **1990** - The chief of the SA defence force, Gen. Jannie Geldenhuys, announces that the Citizens Cooperation Bureau (CCB) will be disbanded.
- **1991** - Two members from 111 Battalion were killed when their military vehicle that was transporting patients to 1 Military Hospital, overturned on the N4 Highway near Cullinan. They were: Rifleman Bonisani Abednego Sibuyi (27). Rifleman Morris Mavabaza Simbine (33).
- **1991** - George H.W. Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev sign the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.



Third Battle of Ypres



QUIZ

Nicknames

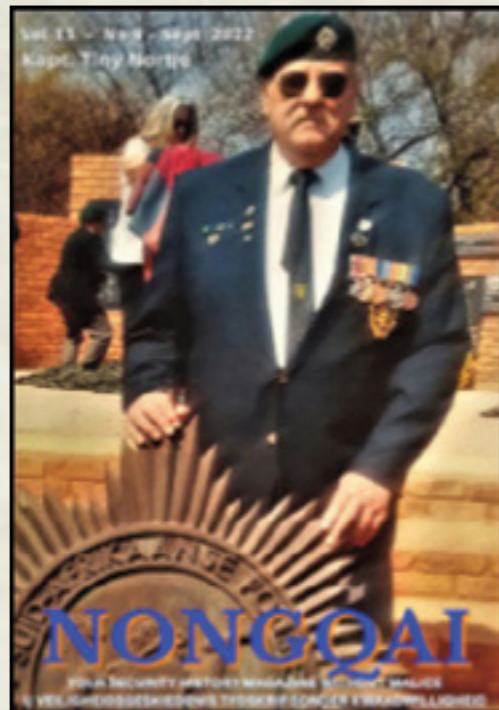
- Honey tank.
- Adolf Galland.
- Stonewall.
- M4 Sherman. The British named it the 'Ronson' after a cigarette lighter because they said it "lights up first time, every time" when hit.
- British Field Marshall Douglas Haig.
- The Nebelwerfer Rocket Launcher.
- Junkers Ju 87.
- General George S. Patton Jr.
- 101st Airborne Division.
- Bubi (A German word meaning "young boy" or "kid".)
- Stalin Organ.
- Grease Gun.
- Mike Hoare.
- Adolph Malan.
- Jimmy.
- White Death.
- The potato masher or the stick grenade.
- Thompson submachine gun or Tommy Gun.
- The Dam Busters.
- Vorster Orrel.
- Der rote Kampfflieger - the Red Battle-Flyer.
- Dad's Army.
- The Red Devils.
- Eland 60 armoured car.
- Bohemian Corporal.



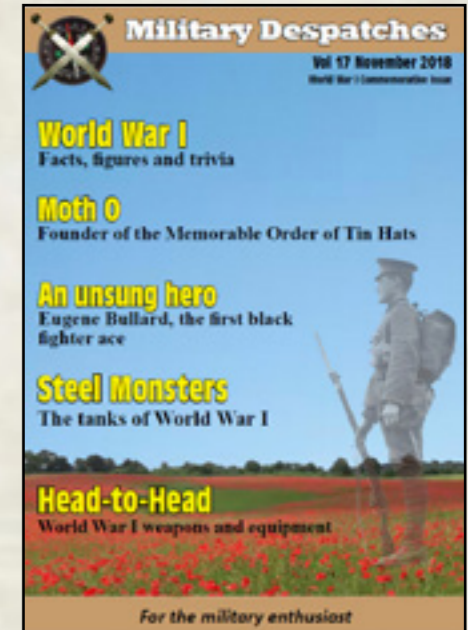
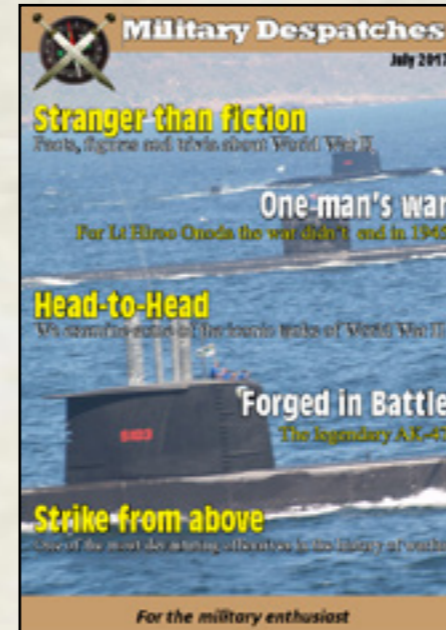
Useful links

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

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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 five years as well as video clips and documentaries.



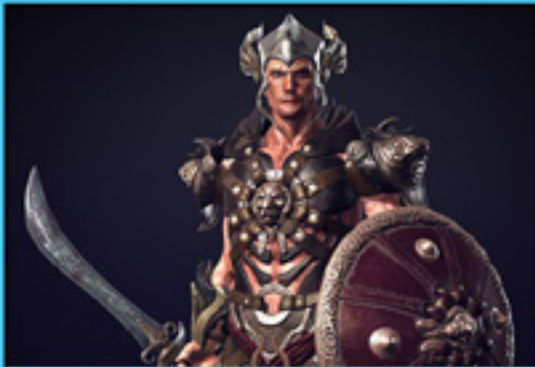
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