



## General Incompetence

10 of history's worst generals

## The 'Nam

Some interesting facts about the Vietnam War

## Legión Española

Spain's equivalent of the French Foreign Legion

## Hermann Göring

World War I ace, Head of the Luftwaffe, Reichsmarschall, and one of the most powerful figures in the Nazi Party.





## Military Despatches YouTube Channel



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### Paratrooper Wings Quiz

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

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



### Military Firearms Quiz

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

### Army Speak 101

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

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



### New videos each week

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



### Elite Military Units Quiz

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

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



### Who said that?

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

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**Please remember to subscribe to our channel.**

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





## Editor's Sitrep

So here we are in the first month of winter. I would like to say "Another day, another dollar." Another day for sure, another dollar - forget about it.

Last month I told all of our readers about our new Military Despatches YouTube Channel. I asked, pleaded, begged for all of our readers to please subscribe to the channel.

We need to get to 1,000 subscribers before we can actually make a few cents from it. So far the response has been incredible (please note voice dripping with sarcasm). To date five people have subscribed to the channel - and only one of them has actually been a reader of Military Despatches. Thanks guys. And people still have the cheek to ask me why I drink so much.

Most counties have an official motto. America's motto, for example, is "In God we trust" while England's is "*Dieu et mon droit*" (God and my right). In South Africa our motto is "*!ke e: ǀxarra ǁke*". It is written in the Khoisan language of the ǀXam people, literally meaning "diverse people unite".

I really think we should

change our national motto to "Sorry" because let's face it, this seems to be an expression that can be used to sort out anything.

Complain about bad service anywhere and the response will be "sorry". Even if you escalate the complaint to top management the response will be the same, "sorry". And trust me, no-one is actually sorry in the least.

The response will never be "How can we sort the problem out?", "How can we improve our service" or even "How can we compensate you." All you can expect is a "sorry".

Some official gets caught stealing five million Rands, their response - "sorry". I'm getting to the point that when I hear the word sorry I want to start choking people.

That's about it from me. Enjoy this month's issue and please try and subscribe to our YouTube Channel.

Until next time.

*Matt*

# Hipe!

media

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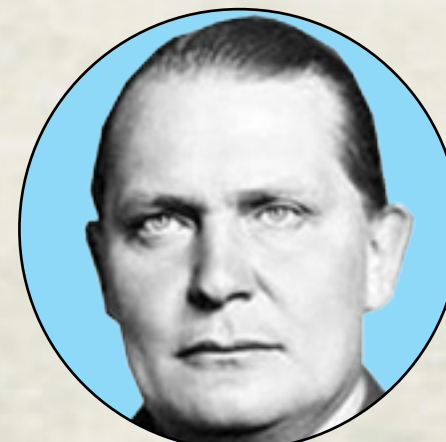
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US troops observe the results of a napalm strike during the Vietnam War. The undeclared war would last more than 19 years and cost 58,318 US troops their lives.





# 10 of the worst generals in history

*History tells us of a number of generals and leaders that stood head and shoulders above others. Yet on the opposite end of the scale were generals and leaders that shouldn't even have been allowed to leave home unless under adult supervision.*

The pages of history reveal many men, and women, that were exceptional leaders. People that could change the course of a battle or even a war. One needs only think of people such as Julius Caesar, Frederick the Great, Joan of Arc, Hannibal Barca, and Alexander the Great to name just a few.

In this article, however, we are looking at generals that have come to be regarded as being among the worst ever. Some of them should have been awarded medals by their enemies.

Here then are 10 of the worst generals in history.

## Quintus Servilius Caepio

The Romans had some excellent military leaders and at one stage the Roman Army was a force to be reckoned with.

The did, however, also have some truly incompetent leaders. In fact it wouldn't be too difficult to come up with a Top Ten populated just with Roman generals.

Yet one man manages to stand out and rise above the rest with an ineptitude that defies logic. That man was Quintus Servilius Caepio.

It was at the Battle of Arausio that Caepio staked his claim to being one of the worst generals

the Romans ever managed to produce.

Consul Gnaeus Mallius Maximus was Caepio's superior officer, but Caepio refused to obey Maximus at any stage. He wouldn't even put his forces into a shared camp with Maximus.

Maximus was conducting negotiations with the Cimbri, a Germanic tribe that had invaded the Roman province of Transalpine Gaul.

Caepio, in his wisdom, decided that this was the perfect opportunity to attack the Cimbri army. On 6 October 105 BC, Caepio led his force into battle. His force was destroyed and, emboldened by their success, the Cimbri Army marched on Maimus's camp. Maximus managed to form up his men but to no avail.

The Romans lost an estimated 80,000 infantry and perhaps 40,000 auxiliaries and cavalry. Caepio managed to escape unharmed, but was stripped of his Roman citizenship and exiled.

Now while Caepio may have been a terrible general, it appears that he was an exceptional thief.

Some 15,000 talents of gold (the so-called Gold of Tolosa) has vanished under his watch,

never to be recovered. Caepio reportedly lived out the remainder of his life in luxury in exile.

## Gideon Pillow

It has been said that during the American Civil War the Union forces held a clear advantage in material, but that the Confederacy could field superior commanders. Gideon Pillow, however, was not one of those superior commanders.

Pillow first demonstrated his ineptitude during the Mexican-American War, where he had received an appointment to the rank of major general from his friend President James K. Polk.

The men serving under him began to have their doubts when he ordered them to entrench on the wrong side of fortifications at Camargo.

The Battle of Cerro Gordo was a resounding victory for the Americans. Yet Pillow totally bungled his role in the battle.

This did not stop him from submitting fanciful accounts of his actions at the Battles of Contreras and Churubusco to various newspapers.

This incurred the wrath of overall American commander Winfield Scott, someone with first-hand experience of just



**GENERAL INCOMPETENCE:** Gideon Pillow will not be remembered as one of the Confederacy's best commanders.

how incompetent Pillow could be.

Pillow faced a court-martial for stealing a Mexican cannon and attempting to spirit it home in his personal baggage, but President Polk intervened to clear Pillow's record.

Scott claimed that Pillow was "the only person I have ever known who was wholly indifferent in the choice between truth and falsehood."

When rumours of secession reached Pillow's home state of Tennessee he saw this as another golden opportunity to demonstrate his military genius. He helped organise the state militia and was appointed a brigadier general in the Confederate army.

At the Battle of Belmont Pillow came up against Union General Ulysses S. Grant, who was making his Civil War debut.

Pillow suffered slightly more casualties than Grant in the

engagement, which possibly makes the Battle of Belmont the high point of Pillow's military career.

After his performance at Belmont - a spectacular success by Pillow standards - he was tasked with the defence of Fort Donelson, a key strongpoint on the Mississippi River.

Grant had encircled the fort but did not have enough men to launch an attack. Instead it was Pillow that launched an attack that drove back Grant's troops.

Instead of breaking through the Union lines to Nashville, Pillow somehow managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory by retreating to the fort.

This allowed Grant to regroup and, when reinforcements arrived, the fate of Fort Donelson was sealed. Reluctant to be taken prisoner, Pillow escaped during the night, leaving Simon B. Buckner to surrender the fort and 15,000 Confederate troops.

The loss of Fort Donelson

opened the door to Kentucky and Tennessee to Union forces and marked the beginning of the end of Confederate resistance in the west.

## Francisco Solano López

Paraguay is a land-locked country in South America that borders on Bolivia, Argentina and Brazil.

Although Carlos Antonio López was a dictator, he had done much to modernize Paraguay in the mid-19th century.

The elder López had bequeathed to his son, Francisco Solano López, a relatively powerful military by regional standards.

López senior cautioned his son about using the military to settle diplomatic issues. But let's get real - how many children heed the advice of their parents? Francisco certainly didn't.

By December 1864 López had managed to start a war with neighbouring Brazil. When Argentina denied a request for the transit of a Paraguayan army across its territory, López declared war on that country as well.

Now you have to be somewhat delusional to think that you can pick a fight with the largest and second largest countries in South America and actually win.

Argentina, Brazil, and the Brazilian puppet government in Uruguay formed an alliance, and on May 1, 1865, they declared war on Paraguay.

The War of the Triple Alli-



ance devastated Paraguay. Its pre-war population was reduced by more than half, and perhaps 90 percent of Paraguay's fighting-age men died in the conflict.

López, possibly in a fit of madness, ordered the execution of hundreds of people, including some of his own family members. He was killed in combat on 1 March 1870. Which was probably a good thing for him because his father would have surely wanted to have a word to two with his son.

### Sir Douglas Haig

It was known as 'The Great War' or 'The War to end All Wars.' It could just as easily been known as 'The War where incompetent generals needlessly sent ten of thousands of men to their deaths.'

World War I provided a forum for any number of truly horrible commanders to assert themselves.

Take Luigi Cadorna of Italy for example. He fought a dozen battle on the Isonzo, losing all of them, before his army completely collapsed at Caporetto.

Franz Conrad von Hötzendorf of Austria couldn't decide which country he wanted to invade, so the German General Staff eventually took his armies away.

Yet it was the Western Front that provided the biggest stage on which to fail. And British commander Douglas Haig made the most of the opportunity.

Haig had largely dismissed the effect of the machine gun

on the battlefield. After all, the sight of British troops advancing at a slow pace with fixed bayonets would so terrify the Germans that they would abandon their machine guns and flee in terror.

An impenetrable wall of lead traveling at ballistic velocity should have been enough to point out the flaws in Haig's thinking. But this didn't phase Haig in the least.

On 1 July 1916 Haig ordered his men to go over the top at the First Battle of the Somme. And 20,000 of them had the audacity to die almost immediately. There were 60,000 total British casualties on the first day of the attack.

Having amassed roughly twice as many losses in a single day as Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, had suffered during the entire Peninsular War, Haig saw no reason to change tactics.

He continued to view attrition as the most effective strategy for defeating Germany. Surely the Germans would run out of ammunition before the British ran out of men. The British lost some 420,000 men at the Somme.

Just over a year later Haig was at it again. A major British offensive came at Passchendaele (31 July 31 - 6 November 1917), where Haig lost another 275,000 troops in a battle whose name became synonymous with pointless slaughter.

After the war, the phrase "lions led by donkeys" came to be associated with the British

army for what should be obvious reasons.

### Erich Ludendorff

On the other side of the trenches in World War I was Erich Ludendorff, commanding the armies of Germany.

He is one of history's greatest examples of a general who can win battles but still loses the war.

In fact, he did a lot to ensure that Germany would find itself in another war that it couldn't win, but, since he died in 1937, he gets extra credit for being a bad World War II general from beyond the grave.

The Germans began World War I on a positive note when Ludendorff and Paul von Hindenburg scored a crushing victory over the Russians at Tannenberg.

However, Ludendorff and German General Staff chief Helmuth von Moltke had altered the Schlieffen Plan - Germany's overall battle plan for fighting a two-front war - in a way that had weakened the attacking army on the Western Front.

Instead of sweeping around the French defences in a massive flanking movement, the Germans were checked at the First Battle of the Marne. With a few relatively minor changes, that's just about where they stayed for the next four years.

Things could have still worked out okay for Germany, provided they didn't do something really stupid like provoke a previously neutral country



**BUTCHER OF THE SOMME:** General (later Field Marshal) Sir Douglas Haig was given the nickname 'Butcher of the Somme' or just 'Butcher' for good reasons.

with Allied sympathies and an effectively bottomless war chest.

Of course, that is what they did when Ludendorff pushed for the use of unrestricted submarine warfare against Allied shipping. The United States entered the war, forcing Ludendorff to accelerate his time line for a conclusive battle against the Allies on the Western Front.

The Second Battle of the Somme was the first of a series of successful German offensives, but Ludendorff had failed to integrate these tactical victories into a broader strategic plan.

Ultimately, he was denied his final showdown with the Allies by German political leaders who, realising that the Americans could produce soldiers faster than Germany could pro-

duce bullets, did the sensible thing and surrendered.

As the harsh terms of the Treaty of Versailles crippled Germany, Ludendorff effectively sabotaged the Weimar Republic by propagating the belief that he and his armies had been undefeated on the battlefield.

The "stabbed in the back" myth did much to propel the ascent of Adolf Hitler, and Ludendorff was a key participant in the Beer Hall Putsch. He served as a National Socialist member of the German parliament before authoring a book about how humanity exists in a state of perpetual war and why that is a good thing.

Although he eventually disavowed Hitler, by that point Ludendorff had become so deeply involved with mysticism that few took him seriously.

### George McClellan

On paper George McClellan seemed to have all the qualities to make a great general. Then again, wars are not fought on paper.

McClellan graduated second in his class at West Point (well ahead of classmates Stonewall Jackson, George H. Gordon, and George Pickett).

His work as an observer during the Crimean War gave him insight into the importance of logistics for an industrialized army, and years spent as the chief of engineering for the Illinois Central Railroad made him aware of the vast potential of rail transport.

"Little Mac" would prove himself to be a superb organizer who kept his army well supplied, efficiently run, and happy.

He was also supremely gifted at overestimating the size of his opponents' armies to a degree that beggared belief. Because he never wanted to face a superior force, he refused to fight. This is, obviously, a problematic quality when one's title is general-in-chief of the entire Union army.

After months of inactivity, McClellan was finally spurred to action by President Abraham Lincoln. The resulting Peninsular Campaign (April-July 1862) can be summed up as brilliant in planning, not so great in execution.

Eschewing a direct overland march to the Confederate capital of Richmond, McClellan



orchestrated an impressive amphibious landing of more than 100,000 troops at Fort Monroe, at the southeast end of the peninsula between the James and York rivers.

Facing McClellan was the Army of the Peninsula under John Bankhead Magruder.

Although he outnumbered Magruder's forces by 10-to-1, McClellan decided to play it safe and settled for a month-long siege instead of immediately overrunning Magruder's inferior force.

By the end of May 1862, Confederate Commanding General Joseph E. Johnston had withdrawn his forces to Richmond, and McClellan was close enough to the Confederate capital to hear its church bells ringing.

Johnston was wounded on the first day of the Battle of Seven Pines, six miles east of Richmond, and he was replaced by Robert E. Lee.

Lee was a more than competent general and he quickly grasped McClellan's demanour. During the Seven Days' Battles (25 June - 1 July 1862), Lee drove back the Union armies from Richmond's doorstep.

Lincoln relieved McClellan but reinstated him after the devastating Union defeat at the Second Battle of Bull Run. Once again, McClellan worked his organizational magic, restoring the morale of a shattered Union army.

And once again, at the Battle of Antietam, McClellan's terminal case of "the slows"

(as Lincoln called it) prevented the exploitation of a possible war-ending vulnerability in Confederate defences.

McClellan ran as a Democrat against Lincoln in the 1864 presidential election. A key strategy in the Democratic platform that year was, appropriately, "not fighting," and McClellan lost in a rout.

### Pierre de Villeneuve

Pierre de Villeneuve, or to give him his full name Pierre-Charles-Jean-Baptiste-Silvestre de Villeneuve, is the only admiral to make the list of the worst generals. Not bad going.

He had his first brush with history when he bravely ran away at the Battle of the Nile. His was one of just two French ships of the line to escape the destruction of the French fleet there.

He retreated to Malta but was captured when that island fell to the British. He was soon released, however, and, as more capable French admirals either died or somehow incurred Napoleon's disfavour, a path to the top echelons of command was opened for Villeneuve.

In the autumn of 1804 he was placed in charge of the French fleet at Toulon and tasked with drawing the British fleet under Horatio Nelson to the Caribbean.

Villeneuve was then to return in secret and help establish naval dominance of the English Channel in preparation for a land invasion of Britain.

But let's get real here. One of

the common characteristics of bad generals (or admirals in this case) is their inability to follow orders. And de Villeneuve was no exception.

He disobeyed Napoleon's orders and sailed for Cádiz instead of the Channel. This allowed Nelson's fleet time to return and effectively scuttling Napoleon's plans for a cross-Channel invasion.

The British blockaded the port at Cádiz with a numerically inferior force, and Villeneuve, upon learning that he was to be relieved of command decided to show both Nelson and Napoleon just what he was capable of. Trafalgar would be where de Villeneuve would show Nelson who was boss.

Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar was so complete that it established British supremacy on the high seas for more than a century. Villeneuve lost 20 ships, while Nelson lost none.

Although Nelson was killed in combat at Trafalgar, Villeneuve outlived him only by six months. After being taken prisoner (again) by the British, Villeneuve was released but committed suicide rather than face Napoleon's wrath.

### Antonio López de Santa Anna

Mexican general Antonio López de Santa Anna probably wished that everyone really did remember the Alamo, because first of all he actually did win that battle (he outnumbered his opponents between 10 and 30-to-1), and secondly, during the



**GENERAL CONFUSION:** General Lloyd Fredendall had the habit of issuing orders in a personal code that no-one else understood.

13-day siege, he somehow resisted the urge to betray all his allegiances and change sides.

Loyalty to himself and himself alone would be something of a running theme in the narrative of Santa Anna's life, and his rise to power in Mexico was characterized by near-constant vacillation and betrayal of his allies.

After his defeat by the Texans at the Battle of San Jacinto, Santa Anna was captured. He effectively pledged to become an agent for the U.S. but found that he had been deposed upon his return to Mexico.

His prestige restored by his conduct during the Pastry War with France, Santa Anna once again claimed dictatorial powers.

Driven into exile in 1845, he contacted U.S. President James K. Polk upon the outbreak of

war between Mexico and the U.S. and offered to become an agent for the U.S. (again).

A U.S. ship conveyed him to Mexico, and upon his arrival - to the surprise of virtually no one - he executed a volte-face and took charge of the Mexican troops.

Routed by U.S. forces under Winfield Scott, Santa Anna was again driven into exile.

When the French deposed Benito Juárez and installed Maximilian as emperor of Mexico, Santa Anna, now 70, reached out to the U.S. for support in deposing the emperor. Simultaneously, he contacted Maximilian to offer the young emperor his services.

Having several decades of duplicity to draw on at this point, everyone had a pretty good idea of how any such deal would turn out, and the aging general

was rebuffed by both parties.

### Lloyd Fredendall

When the Germans shattered his troops and his reputation at Kasserine Pass in Tunisia in early 1943, Fredendall was only a major general and a corps commander. America can consider itself lucky that he wasn't commanding an army.

Not that Fredendall didn't have real issues that would have tried any commander. Fresh into battle and woefully inexperienced U.S. soldiers found themselves up against Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps veterans. The Americans lacked sufficient troops, supplies and air cover.

Yet Fredendall didn't exactly help the situation. His solution was to order an Army engineer company to build a giant bunker a hundred miles from the front lines. He also issued orders to his troops in a personal code that no one else understood. Just take a look at one of the actually messages that he issued.

*Move your command, i. e., the walking boys, pop guns, Baker's outfit and the outfit which is the reverse of Baker's outfit and the big fellows to M, which is due north of where you are now, as soon as possible. Have your boss report to the French gentleman whose name begins with J at a place which begins with D which is five grid squares to the left of M.*

Is it any wonder that his commanders were left scratching their heads and not having a clue as to what they were sup-



## TOP TEN

posed to do?

The Kasserine disaster had repercussions. It was a humiliating baptism of fire for the U.S. Army in Europe, and more important, caused British commanders to dismiss their Yank allies as amateur soldiers for the rest of the war.

## William Hull

History has shown us that through the ages there have been some really useless and incompetent generals. However, none they managed to get themselves court-martialed and sentenced to death for ineptitude on the battlefield.

That dubious distinction falls to William Hull, the only general officer in American history to be ordered before a firing squad for cowardice and dereliction of duty.

Hull had served with distinction in the Revolutionary War and was appointed governor of the Michigan Territory in 1805. When the War of 1812 began, Hull was commissioned a brigadier general and tasked with defending Michigan and invading Upper Canada.

To say that he failed in both regards would be putting it mildly. Approaching his 60th birthday and exhibiting a timidity that had no place in a general about to lead an invasion, Hull also had the misfortune of facing two of the most gifted commanders ever to operate in North America.

British General Isaac Brock possessed a remarkable ability to anticipate his opponents'

moves and reactions, and it was not long before he had taken full measure of Hull.

Allied with Brock was the Shawnee chief Tecumseh, who was head of the most formidable pan-Indian military force the continent had ever seen. Hull was thoroughly outclassed.

While Hull dithered, Brock captured Fort Michilimackinac, establishing British control of the Straits of Mackinac.

Hull responded by ordering the evacuation of Fort Dearborn, and the garrison was promptly massacred by a Potawatomi war band upon leaving the fort.

At this point, things somehow got worse for Hull. His invasion of Canada came to an abrupt halt when he failed to capture Fort Malden, a British position that was a laughably short distance from Hull's headquarters at Fort Detroit.

Hull withdrew after a series of harassing attacks by Tecumseh's highly mobile raiding parties. At Brownstown, south of Detroit, two dozen warriors under Tecumseh routed more than 200 American militiamen escorting a supply column intended for Detroit. Hull's nerve was shattered.

Brock, sensing an opportunity, advised an immediate march on Fort Detroit. On the night of August 15, 1812, Tecumseh led his forces across the Detroit River, and Brock followed the next morning.

While British cannons shelled the fort from the Canadian side of the river, Tecumseh marched

his warriors through a forest clearing in an endless parade. Hull, convinced that he was hopelessly outnumbered (he wasn't), surrendered Fort Detroit and its 2,000-man garrison without firing a shot.

The British gained control of the fort, dozens of cannons, the brig USS Adams (recommissioned the HMS Detroit), and virtually the entire Michigan Territory. Hull was taken prisoner by the British and was court-martialed upon his return to the United States.

He was found guilty of 11 counts, and only the intervention by President James Madison spared him from execution.

And there we have it, 10 of the worst generals in history. Of course there were numerous other names that could have made it to this list.

The question that begs to be asked is how did some of these people advance to such a high rank in the first place. Someone at some stage must have deemed them good enough to be promoted. Surely some of these people should be held accountable.

A good number of these people did not wait until they were promoted to general before suddenly displaying their talent for incompetence. Many of them had been incompetent junior officers and should have been rooted out then. Yet they still received promotion after promotion until, finally, they were in a position to do some serious damage.



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



# Special Forces - Spanish Legion

Part twenty-six of a series that looks at Special Forces around the world. This month we feature the Spanish Legion.

The Spanish Legion (*Legión Española, La Legión*), informally known as the Tercio or the Tercios, is a unit of the Spanish Army and Spain's Rapid Reaction Force.

It was raised in the 1920s to serve as part of Spain's Army of Africa. The unit, which was established in January 1920 as the Spanish equivalent of the French Foreign Legion, was in-

itially known as the Tercio de Extranjeros ("Tercio of foreigners"), the name under which it began fighting in the Rif War of 1920–1926.

Although foreign recruitment spans the Spanish-speaking nations, the majority of recruits are Spaniards. Over the years, the force's name has changed from Tercio de Extranjeros to Tercio de Marruecos (when the field of operations targeted Mo-

rocco), and by the end of the Rif War it became the "Spanish Legion", with several "tercios" as sub-units.

The Legion played a major role in the Nationalist forces in the Spanish Civil War. In post-Franco Spain, the modern Legion has undertaken tours of duty in the Yugoslav Wars, Afghanistan, Iraq and Operation Libre Hidalgo UNIFIL.

## History

The Spanish Legion was formed by royal decree of King Alfonso XIII on 28 January 1920, with the Minister of War José Villalba Riquelme stating, "With the designation of Foreigners Regiment there will be created an armed military unit, whose recruits, uniform and regulations by which they should be governed will be set by the minister of war."

In the 1920s the Spanish Legion's five battalions were filled primarily by native Spaniards (since foreigners were not easy to recruit) with most of its foreign members coming from the

Republic of Cuba.

Historically there had been a "Spanish Foreign Legion" which preceded the modern Legion's formation in 1920. On 28 June 1835, the French government had decided to hand over to the Spanish government the French Foreign Legion in support of Queen Isabella's claim to the Spanish throne during the First Carlist War.

The French Foreign Legion, with around 4,000 men, landed at Tarragona on 17 August 1835. This became the first Spanish Legion until it was dissolved on 8 December 1838, when it had dropped to only 500 men.

The British Legion (*La Legión Británica*) of the Spanish Legion also fought during the First Carlist War. This Legion fought for the fortified bridge of Arrigorriaga on 11 September 1835.

The Spanish Legion was modelled on the French Foreign Legion. Its purpose was to provide a corps of professional troops to fight in Spain's colonial campaigns in North Africa, in place of conscript units that were proving ineffective. The first commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel José Millán-Astray Terreros, referred to his unit as 'La Legión' from the start but this only became part





of the unit's title from 1937.

In the original Tercio de Extranjeros there were, amongst others, one Chinese, three Japanese, one Maltese, one Russian, and one black American. However, soon the majority of its members were Spaniards who joined to fight outside of European Spain.

Tercio (lit. 'a third') is an old Spanish military term that roughly translates as 'regiment' (originally it had enough manpower to be considered a half-brigade). In the 18th century tercios were replaced by regiments. There is no equivalent word in English. Dating from the 16th century, the name was chosen to evoke the era of Spain's military supremacy as the leading Catholic power in Europe under the Habsburg Emperors. Organised into tercios in 1534, the Spanish infantry gained a reputation for invincibility.

In 1925, the unit title was changed to Tercio de Marruecos ('Tercio of Morocco'). This was soon abbreviated to 'The Tercio'. In 1937 at the height of the Spanish Civil War, the Tercio de Marruecos was renamed La Legión, the name by which it is still known today.

## The modern Legion

In the 2000s, after the abandonment of conscription, the Spanish Legion once again accepted foreigners into service. Male and female native Spanish speakers, mostly from Central American and South American states, were included.

Today, acceptance to the Spanish Legion is based on the following criteria

- Be a Spanish citizen; al-

though citizens from former Spanish territories also can join (foreign recruits are required to have a valid Spanish residence permit).

- Be a citizen in good legal standing.
- Not be deprived of civil rights.
- Be at least 18 years of age and not be 29 on the day of joining boot camp.
- Be able to pass psychological, physical and medical evaluations.

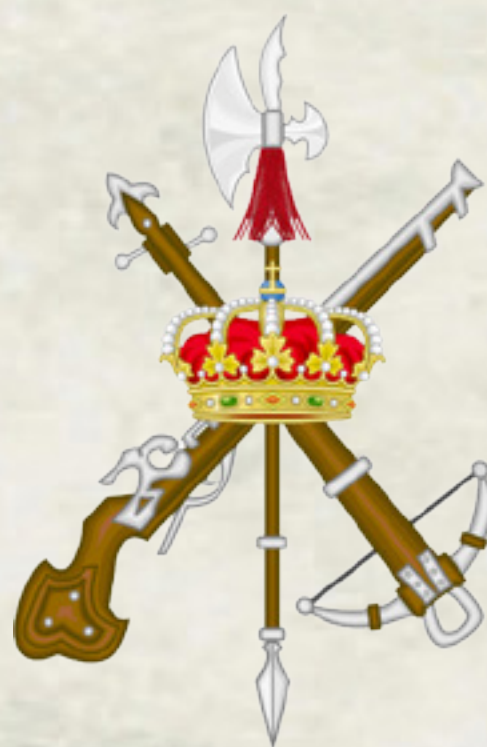
In recent years, the Spanish Legion was involved in Bosnia as part of the SFOR. It also took part in the Iraq War, deploying in Najaf alongside Salvadoran troops, until the new Spanish government of José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero fulfilled its electoral promises by withdrawing Spanish troops from Iraq.

The legion units deployed in Iraq were involved in several operations against the insurgency. In 2005, the legion was deployed in Afghanistan as part of the NATO-led International Stabilisation Force (ISAF). In 2006, the 10th Bandera was sent to Southern Lebanon as part of United Nations' Operation UNIFIL.

The Spanish Legion is now mostly used in NATO peace-keeping missions. It has 5,000 soldiers in a Brigade of two Tercios (regiments) based in Ronda, Málaga and Viator, Almería (Andalusia).

Two other independent tercios are deployed in the Spanish African enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla as part of their respective garrisons. The legion is directly controlled by the Spanish General Staff.

Although the detachment at



## Spanish Legion

Málaga was transferred away, each year a company of legionaries from one of the Tercios (regiments) returns to march in the Holy Week procession with the Christ of the Good Death, a life-size effigy of Christ Crucified, adopted by the legion as Patron in the 1920s.

It also has its own confraternity with its home chapel located in this historic city, where veterans who served in this unit are counted among its membership. The Legion's detachments also take part in various Holy Week events nationwide, including its military band.

## Legion Special Forces

Although considered a special forces regiment, the Legion has a special operations unit known as the *Bandera de operaciones especiales de la legión* (Legion Special Operations Battalion or BOEL).

The members of this unit, who were (and still mostly are) volunteers from other banderas



**UNTIDY - NO, TRADITION - YES:** Contrary to usual military practice, Legionaries are allowed to sport beards and are permitted to wear their uniforms, both traditional and service, open at the chest.

of the legion, received training in: SCUBA/Maritime Warfare, Arctic and Mountain Warfare, Sabotage and Demolitions, Parachute and HALO techniques, Long Range Reconnaissance, Counter-terrorism and CQB, Vehicle insertion, Sniping and SERE (Survival, Escape, Resistance and Evasion). Much of the training was undertaken at Fort Bragg (USA).

In 2002 the BOEL was renamed 19th Special Operations Group "Maderal Oleaga" (GOE-XIX) and was moved to Alicante, and reported directly to Army HQ as part of the Special Operations Command, with recruitment now being in a national basis, with personnel assigned from various Army units. In 2019-20, the battalion returned to the Legion Command.

## Basic training

Basic training lasts four months and takes place in Cáceres or Cádiz. It includes

basic military skills, forced marches and a stringent assault course. After the second month, the recruit signs a two or three year contract.

After finishing basic training the recruit joins one of the tercios, in there he receives further training, mostly focused on parading and legionary tradition. This is the same process as in the rest of units in the Spanish army.

From its establishment the legion was noted for its plain and simple style of dress, in contrast to the colourful dress uniforms worn by the Peninsular regiments of the Spanish Army until the overthrow of the Monarchy in 1931. This was part of the cult of austerity favoured by a unit that considered itself on more or less continual active service.

The modern legion has the same camouflage dress for active service and ordinary duties as the rest of the Spanish

Army but retains the unique, sage green Tropical uniform for semi-formal barrack dress and as the basis of Legion parade uniform. Perhaps the most distinctive feature of the modern legion uniform is the khaki "gorrillo" cap or "chapiri", with red hanging tassel and piping.

Contrary to usual military practice, Legionaries are allowed to sport beards and are permitted to wear their uniforms, both traditional and service, open at the chest.

## Traditions

The Legion's customs and traditions include the following:

- Its members, regardless of rank, are titled *Caballero Legionario* ("Legionary Gentleman"). When women are admitted, they are titled *Dama Legionaria* ("Legionary Lady").
- A "*Mística Legionaria*" (Legionary Spirit) (condensed





- in a twelve-point “Credo Legionario” - Legionary creed)
- Legionaries consider themselves *novios de la muerte* (“bridegrooms of death”). The nickname is also the title of one of the two official hymns of the Spanish Legion, the other one being *La Cancion del Legionario* (“The Legionary’s Song”). The nickname hails from the first years of the corps, when it only admitted men during those times.
- When in trouble, a legionary shouts *¡A mí la Legión!* (“To me the Legion!”). Those within earshot are bound to help him regardless of the circumstances. In practice, Legionaries are never supposed to abandon a comrade on the battlefield.
- The legion’s march step is faster than the Spanish military standard, being 160-180 steps per minute in contrast to the standard 90 steps per minute.
- During the Holy Week processions in Málaga, the Legionaries carry on their shoulders the Christ of Good Death on Holy Thursday morning. Later that same afternoon they accompany the procession through the streets of Málaga.
- Under the command of José Millán-Astray, the legion’s motto was *¡Viva la muerte!* (“Long live death!”). It fell into disuse after the death of Francisco Franco. The current motto is *¡Legionarios a luchar!. ¡Legionarios a morir!* (Legionnaires, to fight. Legionnaires, to die!)
- The Legion had several mascots during its history, such as monkeys, chickens, capercaillies, wild boars, barbaric sheep (Spanish, *arruis*), bears or parrots. The modern Legion however has a goat as mascot of the unit, the Goat of the Spanish Legion. It usually appears at parades, wearing a Legion cap and accompanied by a Legionary, alongside the legion’s marker guard (*gastadores*) at parades and ceremonies, leading the marching troops.
- While throughout its history the legion has been an essentially infantry force it has also included armoured, artillery and engineer units. During the 1920s and early 1930s a squadron of mounted *lanceros* (lancers) formed part of the legion and in 1982 a mounted section of the *Policia Militar de la Legion* was formed to carry the traditional lances and pennants during the Holy Week Procession in Málaga to continue the practice.
- The Military bands and Bugle bands of the legion continue the musical traditions it has since the 1920s. The bugle bands of the Legion, together with the *Regulares*, are the only such bands in the Spanish Armed Forces

## Weapons used by the Spanish Legion



**H&K USP**



**H&K G36-E**



**hk-417**



**Heckler & Koch MG4**

to never use the valved bugle but use the plain bugle instead, and together with the Parachute Light Infantry Brigade are the only ones to use the small cornetin or the piccolo bugle, used in ordering commands and leading the bugle band in playing bugle calls, fanfares or marches. The medium cornetin is used by other Spanish Armed Forces branches.

- Formerly the Legion did its march pasts in the same way as the rest of the Spanish Armed Forces, today, all officers and the colour guards only do a hand salute and eyes right when marching past. When on the halt and giving full salutes, they only do a hand salute.

### Anthems and marches

[\*El Novio de la Muerte\*](#) (Bridegroom of Death) is the unofficial hymn and regimental slow march of the Spanish Legion, composed in 1921 with words by Juan Costa set to music by Fidel Prado.

Composed in 1920, [\*La Cancion del Legionario\*](#) (The Legionnaire’s Song) is the official quick march and anthem of the Legion. It was composed by Modesto Romero and Infantry Commandant Emilio Guillén Pedemonti. It is played by the military bands and bugle bands of the Legion at the regulation 190 beats that it exclusively uses.

Before it became the legion’s official march, *Le Madelon* and *Tercios Heroicos* (Heroic Tercios) by Francisco Calles and Antonio Soler were its official march past tunes.



# Sucked into an Admin Vortex

*While the old SADF was pretty well organised, especially when you consider how large it was, things did sometimes fall through the cracks.*

Recently I did a video for our new Military Despatches YouTube channel. It was titled "Army Speak 101 - Military slang from the SADF and around the world."

One of the terms that caught my attention was 'Admin Vortex'. It refers to a disorganised soldier or situation and is used mainly by the British military.

Now a vortex is defined as a powerful circular current of water. It is also known as a maelstrom or whirlpool. Anything that gets close to it is sucked down into the depths.

At one stage the South African Defence Force (SADF) was a pretty large organisation. Not only was there the permanent force and national servicemen, but also a large citizen force.

So it is hardly surprising that there was the odd admin glitch from time to time - occasions where people would get sucked into the vortex.

I was fortunate enough to chat with six people that all had their own experiences with the admin vortex. All of them requested that I not use their real names for the article. Let's start off with Steve.

I never did national service. I decided midway through matric that I was going to join the permanent force.

On finishing school I joined the army and became a member of the South African Corps of Signals.

After basic training and junior leaders course I did a number of courses and eventually found myself with the rank of sergeant.

The SADF then came up with something that was called, if my memory serves me correctly, Formative Branch.

This was where any PF sergeant, staff sergeant, or warrant officer could apply to become an officer.

After successful completion of the Formative Branch course a sergeant would receive the ranks of lieutenant, a staff sergeant became a captain, and a warrant officer became a major.

I applied to do the course and was accepted. At that stage the course was held at the Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg, which was cool because it was where I had done my basic training and all my subsequent courses.

I passed the course and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant. Three years later I was still a lieutenant.

I was a bit puzzled because I knew that everyone that did the course with me and had become a lieutenant had since been promoted to captain.

I went to see our adjutant and explained the situation to him. He then phoned Chief of Staff Personnel to try and find out what was going on. He chatted for a few minutes and then asked me if I was still being paid every month. I told him that I was being paid every month.

He finished the phone call and then turned to me and informed me that according to the records I had left the army two years before. He said that they were looking into the matter and he would get back to me.

About two hours later I was told that he wanted to see me. When I walked into his office he congratulated me and told that I had been promoted to captain 18 months ago.

So not only was I now a captain, but I would also be getting 18 months back-pay, the difference in salary between a lieutenant and a captain. It was

a tidy sum of money and I was delighted.

Much later the adjutant told me the story of what had gone wrong. I don't know if it was true, but it had a certain ring of truth about it. And at least three other people told me that they had experienced a similar situation.

It appears that when the SADF was changing over from hard copy files to a computerised system, the data from everyone's individual file had to be captured and uploaded to the computer system.

This took place at DHQ (Defence Headquarters) in Pretoria and a team of national servicemen were responsible for capturing all the data.

Apparently these national servicemen had to capture a certain number of files each week and if they didn't reach their target their weekend pass was cancelled.

Now anyone that served in the military knows that a troop will always come up with a plan. What happened that if by Friday afternoon they were still sitting with 40 or 50 files to capture, they would make the files disappear.

If my memory serves me correctly there were two elevators in DHQ. What these troops would do was take the files and, one by one, drop them into the gap between the floor and the elevator doors so they would fall down into the elevator shaft.

This was eventually discovered when one of the elevators was not going all the way down to the ground floor. A company, I think it was called Otis, had the contract to service the ele-

vators and they were called out to check what the problem was. They discovered that the elevator shaft was filled with thousands of files. So many that the elevator was unable to reach the ground floor fully.

Apparently my file was one of the many that had gone down the shaft.

Colin spent ten years as a permanent force member of the South African Infantry Corps. He tells us his story.

I served for ten years in the infantry and had reached the rank of captain. I was relatively happy with my job but I had also just become engaged. At that stage we spent a considerable amount of time on the border and I wasn't sure how my soon to be wife would feel about me being away from home for so long.

I decided that it was maybe a good time to leave the military and seek employment in the civilian sector.

Back then you couldn't resign from the army. You had to buy yourself out and it cost me the princely sum of R10.00 to do so.

I finished with the SADF on 30 June and, because I had served for ten years, had no further commitment to the military.

The following month on 31 July I noticed that the SADF had paid my salary into my bank account. I didn't use the money, reasoning that they would discover their mistake and make me pay it back.

The following month, August, I was once again paid my

SADF salary. In those days you would be paid a double salary in the month of your birthday. As my birthday was in August, I in fact received two months salary.

I phoned my former adjutant and told him what had happened. His exact words to me were, "Well if you don't tell them I sure as hell won't."

The SADF continued to pay me for September and October and then it stopped.

This amounted to five months salary. I opened a separate bank account and I put the money into this account because I was certain that at some stage they would ask for it back.

Two years later I spent the money. It's now been 34 years, so I somehow don't think they will want it back.

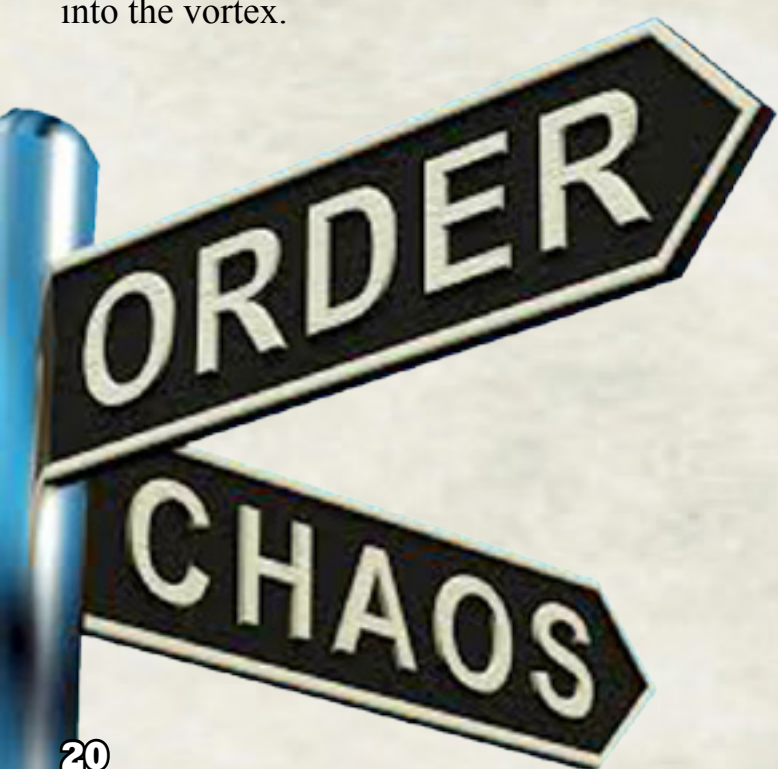
Martin was a member of the permanent force and he received what was possibly the quickest promotion and demotion on record.

I did basics and afterwards went on a junior leaders course. About four months later I was told that I would be going in orders in front of the adjutant.

Now you always get nervous when you are told that you are going on orders. Your first thought is "what am I in trouble for now?"

I was marched into the adjutants office and he congratulated me and told me that I had been promoted to the rank of lance corporal. I was chuffed to say the least.

As I was about to be marched out he stopped me and asked me why my name was spelt wrong.





You would have your surname sewn on to your browns shirt and bush jacket. I assured him that the spelling of my surname was correct.

He looked a bit puzzled then glanced at the file in front of him. He read out a force number and asked me if that was my correct force number. I told him it wasn't.

What had transpired was that someone that had a surname that was pronounced the same of mine, but with a different spelling, had actually been promoted. By some mix up I was brought on orders instead.

The adjutant promptly informed me that I was no longer a lance corporal. Hell, I was a lance jack for less than three minutes. It must have been some sort of a record.

Johan was a member of the permanent force for seven years. He tells his story.

I joined the army in 1976 and served with the South African Infantry Corps. Then, in 1982, I bought myself out. I had married in 1979 and had a two-year old son.

I was working for an insurance company and one Monday evening we had just finished supper and were sitting down to watch a bit of television when the doorbell rang.

I answered the door to find two military policemen standing there. They were there to arrest me for being AWOL (Absent without leave).

I was more than a bit confused and told them that there must be some sort of a mistake. I explained to them that I had

left the SADF six months before.

They were not prepared to listen to anything I had to say and I was escorted down to Natal Command and placed in a cell for the night.

It was only the next morning that everything was sorted out and I was told that I was free to go.

I didn't even get an apology from anyone.

Peter served in the army for nearly 20 years. Yet the start of his military career was unconventional to say the least.

I was born and grew up in Durban. When I was still in standard four I decided that I wanted to become a soldier.

When I completed matric I couldn't wait to sign up. The SADF had a recruiting office in Smith Street and I went there and told them I wanted to join the permanent force.

I had to fill in a lot of paperwork and then went to Natal Command to do a medical. After that I was put on a train to Pretoria. That is where the fun started.

Somehow they had managed to lose my medical report and I had to go to a place called MMI just outside of Pretoria to do another medical.

I spent two weeks in Pretoria before I was finally sworn in and became a member of the SADF.

I had joined the South African Infantry Corps and my parent unit would be 5 SAI in Ladysmith in Natal. I was told that it was too late to do basic training with the January intake

and I would only do basics in July.

Then, for some reason known only to them, I was sent to 1 SAI in Bloemfontein where I would remain until I did my basics at 5 SAI in July. Why they didn't just send me straight to 5 SAI remains a mystery.

I arrived in Bloemfontein in the middle of January and they had no idea of what to do with me. And you must take into account that at the stage I was clueless. I didn't know how to march, didn't know how to salute, had no idea of the different ranks and so on.

On my second day there I addressed a staff sergeant as "Hey you." Not a good idea I can assure you.

They ended up putting me in one of the companies that were already doing the second year of their national service. I slowly start learning the ropes.

Then at the end of February the company learns that it is going to the border for three months. As part of the company I naturally go with them.

We spent three months on the border, mostly patrolling the area between beacon 11 and 12. It was a busy time and our company hit a number of contacts. I was personally involved in two of them. I was loving it, this is why I wanted to become a soldier in the first place.

We returned to Bloemfontein at the end of May and in June we had a medal parade and I was awarded the Pro Patria Medal.

Then at the end of June I get sent to Ladysmith to report for my basic training.

On arrival I report to the ad-

jutant. I'm in my step-out and naturally I'm wearing my ribbon for the Pro Patria. He sees this and freaks out, telling me that I am not allowed to wear ribbons that I have not earned. I tell him that I was awarded the medal, so therefore I did have the right to wear it.

I explained the story to him, telling him that I had been on the border for three months. He gets on the phone to the adjutant at 1 SAI and a few harsh words were exchanged.

Looking back at it now, it did seem rather surreal. Here was this little snot-nose that had spent three months on the border, been involved in two contacts, and had a Pro Patria and who had never even done basic training.

If you think about it, it was a bit of a crazy situation. Surely someone should have realised that you can't send someone into an operational area with absolutely no training.

My corporal during basic

training used to call me 'Grensvegter'. I think he was a bit jealous because he had never been to the border.

Andrew did his two years of national service with the South African Corps of Military Police. He tells us of an incident that left him with a very bitter taste in his mouth.

After doing basics and my courses I was posted to Wits Command in Johannesburg. This was really great because I lived in Randburg and I had a sleep-out pass and, if I wasn't on duty, had every weekend off.

One morning I was told by my OC that myself and another MP had to go and arrest a guy that was AWOL from his unit.

He was a CF (Citizen Force) guy and was married. We were told that he would probably be at his house in Bedfordview.

When we arrived at his house his wife opened the door and she went as white as a sheet

when she saw us.

I told her that we were there to arrest her husband for being AWOL. She started to sob and she began to shake like a leaf.

We then found out that her husband had been given a full military funeral four months before. He had been killed in a contact on the border.

I have never felt so ashamed in my life. Can you imagine how traumatic it must have been for this poor young woman. Not only had she lost her husband, but now we arrive to arrest him.

When we drove back to Wits I was furious. I just wanted to walk into the office and punch the OC and anyone else I could get my hands on. Although I later realised that it probably wasn't his fault.

But I mean how can they screw up so badly? Which genius came to the conclusion that this guy was AWOL. Surely it couldn't have been his CF unit. They must have known that he had been killed in action.



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# Pearl Harbour - a few facts

*Most people will have seen one of the two well-known movies about the attack on Pearl Harbour - Pearl Harbor or Tora, Tora, Tora. And most of us have a good idea of what happened at Pearl Harbour. Here are a few things you may not know about it.*

Anyone that has even a basic interest in military history will have heard about Pearl Harbour. They will know that on 7 December 1941 the Japanese launched a surprise attack on the US Naval

Base at Pearl Harbour in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The following day, 8 December 1941, the United States of America declared war on Japan, thereby bringing America into World War II.

Many of our older readers

will have watched the 1970 movie, Tora, Tora, Tora.

A lot of younger readers will remember the movie Pearl Harbor released in 2001.

In this article we look at a few facts relating to Pearl Harbour

that you may not know.

American radar detected approaching planes. America had about a one hour warning about the impending attack, but a combination of miscommunication and inexperience prevented the warning from reaching the right people.

George Elliot and Joseph Lockhart spotted the first wave using the SRC 270 radar. This reached the ear of Lieutenant

Kermit Tylor but, due to his inexperience and the fact that the operators failed to mention the sheer number of targets, he thought that it was a flight of B-17 bombers that were expected from the mainland.

So he ignored the warning. He was wrong. And this was after the Americans had spotted and attacked an approaching Japanese submarine.

The US captured its first POW at Pearl Harbour. His name was Kazuo Sakamaki, a Japanese naval officer.

Sakamaki attacked Pearl Harbour in a midget submarine. It was, however, disabled and trapped on a nearby beach.

He attempted to blow it up, but the charges failed to go off. He then swam underneath the sub to investigate the charges





but passed out mid investigation. He was found by a local and ended up becoming the first Japanese Prisoner of War.

In turn the Japanese struck his name from the records and pretended that he never existed. He was eventually allowed to return home after the war where he later worked for Toyota before dying in 1999.

23 sets of brothers died in the attack on the USS Arizona. Before World War II it was common practice for brothers to serve on the same ship.

This was the case for the USS Arizona which saw 37 pairs or trios of brothers serving on board – a total of 77 men. Only 15 of them survived, with 23 sets of brothers perishing in the attack.

The effect on family members was so noticeable that the military attempted to stop the practice of placing blood relatives on the same ship. But it largely continued throughout the remainder of the war.

The attack left an enormous environmental effect on Pearl Harbour. Mother Earth was a victim of Pearl Harbour as well.

In 1992 Pearl Harbour was added to the Environmental Protection Agency's National Priority List of hazardous waste sites. The major contributing factor to its status as hazardous waste site is the massive sub-surface oil plume.

Current estimates say that more than 18,927,058 litres of oil has been spilled and the plume is almost 15 soccer fields long, although officials have said that it is stable and con-

tained. On top of that the sunken USS Arizona is still leaking fuel to this day.

A senior Japanese official opposed the attack. It appears that the Japanese decision to attack Pearl Harbour was not a unanimous one.

Osami Nagano was a Marshal Admiral of the Japanese Navy and served as the Chief of the Japanese Navy General Staff from April 1941 to February 1944.

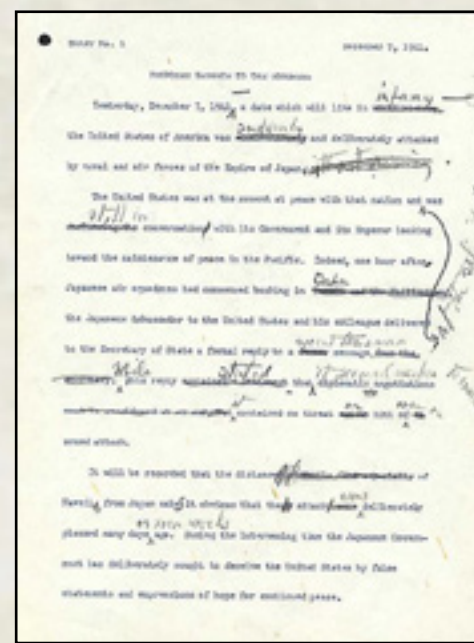
He vehemently opposed an attack on Pearl Harbour. He and Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto fought with each other regarding the attack.

Nagano finally gave his consent after Yamamoto threatened to leave his position as commander-in-chief of the Imperial Japanese Navy.

After the war Nagano was tried as a war criminal but died of a heart attack before the trial could be concluded.

One member of the US Congress voted against war with Japan. After the attack on Pearl Harbour the government needed to act fast. At 12h30 on 8 December, only one day after the attack, President Franklin D. Roosevelt requested a declaration of war both from Congress and the nation.

The vote was passed in the House by 13h10 that same afternoon with a vote of 388 to one. That vote was from the devoted pacifist and first woman in Congress Jeanette Rankin. Her vote reportedly resulted in hissing from her peers and many tried desperately to change her vote. However, she stuck to her guns,



**INFAMY:** The original draft of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's speech.

saying "As a woman I can't go to war and I refuse to send anyone else."

Roosevelt almost didn't use the word 'infamy' in his speech. FDR's 'Infamy' speech is often regarded as one of the best speeches in American political history. It was only seven minutes long, but its impact was immediate.

Congress declared war on Japan only an hour after the speech was finished, and the public became highly supportive of the war effort.

The line, "a date that will live in infamy" has become ingrained into the public consciousness. But that was almost not the case.

The opening paragraph of his speech read, "Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy, the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan."

The original line was "a date



**FINAL RESTING PLACE:** The USS Arizona Memorial sits above the USS Arizona which was sunk on 7 December 1941.

that will live in world history", but Roosevelt scratched it out and added 'infamy' in its place. It was a good decision.

Elvis Presley helped raise money for the USS Arizona Memorial. The USS Arizona Memorial sits on top of the sunken USS Arizona. Every year more than two million people visit the memorial, and visiting it is considered a highly emotional experience. And, in part, we have Elvis Presley to thank for its existence.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower approved the memorial in 1958, but it was stipulated that it be privately funded at a cost of \$500,000 – about \$4,5 million today. On 25 March 1961 Elvis put on a benefit concert which raised \$64,000 or nearly 13% of the structures cost.

Construction went ahead and the memorial was opened on 30 May 1962.

The ashes of a sailor's daughter went down with the USS Utah. During the attack the USS

Utah was hit by Japanese torpedoes, which quickly caused the ship to take on water and sink. 64 people were killed in the attack and, like the USS Arizona, the dead remain interned with the ship.

One of the occupants are the ashes of a baby girl. Nancy Lynn Wagner died when she was just two days old and her father, Albert Wagner, had taken her ashes on board with the intention of scattering them at sea. However, the ship was attacked before he had the chance and her ashes remain in Wagner's locker to this day.

In 2003 a funeral service was held at the site of the USS Utah in her honour.

Survivors of the attack may be laid to rest at Pearl Harbour. Veterans of the USS Arizona have the option of being buried with their fellow shipmates aboard the sunken ship.

If they choose that option, a diver takes an urn contained their ashes down to the ship where it is then placed under one of the gun turrets. Over

30 USS Arizona veterans have been taken down and interned on the ship since the possibility was opened in 1982. However, they are not the only ones with this option. Other veterans that survived the attack on Pearl Harbour may have their ashes scattered at the site where their ship went down.

Every United States Navy, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine vessel entering Pearl Harbor participates in the tradition of "manning the rails." Personnel serving on these ships stand at attention at the ship's guard rails and salute the USS Arizona Memorial in solemn fashion as their ship slowly glides into port.

And, in closing, three other facts that you may not know.

- Thousands of Japanese tourists visit Pearl Harbour on an annual basis.
- Most of the sunken battleships were salvaged.
- The Japanese attempted to attack Pearl Harbour again on 4 March 1942.



# Vietnam - the deadly, undeclared war

It was the longest war ever fought by the United States of America. It claimed more than 58,000 American lives and affected an entire generation. Yet it was a war that was never declared.

The Vietnam War was officially fought between North and South Vietnam. It lasted for 19 years, five months, four weeks and one day and took place from 1 November 1955 to 30 April 1975.

Although the USA never declared war on North Vietnam, some 2.7 million US troops served in Vietnam.

Besides the United States, seven other countries sent troops to fight or serve on the side of South Vietnam. They were South Korea, Thailand, Australia, Philippines, New Zealand, Khmer Republic and the Kingdom of Laos. The Republic of China provided military support.

The belligerents on the North's side were North Vietnam, Vietcong, Khmer Rouge and Pather Lao. The USSR, People's Republic of China, North Korea and Cuba provided military support.

## Vietnam War Trivia

- At the end of the Vietnam War, the crewmen on the aircraft carrier USS Midway pushed \$10 million worth of helicopters into the sea so that a Cessna full of evacuees could land on the deck.
- Hugh Thomson, the man who during the Vietnam War had landed a helicopter in the line of fire to confront and stop American troops who had by that point killed close to 500 unarmed civilians in the My Lai Massacre, was labeled a traitor by Congress and ordered not to speak about the event.
- The Vietnam War is known as "the American War" or *Kháng chiến chống Mỹ* in Vietnam.
- In 2005, NSA documents were declassified that proved that the second Gulf of Tonkin incident, which was used as a justification for the

Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (which led to the Vietnam War), never happened.

- In 1967, protesters in USA requested a permit to levitate the Pentagon 300 feet in the air, through songs and chants, to exorcise it of its evil and end the Vietnam War. Authorities agreed to only 3 feet.
- During the Vietnam War, an estimated 125,000 Americans fled to Canada to avoid the military draft. Around half returned to the US when President Carter, in his first day in office, granted them amnesty.
- Congressional Medal of Honor Winner Peter Lemon was high on marijuana when he single-handedly fought off two waves of Vietcong troops and dragged a wounded soldier to safety.
- A popular children's toy in the United States, Slinkys



Slinky

were used in the Vietnam War as mobile radio antennas. They would sling the Slinky over branches and extend the range of their radios.

- During the Vietnam War, the US military produced recordings of ghostly voices and eerie sounds to play to the Vietcong, who believed that if a body wasn't buried, the person's soul would wander the Earth forever. It was known as "Operation Wandering Soul". No one really knows what effect it had, if any. You can listen to "Ghost Tape No. 10" by clicking [here](#). The tape is undeniably creepy, filled with voices claiming to be from Hell, trapped there after dying senseless deaths, looking for their children, and wanting desperately to go home.
- There was a false belief during the war that the Vietnamese had a superstition with the Ace of Spades card, considering it to be a symbol of death and that they would flee at the sight of the Ace. Therefore the U.S. Playing Card Company shipped crates of this card to Vietnam, where they were scattered during raids in an effort to terrify the Vietcong.
- An infamous photograph of

what looks like an execution was used by the anti-war movement for propaganda purposes. They claimed that it showed a South Vietnamese officer executing an innocent Vietnamese civilian. The shooter was actually South Vietnamese Chief of National Police, General Nguyen Ngoc Loan. He was executing Nguyen Van Lem, also known as Bay Lop, a Vietcong intelligence officer. The photo was taken in Saigon on 1 February, 1968 early in the Tet Offensive. After the war General Nguyen Ngoc Loan moved to the United States where he opened a pizzeria in suburban Virginia.

- A prisoner of war during the Vietnam War named James Stockdale is said to have survived in such arduous conditions that you must renounce optimism for stoicism. His optimistic fellow captives all died. Having a blindly optimistic view worsens your chances of survival. This is called 'The Stockdale Paradox'.

During the Vietnam War, a US task force known as 'Tiger Force' routinely cut off the ears of its victims to make necklaces from them.

- When Colonel "Chappie" James was Vice Wing Commander under legendary ace Colonel Robin Olds during the Vietnam War, they were known as "Black Man & Robin."
- During the Vietnam war, Navy Seal teams One and Two amassed a combined kill/death ratio of 200:1.
- The United States' use of Agent Orange during the Vietnam War resulted in 400,000 people being killed or maimed, and 500,000 birth defects.
- During the early 1960s, there was a 'Secret War', where the CIA recruited 50% of the Hmong population to fight for the US in the Vietnam War. Afterwards, they were completely abandoned.
- Duct Tape was used during the Vietnam War to repair helicopter rotor blades.
- A 'liquid land mine' was in-

## Casualties & Loses

### South

Country	Dead	Wounded
South Vietnam	313,000	1,170,000
United States	58,318	303,644
Kingdom of Laos	30,000	Unknown
South Korea	5,099	10,962
Australia	521	3,129
Thailand	351	Unknown
New Zealand	37	Unknown
Republic of China	25	Unknown
Philippines	9	64

### North

Country	Dead	Wounded
NVA / Vietcong	849,018	600,000+
China	1,100	4,200
North Korea	14	Unknown

Approximately two million Vietnamese civilians were also killed during the war.



**GAME OVER:** South Vietnamese Chief of Police Nguyen Ngoc Loan executes Vietcong intelligence officer Nguyen Van Lem.



- vented during the Vietnam War, which was poured on the ground to form a mine, and best of all, it self-deactivated in four days, keeping kids safe from mines that had not been triggered.
- An Air Force Sergeant during the Vietnam War created an “underground” radio station in the back of a Vietnamese brothel where he played hard rock, made vulgar jokes and openly opposed the war. The radio station was operated on channel 69.
- Roy Benavidez, a US soldier in the Vietnam War, performed possibly the most heroic six hours of battle any soldier ever has. When faced with over 1,000 NVA (North Vietnamese Army) troops, Roy P. Benavidez flew into a gunfight to save 12 Special Forces soldiers with only a knife. He was shot multiple times and believed dead, until he spat in the face of the medic trying to put him in a body bag. It took 13 years to get him the Medal of Honour.



**Võ Nguyên Giáp**

- During the Vietnam War, a US Prisoner of War was forced to do a press conference saying that they were treated well. He managed to convey the truth by blinking “TORTURE” in Morse code.
- Super-glue was used during the Vietnam War to slow bleeding until soldiers could get to a hospital.
- During the Vietnam War, one unconventional technique used by the United States against the Vietcong was replacing their ammunition with decoy explosive ammunition, which destroyed their weapons when fired.
- US President Richard Nixon is suspected of sabotaging the Paris Peace Accords, extending the Vietnam War by five years to ensure his own election.
- NVA General Võ Nguyên Giáp not only gave the American a torrid time in Vietnam. He also orchestrated successive defeats of the Japanese and the French. Even Death had a hard time finishing off Giáp – he lived to 102 years of age.
- The majority of the men who fought in Vietnam weren’t drafted - they volunteered.
- In 1985 British pop singer Paul Hardcastle had a hit with a song titled *19*. This, according to the song, was the average age of US soldiers fighting in the Vietnam War. The average age of US soldiers killed in Vietnam was actually 22. Still young, but not a teenager.
- The common belief is that the fighting in Vietnam was



**Roy Benavidez**

not as intense as in World War II. Yet the average infantryman in the South Pacific during World War II saw about 40 days of combat in four years. The average infantryman in Vietnam saw about 240 days of combat in one year thanks to the mobility of the helicopter.

- One out of every 10 Americans who served in Vietnam was a casualty. 58,148 were killed and 304,000 wounded out of 2.7 million who served. Although the percent that died is similar to other wars, amputations or crippling wounds were 300 percent higher than in World War II. 75,000 Vietnam veterans are severely disabled.
- MEDEVAC helicopters flew nearly 500,000 missions. Over 900,000 patients were airlifted (nearly half were American). The average time lapse between wounding to hospitalization was less than one hour. As a result, less than one percent of all Americans wounded,



**THE BIG LIE:** A ceremony honours the arrival of bodies of troops killed in Vietnam. Most of the coffins, however, were empty or filled with sand.

- who survived the first 24 hours, died.
- The helicopter provided unprecedented mobility. Without the helicopter it would have taken three times as many troops to secure the 1,287 km border with Cambodia and Laos.
- 30,000 American draft dodgers went to Canada during the Vietnam War, while 30,000 Canadians joined the US military to fight in the Vietnam War.
- On his second day in office, President Jimmy Carter pardoned all evaders of the Vietnam War drafts.
- The former Prime Minister of Vietnam moved to Orange County after the war, where he opened and ran a liquor store.
- The U.S. government spent years holding fake arrival ceremonies honouring the return of American soldiers killed in WWII, Vietnam, and Korea to American soil, but the planes were actually empty. The ceremonies
- were known by staff as “The Big Lie.”
- In the ’60s, the C.I.A. paid Vietnamese spies with merchandise from mail-order Sears catalogues, since they had little use for paper money.
- The Medal of Honour was awarded 259 for acts of bravery during the Vietnam War. 173 were to the US Army, 15 to the US Navy, 57 to the US Marine Corps and 14 to the US Air Force. A Medal of Honor was also awarded to the Vietnam Unknown Soldier.
- The first Medal of Honour presentation for Vietnam was to Captain Roger Donlon for actions on 6 July 1964 as commanding officer of the U.S. Army Special Forces Detachment defending Camp Nam Dong against a Vietcong attack.
- Thomas William Bennett (April 7, 1947 – February 11, 1969) was a U.S. Army medic and the second conscientious objector to re-

ceive the Medal of Honour (Desmond Doss, a medic in World War II, was the first). Bennett was killed in action during the Vietnam War and posthumously received the Medal of Honour.

- Three chaplains received the medal, including Vincent R. Capodanno, who served with the Marine Corps and was known as the “Grunt Padre.”
- The Vietcong became experts at digging tunnels. The Cu Chi Tunnels (about 75 kilometres north-west of Saigon) were a warren of tunnels used by the Vietcong to attack targets around Saigon. Built under fortified villages, where peasants had been forcibly moved, Cu Chi was a 200 kilometre long network of passages with underground hospitals, meeting rooms, multi-level sleeping quarters, trap doors, smokeless kitchens, air raid shelters, weapons factories, strategy rooms and even entire underground villages with theatres and



**Medal of Honour**



movie halls. In some places the tunnels had multiple stories.

- The Cu Chi tunnel system was so large and complex that road signs were used to help the Vietcong soldiers navigate their way around and avoid bamboo-stake booby traps meant for the American and Australian soldiers that tried to ferret them out. Favoured traps included punji stake pits with hidden upward-pointing bamboo stakes, and bamboo sticks that released an extremely poisonous snake called the three step snake, because its venom was toxic that a person collapsed three steps after being bitten.
- American, Australian and New Zealand troops came up with a special way of dealing with Vietcong tunnels - tunnel rats. These were volunteers that would go into the tunnels. Usually they were small in stature.



**KITCHEN COMPLEX:** One of the many kitchen complexes set in the Cu Chi Tunnels.

Whenever troops would uncover a tunnel, the tunnel rats were sent in to kill any hiding enemy soldiers and to plant explosives to destroy the tunnels. A tunnel rat was equipped with only a standard issue .45 calibre pistol, a bayonet and a flashlight, although most tunnel rats were allowed to choose another pistol with which to arm themselves.

- The main supply route for weapons, supplies and troops infiltrating into South

Vietnam was the Ho Chi Minh Trail, a network of roads and trails extending from North Vietnam through eastern Laos and Cambodia to South Vietnam. The North Vietnamese called the route the Truong Son Road after the ridge it ran along or Highway 559 after the engineer brigade that built it. The route began in a gorge the North Vietnamese called "Heaven's Gate."

- The object of some the U.S.'s first military actions in Southeast Asia was to disrupt the movement of supplies along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Throughout the Vietnam War a great deal of money and effort was spent trying to shut it down. Thousands of tons of bombs were dropped on it, key battles such as Hamburger Hill and Khe Sanh were fought to control it. Everything that the U.S. forces tried was ultimately unable to shut it down.
- The Vietcong were skilled at building and employing booby traps. One of the most common booby trap used by the Vietcong was



**SIMPLE BUT EFFECTIVE:** Punji sticks were not designed to kill an enemy but rather to wound them.

the punji stick. A hole would be dug into the ground and a number of sharpened wooded or bamboo stakes were placed upright in the ground. The presence of punji sticks would be camouflaged by natural undergrowth, crops, grass, brush or similar materials. When someone stepped on the trap the stakes would penetrate through their boot. Often the sticks would be covered in human faeces. In the harsh tropical heat this could lead to an infection very quickly. Sometimes a pit would be dug with punji sticks in the sides pointing downward at an angle. A soldier stepping into the pit would find it impossible to remove his leg without doing severe damage, and injuries might be incurred by the simple act of falling forward while one's leg is in a narrow, vertical, stake-lined pit. Such pits would require time and care

to dig the soldier's leg out, immobilizing the unit longer than if the foot were simply pierced.

- Air America was an American passenger and cargo airline covertly owned and operated by the US government between 1950 and 1976. It was used as a dummy corporation for Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) operations, including many in Vietnam and surrounding countries.
- The term fragging is used to describe the deliberate killing or attempted killing by a soldier of a fellow soldier, usually a superior officer or non-commissioned officer (NCO). The word was coined by U.S. military personnel during the Vietnam War, when such killings were most often attempted with a fragmentation grenade, sometimes making it appear as though the killing was accidental or during

combat with the enemy. The term fragging is now often used to encompass any means used to deliberately and directly cause the death of military colleagues. The high number of fragging incidents in the latter years of the Vietnam War was symptomatic of the unpopularity of the war with the American public and the breakdown of discipline in the U.S. Armed Forces. Documented and suspected fragging incidents totalled nearly nine hundred from 1969 to 1972.

- By the end of the war, seven million tons of bombs had been dropped on Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia - more than twice the amount of bombs dropped on Europe and Asia in World War II.
- The term "Zippo Raids" was coined during the Vietnam War. These were military operations which involved burning down Vietnamese villages. Often Zippo cigarette lighters were used to ignite the huts.
- 12,000 American helicopters saw action during the Vietnam War.
- Many American troops were not in the least impressed with the M-16 rifle. The weapon was prone to jamming and the inside of the barrel was vulnerable to corrosion in the brutal Vietnam climate.



**TUNNEL RAT:** Probably one of the most dangerous jobs of the Vietnam War - going into Vietcong tunnels and seeking out the enemy.



# Submariner's catastrophe

*The loss at sea with all hands of the Indonesian Navy's KRI Nanggala was a tragedy that saddened the world. Yet this was not the first time this century that submarines have been involved in incidents. So far there have been more than 40.*

Earlier this year the world was both shocked and saddened to learn of the loss of the Indonesian Navy's KRI Nanggala.

On 21 April 2021 the submarine went missing in waters off Bali while taking part in a torpedo drill.

It was later discovered that the submarine had sunk, killing all 53 personnel on board.

Yet while a tragic event, it was not the first time in recent history that a submarine had been involved in an incident or accident. Since 2000 there have been 40 incidents.

This article looks at a few of these incidents.

## Kursk (2000)

The nuclear-powered Project

949A Antey (Oscar II class) submarine Kursk (Project 949A АНтей Atomnaya Podvodnaya Lodka "Kursk") sank in an accident on 12 August 2000 in the Barents Sea, during the first major Russian naval exercise in more than ten years, and all 118 personnel on board were killed.

The crews of nearby ships felt the initial explosion and a second, much larger, explosion, but the Russian Navy did not realise that an accident had occurred and did not initiate a search for the sub for more than six hours.

Because the submarine's emergency rescue buoy had been intentionally disabled during an earlier mission, it took more than 16 hours to locate the sunken boat.

Over four days, the Russian Navy repeatedly failed in its attempts to attach four different

diving bells and submersibles to the escape hatch of the submarine.

Its response was criticised as slow and inept. Officials misled and manipulated the public and news media, and refused help from other countries' ships nearby.

President Vladimir Putin initially continued his vacation at a seaside resort. He authorised the Russian Navy to accept British and Norwegian offers of assistance after five days had passed since the accident.

Seven days after the sinking, British and Norwegian divers finally opened a hatch to the escape trunk in the boat's flooded ninth compartment but found no survivors.

The Government of Russia and the Russian Navy were intensely criticised over the incident and

their responses.

## USS Greeneville (2001)

The USS Greeneville is a Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine which collided with a Japanese fishing vessel, Ehime Maru, off the coast of Oahu in February 2001.

On 9 February 2001, while conducting a main ballast tank blow off the coast of Oahu while hosting several civilian "distinguished visitors", mainly donors to the Battleship Missouri Memorial, Greeneville struck the 58 metre Japanese fishery high school training ship Ehime Maru, causing the fishing boat to sink in less than ten minutes with the death of nine crew members, including four high school students.

The commander of Greeneville, Commander Scott Waddle, accepted full responsibility for

the incident.

However, after he faced a court of inquiry, it was decided a full court-martial would be unnecessary and Commander Waddle's request to retire was approved for 1 October 2001 with an honourable discharge.

On 27 January 2002, less than a year after colliding with Ehime Maru and five months after running aground, Greeneville collided with USS Ogden (LPD-5) during a personnel transfer off the coast of Oman, opening a 130 x 460 mm hole in one of Ogden's fuel tanks and spilling several thousand gallons of fuel. After the collision, both vessels left the area under their own power.

## USS Dolphin (2002)

The USS Dolphin (AGSS-555) was a United States Navy diesel-electric deep-diving research and development submarine.

She was commissioned in 1968 and decommissioned in 2007.

Her 38-year career was the longest in history for a US Navy submarine. She was the Navy's last operational conventionally powered submarine.

On 21 May 2002, while operating approximately 160 km off the coast of San Diego, California, Dolphin was cruising on the surface, recharging her batteries, when a torpedo shield door gasket failed, and the boat began to flood.

Due to high winds and 3.0 to 3.4 metre swells in the ocean, approximately 70 to 85 tons of seawater entered the ship, an amount perilously close to the boat's reserve buoyancy. The flooding shorted electrical panels and started fires.

After 90 minutes, with fire and flooding beyond the ability of the crew to control, Commander Stephen Kelety, Dolphin's commanding officer, ordered the crew of 41 and two civilian Navy employees to abandon ship.

The Oceanographic Research ship McGaw was operating in the vicinity and immediately responded to Kelety's call for assistance. They were evacuated by boat to McGaw after the hatches had been secured. All crew members were safely recovered with only a few minor injuries.

She was later towed to San Diego and underwent three and



a half years of repairs and upgrades at a cost of \$50 million, then completed sea-trials during the summer of 2005 and returned to her duties for one year.

In mid-2006, the Navy decided to retire Dolphin, citing the \$18 million her operations cost annually. She was deactivated on 22 September 2006, and decommissioned and struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 15 January 2007.

### **Ming 361 (2003)**

The submarine hull number No. 361 named Great Wall #61 was a Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy Type-035AIP (ES5E variant) (NATO reporting name Ming III) conventional diesel/electric submarine.

In April 2003, during an exercise in the Yellow Sea between North Korea and China's Shandong Province, the vessel suffered a mechanical failure that killed all 70 crew members on board.

It was one of China's worst peacetime military disasters. The PLA Navy's Commander Shi Yunsheng and Political Commissar Yang Huaqing were both dismissed as a result of the accident.

According to the official Chinese news agency Xinhua, all 70 crew members died when the submarine's diesel engine used up all available oxygen (because it had failed to shut down properly) while the boat was submerged on 16 April 2003.

The submarine, which was commanded by Commodore Cheng Fuming, had been taking part in naval exercises east of Inner Changshan Islands in the Yellow Sea off the coast of

Northeastern China.

Along with its normal complement, the crew included 13 trainee cadets from the Chinese naval academy.

At a press conference on 8 May 2003, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhang Qiyue stated that while on an exercise east of Changshan Islands, the No. 361 submarine was incapacitated by a mechanical problem and all 70 on board had perished. The submarine had been towed to a port as of the time of the press conference.

After the disaster, the crippled submarine drifted for ten days because it was on a silent, no-contact exercise.

The boat was discovered by Chinese fishermen who noticed its periscope sticking above the surface on 25 April 2003. The crew were slumped over at their stations, seemingly unaware of any issue.

The submarine was initially towed to Yulin Harbor near Sanya on Hainan Island before being taken back to the northeast seaport of Dalian in Liaoning province.

### **K-159 (2003)**

The submarine The K-159 (Russian: K-159) was a Project 627A "Kit" (NATO reporting name November class) nuclear-powered submarine that served in the Northern Fleet of the Soviet Navy from 1963–89.

K-159 was decommissioned on 30 May 1989 and laid up in Gremikha and her reactors were probably not defuelled.

She remained in layup with little or no maintenance for 14 years. Her outer hull rusted until in many places it had "the

strength of foil".

The poor condition of Russia's fleet of decommissioned nuclear submarines concerned the nearby Baltic and Scandinavian nations, and in mid-2003, five countries made a combined donation of more than US\$200 million in support of decommission and disposal of the hulls.

In anticipation of receiving those funds, Admiral Gennady Suchkov, Commander of the Northern Fleet, decided to tow all the 16 laid up submarines from Gremikha to shipyards where they would be dismantled. K-159 was the 13th hull to be towed.

Because K-159's hull was rusted through in so many places, it was kept afloat by spot-welding large empty tanks to her sides as pontoons.

Those tanks, however, were manufactured in the 1940s, were not air-tight, and were no better maintained than the submarine's hull.

On 28 August 2003, K-159 and her pontoons were manned by ten Russian sailors and taken under tow to Polyarny.

That crew kept the pontoons pressurized and the submarine hull pumped out, but during the early morning hours of 30 August they encountered a squall that ripped away one of the pontoons.

K-159 did not sink immediately, but was clearly in distress. Northern Fleet was notified at 01h20, and Admiral Suchkov arrived at headquarters 20 minutes later.

By 03h00 the wreck had sunk in the Barents Sea, 200 meters down, with nine of her crew and most likely 800 kilograms

of spent nuclear fuel containing some 5.3 gigabecquerels of radionuclides.

The Military Prosecutor General's office brought charges against Captain Second Class Sergei Zhemchuzhnov who was overseeing the towing operation.

President of Russia Vladimir Putin removed Suchkov from service on the recommendation of Navy Chief of Staff Vladimir Kuroyedov.

### **USS San Francisco (2005)**

USS San Francisco (SSN-711) is a Los Angeles-class nuclear submarine.

On 8 January 2005 at 02h43 GMT, San Francisco collided with an undersea mountain about 675 km southeast of Guam while operating at flank (maximum) speed at a depth of 160 metres.

The collision was so serious that the vessel was almost lost; accounts detail a desperate struggle for positive buoyancy to surface after the forward ballast tanks were ruptured.

Ninety-eight crewmen were injured, and Machinist's Mate Second Class Joseph Allen Ashley, 24, of Akron, Ohio, died from head injuries on 9 January.

Other injuries to the crew included broken bones, spinal injury, and lacerations.

San Francisco's forward ballast tanks and her sonar dome were severely damaged, but her pressure hull was not breached and there was no damage to her nuclear reactor. She surfaced and arrived in Guam on 10 January 2005.

San Francisco's captain Commander Kevin Mooney was reassigned to a shore unit in Guam during the investigation of the

collision. The Navy concluded that "several critical navigational and voyage planning procedures" were not being implemented aboard San Francisco, despite Mooney's otherwise remarkably good record.

Consequently, the Navy relieved Mooney of his command and issued him a letter of reprimand.

Six crewmen received non-judicial punishment hearings for hazarding a vessel and dereliction of duty, and they were reduced in rank and given letters of reprimand.

### **Daniil Moskovsky (2006)**

B-414 Daniil Moskovsky is a Project 671RTM Schuka (NATO: Victor III) attack submarine of the Russian Northern Fleet.

On 6 September 2006, as it was anchored near the Rybachy Peninsula, a remote Arctic region north of Murmansk and near the Norwegian border, a fire broke out.

The fire shut down the vessel's nuclear reactor but caused no damage to it and there was no leak of radiation. Two members of the crew died in the fire.

She was towed back to its base in Vedyayevo, near Murmansk. The cause of the fire was not disclosed, but it was suspected that a short-circuit was the cause.

### **K-152 Nerpa (2008 & 2017)**

K-152 Nerpa is a 8,140-tonne Project 971 (NATO: Akula-class) nuclear-powered attack submarine.

An accident occurred aboard K-152 Nerpa at 20h30 local time on 8 November 2008, during an underwater test run in the Pacific

Ocean.

A total of 208 people – 81 military personnel and 127 civilians – were on board at the time of the accident.

At least 20 people were killed by asphyxiation and at least 21 more were injured, making it the worst Russian submarine disaster since Kursk sank in 2000.

Three of the dead were military personnel and the rest were civilians from the Vostok, Zvezda, Era and Amur shipbuilding yards who were members of the acceptance team.

The incident involved the accidental triggering of a fire extinguishing system which sealed two forward compartments and released Halon 2402 dibromotetrafluoroethane gas into them.

According to survivors, those affected by the gas release were caught off guard and may not have been alerted in time due to warning sirens sounding only after the gas had already begun pouring in. Some of the victims were reported to have been unable to turn on breathing kits before they suffocated.

On 10 November, a Russian Navy statement blamed the disaster on an "unsanctioned operation" of the fire suppression system aboard Nerpa. Preliminary investigations concluded that the system had triggered automatically without human intervention.

On 13 November, naval investigators announced that a crewman had turned on the system "without permission or any particular grounds".

That, however, was not the only incident involving Nerpa. At the end of 2008 she was leased for 10 years to India at an



estimated cost of \$670 million.

The submarine was handed over to India on 30 December 2011. After being handed over to the Indian Navy, it was commissioned as INS Chakra.

In October 2017 the INS Chakra suffered extensive damage while entering Visakhapatnam harbour, including a large hole in the sonar dome in the bow.

A Russian team visited India for a joint investigation, which led to the submarine being dry docked for repairs at a cost of \$20 million to fix the damage.

### **INS Sindhurakshak (2013)**

NS Sindhurakshak was a Russian-made Kilo-class 877EKM diesel-electric submarine of the Indian Navy.

A fire broke out aboard Sindhurakshak while the vessel was in Visakhapatnam in February 2010. One sailor was killed and two others were injured.

Navy officials reported that the fire had been caused by an explosion in the submarine's battery compartment, which occurred due to a faulty battery valve that leaked hydrogen gas.

On 14 August 2013, the Sindhurakshak sank after explosions caused by a fire on board when the submarine was berthed at Mumbai. The fire, followed by a series of ordnance blasts on the armed submarine, occurred shortly after midnight. T

he fire was put out within two hours though, due to damage from the explosions, the submarine sank and was partially submerged in 15 metres deep water at its berth, with only a portion of the sail visible above the water surface.

Three sailors on board reportedly jumped off to safety. Navy divers were also brought in as there was a possibility that 18 personnel were trapped inside and Defence Minister A. K. Antony confirmed that there were fatalities.

Other sources stated that a small explosion occurred around midnight which then triggered the two larger explosions.

A total of 18 sailors died in the accident. In December 2014, a naval court of inquiry arrived at the preliminary conclusion that human error as a result of crew fatigue caused the disaster.

Initially, the navy was hopeful of using Sindhurakshak after it was salvaged, but on Navy Day 2015, Vice Admiral Cheema confirmed the Sindhurakshak would be disposed of.

After a period of use for the training of marine commandos, the submarine was sunk in 3000 metres of water in the Arabian Sea during June 2017.

### **USS Jacksonville (2013)**

The USS Jacksonville (SSN-699), a nuclear powered Los Angeles-class attack submarine. The submarine had a long run of bad luck.

While outbound she was involved in a collision with the inbound Turkish merchant vessel General Z. Dogan in the vicinity of Norfolk, Virginia on 22 March 1982.

Then on 21 September 1984 she hit a barge positioned across Chesapeake Bay's Thimble Shoal Channel, requiring the re-placement of the submarine's sonar dome.

On 17 May 1996 she collided with the container ship Saudi

Makkah near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, requiring repairs to the submarine's fairwater planes and rudder.

On 20 December 2004 a small fire broke out aboard Jacksonville while she was undergoing a refueling overhaul at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. The fire was immediately extinguished and the reactor was never in danger, though a shipyard firefighter and a sailor were treated at the scene for smoke inhalation.

To round things off she collided with an unnamed fishing vessel while on regular patrol in the Persian Gulf on 10 January 2013.

Her main periscope was sheared off in the collision. The ship's commanding and executive officers were relieved for cause following the incident.

In August 2017, Jacksonville completed her final deployment, ending 36 years of Submarine Service.

On 11 December 2017, she arrived in Bremerton, Washington to commence a months-long preparation for inactivation and decommissioning.

### **ARA San Juan (2017)**

ARA San Juan (S-42) was a TR-1700-class diesel-electric submarine in service with the Submarine Force of the Argentine Navy from 1986 to 2017.

On 17 November 2017, it was announced that San Juan had not been heard from since 15 November when the vessel was 430 kilometres from the coast, off San Jorge Gulf on its way to Mar del Plata from Ushuaia following a military exercise, and that a search and rescue operation had been launched in the same area.

There were 44 servicemen on

board the missing submarine, including Argentina's first female submarine officer, Eliana Krawczyk. The submarine carried oxygen for no more than seven days when submerged.

On 27 November, it was revealed to the press that according to the submarine's last report from 15 November, San Juan's snorkel had leaked water into the forward storage batteries the day before, which ignited a fire.

After quenching the fire, the crew disconnected the forward batteries. The submarine continued to move powered by the aft batteries.

A large search-and-rescue operation failed to find the San Juan and, on 30 November, 15 days after San Juan went missing, the Navy declared that the rescue phase of the operation was over, but the search for the submarine on the seabed would be continuing.

On 16 November 2018, the remains of ARA San Juan were found at a depth of 907 metres nearly 270 nautical miles from Comodoro Rivadavia, by a remote submersible operated by the Norwegian ship Seabed Constructor of the company Ocean Infinity, a private maritime company hired by the Argentine government.

The loss of 44 crewmen constituted the largest loss of life aboard a submarine since the Chinese submarine 361 malfunctioned in April 2003.

### **Losharik (2019)**

Project 210, Project 10831 or AS-31, nicknamed Losharik, is a Russian deep-diving nuclear powered submarine. On 1 July 2019, a fire broke out on the ves-

sel while it was taking underwater measurements of the sea floor in Russian territorial waters.

Fourteen of the crew were killed by inhalation of smoke or toxic fumes. Seven of those who died held the rank of first rank captain and two were recipients of the Hero of the Russian Federation award.

Submarine commander Denis Dolonsky was among those killed. The presence of such a high-ranking crew on a single vessel may be an indication that the vessel was carrying out a high-risk task or testing a new capability at the time of the accident.

In comparison, submarine Kursk – which was lost with all hands after a similar disaster – had 118 crew members of whom only two held the rank of captain 1st rank.

On 4 July, it was announced that the fire had originated in the battery compartment. Defence Minister Sergey Shoygu also said that the submarine was nuclear-powered, but that the reactor had been isolated from the fire.

According to Shoygu, the submarine could be repaired and returned to service.

On 5 July, four members were posthumously awarded Hero of Russia while ten members were posthumously awarded Order of Courage.

### **Kri Nanggala (2021)**

KRI Nanggala (402), also known as Nanggala II, was one of two Cakra-class Type 209/1300 diesel-electric attack submarines of the Indonesian Navy. On 21 April 2021, the submarine sank in the Bali Sea during a torpedo

drill, killing all 53 personnel on board.

On 21 April 2021, Air Chief Marshal Hadi Tjahjanto, Commander of the Indonesian National Armed Forces, reported that Nanggala was believed to have disappeared in waters about 95 km north of Bali

Indonesian Navy spokesperson First Admiral Julius Widjono stated that Nanggala had been conducting a torpedo drill, but failed to report its results as expected.

The navy subsequently sent a distress call to the International Submarine Escape and Rescue Liaison Office at around 09h37 to report the boat as missing and presumably sunk.

The navy stated that it was possible that Nanggala experienced a power outage before falling to a depth of 600–700 metres. Widjono stated that Nanggala was able to dive to a depth of 500 metres.

On 24 April 2021, the Indonesian Navy announced the finding of debris, including a part associated with torpedo tubes, a coolant pipe insulator, a bottle of periscope grease, and prayer rugs.

Because the debris was found within 19 km of the point of last contact and no other vessels were believed to be in the area, the debris was believed to have come from the submarine, and Nanggala was declared sunk.

The Navy said Nanggala might have experienced a power outage. After the finding of debris from Nanggala, Yudo Margono said the submarine might have cracked instead of exploded, as an explosion would have been detected by sonar.



# Bravo Zulu Sea Cadets

*When a devastating fire broke out on the slopes of Devil's Peak, the University of Cape Town was one of the victims. Serious damage was caused to academic and administrative buildings, as well as to residences and the Jagger Library. When the call went out for volunteers to assist in retrieving items, the Sea Cadets from TS Woltemade were quick to respond. Article and photograph by Lt Cdr Glenn von Zeil.*

As a result of devastating fires on the slopes of Devil's Peak on Sunday, 18 April 2021 where several University of Cape Town academic, residences, administrative and the Jagger Library were damaged, the Chief Librarian Ms Ujala Satgoor, put out a call for volunteers to assist in retrieving items.

Ten Sea Cadets under the command of Ensign Ruben Pillay were volunteered from TS Woltemade to assist UCT Jagger Library with the removal of books, journals and manuscripts.

Upon arrival the Sea Cadets were COVID-19 screened, received face masks, gloves and hard hats before proceeding to a Health & Safety briefing.

The Sea Cadets received practical experience to complement their maritime training in the devastating effect of fire, managing the aftermath, Health & Safety, teamwork & working on confined spaces as onboard ship.

Instead of passing the victuals or ammunition hand to hand these crates contained the knowledge of the nation. It is ironic that the crates contained children's books.

Many of the Sea Cadets expressed an interest to study at UCT including Marine Biology and Engineering.

During their visit the Sea Cadets also met several senior students and staff, amongst them Mihlali Pikashe, a Residents Association Treasurer from Groote Schuur Residence, who encouraged them to follow their dreams as these can become a reality.

Thank you to these TS Woltemade Sea Cadets from various Cape Flats schools and suburbs for volunteering their time and energy when most needed:

- Sea N Brown - Mondale High
- Sea B Bull - Steenberg High
- Sea L Golden Lomb - Steenberg High
- Sea L Hartogh - Manenberg High
- Sea J Heyburgh - Grassdale

High

- Sea J Holies - Ocean View High
- Sea A Jam - Oval north High
- Sea R Johnson - Muizenberg High
- Sea J Richard's - Crest Way High
- Sea R Rossouw - Sibelius High

Perhaps their peers, schools and communities will recognise their leadership in stepping up when needed to perform voluntary civic duties. Could this be what the leaders of the future will embody?

Bravo Zulu Sea Cadets.

For more information on the South African Sea Cadets see [www.seacadets.za.org](http://www.seacadets.za.org)



**ANSWERING THE CALL:** Sea Cadets from TS Woltemade muster outside Sarah Baartman Hall at UCT to assist in recovering books from Jagger Library after a devastating fire.

# Reggie is now a Jimmy

*Photographer, blogger, journalist and Photo Editor of Military Despatches, Regine Lord, becomes an Associate Member of the South African Signals Association.*

On Thursday 13 May I went for a cup of coffee and a spot of breakfast at the [Ou Meul Bakery](#) in Pine-lands.

I was meeting up with Robbie Roberts, Pierre Fourie and Regine Lord, something I was looking forward to.

Robbie is the Chairman of the [South African Signals Association](#) and Pierre is the Public Relations Officer. The last time Robbie and I got together was on 11 November, Remembrance Day, when we presented a program on [Zone Radio](#).

It had been even longer since

I had met up with Pierre. I last saw Reggie just before Christmas when we exchanged gifts.

The reason for the meeting was because Reggie was being made an Associate Member of the South African Signal's Association.

The South African Signals Association is a military veterans organisation that is open to anyone that served in the South African Corps of Signals.

Associate membership can be awarded to those that have made a valuable contribution to the Association, something that Regine has done.

Many of the photographs on the Association's website were taken by Regine, as were many of the photographs that appear in "Jimmy's Own", the Association's quarterly newsletter.

And they are not the only veteran's organisation to have honoured Reggie. In 2019 she was awarded the 'Certificate of Good Comradeship' by the [Memorable Order of Tin Hats](#). This is an award normally reserved for members of the MOHs.

Well done Reggie. I am both proud and honoured to have you as our Photo Editor.



**WELCOME:** Regine Lord is presented with her certificate and badge. From left to right: Robbie Roberts, Regine Lord, and Pierre Fourie.



# TS Tiburon back in action

After a long period of lockdown, TS Tiburon was back. And with a new Commanding Officer to boot. Article and photographs by Sea Jared Sewpershad.

TS Tiburon, the South African Sea Cadet unit in Durban re-opened after a long and gruelling lockdown on Saturday, 24 April 2021. The re-opening parade included the handing over of command to the new Commanding Officer, Sub Lieutenant Rajesh Sewpershad.

The adult Officers and instructors teach the Sea Cadets practical maritime skills as well as the Sea Cadets compass of life which include eight core values they abide by:

- Honesty
- Loyalty
- Obedience
- Accountability
- Self-Respect
- Responsibility
- Discipline

• Morality

The adult Officers and Instructors strive to continually better and improve the Sea Cadets both physically and mentally in order to be future ambassadors of South Africa.

The new Commanding Officer and his staff have worked tirelessly to improve the unit during the lockdown by renovating where required. As ongoing maintenance is required to maintain the “ship” there are still more plans to upgrade the unit.

Among the dignitaries attending, was Commander Paul Jacobs, Executive Officer of the Sea Cadet Corps, and Lieutenant Gaylene Pillay, Officer in Charge of TS Woltemade in Cape Town.

The response to the reopening was immense and a large number of cadets returned accompanied by their parents to celebrate the event. The Sea Cadets proudly displayed their drill and many were promoted in their ranks which could not have been done during the lockdown. After the parade all were treated to a delicious lunch.

Thank you to the new Commanding Officer, Sub Lieutenant Rajesh Sewpershad, his staff, and the Sea Cadets of TS Tiburon for ensuring that the youth of KZN continue to have a safe space to learn maritime skills.

Anyone interested in assisting TS Tiburon should contact SLt Rajesh Sewpershad at [Cadets.tiburon@gmail.com](mailto:Cadets.tiburon@gmail.com)



**GET ON PARADE:** TS Tiburon on parade after a lockdown “lay up”.

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** TS Tiburon Officers & dignitaries. From Left to Right: Ens Mikyala Pillay, Lt Gaylene Pillay, Padre Victor Naiker, SLt Rajesh Sewpershad (Commanding Officer TS Tiburon), Cdr Paul Jacobs (Executive Officer Sea Cadets Corps), Ens Ruben Pillay.

## Pip-Ack Shellhole



The SAS President Kruger sank on 18 February 1982 with the loss of 16 lives after colliding with the SAS Tafelberg in the South Atlantic.

Moth Andre van Breda will recount his experiences on board the ship during the sinking.

**All welcome. COVID restriction will apply.  
Refreshments available.**

**Pip-Ack Shellhole, 164 Campground Road,  
Under Claremont Bridge (parking off Thicket Street)  
10 July 2021 at 14:00**

**No Charges, but donations welcome.**

**Please RSVP by 3 July to Moth Paul Rosslee at 074 199 4113 or [rossleepaul@yahoo.com](mailto:rossleepaul@yahoo.com)**



# Rank Structure - Spain

Over the next few months we will be running a series of articles looking at the rank structure of various armed forces. This month we look at the Spanish Armed Forces.



The Spanish Armed Forces are in charge of guaranteeing the sovereignty and independence of the kingdom of Spain, defending its territorial integrity and the constitutional order, according to the functions entrusted to them by the Constitution of 1978.

They are composed of: the Army, the Air Force, the Navy, the Royal Guard and the Military Emergency Unit, as well as the so-called Common Corps.

Spain is one of the most mil-

itarily powerful nations of the European Union (EUFOR) and Eurocorps. It also occupies a prominent position in the structure of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which it joined in 1982.

It also has the oldest Marine Corps in the world and the oldest permanent military units in the world: the King's Immemorial No. 1 Infantry Regiment and the "Soria" No. 9 Light Infantry Regiment.

## Spanish Army

### Non-commissioned Officers (NCO)

Soldado (Soldier)	Soldado de primera (First Soldier)	Cabo (Corporal)	Cabo primero (First Corporal)
Cabo mayor (Corporal Major)	Sargento (Sergeant)	Sargento primero (First Sergeant)	


### Officers

Brigada (Warrant Officer 2nd Class)	Subteniente (Warrant Officer 1st Class)	Suboficial mayor (Senior Warrant Officer)	
Caballero Alférez Cadete (Officer Cadet)	Alférez (Ensign)	Teniente (Lieutenant)	Capitán (Captain)
Comandante (Commandant)	Teniente coronel (Lieutenant Colonel)	Coronel (Colonel)	General de brigada (Brigadier General)
General de división (Divisional General)	Teniente general (Lieutenant General)	General de Ejército (General of the Army)	Capitán general (Captain General)




# Spanish Navy


## Non-commissioned Officers (NCO)




Marinero  
(Seaman)



Marinero de primera  
(First Seaman)



Cabo  
(Corporal)



Cabo primero  
(First Corporal)




Cabo mayor  
(Corporal Major)




Sargento  
(Sergeant)




Sargento primero  
(First Sergeant)



Brigada  
(Warrant Officer  
2nd Class)



Subteniente  
(Warrant Officer  
1st Class)



Suboficial mayor  
(Senior Warrant  
Officer)

## Officers



Alférez de fragata  
(Ensign)



Alférez de navío  
(Ensign)



Teniente de navío  
(Lieutenant)



Capitán de corbeta  
(Corvette Captain)



Capitán de fragata  
(Frigate Captain)



Capitán de navío  
(Captain)



Contra almirante  
(Counter Admiral)



Vice almirante  
(Vice Admiral)



Almirante  
(Admiral)




Almirante general  
(Admiral General)




Capitán general  
(Captain General)

# Spanish Air Force


## Non-commissioned Officers (NCO)




Soldado  
(Soldier)



Soldado de primera  
(First Soldier)



Cabo  
(Corporal)



Cabo primero  
(First Corporal)




Cabo mayor  
(Corporal Major)




Sargento  
(Sergeant)




Sargento primero  
(First Sergeant)



Brigada  
(Warrant Officer  
2nd Class)



Subteniente  
(Warrant Officer  
1st Class)



Suboficial mayor  
(Senior Warrant  
Officer)



Officers



Official Cadete  
(Officer Cadet)



Official Cadete  
(Officer Cadet)



Official Cadete  
(Officer Cadet)



Alferez  
(Junior Officer)



Teniente  
(Lieutenant)



Capitán  
(Captain)



Comandante  
(Commandant)



Teniente coronel  
(Lieutenant Colonel)



Coronel  
(Colonel)



General de brigada  
(Brigadier General)



General de división  
(Divisional General)



Teniente general  
(Lieutenant General)



General del Aire  
(General of the Air)



Capitán general  
(Captain General)



# Springbok

Journal of the South African Legion  
Tydskrif van die Suid-Afrikaanse Legioen



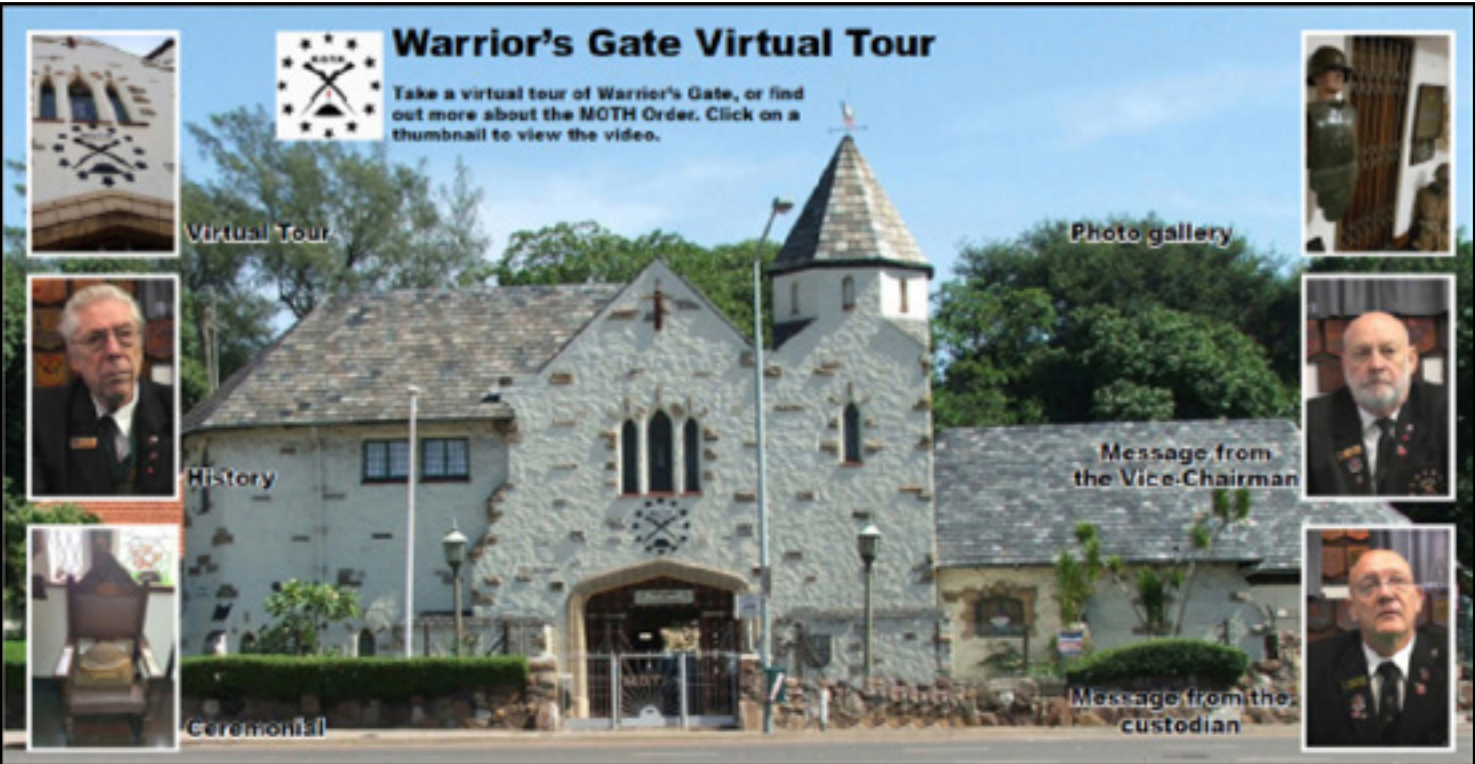
The SA Legion is a national organisation, part of a world-wide family that addresses the needs of ex-service personnel and their dependents by way of housing, pensions, employment and general welfare. It is apolitical, non-sectarian, non-racial, non-sexist and non-partisan.

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



## Memorable Order of Tin Hats

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





## Weapons & Equipment: Falklands War

*This month in the final of a series of three articles we look at the assets used by the naval forces of both Britain and Argentina during the Falklands War.*

In this article we will be taking a closer look at the naval forces used by both Britain and Argentina during the Falklands War.

This is a list of the naval forces from the United Kingdom that took part in the Falklands War, often referred to as “the Task Force” in the context of the war.



### United Kingdom

#### Royal Navy

##### Command

In Northwood London:

- Commander-in-Chief, Fleet - Admiral Sir J.D.E. Fieldhouse.
- Commander Task Group 324.3 and Flag Officer Submarines - Vice-Admiral P.G.M. Herbert.

In the South Atlantic:

- Commander Task Group 317.8 (Carrier/Battle Group) and Flag Officer, First Flotilla - Rear-Admiral J.F. Woodward (HMS Hermes).
- Commander Task Group 317.0 (Amphibious Task Group) and Commodore Amphibious Warfare - Commodore Michael Clapp

(HMS Fearless).

#### Centaur-class aircraft carrier - V/STOL carrier

HMS Hermes - Captain L.E. Middleton. Flagship Task Group 317.8

- 800 Naval Air Squadron (12 BAE Sea Harriers, including 7 absorbed from 899 training squadron and trials)
- Part of 809 Naval Air Squadron (4 BAE Sea Harriers absorbed into 800 Squadron)
- Part of No. 1 Squadron RAF (8 Hawker Siddeley Harrier GR.3)
- 825 Naval Air Squadron (4 Sea Kings HAS.2; formed from 706 training sqn)
- 826 Naval Air Squadron (12 Sea King HAS.5)
- 846 Naval Air Squadron (6 Sea King HC.4)

#### Invincible-class aircraft carriers

HMS Invincible - Captain J.J. Black RN

- 801 Naval Air Squadron (8 BAE Sea Harriers including 5 absorbed from 899 training squadron)
- Part of 809 Naval Air Squadron (4 BAE Sea Harriers absorbed into 801 Squadron)
- 820 Naval Air Squadron (10 Sea King HAS.5)

#### Landing platform docks

HMS Fearless - Captain E.S.J. Larken. Flagship Task Group

317.0

- 4 LCU (Foxtrot One to Four), 100 troops or one Main Battle Tank. LCU Foxtrot Four, bombed and sunk in the Choiseul Sound by A-4B Skyhawks
- 4 LCVP (Foxtrot Five to Eight), 25 troops or a Land Rover with trailer.
- flight deck for 4 Sea King HC.4 (not embarked)

HMS Intrepid - Captain P.G.V. Dingemans

- 4 LCU (Tango One to Four)
- 4 LCVP (Tango Five to Eight)
- flight deck for 4 Sea King HC.4 (not embarked)

#### Type 82 destroyer

HMS Bristol - Captain A. Grose

#### Type 42 destroyers

HMS Sheffield - Captain J.F.T.G. Salt

- set on fire by an Aérospatiale AM39 Exocet (Air-to-Surface) Anti-ship missile launched from a Dassault Super Étendard 4 May. Fatal Damage (sank on 10 May)

HMS Coventry - Captain D. Hart Dyke

- sunk on 25 May by three bombs from a Douglas A-4B Skyhawk. Fatal Damage

HMS Glasgow - Captain A.P. Hoddinott



**CASUALTY:** The Type 42 destroyer HMS Sheffield was hit by an Aérospatiale AM39 Exocet Anti-ship missile on 4 May 1982. She sank on 10 May. 20 members of the crew died in the attack.

- hit by unexploded bomb from a Douglas A-4B Skyhawk 12 May, withdrawn from war. Moderate Damage

HMS Cardiff - Captain M.G.T. Harris

HMS Exeter - Captain H.M. Balfour

#### County-class destroyers

HMS Glamorgan - Captain M.E. Barrow

- hit by anAérospatiale MM38 Exocet (surface-to-surface) anti-ship missile on 11 June. Major Damage

HMS Antrim - Captain B.G. Young

- hit by unexploded bomb from an IAI Dagger. Major Damage

#### Type 22 frigates

HMS Brilliant - Captain J.F. Coward

- hit by IAI Dagger cannon fire - Minor Damage

HMS Broadsword - Captain W.R. Canning

- hit by IAI Dagger cannon fire, later damaged by bomb from Douglas A-4B Skyhawk - Moderate Damage

#### Type 21 frigates

HMS Active - Commander P.C.B. Canter

HMS Alacrity - Commander C. J.S. Craig

- sank Argentine transport ship ARA Isla de los Estados. Slightly damaged by bomb. Lynx helicopter damaged by return fire from armed coast-er ARA Monsunen.

HMS Antelope - Commander N.J. Tobin

- sank 24 May due to unsuccessful defusing attempt of unexploded bombs from Douglas A-4B Skyhawks. Fatal Damage

HMS Ardent - Commander A.W.J. West

- sank 21 May by bombs from IAI Daggers and Douglas A-4Q Skyhawks. Fatal Damage

HMS Ambuscade - Commander P.J. Mosse

HMS Avenger - Captain H.M. White

HMS Arrow - Commander P.J. Bootherstone

- hit by IAI Dagger cannon fire. Minor Damage



<b>Leander-class frigates</b> HMS Andromeda - Captain J.L. Weatherall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ran aground. Moderate Damage</li> </ul>	HMS Junella - Lieutenant-Commander M. Rowledge	McCarthy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>bombed by Douglas A-4B Skyhawk - Minor Damage</li> </ul>	Freeman	helicopter pad and carried three Army helicopters, 105 troops, and 1,874 tons of stores and ammunition to Ajax Bay on 1 June
HMS Argonaut - Captain C.H. Layman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>hit by Aermacchi MB.339A cannon/rocket and unexploded bombs from Douglas A-4B Skyhawks . Major Damage</li> </ul>	<b>Valiant-class submarines</b> HMS Valiant - Commander T.M. Le Marchand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Argentine fighters returning from an aborted mission jet-tisoned bombs nearby. Minor Damage</li> </ul>	HMS Northella- Lieutenant-Commander J. Greenop	RFA Sir Galahad (L3005) - Paul J.G. Roberts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>bombed on 24 May and 8 June by Douglas A-4B Skyhawks (sunk by torpedo on 21 June and declared a war grave). Fatal Damage</li> </ul>	<b>Royal Maritime Auxiliary Service</b> RMAS Typhoon (A95)	
HMS Minerva - Commander S.H.G. Johnston	<b>Swiftsure-class submarines</b> HMS Spartan - Commander J.B. Taylor	HMS Pict - Lieutenant-Commander D. Garwood	RFA Sir Geraint (L3027) - D.E. Lawrence	RMAS Goosander (A94)	Europic Ferry – equipped with helicopter pad and carried vehicles, ammunition, fuel, and four Scout helicopters of 656 Squadron Army Air Corps to San Carlos on 21 May
HMS Penelope - Commander P.V. Rickard	HMS Splendid - Commander R.C. Lane-Nott		RFA Olmeda (A124) - G.P. Overbury	<b>Ships taken from the trade</b> The following Merchant Navy ships were requisitioned, as Ships Taken Up From Trade (STUFT).	Nordic Ferry – equipped with helicopter pad and carried troops, stores, and ammunition to Falklands on 29 May
<b>Rothesay-class frigates</b> HMS Yarmouth - Commander A.S. Morton	<b>Hecla-class survey vessels,</b> used as casualty ferries (hospital ships)	RFA Tidespring (A75) - S. Redmond	RFA Sir Lancelot (L3029) - Christopher A. Purtcher-Wydenbruck <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>damaged by unexploded bombs from Douglas A-4B Skyhawks</li> </ul>	<b>Liners</b> SS Canberra – equipped with helicopter pad and carried personnel of the 3rd Commando Brigade to San Carlos on 21 May.	Norland – equipped with helicopter pad carried 800 men of 2 Para and men of 848 Naval Air Squadron to San Carlos on 21 May
HMS Plymouth - Captain D. Pentreath unexploded bombs from IAI Daggers. Major Damage	HMS Hecla - Captain G.L. Hope	RFA Blue Rover (A270) - D.A. Reynolds	RFA Sir Percivale (L3036) - A.F. Pitt	MV Queen Elizabeth 2. – equipped with helicopter pad and carried 3,200 men of the 5th Infantry Brigade. At South Georgia, the men of 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards and 1/7 Gurkha Rifles were transferred to Canberra, Norland and RFA Stromness on 27 May for transport to San Carlos.	Rangatira – equipped with helicopter pad and Oerlikon 20 mm cannon to carry 1,000 engineers with vehicles and equipment, but sailed after cease fire.
<b>Ice patrol ship</b> HMS Endurance - Captain N.J. Barker	HMS Herald - Commander R.I.C. Halliday	RFA Appleleaf (A79) - G.P.A. McDougall	RFA Sir Tristram (L3505) - G.R. Green <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>bombed 8 June by Douglas A-4B Skyhawks. Major Damage</li> </ul>		
HMS Hydra - Commander R.J. Campbell		RFA Brambleleaf (A81) - M.S.J. Farley			St Edmund – equipped with helicopter pad and carried RAF crews (18 Sqn), troops and vehicles
<b>Castle-class patrol vessels.</b> As despatch vessels, carrying mail between the Task Force and Ascension Island.	<b>Trawler/Minesweepers - Minesweeper Auxiliary (MSA) 11th MCM Squadron</b> Civilian trawlers converted to Extra-Deep Armed Team Sweep (EDATS) with some extempore acoustic and sonar equipment. They were manned by Royal Naval personnel, mainly from 1st MCM Squadron based at Rosyth. All five minesweepers were involved in clearing two minefields off Port Stanley.	RFA Bayleaf (A109) - A.E.T. Hunter	<b>Supply ships</b> RFA Regent (A486) - J. Logan	SS Uganda – equipped with helicopter pad and used as hospital ship from 11 May.	Tor Caledonia – equipped with helicopter pad and carried vehicles and equipment; arrived 12 June
HMS Leeds Castle		RFA Plumleaf (A78) - R.W.M. Wallace	RFA Resource (A480) - B.A. Seymour	<b>Roll-on-Roll-off ferries</b> Elk – equipped with helicopter pad and two Bofors 40 mm guns to carry three Sea King helicopters, ammunition, and heavy vehicles including eight Bofors 40 mm guns, four FV101 Scorpion and four FV107 Scimitar light tanks - joined carrier battle group on 16 May	
HMS Dumbarton Castle		RFA Pearleaf (A77) - J. McCulloch	RFA Fort Austin (A386) - Commodore Sam Dunlop RFA		
<b>Churchill-class submarines</b> HMS Conqueror - Commander C.L. Wreford-Brown			RFA Fort Grange (A385) - D.G.M. Averill		<b>Container / Cargo ships</b> Astronomer – equipped with helicopter pad and Oerlikon 20 mm cannon and carried thirteen helicopters; arrived after cease fire.
HMS Courageous - Commander R.T.N. Best	HMS Cordella - Lieutenant-Commander M. Holloway	<b>Landing Ship Logistic</b> The peacetime crews of the “Round Table” ships – British merchant seamen, operating under Ministry of Defence jurisdiction – were joined by British servicemen as signalmen, stevedores and gunners.	RFA Stromness (A344) - J.B. Dickinson attacked by A-4C on 24 May - Minor Damage		Atlantic Conveyor – equipped with helicopter pad and carried eight BAE Sea Harriers (809
<b>Oberon-class submarines</b> HMS Onyx - Lieutenant-Commander A. O. Johnson	HMS Farnella - Lieutenant R. Bishop	RFA Sir Bedivere (L3004) - P.J.	<b>Helicopter support ship</b> RFA Engadine (K08) - D.F.	Baltic Ferry – equipped with	)





**IN SERVICE:** The luxury ocean liner RMS Queen Mary 2 was requisitioned into service and carried 3,200 British troops to South Georgia.

Squadron - aircraft later transferred to the two carriers), six Hawker Siddeley Harriers, six Westland Wessex helicopters, and four CH-47 Chinook helicopters (18 Squadron RAF); arrived 19 May - hit 25 May by one or two Aérospatiale AM39 Exocet Air-to-Surface Anti-ship missile(s) launched from a Dassault Super Étendard. Fatal Damage: Sank in tow 28 May - 6 embarked Wessex HU.5 helicopters, 3 embarked Chinook HC.1 helicopters, 1 embarked Sea Lynx HAS.2, heavy equipment intended for airfield construction, and the bulk stock of tents intended for infantry shelter ashore were lost

Atlantic Causeway – equipped with helicopter pad and carried eight ASW Sea Kings and twenty Westland Wessex helicopters; arrived 27 May.

Contender Bezant – equipped with helicopter pad and carried 9 Wasp helicopters, 4 Harriers and 3 Chinooks; arrived after cease fire. - purchased as RFA Argus post-war

MV Myrmidon - equipped with tented accommodation and portakabins armed with 20mm Oerlikon cannons, arrived after ceasefire

Freighters

Avelona Star (refrigerated) – equipped with helicopter pad and carried provisions; arrived after cease fire

Geestport (refrigerated) – equipped with helicopter pad and carried provisions and stores; arrived 11 June

Laertes – Soviet-built with armoured cable trunks and dam-

age control centres - carried general supplies; arrived after cease fire

Lycaon – Soviet-built with armoured cable trunks and damage control centres - carried ammunition and supplies; arrived 28 May

Saxonia (refrigerated) – carried provisions; arrived 23 May

Strathewe – carried supplies and landing craft; arrived after cease fire

St. Helena – equipped with helicopter pad and four Oerlikon 20 mm cannon for use as mine-sweeper support ship after the cease fire

**Tankers**

Alvega – used as base storage tanker at Ascension from mid-

May

Anco Charger – used as auxiliary support tanker from 24 April with capability to transport 42 different liquids at once

Balder London – used as auxiliary support tanker from 12 May

British Avon – used as auxiliary support tanker from 25 April

British Dart – used as auxiliary support tanker from 22 April

British Esk – fitted with over-the-stern underway refuelling equipment for use as the first convoy escort oiler

British Tamar – fitted with over-the-stern underway refueling equipment for use as convoy escort oiler from 13 April

British Tay – used as auxiliary support tanker from 12 April

British Test – used as auxiliary support tanker from 14 April

British Trent – used as auxiliary support tanker from 18 April

British Wye – used as auxiliary support tanker from 25 April. Hit by bomb from Lockheed C-130 Hercules. Minor Damage

Eburna – used as auxiliary support tanker from 26 April

Fort Toronto – fresh water tanker from 19 April

G.A.Walker – used as auxiliary

Scottish Eagle – used as base storage tanker at South Georgia from 18 June and then moved to Falklands on 14 July

**Tugs / Repair / Support Ships**

British Enterprise III – diving support ship

Iris – cable ship equipped with helicopter pad and two Oerlikon 20 mm cannon for use as despatch vessel from late May.

Irishman – ocean salvage tug from 24 May.

Salvage man – ocean salvage tug from 7 May.(the most powerful tug on British registry with 11,000 brake horsepower and 170 ton bollard pull)

Stena Inspector – equipped with helicopter pad and used as repair ship after the cease fire. - purchased as RFA Diligence post-war

Stena Seaspread –diving vessel, oilfield support ship equipped with helicopter pad and used as repair ship from 16 May.

Wimpey Seahorse – oilfield supply vessel used as mooring tender and tug from 8 June.

Yorkshireman – ocean salvage tug from 24 May.

**Weaponry**

The British Task Force made use of a number of different weapons, both for offence and defence.

**Surface-to-air missiles**

- Sea Slug

- Sea Cat
- Sea Wolf
- Sea Dart

**Surface-to-surface missiles**

- Aérospatiale MM38 Exocet (Anti-ship missile)
- Ikara (Anti-submarine missile)

**Artillery**

- 114 mm L/55 Mark 8 gun
- 114 mm L/45 Mark 6 gun
- Bofors 40 mm L/60 Mark 9 anti-aircraft (A/A) gun
- Oerlikon 20 mm A/A gun
- L7A2 7.62 mm GPMG General purpose machine gun
- Limbo Mark 10 anti-submarine mortar

**Torpedoes**

- Mark 24 Tigerfish torpedo
- Mark 8 torpedo

**Losses**

- 2 destroyers
- 2 frigates
- 1 landing ship
- 1 landing craft
- 1 container ship



**Argentina**

The Argentine Navy (ARA), particularly its commander-in-chief and Junta member, Admiral Jorge Anaya, was the main architect and supporter of a military solution to resolve the long-standing claim of sovereignty over the islands.

By 1982 the country was al-



ready in the midst of a devastating economic crisis and large-scale civil unrest against the repressive government and Anaya, now a member of the ruling Junta, ordered Operation Rosario to be brought forward to 2 April, after a group of Argentina military infiltrated a group of Argentine scrap metal merchants and raised the Argentine flag at South Georgia 19 March.

General Galtieri, acting president, agreed in his intention to mount a quick, symbolic occupation, followed rapidly by a withdrawal, leaving only a small garrison to support the new military governor and force the UK to begin talks on the long-delayed sovereignty claim.

On 2 April an amphibious landing was made at Stanley and on 3 April Argentine marines used helicopters to take over the Georgias.

Whilst the military junta was redeploying the assault units back to their home bases they found the British responded with a large-scale mobilisation to organise a naval task force and ground forces to retake the islands by force.

The war could not have happened at a worse time for the Argentines. They were expecting new destroyers, frigates and submarines being built in West Germany and their shipment of French Super Étendards and Exocets were not yet complete.

## Argentine Navy

### Operation Rosario (2 April)

Vice Admiral Juan José Lombardo

### Task Group 20

Commander José Sarcona (covering force)

- ARA Veinticinco de Mayo - a Colossus-class aircraft carrier
- ARA Comodoro Py - a Gearing-class destroyer
- ARA Comodoro Seguí - an Allen M. Sumner-class destroyer
- ARA Hipólito Bouchard - an Allen M. Sumner-class destroyer
- ARA Piedrabuena - an Allen M. Sumner-class destroyer
- ARA Punta Médanos - fleet tanker

### Task Group 40

Rear Admiral Jorge Allara (amphibious force)

- ARA Santísima Trinidad - Argentine-built Type 42 destroyer (flagship)
- ARA Cabo San Antonio - Argentine-built De Soto County-class LST, an amphibious landing ship
- ARA Hércules - Type 42 destroyer
- ARA Granville - a Drummond-class corvette
- ARA Drummond - a Drummond-class corvette
- ARA Almirante Irizar - ice-breaker
- ARA Santa Fe - A Balao-class, GUPPY program submarine
- ARA Isla de los Estados - supply ship

### South Georgia (3 April)

- ARA Guerrico - a Drummond-class corvette
- ARA Bahía Paraíso - Antarctic survey ship. A polar transport, later deployed as hospital ship off Stanley.

Bahía Paraíso transported Argentine forces from Corbeta Uruguay base to South Georgia in the events preceding the Falklands War.

### Falklands Theatre of Operations [Teatro de Operaciones Malvinas] (2 April–14 June)

- ARA Alferez Sobral - a Sotoyomo-class patrol vessel damaged by Sea Skua missiles fired by Westland Lynx HAS.Mk.2/3 helicopters from HMS Glasgow and HMS Coventry.
- ARA Comodoro Somellera, a Sotoyomo-class patrol vessel. During the war the British claimed to have sunk Comodoro Somellera with a Sea Skua. This claim was subsequently dropped when the British evaluated wartime reports after the war. The ship continued to serve in the Argentine navy until 1998 when she sank in the port of Ushuaia during a storm following a collision with ARA Suboficial Castillo.
- ARA Isla de los Estados - transport ship sunk by HMS Alacrity in Falkland Sound. ARA Bahía Buen Suceso - a transport ship, Bahía Buen Suceso transported Constantino Davidoff's party to South Georgia precipitating the Falklands War. She was moved from Stanley to the Falklands Sound on 29 April. During the trip, the ship spotted the schooner Penelope, property of the FIC, which was taken over by an Argentine prize crew the following day. While at anchor at Fox Bay, the trans-



**SISTER SHIP:** ARA San Luis sister ship, ARA Salta, here docked at her base in Mar del Plata, was not operational at the time of the war.

port ran aground in a storm and was later damaged by 30 mm ADEN cannon fire from BAe Sea Harrier FRS. Mk.1s. The British eventually captured the hull after the war and sank her in high seas.

### South Atlantic Theatre of Operations [Teatro de Operaciones del Atlántico Sur] (15 April–14 June)

Direct control from Puerto Belgrano Naval Base, Buenos Aires Province.

Vice Admiral Juan Lombardo

### Task Group 79.1

Rear Admiral Jorge Allara

- ARA Veinticinco de Mayo - The threat of submarine attacks kept the carrier confined to port after 3 May.
- ARA Hércules - Type 42 destroyer.
- ARA Santísima Trinidad - Type 42 destroyer.
- ARA Punta Médanos - a

fleet tanker.

### Task Group 79.3

Captain Héctor Bonzo

- ARA General Belgrano - a Brooklyn-class cruiser sunk by Mk.8 torpedoes fired by HMS Conqueror. (See this month's Battlefield)
- ARA Hipólito Bouchard - destroyer
- ARA Piedrabuena - destroyer
- ARA Punta Delgada - fleet tanker

### Task Group 79.4

Captain Juan Calmon

- ARA Drummond - corvette
- ARA Guerrico - corvette
- ARA Granville - corvette

### Submarine force

- ARA San Luis - A Type 209 submarine.
- ARA Santa Fe - The submarine was disabled at Grytviken by Aerospatiale AS.12 ASM (Air-to-Surface Mis-

siles) fired from Westland Wasp HAS.Mk.1 helicopters from HMS Plymouth and HMS Endurance (Raised and scuttled by the British in 1985).

### Others

- ARA Almirante Irizar - (acting as hospital ship)
- ARA Francisco de Gurruchaga - a patrol ship.

## Argentine Coast Guard

Stationed at the Falkland Islands.

- Islas Malvinas - A Z-28 type naval patrol craft, damaged with machine gun fire by a Westland Lynx HAS.Mk.2/3 helicopter from HMS Alacrity on 1 May 1982 near Kidney Island. She was captured at Stanley by the British on 14 June 1982 and renamed HMS Tiger Bay.
- Río Iguazú - A Z-28 type naval patrol craft, strafed and damaged by BAe Sea Harrier FRS.Mk.1s on 22 May in Choiseul Sound while steaming towards Goose Green with two 105 mm guns aboard, beached in Button Bay. The guns were recovered by divers from the Argentine Army and taken off by helicopter, though one was damaged, and were used in the defence of Darwin. Later captured by British Forces, but attacked by a Westland Lynx HAS.Mk.2/3 (XZ691) from HMS Penelope firing a Sea Skua on 13 June 1982. The wreck was towed to Goose Green after the conflict.



## Argentine Merchant Navy

### Blockade runners

- Formosa - A 12,762-ton cargo ship, attacked by Argentine Douglas A-4 Skyhawks of Grupo 5 by mistake. She was hit by an unexploded 1,000 lb bomb and strafed while bound for Rio Gallegos. Survived the conflict.
- Mar del Norte - A cargo ship from La Naviera company. Survived the conflict.
- Lago Argentino - An ELMA cargo ship. Survived the conflict.
- Río Cíncel - An ELMA cargo ship. Survived the conflict.
- Puerto Rosales - A commercial tanker from YPF. Survived the conflict.
- Río Carcarañá - An ELMA cargo ship, 8,500 tons, damaged by Sea Harriers in Port King. Subsequently, attacked by both sides, until finally sunk by Sea Skua missiles fired from a Westland Lynx helicopter on 23 May 1982.
- Yehuín - A requisitioned oil tender, 494 tons, from the Geomater company. Captured 15 June 1982 and renamed Falkland Sound. Sold to a British owner from London in 1991, then transferred to several Panamanian companies. Returned to Argentine control as Audax II when bought by Cintra company in 2008, and under Uruguayan registry since 2011.

### Spy trawlers

- Narwal: Owned by Compañía Sudamericana de Pesca y Exportación from Bahía Blanca. A 1,300-ton stern fishing freezer trawler. On patrol northwest of the ex-

clusion zone since 26 April. Under the command of Lt. Cdr. Juan Carlos González Llanos. The civilian skipper was Captain Nestor Leonardo Fabiano. She made a number of visual contacts with British aircraft and warships, including a submarine, according to the Argentine version. Damaged by an unexploded 1,000 lb. bomb and 30 mm ADEN cannon fire from two BAe Sea Harrier FRS.Mk.1s of 800 Naval Air Squadron, HMS Hermes. A member of the crew, sailor Omar Alberto Rupp, was killed. She was later captured by Royal Marines on 9 May 1982. Narwal eventually sank in a storm at 52°45'S 58°02'W on 10 May 1982.

- María Alejandra: Owned by Inda hnos. from Mar del Plata. On patrol northwest of the exclusion zone from 26 April to 4 May. She assisted the disabled ARA Alférez Sobral to reach Puerto Deseado. Maria Alejandra also acted as a radio link between the ill-fated Narwal and the mainland.
- Constanza: Owned by Arpe-mar from Mar del Plata. On patrol northwest of the exclusion zone from 26 April to 4 May.
- Invierno: Owned by Arpe-mar from Mar del Plata. On patrol northwest of the exclusion zone from 5 to 9 May.
- Capitán Canepa: Based at Mar del Plata. From the government fishery agency SEIM.
- María Luisa: Based at Mar del Plata. Spotted a British warship on 26 April, shortly after being overflown by

a fighter jet. This revealed to the Argentine intelligence the path of the British battle group. Part of a three-trawler flotilla that intercepted supply vessel RFA Fort Grange on 29 April at the position 34°28'S 31°26'W. On 30 April she returned to Mar del Plata due to mechanical problems.

- Usurbil: Based at Buenos Aires. Under the command of Lt. Cdr. Fernando Pedro Amorena. The civilian skipper was Captain Adolfo Antonio Arbelo from Mar del Plata. Fifty per cent of her crew was Spanish. Part of a three-trawler flotilla that intercepted supply vessel RFA Fort Grange on 29 April at the position 34°28'S 31°26'W. She made radar contact with six ships sailing in convoy on 8 May. Warned off by a warship and a helicopter, she returned to Buenos Aires.
- Mar Azul: Based at Mar del Plata. Part of a three-trawler flotilla that intercepted supply vessel RFA Fort Grange on 29 April at the position 34°28'S 31°26'W. She tracked the 8 May convoy by radar along with Usurbil, but was ordered to return to Mar del Plata on 9 May before making visual contact.
- Río de la Plata II: An ELMA cargo vessel of 10,409 tons. Spotted by British off Ascension Island and warned off on 24 April 1982. The most successful Argentine spy ship; she collected valuable intelligence about the type of warships, logistic craft and merchantmen deployed by the British to the south.

### Falkland Islands Company ships seized by the Argentine Navy

- ARA Forrest - armed coaster: She fought off the Lynx helicopter that put the patrol craft Islas Malvinas out of action near Kidney Island on 1 May. The aircraft came back to HMS Alacrity with serious damage from small arms fire. The ship rescued two survivors of the crew of ARA Isla de los Estados, sunk by Alacrity on 10 May. She towed ARA Monsunen to Darwin later in the war, after this ship faced the attack of two British frigates and a helicopter. She uploaded ARA Monsunen's cargo and completed the supply mission to Stanley on 25 May. The ship was involved in harbour duties until the end of the war.
- ARA Monsunen - armed coaster: She survived the attack of two British frigates and a helicopter, successfully avoiding them by running aground at Seal Cove. Her supply mission was eventually carried out by ARA Forrest, which towed her to Darwin. Recovered by British forces on 29 May, after the battle of Goose Green.
- ARA Penelope - schooner: Spotted by ARA Bahía Buen Suceso at Speedwell Island and seized by an Argentine crew on 7 May. She accomplished a logistic mission from Fox Bay to Stanley. While uploading her cargo, the schooner endured a naval bombardment by HMS Plymouth on Fox Bay's fuel

depots during the first hours of 26 May. She eventually reached Stanley on 2 June.

### Losses

1 cruiser  
1 submarine  
4 cargo vessels  
2 patrol boats  
1 naval trawler

### Aftermath

This brief war brought many consequences for all the parties involved, besides the considerable casualty rate and large materiel loss, especially of shipping and aircraft, relative to the deployed military strengths of the opposing sides.

In the United Kingdom, Margaret Thatcher's popularity increased. The success of the Falklands campaign was widely regarded as a factor in the turnaround in fortunes for the Conservative government, who had been trailing behind the SDP-Liberal Alliance in the opinion polls for months before the conflict began, but after the success in the Falklands the Conservatives returned to the top of the opinion polls by a wide margin and went on to win the following year's general election by a landslide. Subsequently, Defence Secretary Nott's proposed cuts to the Royal Navy were abandoned.

The islanders subsequently had full British citizenship restored in 1983, their lifestyle was improved by investments the UK made after the war and by the liberalisation of economic measures that had been stalled through fear of angering Argentina. In 1985, a new constitution was enacted promot-

ing self-government, which has continued to devolve power to the islanders.

In Argentina, defeat in the Falklands War meant that a possible war with Chile was avoided. Further, Argentina returned to a democratic government in the 1983 general election, the first free general election since 1973. It also had a major social impact, destroying the military's image as the "moral reserve of the nation" that they had maintained through most of the 20th century.

Militarily, the Falklands conflict remains one of the largest air-naval combat operations between modern forces since the end of the Second World War. As such, it has been the subject of intense study by military analysts and historians.

The most significant "lessons learned" include: the vulnerability of surface ships to anti-ship missiles and submarines, the challenges of co-ordinating logistical support for a long-distance projection of power, and reconfirmation of the role of tactical air power, including the use of helicopters.

In 1986, the BBC broadcast the Horizon programme, *In the Wake of HMS Sheffield*, which discussed lessons learned from the conflict, and measures since taken to implement them, such as incorporating greater stealth capabilities and providing better close-in weapon systems for the Fleet. The principal British military responses to the Falklands War were the measures adopted in the December 1982 Defence White Paper.



# Hermann Göring

*World War I fighter ace, political and military leader, President of the Reichstag, Head of the Luftwaffe, Reichsmarschall, he was one of the most powerful figures in the Nazi Party.*

**H**ermann Wilhelm Göring (also spelt Goering) was a German political and military leader and a convicted war criminal. He was one of the most powerful figures in the Nazi Party, which ruled Germany from 1933 to 1945.

A veteran World War I fighter pilot ace, he was a recipient of the *Pour le Mérite* ("The Blue Max").

He was the last commander of *Jagdgeschwader 1* (Jasta 1), the fighter wing once led by Manfred von Richthofen.

An early member of 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.

After Hitler became Chancellor of Germany in 1933, Göring was named as minister without portfolio in the new government. One of his first acts as a cabinet minister was to oversee the creation of the Gestapo, which he ceded to Heinrich Himmler in 1934.

Following the establishment of the Nazi state, Göring amassed power and political capital to become the second most powerful man in Germany.

He was appointed commander-in-chief of the *Luftwaffe* (air force), a position he held until the final days of the regime. Upon being named Plenipotentiary of the Four Year Plan in 1936, Göring was entrusted with the task of mobilizing all sectors of the economy for war, an assignment which brought numerous government agencies under his control.

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.

## Early life

Göring was born on 12 January 1893 at the Marienbad Sanatorium in Rosenheim, Bavaria. His father, Heinrich Ernst Göring (31 October 1839 – 7 December 1913), a former cavalry officer, had been the first Governor-General of German South West Africa (modern-day Namibia).

Heinrich had three children from a previous marriage. Göring was the fourth of five children by Heinrich's second wife, Franziska Tiefenbrunn (1859 – 15 July 1943), a Bavarian peasant.



Göring's elder siblings were Karl, Olga, and Paula; his younger brother was Albert.

At the time that Göring was born, his father was serving as consul general in Haiti, and his mother had returned home briefly to give birth. She left the six-week-old baby with a friend in Bavaria and did not see the child again for three years, when she and Heinrich returned to Germany.

Göring's godfather was Hermann Epenstein, a wealthy Jewish physician and businessman his father had met in Africa. Epenstein provided the Göring family, who were surviving on Heinrich's pension, first with a family home in Berlin-Friedenau, then in a small castle called Veldenstein, near Nuremberg.

Göring's mother became Epenstein's mistress around this time, and remained so for some fifteen years. Epenstein acquired the minor title of Ritter (knight) von Epenstein through service and donations to the Crown.

Interested in a career as a soldier from a very early age, Göring enjoyed playing with toy soldiers and dressing up in a Boer uniform his father had given him.

He was sent to boarding school at age eleven, where the food was poor and discipline was harsh. He sold a violin to pay for his train ticket home, and then took to his bed, feigning illness, until he was told he would not have to return.

He continued to enjoy war games, pretending to lay siege

to the castle Veldenstein and studying Teutonic legends and sagas. He became a mountain climber, scaling peaks in Germany, at the Mont Blanc massif, and in the Austrian Alps.

At sixteen he was sent to a military academy at Berlin Lichterfelde, from which he graduated with distinction. (During the Nuremberg war-crimes trials in 1946, psychologist Gustave Gilbert measured him as having an intelligence quotient (IQ) of 138.)

Göring joined the Prince Wilhelm Regiment (112th Infantry, Garrison: Mülhausen) of the Prussian Army in 1912. The next year his mother had a falling-out with Epenstein. The family was forced to leave Veldenstein and moved to Munich; Göring's father died shortly afterwards. When World War I began in August 1914, Göring was stationed at Mülhausen with his regiment.

## World War I

During the first year of World War I, Göring served with his infantry regiment in the area of Mülhausen, a garrison town less than 2 km from the French frontier. He was hospitalized with rheumatism, a result of the damp of trench warfare.

While he was recovering, his friend Bruno Loerzer convinced him to transfer to what would become, by October 1916, the *Luftstreitkräfte* ("air combat forces") of the German army, but his request was turned down. Later that year, Göring flew as Loerzer's observer in

Feldflieger Abteilung 25 (FFA 25) – Göring had informally transferred himself.

He was discovered and sentenced to three weeks' confinement to barracks, but the sentence was never carried out. By the time it was supposed to be imposed, Göring's association with Loerzer had been made official. They were assigned as a team to FFA 25 in the Crown Prince's Fifth Army. They flew reconnaissance and bombing missions, for which the Crown Prince invested both Göring and Loerzer with the Iron Cross, first class.

After completing the pilot's training course, Göring was assigned to *Jagdstaffel 5*. Seriously wounded in the hip in aerial combat, he took nearly a year to recover.

He then was transferred to *Jagdstaffel 26*, commanded by Loerzer, in February 1917. He steadily scored air victories until May, when he was assigned to command *Jagdstaffel 27*. Serving with *Jastas 5, 26, and 27*, he continued to win victories.

In addition to his Iron Crosses (1st and 2nd Class), he received the Zähringer Lion with swords, the Friedrich Order, the House Order of Hohenzollern with swords third class, and finally, in May 1918, the coveted *Pour le Mérite*.

According to Hermann Dahmann, who knew both men, Göring had Loerzer lobby for the award. He finished the war with 22 victories. A thorough post-war examination of Al-



lied loss records showed that only two of his awarded victories were doubtful. Three were possible and 17 were certain, or highly likely.

On 7 July 1918, following the death of Wilhelm Reinhard, successor to Manfred von Richthofen, Göring was made commander of the "Flying Circus", *Jagdgeschwader 1*. His arrogance made him unpopular with the men of his squadron.

In the last days of the war, Göring was repeatedly ordered to withdraw his squadron, first to Tellancourt airdrome, then to Darmstadt. At one point, he was ordered to surrender the aircraft to the Allies; he refused. Many of his pilots intentionally crash-landed their planes to keep them from falling into enemy hands.

Like many other German veterans, Göring was a proponent of the Stab-in-the-back legend, the belief which held that the German Army had not really lost the war, but instead was betrayed by the civilian leadership: Marxists, Jews, and especially the Republicans, who had overthrown the German monarchy.

## Post World War I

Göring remained in aviation after the war. He tried barnstorming and briefly worked at Fokker. After spending most of 1919 living in Denmark, he moved to Sweden and joined Svensk Lufttrafik, a Swedish airline.

Göring was often hired for private flights. During the win-



**FIGHTER ACE:** During World War I Hermann Göring became an ace with 22 victories.

ter of 1920–1921, he was hired by Count Eric von Rosen to fly him to his castle from Stockholm. Invited to spend the night, Göring may at this time have first seen the swastika emblem, which Rosen had set in the chimney piece as a family badge.

This was also the first time that Göring saw his future wife; the count introduced his sister-in-law, Baroness Carin von Kantzow (née Freiin von Fock). Estranged from her husband of ten years, she had an eight-year-old son.

Göring was immediately infatuated and asked her to meet him in Stockholm. They arranged a visit at the home of her parents and spent much time together through 1921, when Göring left for Munich to take political science at the university.

Carin obtained a divorce, followed Göring to Munich,

and married him on 3 February 1922.

Their first home together was a hunting lodge at Hochkreuth in the Bavarian Alps, near Bayrischzell, some 80 kilometres from Munich. After Göring met Adolf Hitler and joined the Nazi Party in 1922, they moved to Obermenzing, a suburb of Munich.

## Early Nazi career

Göring joined the Nazi Party in 1922 after hearing a speech by Hitler. He was given command of the *Sturmabteilung* (SA) as the *Oberster SA-Führer* in 1923. He was later appointed an *SA-Gruppenführer* (Lieutenant General) and held this rank on the SA rolls until 1945.

At this time, Carin - who liked Hitler - often played hostess to meetings of leading Nazis, including her husband, Hitler, Rudolf Hess, Alfred Rosenberg, and Ernst Röhm.

Hitler and the Nazi Party held mass meetings and rallies in Munich and elsewhere during the early 1920s, attempting to gain supporters in a bid for political power.

Inspired by Benito Mussolini's March on Rome, the Nazis attempted to seize power on 8–9 November 1923 in a failed coup known as the Beer Hall Putsch. Göring, who was with Hitler leading the march to the War Ministry, was shot in the groin.

Fourteen Nazis and four policemen were killed; many top Nazis, including Hitler, were arrested.

With Carin's help, Göring was smuggled to Innsbruck, where he received surgery and was given morphine for the pain. He remained in hospital until 24 December.

This was the beginning of his morphine addiction, which lasted until his imprisonment at Nuremberg. Meanwhile, the authorities in Munich declared Göring a wanted man.

The Görings, acutely short of funds and reliant on the good will of Nazi sympathizers abroad, moved from Austria to Venice. In May 1924 they visited Rome, via Florence and Siena. Göring met Mussolini, who expressed an interest in meeting Hitler, who was by then in prison.

Personal problems continued to multiply. By 1925, Carin's mother was ill. The Görings managed to raise the money in the spring of 1925 for a journey to Sweden via Austria, Czech-

oslovakia, Poland, and Danzig (now Gdańsk).

Göring had become a violent morphine addict; Carin's family were shocked by his deterioration. Carin, who was ill with epilepsy and a weak heart, had to allow the doctors to take charge of Göring; her son was taken by his father. Göring was certified a dangerous drug addict and was placed in Långbro asylum on 1 September 1925.

He was violent to the point where he had to be confined in a straitjacket, but his psychiatrist felt he was sane; the condition was caused solely by the morphine.

Weaned off the drug, he left the facility briefly, but had to return for further treatment. He returned to Germany when an amnesty was declared in 1927 and resumed working in the aircraft industry.

Hitler, who had written *Mein Kampf* while in prison, had been released in December 1924. Carin Göring, ill with epilepsy and tuberculosis, died of heart failure on 17 October 1931.

Meanwhile, the Nazi Party was in a period of rebuilding and waiting. The economy had recovered, which meant fewer opportunities for the Nazis to agitate.

The SA was reorganised, but with Franz Pfeffer von Salomon as its head rather than Göring, and the *Schutzstaffel* (SS) was founded in 1925, initially as a bodyguard for Hitler.

Membership in the party increased from 27,000 in 1925 to 108,000 in 1928 and 178,000 in

1929. In the May 1928 elections the Nazi Party only obtained 12 seats out of an available 491 in the Reichstag. Göring was elected as a representative from Bavaria.

He continued to be elected to the Reichstag in all subsequent elections during the Weimar and Nazi regimes.

The Great Depression led to a disastrous downturn in the German economy, and in the 1930 election, the Nazi Party won 6,409,600 votes and 107 seats. In May 1931, Hitler sent Göring on a mission to the Vatican, where he met the future Pope Pius XII.

In the July 1932 election, the Nazis won 230 seats to become far and away the largest party in the Reichstag. By longstanding tradition, the Nazis were thus entitled to select the President of the Reichstag, and elected Göring to the post. He would retain this position until 23 April 1945.

## Reichstag fire

The Reichstag fire occurred on the night of 27 February 1933. Göring was one of the first to arrive on the scene. Marinus van der Lubbe - a Communist radical - was arrested and claimed sole responsibility for the fire. Göring immediately called for a crackdown on Communists.

The Nazis took advantage of the fire to advance their own political aims. The Reichstag Fire Decree, passed the next day on Hitler's urging, suspended basic rights and allowed detention without trial. Activities of the



German Communist Party were suppressed, and some 4,000 Party members were arrested.

Göring demanded that the detainees should be shot, but Rudolf Diels, head of the Prussian political police, ignored the order. Some researchers are of the opinion that the Nazi Party itself was responsible for starting the fire.

At the Nuremberg trials, General Franz Halder testified that Göring admitted responsibility for starting the fire. He said that, at a luncheon held on Hitler's birthday in 1942, Göring said, "The only one who really knows about the Reichstag is I, because I set it on fire!" In his own Nuremberg testimony, Göring denied this story.

## Pre World War II

During the early 1930s, Göring was often in the company of Emmy Sonnemann, an actress from Hamburg.

They were married on 10 April 1935 in Berlin; the wedding was celebrated on a huge scale. A large reception was held the night before at the Berlin Opera House.

Fighter aircraft flew overhead on the night of the reception and the day of the ceremony, at which Hitler was best man. Göring's daughter, Edda, was born on 2 June 1938.

When Hitler was named chancellor of Germany in January 1933, Göring was appointed as minister without portfolio, Minister of the Interior for Prussia, and Reich Commissioner of Aviation.

Wilhelm Frick was named Reich Interior Minister. Frick and head of the Schutzstaffel

(SS) Heinrich Himmler hoped to create a unified police force for all of Germany, but Göring on 30 November 1933 established a Prussian police force, with Rudolf Diels at its head. The force was called the *Geheime Staatspolizei* (Secret State Police), or Gestapo.

Göring, thinking that Diels was not ruthless enough to use the Gestapo effectively to counteract the power of the SA, handed over control of the Gestapo to Himmler on 20 April 1934. By this time, the SA numbered over two million men.

Hitler was deeply concerned that Ernst Röhm, the chief of the SA, was planning a coup. Himmler and Reinhard Heydrich plotted with Göring to use the Gestapo and SS to crush the SA.

Members of the SA got wind of the proposed action and thousands of them took to the streets in violent demonstrations on the night of 29 June 1934.

Enraged, Hitler ordered the arrest of the SA leadership. Röhm was shot dead in his cell when he refused to commit suicide; Göring personally went over the lists of detainees - numbering in the thousands - and determined who else should be shot.

At least 85 people were killed in the period of 30 June to 2 July, which is now known as the Night of the Long Knives.

Hitler admitted in the Reichstag on 13 July that the killings had been entirely illegal, but claimed a plot had been under way to overthrow the Reich. A retroactive law was passed making the action legal. Any criticism was met with arrests.

One of the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, which had been in place since the end of World War I, stated that Germany was not allowed to maintain an air force.

After the 1926 signing of the Kellogg-Briand Pact, police aircraft were permitted. Göring was appointed Air Traffic Minister in May 1933. Germany began to accumulate aircraft in violation of the Treaty, and in 1935 the existence of the *Luftwaffe* was formally acknowledged, with Göring as Reich Aviation Minister.

During a cabinet meeting in September 1936, Göring and Hitler announced that the German rearmament programme must be sped up.

On 18 October, Hitler named Göring as Plenipotentiary of the Four Year Plan to undertake this task. Göring created a new organisation to administer the Plan and drew the ministries of labour and agriculture under its umbrella.

He bypassed the economics ministry in his policy-making decisions, to the chagrin of Hjalmar Schacht, the minister in charge. Huge expenditures were made on rearmament, in spite of growing deficits. Schacht resigned on 8 December 1937, and Walther Funk took over the position, as well as control of the Reichsbank.

In this way, both of these institutions were brought under Göring's control under the auspices of the Four Year Plan.

In July 1937, the Reichswerke Hermann Göring was established under state ownership - though led by Göring - with the aim of boosting steel production



**NAZI LEADERSHIP:** Adolf Hitler (left) and Hermann Göring on the balcony of the Chancellery in Berlin during March 1938.

beyond the level which private enterprise could economically provide.

In 1938, Göring was involved in the Blomberg-Fritsch Affair, which led to the resignations of the War Minister, Generalfeldmarschall Werner von Blomberg, and the army commander, General Werner von Fritsch. Göring had acted as witness at Blomberg's wedding to Margarethe Gruhn, a 26-year-old typist, on 12 January 1938.

Information received from the police showed that the young bride was a prostitute. Göring felt obligated to tell Hitler, but also saw this event as an opportunity to dispose of Blomberg. Blomberg was forced to resign. Göring did not want Fritsch to be appointed to that position and thus be his superior.

Several days later, Heydrich revealed a file on Fritsch that contained allegations of homosexual activity and blackmail. The charges were later proven

to be false, but Fritsch had lost Hitler's trust and was forced to resign.

Hitler used the dismissals as an opportunity to reshuffle the leadership of the military. Göring asked for the post of War Minister, but was turned down; he was appointed to the rank of *Generalfeldmarschall*. Hitler took over as supreme commander of the armed forces and created subordinate posts to head the three main branches of service.

As minister in charge of the Four Year Plan, Göring became concerned with the lack of natural resources in Germany, and began pushing for Austria to be incorporated into the Reich.

The province of Styria had rich iron ore deposits, and the country as a whole was home to many skilled labourers that would also be useful. Hitler had always been in favour of a takeover of Austria, his native country.

He met the Austrian Chancellor Kurt Schuschnigg on 12 February 1938, threatening invasion if peaceful unification was not forthcoming. The Nazi Party was made legal in Austria to gain a power base, and a referendum on reunification was scheduled for March.

When Hitler did not approve of the wording of the plebiscite, Göring telephoned Schuschnigg and Austrian head of state Wilhelm Miklas to demand Schuschnigg's resignation, threatening invasion by German troops and civil unrest by the Austrian Nazi Party members.

Schuschnigg resigned on 11 March and the plebiscite was cancelled. By 05h30 the next morning, German troops that had been massing on the border marched into Austria, meeting no resistance.

Although Joachim von Ribbentrop had been named Foreign Minister in February 1938, Göring continued to involve himself in foreign affairs.

That July, he contacted the British government with the idea that he should make an official visit to discuss Germany's intentions for Czechoslovakia. Neville Chamberlain was in favour of a meeting, and there was talk of a pact being signed between Britain and Germany.

In February 1938, Göring visited Warsaw to quell rumours about the upcoming invasion of Poland. He had conversations with the Hungarian government that summer as well, discussing their potential role in an invasion of Czechoslovakia.

At the Nuremberg Rally that September, Göring and other



speakers denounced the Czechs as an inferior race that must be conquered.

Chamberlain and Hitler had a series of meetings that led to the signing of the Munich Agreement (29 September 1938), which turned over control of the Sudetenland to Germany.

In March 1939, Göring threatened Czechoslovak president Emil Hácha with the bombing of Prague. Hácha then agreed to sign a communiqué accepting the German occupation of the remainder of Bohemia and Moravia.

Although many in the party disliked him, before the war Göring enjoyed widespread personal popularity among the German public because of his perceived sociability, colour and humour.

As the Nazi leader most responsible for economic matters, he presented himself as a champion of national interests over allegedly corrupt big business and the old German elite. The Nazi press was on Göring's side. Other leaders, such as Hess and Ribbentrop, were envious of his popularity.

In Britain and the United States, some viewed Göring as more acceptable than the other Nazis and as a possible mediator between the western democracies and Hitler.

## World War II

Göring and other senior officers were concerned that Germany was not yet ready for war, but Hitler insisted on pushing ahead as soon as possible.[79]

On 30 August 1939, immediately prior to the outbreak of the Second World War, Hitler



**FINE TASTES:** Göring appreciated the finer things in life, including art, jewellery, food and his tailored uniforms.

appointed Göring as the chairman of a new six-person Council of Ministers for Defence of the Reich which was set up to operate as a war cabinet.

The invasion of Poland, the opening action of World War II, began at dawn on 1 September 1939. Later in the day, speaking to the Reichstag, Hitler designated Göring as his successor as Führer of all Germany, with Hess as the second alternate.

Big German victories followed one after the other in quick succession. With the help of the Luftwaffe, the Polish Air Force was defeated within a week.

The Fallschirmjäger seized vital airfields in Norway and captured Fort Eben-Emael in Belgium. Göring's Luftwaffe played critical roles in the Battles of the Netherlands, Belgium and France in May 1940.

After the Fall of France, Hitler awarded Göring the Grand

Cross of the Iron Cross for his successful leadership. During the 1940 Field Marshal Ceremony, Hitler promoted Göring to the rank of *Reichsmarschall des Grossdeutschen Reiches* (Reich Marshal of the Greater German Reich), a specially-created rank which made him senior to all field marshals in the military, including the Luftwaffe.

As a result of this promotion, he was the highest-ranking soldier in Germany until the end of the war. Göring had already received the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross on 30 September 1939 as Commander in Chief of the Luftwaffe.

The UK had declared war on Germany immediately after the invasion of Poland. In July 1940, Hitler began preparations for an invasion of Britain. As part of the plan, the Royal Air Force (RAF) had to be neutralized. Bombing raids com-

menced on British air installations and on cities and centres of industry.

Göring had by then already announced in a radio speech, "If as much as a single enemy aircraft flies over German soil, my name is Meier!", something that would return to haunt him, when the RAF began bombing German cities on 11 May 1940.

Though he was confident the Luftwaffe could defeat the RAF within days, Göring, like Admiral Erich Raeder, commander-in-chief of the *Kriegsmarine* (navy), was pessimistic about the chance of success of the planned invasion (codenamed Operation Sea Lion).

Göring hoped that a victory in the air would be enough to force peace without an invasion. The campaign failed, and Sea Lion was postponed indefinitely on 17 September 1940.

After their defeat in the Battle of Britain, the Luftwaffe attempted to defeat Britain via strategic bombing. On 12 October 1940 Hitler cancelled Sea Lion due to the onset of winter.

By the end of the year, it was clear that British morale was not being shaken by the Blitz, though the bombings continued through May 1941.

In spite of the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact, signed in 1939, Nazi Germany began Operation Barbarossa - the invasion of the Soviet Union - on 22 June 1941.

Initially the Luftwaffe was at an advantage, destroying thousands of Soviet aircraft in the first month of fighting. Hitler and his top staff were sure that the campaign would be over by Christmas, and no provisions were made for reserves of men

or equipment.

But, by July, the Germans had only 1,000 planes remaining in operation, and their troop losses were over 213,000 men. The choice was made to concentrate the attack on only one part of the vast front; efforts would be directed at capturing Moscow.

After the long, but successful, Battle of Smolensk, Hitler ordered Army Group Centre to halt its advance to Moscow and temporarily diverted its Panzer groups north and south to aid in the encirclement of Leningrad and Kiev.

The pause provided the Red Army with an opportunity to mobilize fresh reserves; many consider it to be one of the major factors that caused the failure of the Moscow offensive, which was resumed in October 1941 with the Battle of Moscow.

Poor weather conditions, fuel shortages, a delay in building aircraft bases in Eastern Europe, and overstretched supply lines were also factors. Hitler did not give permission for even a partial retreat until mid-January 1942; by this time the losses were comparable to those of the French invasion of Russia in 1812.

Hitler decided that the summer 1942 campaign would be concentrated in the south; efforts would be made to capture the oilfields in the Caucasus.

The Battle of Stalingrad, a major turning point of the war, began on 23 August 1942 with a bombing campaign by the Luftwaffe.

The German Sixth Army entered the city, but because of its location on the front line, it was

still possible for the Soviets to encircle and trap it there without reinforcements or supplies.

When the Sixth Army was surrounded by the end of November in Operation Uranus, Göring promised that the Luftwaffe would be able to deliver a minimum of 300 tons of supplies to the trapped men every day.

On the basis of these assurances, Hitler demanded that there be no retreat; they were to fight to the last man. Though some airlifts were able to get through, the amount of supplies delivered never exceeded 120 tons per day.

The remnants of the Sixth Army - some 91,000 men out of an army of 285,000 - surrendered in early February 1943; only 5,000 of these captives survived the Russian prisoner of war camps to see Germany again.

Meanwhile, the strength of the US and British bomber fleets had increased. Based in Britain, they began operations against German targets.

The first thousand-bomber raid was staged on Cologne on 30 May 1942. Air raids continued on targets further from England after auxiliary fuel tanks were installed on US fighter aircraft. Göring refused to believe reports that American fighters had been shot down as far east as Aachen in winter 1942–1943. His reputation began to decline.

The American P-51 Mustang, with a combat radius of over 2,900 km when using underwing drop tanks, began to escort the bombers in large formations to and from the target



area in early 1944.

From that point onwards, the Luftwaffe began to suffer casualties in aircrews it could not sufficiently replace. By targeting oil refineries and rail communications, Allied bombers crippled the German war effort by late 1944.

German civilians blamed Göring for his failure to protect the homeland. Hitler began excluding him from conferences, but continued him in his positions at the head of the Luftwaffe and as plenipotentiary of the Four Year Plan.

As he lost Hitler's trust, Göring began to spend more time at his various residences. On D-Day (6 June 1944), the Luftwaffe only had some 300 fighters and a small number of bombers in the area of the landings; the Allies had a total strength of 11,000 aircraft.

## End of the war

As the Soviets approached Berlin, Hitler's efforts to organise the defence of the city became ever more meaningless and futile.

His last birthday, celebrated at the *Führerbunker* in Berlin on 20 April 1945, was the occasion for leave-taking for many top Nazis, Göring included. By this time, Göring's hunting lodge Carinhall had been evacuated, the building destroyed, and its art treasures moved to Berchtesgaden and elsewhere.

Göring arrived at his estate at Obersalzberg on 22 April, the same day that Hitler, in a lengthy diatribe against his generals, first publicly admitted that the war was lost and that he intended to remain in Berlin to

the end and then commit suicide. He also stated that Göring was in a better position to negotiate a peace settlement.

OKW operations chief Alfred Jodl was present for Hitler's rant, and notified Göring's chief of staff, Karl Koller, at a meeting a few hours later. Sensing its implications, Koller immediately flew to Berchtesgaden to notify Göring of this development.

A week after the start of the Soviet invasion, Hitler had issued a decree naming Göring his successor in the event of his death, thus codifying the declaration he had made soon after the beginning of the war. The decree also gave Göring full authority to act as Hitler's deputy if Hitler ever lost his freedom of action.

Göring feared being branded a traitor if he tried to take power, but also feared being accused of dereliction of duty if he did nothing. After some hesitation, Göring reviewed his copy of the 1941 decree naming him Hitler's successor.

After conferring with Koller and Hans Lammers (the state secretary of the Reich Chancellery), Göring concluded that by remaining in Berlin to face certain death, Hitler had incapacitated himself from governing. All agreed that under the terms of the decree, it was incumbent upon Göring to take power in Hitler's stead.

He was also motivated by fears that his rival, Martin Bormann, would seize power upon Hitler's death and would have him killed as a traitor.

With this in mind, Göring sent a carefully worded tele-

gram asking Hitler for permission to take over as the leader of Germany, stressing that he would be acting as Hitler's deputy. He added that, if Hitler did not reply by 22h00 that night (23 April), he would assume that Hitler had indeed lost his freedom of action, and would assume leadership of the Reich.

The telegram was intercepted by Bormann, who convinced Hitler that Göring was a traitor. Bormann argued that Göring's telegram was not a request for permission to act as Hitler's deputy, but a demand to resign or be overthrown.

Bormann also intercepted another telegram in which Göring directed Ribbentrop to report to him if there was no further communication from Hitler or Göring before midnight.

Hitler sent a reply to Göring - prepared with Bormann's help - rescinding the 1941 decree and threatening him with execution for high treason unless he immediately resigned from all of his offices. Göring duly resigned.

Afterwards, Hitler (or Bormann, depending on the source) ordered the SS to place Göring, his staff, and Lammers under house arrest at Obersalzberg. Bormann made an announcement over the radio that Göring had resigned for health reasons.

By 26 April, the complex at Obersalzberg was under attack by the Allies, so Göring was moved to his castle at Mautern-dorf. In his last will and testament, Hitler expelled Göring from the party, formally rescinded the decree making him his successor, and upbraided Göring for "illegally attempting



**CHEATING THE HANGMAN:** Göring committed suicide by taking a cyanide pill the night before he was due to be hanged. There are a number of theories as to how he managed to get hold of the cyanide pill.

to seize control of the state."

He then appointed Karl Dönitz, the Navy's commander-in-chief, as president of the Reich and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. Hitler and his wife, Eva Braun, committed suicide on 30 April 1945, a few hours after a hastily arranged wedding.

Göring was freed on 5 May by a passing Luftwaffe unit, and he made his way to the US lines in hopes of surrendering to them rather than to the Soviets.

He was taken into custody near Radstadt on 6 May by elements of the 36th Infantry Division of the US Army. This move likely saved Göring's life; Bormann had ordered him executed if Berlin had fallen.

## Trial and death

Göring was flown to Camp Ashcan, a temporary prisoner-of-war camp housed in the

Palace Hotel at Mondorf-les-Bains, Luxembourg.

Here he was weaned off dihydrocodeine (a mild morphine derivative) - he had been taking the equivalent of three or four grains (260 to 320 mg) of morphine a day - and was put on a strict diet; he lost 60 pounds (27 kg).

His IQ was tested while in custody and found to be 138. Top Nazi officials were transferred in September to Nuremberg, which was to be the location of a series of military tribunals beginning in November.

Göring was the second-highest-ranking official tried at Nuremberg, behind Reich President (former Admiral) Karl Dönitz.

The prosecution levelled an indictment of four charges, including a charge of conspiracy; waging a war of aggression;

war crimes, including the plundering and removal to Germany of works of art and other property; and crimes against humanity, including the disappearance of political and other opponents under the *Nacht und Nebel* (Night and Fog) decree; the torture and ill-treatment of prisoners of war; and the murder and enslavement of civilians, including what was at the time estimated to be 5,700,000 Jews.

Not permitted to present a lengthy statement, Göring declared himself to be "in the sense of the indictment not guilty".

The trial lasted 218 days; the prosecution presented their case from November through March, and Göring's defence - the first to be presented - lasted from 8 to 22 March. The sentences were read out on 30 September 1946.

Göring was found guilty on all four counts and was sentenced to death by hanging. Göring made an appeal asking to be shot as a soldier instead of hanged as a common criminal, but the court refused.

He committed suicide with a potassium cyanide capsule the night before he was to be hanged. There are a number of theories as to how Göring managed to get hold of the cyanide capsule.

Göring's body, as with those of the men who were executed, was displayed at the execution ground for the witnesses of the executions. The bodies were cremated at Ostfriedhof, Munich, and the ashes were scattered in the Isar River.



## Nimitz-class Aircraft Carrier

Described as a 'City at Sea', the sheer sized of a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier is impressive enough. What's really impressive, however, is the capabilities of the vessel. And the US Navy has ten of them.

Standing 20 stories above the water and stretching 333 metres from bow to stern, the sheer size of a Nimitz-class super aircraft carrier is impressive. What's really impressive, however, is watching the activity on the flight deck.

Currently the US Navy has ten nuclear-powered Nimitz-class aircraft carries in service.

The lead ship of the class is named after World War II United States Pacific Fleet commander Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, the U.S. Navy's last fleet admiral.

Then ten carriers in service are:

### Nimitz subclass

- USS Nimitz.
- USS Dwight D. Eisenhower.

### Theodore Roosevelt subclass

- USS Carl Vinson.
- USS Theodore Roosevelt.
- USS Abraham Lincoln.
- USS George Washington.
- USS John C. Stennis.
- USS Harry S. Truman.

### Ronald Reagan subclass

- USS Ronald Reagan.
- USS George H.W. Bush.

Instead of the gas turbines or diesel-electric systems used for propulsion on many modern warships, the carriers use two A4W pressurized water reactors which drive four propeller shafts. They are categorized as nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and are numbered with consecutive hull numbers between CVN-68 and CVN-77.

As a result of the use of nuclear power, the ships are capable of operating for over 20 years without refueling and are predicted to have a service life of over 50 years

The lead ship of the class, was commissioned on 3 May 1975, and USS George H.W. Bush, the tenth and last of the class, was

commissioned on 10 January 2009. Since the 1970s, Nimitz-class carriers have participated in many conflicts and operations across the world, including Operation Eagle Claw in Iran, the Gulf War, and more recently in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Let's begin by looking at the figures for a standard Nimitz-class aircraft carrier.

### Crew

- 3,184 (including 203 officers)
- 2,800 aircrew (366 officers)

### Length

- 317 m

### Beam

- 40.8 m

### Draught

- 11.9 m

### Flight Deck

- 333 m x 77 m

### Displacement

- 102,000 tons (full load)

### Speed

- 30 knots

### Surface-to-air-missile

- 3 x Raytheon GMLS Mk29 eight-cell launchers for Sea Sparrow

### Guns

- 4 x Phalanx Mk15 CIWS (three in CVN 68 and CVN 6)

### ESM

- AN/SLQ-32(V)4

### Decoys

- 4 x SRBOC, SSTDS torpedo defence system



USS Nimitz



USS Theodore Roosevelt



USS George Washington



USS John C. Stennis



USS Dwight D. Eisenhower



USS Carl Vinson



USS Harry S. Truman



USS Ronald Reagan



USS Abraham Lincoln



USS George H.W. Bush



- AN/SLQ-25 Nixie torpedo decoy

#### Air Search

- ITT AN/SPS-48E E/F band
- Ratheon AN/SPS-49(V)5 C/D band
- Raytheon Mk23 TAS D-band

#### Surface Search

- Northrop Grumman AN/SPS-67V G-band

#### Navigation

- Raytheon AN/SPS-64(V)9 I/J-band

#### Combat Data System

- ACDS block 0 or block 1

#### Weapons Control

- 3 x Mk91 MOD 1 fire control system (for Sea Sparrow missile)

#### Engines

- 2 x GE PWR A4W/A1G - 194MW
- 4 x emergency diesels - 8MW

#### Fixed Wing Aircraft

- 12 x F/A-18E/F
- 36 x F/A-18
- 4 x E-2C Hawkeye
- 4 x AE-6B Prowler
- 6 x S-3B Viking
- 2 x ES-3A Shadow

#### Helicopters

- 4 x SH-60F
- 2 x HH-60H Seahawk

At its most basic level, an aircraft carrier is simply a ship outfitted with a flight deck - a runway area for launching and landing airplanes.

This concept dates back almost as far as airplanes themselves. Within 10 years of the Wright Brothers' historic 1903 flight, the United States, the United Kingdom and Germany were launching test flights from platforms attached to cruisers.

The experiments proved



**FLOATING CITY:** A single Nimitz-class carrier will often carry more aircraft than some countries have in their entire air force.

largely successful, and the various naval forces started adapting existing warships for this purpose. The new carriers allowed military forces to transport short-range aircraft all over the world.

One of the major obstacles of using air power in war is getting the planes to their destination. To maintain an air base in a foreign region, the United States (or any other nation) has to make special arrangements with a host country, and then has to abide by that country's rules, which may change over time.

Needless to say, this can be extremely difficult in some parts of the world and impossible if the nation is hostile.

Under international Freedom of Navigation laws, aircraft carriers and other warships are recognized as sovereign territories in almost all of the ocean. As long as a ship doesn't get too close to any nation's coast, the carrier can operate as if it is on American soil.

### Composition

An aircraft carrier basically has to do four things. It needs to:

- Transport a variety of aircraft to any destination.
- Launch and recover aircraft.
- Serve as a mobile command centre for military operations, and
- House all of the people needed to accomplish this.

To get everything done, an aircraft carrier has to be a ship, an air force base, and a small city at the same time.

Among other things it needs:

- **A flight deck** - a flat surface on top of the ship where aircraft can take off and land.
- **A hangar deck** - an area below deck to stow aircraft when not in use.
- **An island** - a building on top of the flight deck where officers can direct flights and ship operations.
- Room for the crew to live and work.
- A power plant and propul-



**GO!** An F-14D Tomcat fighter jet prepares to launch from the deck of a Nimitz-class carrier.

sion system to move the ship from point to point, as well as generate electricity for the entire ship.

- Various other systems to provide food and fresh water, and to handle other things that any small city has to deal with. This would include sewage, trash, mail and laundry. They would also need newspapers and radio and television stations.
- Medical facilities with doctors and dentists.
- **The hull** - the main body of the ship, which floats in water.

### The Flight Deck

The system that is used by Nimitz-class carriers to launch and recover aircraft is known as the CATOBAR (Catapult Assisted Take-Off Barrier Arrested Recovery) system.

Steam-driven catapults are used to launch planes from the deck. The catapult officer carefully monitors the steam pres-

sure level so it's just right for the particular plane and deck conditions.

If the pressure is too low, the plane won't get moving fast enough to take off, and the catapult will throw it into the ocean. If there's too much pressure, the sudden jerk could break the nose gear right off.

If taking off from an aircraft carrier is difficult, landing on one is even more so.

To land on a flight deck that only has about 150 metres of runway space the aircraft make use of a tailhook. The tailhook is exactly what it sounds like - an extended hook attached to the tail of the plane.

The pilot's goal is to snag the tailhook on one of four arresting wires, sturdy cables woven from high-tensile steel wire.

The arresting wires are stretched across the deck and are attached on both ends to hydraulic cylinders below deck. If the tailhook snags an arresting wire, it pulls the wire out, and

the hydraulic cylinder system absorbs the energy to bring the plane to a stop.

The arresting wire can stop a 24,500 kg plane travelling at 241 k/ph in only two seconds.

There are four parallel arresting wires, spaced about 5015 metres apart, to expand the target area for the pilot. Pilots are aiming for the third wire, as it's the safest and most effective target. They never shoot for the first wire because it's dangerously close to the edge of deck.

To pull off a carrier landing, the pilot needs to approach the deck at exactly the right angle.

Landing Signals Officers (LSOs) help guide the plane in, through radio communication as well as a collection of lights on the deck.

If the plane is off course, the LSOs can use radio commands or illuminate other lights to correct him or her or "wave him off" (send them around for another attempt).

In addition to the LSOs, pilots look to the Fresnel Lens Optical Landing System, commonly referred to as the lens, for landing guidance. The lens consists of a series of lights and Fresnel lenses mounted to a gyroscopically stabilized platform. The lenses focus the light into narrow beams that are directed into the sky at various angles.

The pilot will see different lights depending on the plane's angle of approach. If the plane is right on target, the pilot will see an amber light, dubbed the "meatball," in line with a row of green lights.

If the amber light appears above the green lights, the plane is coming in too high; if



the amber light appears below the green lights, the plane is coming in too low. If the plane is coming in way too low, the pilot will see red lights. Pilots will often be instructed over the radio, “Keep your eyes on the ball.”

As soon as the plane hits the deck, the pilot will push the engines to full power, instead of slowing down, to bring the plane to a stop. This may seem counterintuitive, but if the tail-hook doesn’t catch any of the arresting wires, the plane needs to be moving fast enough to take off again and come around for another pass.

The landing runway is tilted at a 14-degree angle to the rest of the ship, so bolters like this can take off from the side of the ship instead of plowing into the planes on the other end of the deck.

As soon as an aircraft lands, it’s pulled out of the landing strip and chained down on the side of the flight deck. Inactive aircraft are always tightly secured to keep them from sliding around as the deck rocks back and forth.

**The Island**

The island on an aircraft carrier is the command centre. It is from here that almost everything on the ship is run.

It stands about 46 metres tall, but it’s only six metres wide at the base. This is so that it doesn’t take up too much space on the flight deck.

The top of the island, however, is spread out to provide more room. It carries an array of radar and communication antennas that monitor surrounding

ships and aircraft, intercept and jam enemy radar signals, target enemy aircraft and missiles, and pick up satellite phone and television signals.

Below this is the Primary Flight Control, or Pri-Fly. In the Pri-Fly, the air officer and air officer assistant (known as the “Air Boss” and the “Mini Boss”) direct all aircraft activity on the flight deck and within a eight kilometer radius.

One level below is the bridge. It is from here that the captain controls the ship from a comfortable leather chair, surrounded by computer screens.

The captain directs the helmsman, who actually steers the ship, who in turn directs the engine room to control the speed of the ship.

The captain also directs the Quartermaster of the Watch, who keeps track of navigation information, and a number of lookouts and support personnel. When the commanding officer is not on the bridge, he puts an Officer of the Deck in charge of operations.

The level below the bridge is the flag bridge, the command center for the admiral in charge of the entire carrier group.

Below that, there are various operational centers, including the flight deck control and launch operations room. In this tight, windowless space, the aircraft handling officer (also called the handler or mangler) and his or her crew keep track of all the aircraft on the flight deck and in the hangar.

The handler’s primary tracking tool is the “Ouija Board,” a two-level transparent plastic table with etched outlines of

the flight deck and hangar deck. Each aircraft is represented by a scale aircraft cut-out on the table. When a real plane moves from point to point, the handler moves the model plane accordingly. When the plane is out of service, because it needs repair work, the handler turns it over.

There are a number of additional control centers below deck, including the carrier air traffic control center (CATCC), which takes up several rooms on the galley deck (immediately below the flight deck). Like a land-based air traffic control center, the CATCC is filled with all sorts of radio and radar equipment, which the controllers use to keep track of aircraft in the area (in this case, mainly the aircraft outside the Air Boss’s supervision).

The CATCC is next to the combat direction center (CDC), the ship’s battle command center. The CDC’s primary responsibility is to process incoming information on enemy threats in order to keep the commanding officer fully informed.

**The Hangar**

While a small number of aircraft can be kept on the flight deck, there is not nearly enough room for the 80 to 100 aircraft stationed on a typical carrier.

Aircraft not in use are secured in the hangar bay. Think of it as a carrier’s ‘parking garage’.

The hangar bay is located two decks below the flight deck, just below the galley deck. The bay itself is 34 metres wide, eight metres wide, and 209 metres long - more than two-thirds the length of the entire ship. It can hold more than 60 aircraft, as

well as spare jet engines, fuel tanks and other heavy equipment, in four zones divided by sliding doors (a safety precaution to stop a fire from spreading).

The hangar is three decks high, and it’s flanked by various single-deck compartments on both sides. There are also four giant elevators surrounding the hangar, which move the aircraft from the hangar to the flight deck. The high-speed, alumi-

num hydraulic elevators are big enough and powerful enough to lift two 34,000 kg fighter jets.

Aft of the hangar bay, in the stern of the ship, you’ll find the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Division (AIMD) shops. The men and women in these shops are constantly repairing and testing aircraft equipment to keep the flight squadron operating at maximum efficiency.

At the very end of the ship, the AIMD shops lead to an open-air

engine testing area on the ship’s fantail. This is the only place on the ship where the maintenance crews can safely blast aircraft jet engines to make sure they’re working properly.

**Life below decks**

The berthing compartments (sleeping quarters) are extremely tight. Enlisted personnel share a compartment with about 60 other people, all sleeping in single bunks, generally

**Flight Deck Crew**

The flight deck crews of a Carrier Air Wing wear coloured jerseys to distinguish their functions.

Yellow	Aircraft handling officers Catapult and arresting gear officers Plane directors – responsible for all movement of all aircraft on the flight/hangar deck	Blue	Plane handlers (Trainees) Chocks and chains – entry-level flight-deck workers under the yellowshirts Aircraft elevator operators Tractor drivers Messengers and phone talkers
Green	Catapult and arresting gear crews Visual Landing Aid electricians Air wing maintenance personnel Air wing quality control personnel Cargo-handling personnel Ground support equipment (GSE) troubleshooters Hook runners Photographer’s mates Helicopter landing signal enlisted personnel (LSE)	Purple	Aviation fuel handlers
White	Quality Assurance (QA) Squadron plane inspectors Landing signal officer (LSO) Air transfer officers (ATO) Liquid oxygen (LOX) crews Safety observers Medical personnel (white with Red Cross emblem)	Brown	Air wing plane captains: squadron personnel who prepare aircraft for flight Air wing line leading petty officers
Red	Ordnance men Crash and salvage crews Explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) Firefighter	White/Black	Final checker (inspector)The flight deck crews of a Carrier Air Wing wear colored jerseys to distinguish their functions.





**KEEPING TABS:** The 'Island' on a Nimitz-class carrier. It is from this vantage point that the Air Boss and the Mini-boss keep a close eye on aircraft launching or landing on the deck.

called racks, crammed together in stacks of three.

Each person gets a small stowage bin and upright locker for clothes and personal belongings, and everybody in the compartment shares a bathroom and a small common area with a television hooked up to one of the carrier's satellite dishes.

Officers enjoy more space and finer furnishings, but their space is limited, too. Everybody onboard has to get used to tight quarters.

The ship has everything its residents need to live, even if it's not as comfortably as they would like. There are multiple galleys (kitchens) and mess halls onboard, which collectively serve as many as 18,000 meals a day.

The ship also has a sizable laundry facility, dentist and doctor's offices, various stores and a bank of telephones where

personnel can talk to their families via satellite.

### Trivia

A few facts and figures:

- Number of compartments and spaces onboard - 4,000+
- Weight of each anchor - 27 metric tons
- Weight of each link in the anchor chains - 160 kg
- Weight of each propeller - 30,000 kg
- Weight of each rudder - 41 metric tons
- Storage capacity for aviation fuel - 12.5 million litres
- Number of telephones onboard - 2,500+
- Number of televisions onboard - 3,000+
- Total length of electrical cable onboard - 1,600+ km
- Air conditioning plant capacity - 2,040 metric tons, enough to cool more than 500 houses)

- Storage capacity for refrigerated and dried food: enough to feed 6,000 people for 70 days.
- The desalination plant makes 1,514,164 lt of fresh water from the sea ever day – enough for 2,000 homes
- Mail processed every year by onboard post office - 450,000 kg
- Each carrier has its own zip code (postal code)
- Number of dentists - five
- Number of medical doctors - six
- Beds in hospital ward - 53
- Number of chaplains in interdenominational chapel - three
- Number of haircuts every week - 1,500+
- Number of barbershops - one



## General Military Knowledge

This month it's a general knowledge quiz. We ask 23 questions, you tell us the answers. It's as simple as that. Talking about General Knowledge, I knew him back when he was still a colonel. The answers are on page 00.

1. Which was the only nation that Germany declared war on during World War II?
2. What did the radio message 'November Tango Romeo' mean?
3. Which is the senior service of the UK armed forces?
4. The Enola Gay was the name of the aircraft to drop the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. What was the name of the aircraft that dropped the second atomic bomb on Nagasaki?
5. What was the name of the pilot that dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima?
6. What was the nickname given to Britain's Home Guard during World War II?
7. What does the AK stand for in AK-47?
8. What trials, beginning in 1945, spawned the phrase "I was only following orders"?
9. Who was the only woman to ever win the American Medal of Honour?
10. Who was the first person to be awarded the Honoris Crux?
11. The Tokagyt is the Egyptian version of the Russian Tokarev TT-33 pistol. What makes the Tokagyt unique?
12. What did the acronym M.A.S.H stand for?
13. By what name are the Russian Special Forces commonly known as?
14. Where did the shortest war on record take place, and how long did it last?
15. Lord Haw-Haw broadcast Nazi propaganda to Britain from Germany during World War II. What was his real name?
16. In which branch of the military did Adolph Hitler's nephew, William Patrick, serve?
17. Which South African army unit was based at Nduku-duku in Zululand?
18. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife on June 28, 1914 is said to be the catalyst of WWI. What was unusual about the licence plate of the vehicle they were assassinated in?
19. During the Vietnam War, who was known as Hanoi Jane?
20. In the Vietnam War, what was dropped from aircraft during Operation Ranch Hand?
21. In what year did National Service end in the South African Defence Force?
22. Where was the first place ever bombed by the South African Air Force?
23. What famous American aviation group flew P-51 Mustangs with bright red tails?

7



13



23





*On 2 May 1982 the Argentine Navy light cruiser ARA General Belgrano was sunk by the Royal Navy submarine HMS Conqueror with the loss of 323 lives. Losses from the General Belgrano totalled just over half of Argentine military deaths in the Falklands War.*

The Falklands War (Spanish: Guerra de las Malvinas) was a 10-week undeclared war between Argentina and the United Kingdom in 1982 over two British dependent territories in the South Atlantic: the Falkland Islands and its territorial dependency, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

The conflict began on 2 April, when Argentina invaded and occupied the Falkland Islands, followed by the invasion of South Georgia the next day, in an attempt to establish the sovereignty it had claimed over them.

The Argentinians were convinced that the British would not send troops nearly 13,000 kilometres to try and recaptured the territory. Yet on 5 April, the British government dispatched a naval task force to engage the Argentine Navy and Air Force before making an amphibious assault on the islands.

Two of the vessels involved in the conflict were the Argentine Navy light cruiser ARA General Belgrano and the Royal Navy submarine HMS Conqueror.

## History

ARA General Belgrano was launched in March 1938. At that time she was not known as the General Belgrano. In fact she wasn't even part of the Argentine Navy.

She was originally named USS Phoenix, a Brooklyn-class cruiser, and part of the United States Navy. On 7 December USS Phoenix was alongside at Pearl Harbour when the Japanese launched their attack.

She survived Pearl Harbour undamaged and went on to earn nine battle stars for World War II service. At the end of the war, she was placed in reserve at Philadelphia on 28 February 1946, decommissioned on 3 July that year and remained laid up at Philadelphia.

USS Phoenix was sold to Argentina in October 1951 and renamed *17 de Octubre* after the "People's Loyalty day", an important sym-

bol for the political party of the then-president Juan Perón. Sold with her was another of her class, the USS Boise, renamed ARA Nueve de Julio, which was withdrawn in 1977.

17 de Octubre was one of the main naval units that joined the 1955 coup in which Perón was overthrown, and was renamed General Belgrano after General Manuel Belgrano, who founded the *Escuela de Náutica* (School of Navigation) in 1799 and had fought for Argentine independence from 1811 to 1819.

General Belgrano accidentally rammed her sister ship Nueve de Julio on exercises in 1956, which resulted in damage to both.

General Belgrano was outfitted with the Sea Cat anti-aircraft missile system between 1967 and 1968.

Nicknamed 'Conks', the HMS Conqueror was a British Churchill-class nuclear-powered fleet submarine which served in the Royal Navy from 1971 to 1990. She was the third submarine of her class, following the earlier Churchill and Courageous, that were all designed to face the Soviet threat at sea.

Conqueror, commanded by Commander Chris Wreford-Brown, was deployed during the Falklands War, setting sail from Faslane Naval Base on the Gareloch in Scotland on

3 April 1982, one day after the Argentine invasion.

Conqueror arrived in the exclusion zone around the Falkland Islands 21 days later and was ordered to scan the area for Argentine shipping, particularly the aircraft carrier Veinticinco de Mayo ("25th of May").

## Sinking of the General Belgrano

On 2 April 1982 Britain declared a Maritime Exclusion Zone (MEZ) of 200 nautical miles around the Falkland Islands within which any Argentine warship or naval auxiliary entering the MEZ might be attacked by British nuclear-powered submarines (SSN).

On 23 April, the British Government clarified in a message that was passed via the Swiss Embassy in Buenos Aires to the Argentine government that any Argentine ship or aircraft that was considered to pose a threat to British forces would be attacked.

On 30 April this was upgraded to the total exclusion zone, within which any sea vessel or aircraft from any country entering the zone might be fired upon without further warning.

The zone was stated to be "...without prejudice to the right of the United Kingdom to take whatever additional measures may be needed in exercise of its right of self-defence, under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter."

The concept of a total exclusion zone was a novelty in maritime law; the Law of the Sea Convention had no provision for such an instrument. Its purpose seems to have been

to increase the amount of time available to ascertain whether any vessel in the zone was hostile or not.

Regardless of the uncertainty of the zone's legal status, it was widely respected by the shipping of neutral nations.

The Argentine military junta began to reinforce the islands in late April when it was realised that the British Task Force was heading south. As part of these movements, Argentine Naval units were ordered to take positions around the islands.

Two Task Groups designated 79.1, which included the aircraft carrier ARA Veinticinco de Mayo plus two Type 42 destroyers, and 79.2, which included three Exocet missile armed Drummond-class corvettes, both sailed to the north. General Belgrano had left Ushuaia in Tierra del Fuego on 26 April.

Two destroyers, ARA Piedra Buena and ARA Hipólito Bouchard (also ex-USN vessels) were detached from Task Group 79.2 and together with the tanker YPF Puerto Rosales, joined General Belgrano to form Task Group 79.3.

By 29 April, the ships were patrolling the Burdwood Bank, south of the islands. On 30 April, General Belgrano was detected by the British nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarine Conqueror. The submarine approached over the following day.

On 1 May 1982, Admiral Juan Lombardo ordered all Argentine naval units to seek out the British task force around the Falklands and launch a "massive attack" the following day.

General Belgrano, which was outside and to the south-west of the exclusion zone, was ordered south-east.

Lombardo's signal was intercepted by British Intelligence. As a result, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her War Cabinet, meeting at Chequers the following day, agreed to a request from Admiral Terence Lewin, the Chief of the Defence Staff, to alter the rules of engagement and allow an attack on General Belgrano outside the exclusion zone.

Although the group was outside the British-declared total exclusion zone of 370 km radius from the islands, the British decided that it was a threat. After consultation at Cabinet level, Thatcher agreed that Commander Chris Wreford-Brown should attack General Belgrano.

At 15h57 (Falkland Islands Time)[ on 2 May, Conqueror fired three 21-inch Mk 8 mod 4 torpedoes (conventional, non-guided, torpedoes), each with an 363 kg)Torpex warhead.

While Conqueror was also equipped with the newer Mark 24 Tigerfish homing torpedo, there were doubts about its reliability and Commander Wreford-Brown decided to stick with the Mk 24's. Two of the three torpedoes hit General Belgrano.

One of the torpedoes struck 10 to 15 metres aft of the bow, outside the area protected by either the ship's side armour or the internal anti-torpedo bulge.

This blew off the ship's bow, but the internal torpedo bulkheads held and the forward



powder magazine for the 40 mm gun did not detonate. It is believed that none of the ship's company were in that part of the ship at the time of the explosion.

The second torpedo struck about three-quarters of the way along the ship, just outside the rear limit of the side armour plating. The torpedo punched through the side of the ship before exploding in the aft machine room.

The explosion tore upward through two messes and a relaxation area called "the Soda Fountain" before finally ripping a 20-metre-long hole in the main deck.

Later reports put the number of deaths in the area around the explosion at 275 men. After the explosion, the ship rapidly filled with smoke.

The explosion also damaged General Belgrano's electrical power system, preventing her from putting out a radio distress call.

Though the forward bulkheads held, water was rushing in through the hole created by the second torpedo and could not be pumped out because of the electrical power failure. In addition, although the ship should have been "at action stations", she was sailing with the water-tight doors open.

The ship began to list to port and to sink towards the bow. Twenty minutes after the attack, at 16h24, Captain Bonzo ordered the crew to abandon ship. Inflatable life rafts were deployed, and the evacuation began without panic.

The two escort ships were unaware of what was happening



**ABANDON SHIP:** The ARA General Belgrano begins to list to port and sink towards the bow. The photograph was taken by a member of the crew.

to General Belgrano, as they were out of touch with her in the gloom and had not seen the distress rockets or lamp signals.

Adding to the confusion, the crew of Bouchard felt an impact that was possibly the third torpedo striking at the end of its run (an examination of the ship later showed an impact mark consistent with a torpedo).

The two ships continued on their course westward. By the time the ships realised that something had happened to General Belgrano, it was already dark and the weather had worsened, scattering the life rafts.

Argentine and Chilean ships rescued 772 men in all from 3 to 5 May. In total, 323 were killed in the attack: 321 members of the crew and two civilians who were on board at the time.

### Outcome and controversy

Following the loss of General Belgrano, the Argentinian fleet returned to its bases and played no major role in the rest of the conflict.

British nuclear submarines continued to operate in the sea areas between Argentina and the Falkland Islands, gathering intelligence, providing early warning of air raids and effectively imposing sea denial.

A further effect was that the Argentinian Navy's carrier-borne aircraft had to operate from land bases at the limit of their range, rather than from an aircraft carrier at sea.

The minimal role of the Navy in the rest of the campaign led to a considerable loss of credibility and influence within the Junta.

The legality of the sinking of General Belgrano has been disputed due to disagreement on the exact nature of the Maritime Exclusion Zone (MEZ) and whether General Belgrano had been returning to port at the time of the sinking.

Through a message passed via the Swiss Embassy in Buenos Aires to the Argentine government nine days before the sinking, the UK made clear that it no longer considered the 320 km



**SILENT SERVICE:** When HMS Conqueror sank ARA General Belgrano it became the first and only nuclear submarine to have engaged an enemy vessel with torpedoes.

exclusion zone as the limit of its military action.

On 1 May 1982, Admiral Juan Lombardo ordered all Argentine naval units to seek out the British task force around the Falklands and launch a "massive attack" the following day.

In 2003, the ship's captain Hector Bonzo confirmed that General Belgrano had actually been manoeuvring, not "sailing away" from the exclusion zone.

Captain Bonzo stated that any suggestion that HMS Conqueror's actions were a "betrayal" was utterly wrong; rather, the submarine carried out its duties according to the accepted rules of war.

In an interview two years before his death in 2009, he further stated that: "It was absolutely not a war crime. It was an act of war, lamentably legal."

In August 1994, an official Argentine Defence Ministry report written by armed forces auditor Eugenio Miari was released which described the

sinking of General Belgrano as "a legal act of war", explaining that "acts of war can be carried out in all of the enemy's territory" and "they can also take place in those areas over which no state can claim sovereignty, in international waters".

After the war, Conqueror returned to Faslane, flying a Jolly Roger adorned with torpedoes, a customary act of Royal Navy submarines after a kill.

When asked about the incident later, Commander Wrexford-Brown responded, "The Royal Navy spent thirteen years preparing me for such an occasion. It would have been regarded as extremely dreary if I had fouled it up".

The Jolly Roger is a symbol that has been used by submarines, primarily those of the Royal Navy Submarine Service and its predecessors. The practice came about during World War I.

Remembering comments by First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Arthur Wilson, who complained

that submarines were "underhanded, unfair, and damned un-English" and that personnel should be hanged as pirates, Lieutenant Commander Max Horton began flying the flag after returning from successful patrols.

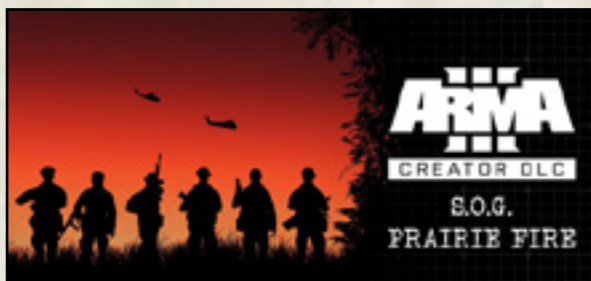
*La Nación* published a reader's letter from Admiral Enrique Molina Pico (head of the Argentine Navy in the 1990s) in 2005 in which Molina Pico wrote that General Belgrano was part of an operation that posed a real threat to the British task force, but was holding off for tactical reasons. Molina Pico added that "To leave the exclusion zone was not to leave the combat zone to enter a protected area". Molina Pico explicitly stated that the sinking was not a war crime, but a combat action.

Conqueror's war did not after the sinking of the General Belgrano. The crew of the submarine had to face Argentine Air Force attempts to locate her in the days after the attack, which had shocked the Argentine people and ruling dictatorship.

Conqueror did not fire again in anger throughout the war, but helped the task force by using sophisticated monitoring equipment to track Argentine aircraft departing from the mainland.

In 2003 a search team aboard Seacor Lenga, crewed by Argentine and British veterans, was sponsored by National Geographic to find the sunken cruiser but failed to locate the ship. The area where General Belgrano sank, that was not found, is classified as a War Grave under Argentine Congress Law 25.546.





*While Sergeant Matt 'Ace of Spades' O'Brien may love the smell of napalm in the morning, what he doesn't fancy is trying to stay alive in the jungles of Vietnam.*

In the past I have done reviews on ARMA 3 in three separate issues of the magazine. And guess what - here's another one.

ARMA 3 is by far the best mil-sim (military simulator) that I have come across. While it was released in 2013 what keeps it fresh is all the creator content that continually adds stuff to the base game. The vast majority of this content is free.

On the odd occasion people will create content for ARMA 3 that they require you to pay for. This is the case with S.O.G. Prairie Fire.

Savage Game Design, creators of the DLC (Downloadable content), developed it with the help of US veterans and Vietnamese advisors.

S.O.G. Prairie Fire immerses you deep within enemy territory as a member of covert special ops unit MACV-SOG (Military Assistance Command - Special Operations Group) and delivers an Arma 3 sandbox experience you won't forget.

Featuring the authentic combat, full-spectrum battlefield, and powerful scenario editor Arma 3 is renowned for, players can now experience the full scope of the Vietnam War on their own, with friends, or with one of the thousands of Arma

community groups located around the world.

The map is called Cam Lao Nam and is a scaled down version of Vietnam and parts of Cambodia and Laos. It covers 300 km2 and enables players to design and run missions throughout all phases and locations of the war.

The three major cities are there - Saigon, Hanoi and Hue. Other highlights include the US Air Force base at Pleiku, the Bru Montagnard jungles, Hamburger Hill, and the Plain of Jars.

Travel by boat through the eerie swamps of the Mekong Delta to discover the bustling ports of Da Nang, Sihanoukville and Haiphong, mysterious Paradise Island, the secret airstrip of Dharma island, and imposing Ha Long Bay.

Then there are the extensive hidden camps, caves, and tunnels of the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

There is a multi-player co-op campaign for up to 14 players, as well as a five single player scenarios.

You can play as one of four factions - MACV Special Operations Group, PAVN (People's Army of Vietnam, also known as NVA or North Vietnamese Army), Viet Cong, or ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vi-

etnam - the South Vietnamese Army).

You can play in a wide range of military roles, with 41 detailed uniforms, 30 vests, 28 backpacks, 15 accessories and 20 headgear items - all with many variations.

There are 54 new vehicles and static weapon variants. This includes five new MACV helicopters and one PAVN helicopter, two new heavily-armed gunboats, and two new light tanks.

You also get the F-4 Phantom II with 22 weapons, in USAF, US Navy and USMC colours. They have to face off against the S-75 SAM missile and RSNA-75 radar.

There are also five new small boats (two wooden motorboats and three sampans), with many variants, some armed. There are even two bicycle types for transporting supplies down the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

You will also find 55 new weapons and variants. Go into battle as the US and South Vietnamese armies, carrying standard-issue gear or run recon as the elite teams from MACV SOG and the US Special Forces, wielding obscure and customised weapons.

The VC are normally armed with outmoded but still deadly



weapons while the PAVN are equipped with imported Chinese and Russian equipment.

What I've found really unique to Prairie Fire is the authentic and atmospheric sound effects. To bring this fascinating period of history to life, every sound has been crafted to improve the experience of close-quarters fighting in steaming jungles.

You will hear enemies whisper as they approach in the dark, or yelling as they rush to overrun you.

The immersive medical system adds wounded enemies calling out, and dark humour shared by wounded soldiers.

The extensive recreation of every weapon, explosion, bullet crack, vehicle, and footstep sounds creates an immersive and unforgettable feeling for players.

To complement the sounds of battle, many new special effects have been added to deliver a truly kinetic battlefield experience. Even outside of combat, experi-

ence the ambience of the jungle as it comes alive with realistic sounds of wildlife, weather and disturbed vegetation.

The editor means that you can use the entire map to create your own scenarios and the modding community is already hard at work creating campaigns and single player missions that you will be able to download for free.

Savage Game Design have already made a multi-player scenario called Mike Force. Here you choose one of four specialist teams, and co-operate to build bases, expand capability and find and destroy the enemy in this unique, intense, combined arms, conquest mission.

I've already spent a few hours playing Prairie Fire and I must say that I am impressed. I played a scenario as part of a small SOG team deep in enemy territory and it had me on the edge of my chair. And it's not just the enemy that you have to worry about. Twice I've man-

aged to fall into a punji trap, and there are also deadly snakes.

To play SOG Prairie Fire you will need to own the ARMA 3 base game.

For those that have an interest in the Vietnam War, SOG Prairie Fire is a must have.



Publisher - Bohemia Interactive

Genre - Mil-Sim

Score 8.5/10

Price - R152 (on Steam)





## Movie Review

### Restrepo

Released: 2010

Running time: 93 minutes

Directed by: Tim Hetherington & Sebastian Junger

Released in 2010 and directed by American journalist Sebastian Junger and British photojournalist Tim Hetherington, *Restrepo* is a documentary film.

The film begins with background that reads: "In May 2007, the men of Second Platoon, Battle Company began a 15-month deployment in the Korengal Valley of eastern Afghanistan. It was considered one of the most dangerous postings in the U.S. Military."

The film explores the year that Junger and Hetherington spent in Afghanistan on assignment for *Vanity Fair*, embedded with the Second Platoon, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team of the U.S. Army in the Korangal Valley.

The 2nd Platoon is depicted defending the outpost (OP) named after a platoon medic who was killed earlier in the campaign, PFC Juan Sebastián Restrepo, a Colombian-born naturalized U.S. citizen.

The film chronicles the lives of the men from their deployment to the time of their return home, and begins with video footage of PFC Restrepo on a train one week prior. The goal of the deployment was to clear the Korengal Valley of insurgency and gain the trust of the local populace. The Korengal

flows north to the Pech, which then flows east to the Kunar River valley on the porous border with Pakistan. As an example of the ever-present dangers, the first scenes cover a fire-fight after a military Hummer is disabled on a narrow mountain road by an IED.

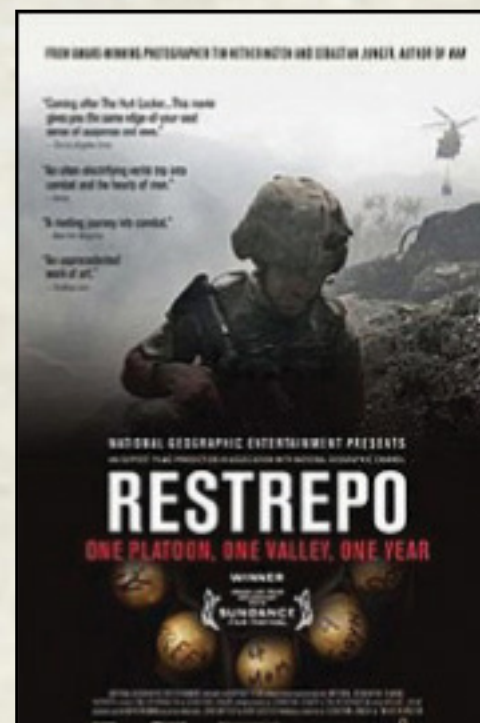
The soldiers are ferried in by Chinook and begin their deployment at Combat Outpost (OP) Korengal, or "KOP", and early in the campaign PFC Juan S. Restrepo is killed, as well as another team member, PFC Vimoto. The film portrays negotiations with the local people, construction of an advanced outpost called "OP Restrepo", as well as the challenges and intermittent fire-fights they face.

In the latter part of the film, the dangerous mission Operation Rock Avalanche is shown along with some of its tragic consequences. One event was the loss of Army Sgt. Larry Rouble. It was there, in 2007, when Army Sgt. Rouble, who served two tours in Iraq and three in Afghanistan, was ambushed by a large number of Taliban.

It was learned that Rouble, at point, took the brunt of the attack, allowing his soldiers to secure a position and fight. Army Sgt. Larry Rouble, who is a recipient of the Purple Heart, is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

*Restrepo* is a film not just about the events of combat, but also about "brotherhood," according to Junger. The film shows the dedication to their duty as a soldier and their commitment to one another as brothers. The film is narrated by several men who fought with PFC Juan S. Restrepo. The men discuss loss such as dead civilians and soldiers, as well as the emotional distress that the soldiers are left with in its aftermath.

The film ends with a coda that reads: "In April 2010, the United States Army withdrew from the Korengal Valley. Nearly 50 American soldiers died fighting there."



Click on the poster to watch a trailer of the film.

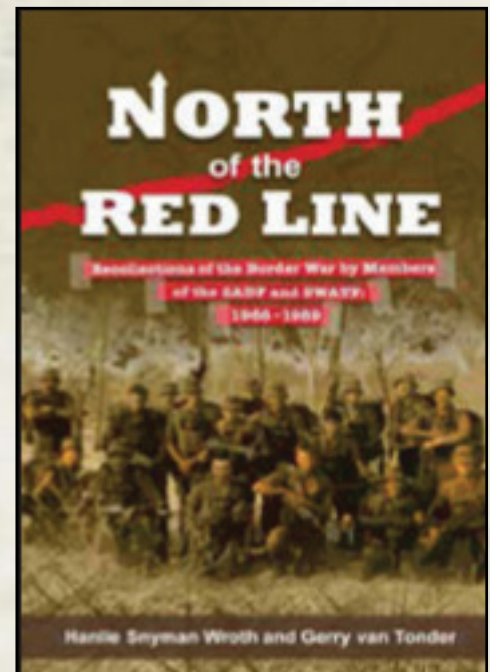
### North of the Red Line

Over the years, much has been written about individuals and the forces and their operations in what became commonly known as South Africa's Border War, or *Grensoorlog*, but never before has the human spirit of this 23-year-old conflict been so graphically and unashamedly captured and chronicled as in this book.

Equally unique, was the exclusive use of social media to invite and encourage individuals to tell their personal stories, without apology or recrimination, and so provide an indelible oral history of the war.

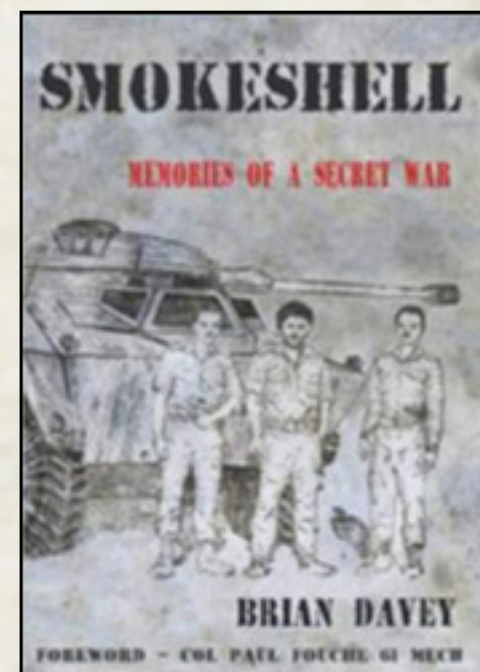
Over a period of three years, 21,000 of them spoke: national service troops, permanent force officers, aviators, aircrew,

medics, submariners and padres. Erstwhile antagonists also stepped up to the plate, placing their own personal first-hand experiences amongst those of their enemies of yesterday: Russians, Cubans, Angolans and SWAPO. The story is further enriched by the inclusion of a rich plethora of hitherto unseen 'unofficial' photographs of stolen memories, in a war situation where the taking of any such photographs was strictly prohibited. Veterans unabashedly wear their hearts on their sleeves, speaking of the psychological impact of untold tragedy and grief; of bravery and unmitigated fear; of shenanigans and mischievous escapades to relieve the pressures of war; of miracles and fate; and of cama-



raderie.

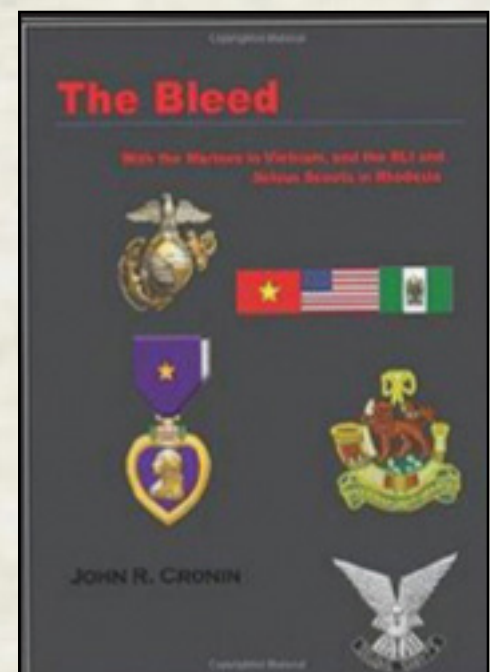
Softcover, 540 pages  
Cost: R400



Smokeshell  
R375



Anglo Boer War  
R460



The Bleed  
R395

All books are available from [Bush War Books](#)



# This month in military history

Some of the significant military events that happened in June. Highlighted in blue are the names of those members of the South African Defence Force (SADF) that lost their lives during the month of June.

## 1 June

- **1879** - Eugene Louis Jean Joseph Napoleon, the 22 year old Prince Imperial of France, is killed in the Anglo-Zulu War when he and a British reconnaissance party are attacked by about forty Zulus in the vicinity of Itelezi Mountain and Ityotyotzi River in Zululand. The prince's horse, "Fate", bolts and the prince, in attempting to mount his fleeing horse, is stabbed to death.
- **1915** - First Zeppelin air raid over England.
- **1916** - Battle of Jutland: Fleets return to port.
- **1917** - The French Army "Mutinies" begin: Troops go on strike. Order is restored in about four weeks, with minimal violence, and the Germans never learn of them
- **1939** - The South African Police takes over the tasks of the German South-West African police. 423 members of the disbanded police force are incorporated into the force.
- **1943** - WWII: According to an entry in the squadron's diary, 28 Squadron of the SA Air Force is formed as a transport squadron at the SAAF Base Depot Almaza, Cairo.
- **1944** - Allied forces begin covering much of Britain with smoke screens, as troops crowd assembly areas for D-Day.
- **1948** - Cease-fire ends Israeli War for Independence.
- **1964** - Military coup installs a junta in Greece.
- **1976** - Lance Corporal Nollind Trevor Small from 4 SAI was killed just north of Grootfontein after he apparently suffered a seizure and blacked out while behind the wheel of the military Landrover he was driving. The vehicle left the road and collided with a water tower which collapsed on top of the vehicle. He was 19.
- **1977** - Private Johannes Jurgens Lensley from 16 Maintenance Unit was killed after being struck by a bullet during a shooting incident at Grootfontein. He was 18.
- **1978** - 2nd Lieutenant Philip Michael Dietlof Mare' from 6 Squadron was killed while on a routine training flight out of Air Force Base Port Elizabeth. He was 22.
- **1980** - Rifleman Petrus Johannes Bonnet from 61 Mechanised Battalion died of severe chest and lung injuries sustained when the Buffel Troop Carrier in which he was traveling, overturned outside the 61 Mech Base in

Tsumeb. He was 19.

- **1980** - Umkhonto weSizwe strikes at the Sasol Complex, causing damage estimated at R66 million.
- **1980** - Two members from 102 Battalion SWATF were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in the Operational Area. They were: Rifleman B. Herunga ((22). Rifleman J. Matundu (20).
- **1981** - Festivities to mark the twentieth anniversary of the South African Republic reach a climax with a massive military display in Durban, attended by P.W. Botha, the Prime Minister.
- **1981** - Rifleman Gavin John Harvey from "B" Company, 1 Parachute Battalion was severely wounded during follow-up operations against SWAPO/PLAN insurgents on 22 May 1981. He was evacuated to the Hospital in Grootfontein where he was stabilised before being evacuated by air to 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria the following day. He unfortunately succumbed to his wounds in 1 Military Hospital on 1 June 1981. He was 21.
- **1982** - Major Eugene Kotze SD, Station Pilot at Air Force Base Ondangwa was Killed in Action when his

Atlas MB326KM Impala Mk II was shot down by anti-aircraft fire near Cuvelai in Southern Angola while carrying out close-air support operations. He was 35.

- **1982** - Private Robert William Benjamin Ostram from the Air Force Command Post in Windhoek was critically injured on 29 May 1982 when he fell off the back of a moving vehicle in Windhoek. He succumbed to his injuries in the Windhoek State Hospital on 1 June 1982. He was 21.
- **1988** - Two members from 101 Battalion SWATF were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. They were: Rifleman G K Semba (24). Rifleman J Savinga (26).

## 2 June

- **1879** - A 1000-strong search party finds the body of the Prince Imperial of France, Louis Napoleon, who was killed when Zulu warriors attacked a small British reconnaissance party in the vicinity of Italezi Mountain and Ityotozi River in Zululand the previous day.
- **1902** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British Prime Minister Arthur Balfour reads the terms of surrender to the House of Commons in London after the signing of the Treaty of Vereeniging in Pretoria on 31 May which brought the Second South African (Anglo-Boer) War

to an end.

- **1908** - Sir Redvers Henry Buller, British general during Second Anglo-Boer War, dies.
- **1940** - Heavy German bombing of the Dunkirk beach-head.
- **1944** - WWII: North Africa. North Africa is used as a base of operations for Operation Frantic – 130 Flying Fortresses fly to Russia, bombing targets in Romania and Hungary as they go.
- **1978** - US offers to airlift French paratroopers out of the escalating violence in southern Zaire.
- **1979** - Rifleman Abraham Johannes Willemsse from the Infantry School was killed in a private motor vehicle accident at Wellington while on a 7-day pass. He was 20.
- **1981** - 2nd Lieutenant Christoffel Petrus Taylor from 1 Parachute Battalion died in 1 Military Hospital after being critically injured on 29 May 1981. He was 20.
- **1982** - Special Constable Petrus Venasio from the South West Africa Police Counter –Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (KOEV-

OET) was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.

- **1986** - Rifleman T. Kefas from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 24.
- **1986** - Staff Sergeant L. Mutorwa from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with PLAN insurgents near the Angolan Border. He was 28.
- **1989** - Sapper Francois Crowley from the School of Engineers was accidentally killed when a telephone pole fell on top of him. He was 23.
- **1995** - USAF Capt Scott O'Grady's F-16C shot down over Bosnia.
- **2004** - DR Congo rebel leader General. Laurent Nkunda takes the town of Bukavu after a week of fighting with army troops.

## 3 June

- **1935** - Two Italian outposts are attacked by Haile Selassie's troops in Ethiopia. Thirty Ethiopian soldiers are

PW Botha





- killed.
- **1940** - World War II: The withdrawal of Allied Forces from Dunkirk ends.
  - **1940** - Major German air raid on Paris.
  - **1944** - Last Italian air raid on Gibraltar, by Mussolini's "Republican Air Force".
  - **1959** - First US Air Force Academy graduation.
  - **1978** - Security Police chief, Brigadier C.F. Zietsman, announces that about 4,000 South African exiles are undergoing guerrilla training in Mozambique, Angola, Tanzania and Libya; of these about three quarters have been recruited by the ANC.
  - **1984** - Rifleman Gabriel Kampanza from 203 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action in a Landmine Explosion in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
  - **1985** - Rifleman Thomas Daniel from 101 Battalion SWATF was accidentally shot dead in a shooting incident in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
- amid Allied concerns the Germans might stage a Stalingrad-style defense that would devastate the historic 'Eternal' city.
- **1963** - British Minister of War John Profumo resigns over an affair with Christine Keeler.
  - **1969** - Joseph-Désiré Mobutu's troops kill over 100 students during a demonstration in the Congolese capital Kinshasa.
  - **1969** - The Minister of Defence, P.W. Botha, accompanied by General Hiemstra, Lieutenant-General J.P. Verster, Chief of the Air Force and Lieutenant-General W.P. Louw, Chief of the Army, visits France (4-10 June). He denies that the visit involves the purchase of arms.
  - **1973** - Over four thousand French troops are to be withdrawn from Madagascar at the request of Gabriel Ramanantsoa, the head of the recently imposed military government.
  - **1974** - First Woman US Army Aviator: Sally Murphy.
  - **1978** - Warrant Officer II Joseph Johannes Burger HCS from 2 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident at Messina. He was 38.
  - **1979** - Rifleman David Johannes van Heerden from Eastern Province Command was killed at M'pacha after being struck by a bullet from a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 28.

#### 4 June

- **1918** - US and French halt the Germans at Château-Thierry.
- **1942** - Reinhard Heydrich, Himmler's henchman, is assassinated at the age of 38.
- **1944** - During World War II in Europe, Rome was liberated by the U.S. 5th Army, led by General Mark Clark. Rome had been declared an open city by German Field Marshal Albert Kesselring

- **1979** - Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings seizes power in his first military coup in Ghana.
- **1980** - Three members from 32 Battalion were Killed in Action, south of Mutu-anjamba (approximately 80km inside Angola) during the first phase of Operation Sceptic. The casualties were: 2nd Lieutenant Pieter van der Walt (19). Staff Sergeant Simao Domingos Braz (27). Rifleman Joshua Joao (24).
- **1982** - Revised figures for the Defence Budget indicate the funds available to the South African Defence Force have been increased to R3,068 million.
- **1982** - Israel attacks targets in south Lebanon.
- **1989** - The Chinese government ordered its troops to open fire on unarmed protesters in Tiananmen Square in Beijing.
- **1992** - Colonel David Frederik Strauss from Air Force Headquarters died in 1 Military Hospital from complications resulting from Brain Cancer. He was 49.
- **1997** - South Africa announces the development of a revolutionary canon an externally powered gun code-named EMACK3S, designed by Denel at the request of ARMSCOR.

#### 5 June

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British troops enter Pretoria and Lord Roberts captures the capital of the

- ZAR.
- **1916** - Lord Kitchener drowns when the SS Hampshire sinks after being hit by a German mine near the Orkney Islands.
  - **1942** - Midway Campaign: Yamamoto orders the Combined Fleet to retire.
  - **1942** - USA declares war on Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania.
  - **1944** - First B-29 raid over Tokyo; one plane is lost due to engine failure.
  - **1952** - The monument at Delville Wood, unveiled on 10 October 1926 to honour the thousands of SA soldiers who were killed there during the Battle of the Somme, World War I, is rededicated to include World War II.
  - **1967** - The Six Day War between Israel and its neighbouring countries Egypt, Jordan and Syria breaks out with Israel launching air strikes on Egypt, destroying most of that country's air force on the ground. Syria, Jordan and Iraq enter the conflict.
  - **1978** - Corporal Charles Benjamin de Villiers from 1 SAI was killed in a military vehicle accident in Bloemfontein. He was 22.
  - **1984** - Rifleman M. Sipipa from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents. He was 22.
  - **1984** - Rifleman Andries Christiaan Jacobs from Regiment Port Natal was killed in a military vehicle accident

in Durban. He was 27.

- **1986** - Seven members from 250 Air Defence Artillery Group, South African Air Force were killed in a private motor vehicle accident in the early hours of the morning while traveling between Pretoria and Hammanskraal. They were returning to the Unit from a weekend sports pass. The accident occurred 25km from Hammanskraal. The casualties were: Corporal Michael Christopher Marx (19). Airman Deon Phillipus Beukes (19). Airman Grant Sinclair Strange Braithwaite (18). Airman Matthys Gideon Britz (19). Airman Dawid Lindeque (19). Airman Frans Cornelius Moolman (19). Airman Marthinus Louis Nel (19).
- **1987** - Two members from Infantry School were killed in a private motor vehicle accident 8km from Vrededorp while on weekend pass. They were: Rifleman Francois Nel (18). Rifleman Pieter van der Linde (18).
- **1993** - Forces of Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid ambush UN soldiers in Mogadishu, killing twenty-two Pakistani soldiers.
- **2006** - Islamic militants with alleged links to al-Qaida

seize control of Somalia's capital, unifying the city for the first time in 16 years and posing a direct challenge to the UN-backed government.

#### 6 June

- **1918** - The US Marines secure Belleau Wood.
- **1944** - D-Day: The Allied Forces land on the beaches of Normandy in the largest sea and air operation in the military history of the world.
- **1968** - Sir Miles Dempsey, Commander of the Canadian First Army on D-Day, dies at the age of 69.
- **1975** - Britain, France, and the United States use their UN Security Council veto to stop a proposed arms embargo against South Africa.
- **1977** - Corporal Salmon Petrus Claasen from the Technical Service Corps Training Centre died in 1 Military Hospital after being



Albert Kesselring



- critically injured in a military vehicle accident. He was 20.
- **1978** - Sergeant Coenrad Jacobus Theron from 32 Battalion Died of Wounds in 1 Military Hospital after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in a friendly fire incident on 6 May. He was 19.
  - **1979** - Lance Corporal Hendrik Swart from SWA SPES was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in the Oshivello area. He was 24.
  - **1980** - Corporal Mario van Wyk from 32 Battalion was killed in action. He was 20.
  - **1981** - Rifleman Robert Owen Brindle from SWA SPES died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained as a result of a accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle at Etale Base. He was 18.
  - **1982** - 30,000 Israeli troops invade Lebanon to drive out the PLO.
  - **1983** - Rifleman Vincent Mandla Mthembu from 121 Battalion was Killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned in Windhoek. He was 20.
  - **1985** - Captain Curtis McLeod from 4 Squadron was killed when his Atlas MB-326KM Impala crashed at Sandfontein near Lanseria. He was 29.
  - **1985** - 2nd Lieutenant Markus Wynand Pearson from 7 SAI was killed in action while on patrol in Southern Angola. He was 21.
  - **1985** - Two members from the south West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) were killed in action following a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. The casualties were: Special Warrant Officer J.M. Tsitula (34). Special Sergeant Lindu Valentino (26).
  - **1988** - Airman Ian-Roy Francois Erasmus from the Air Force Gymnasium was killed in a private vehicle accident while returning to the Air Force Gymnasium from a weekend pass. He was 19.
  - **1988** - With a border dispute escalating into bombing raids, hundreds of foreigners scramble out of Eritrea, fearing war with Ethiopia.
  - **1991** - Rifleman Johannes Frederick Lombaard Nel from 8 SAI was accidentally killed when he was run over by a Ratel during field manoeuvres at the Army Battle School. He was 20.
- 7 June**
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The battle of Roodewal Siding takes place near Koppies, OFS. General De Wet and eighty men attack two companies (172 men) guarding a train and supplies. Eight British soldiers are killed; twenty-four wounded and between 500 and 600 crates of ammunition are taken.
  - **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Units under General Hunter occupy Lichtenburg.
  - **1912** - US Army Air Service

- tests an airplane-mounted machine gun.
- **1916** - Germans capture Fort Vaux, Verdun.
  - **1917** - Battle of Messines: Mines totalling nearly 500 tons of explosives demolish the German trenches, and the Canadian Corps storms the ridge
  - **1940** - British and French troops evacuate Narvik, Norway.
  - **1942** - Battle of Midway: The USS 'Yorktown' (CV-5) goes down, after a desperate fight to save the ship.
  - **1942** - The Germans capture Sebastopol.
  - **1944** - British 50th division liberates Bayeux.
  - **1962** - Phosphorous bombs are detonated at Algiers University by members of the *Organisation de l'Armée Secrète* (OAS), a secret (terrorist) French army organisation opposed to the withdrawal of French troops from Algeria.
  - **1967** - Israeli forces reach Suez Canal in Egypt, two days into Six-Day War.
  - **1977** - Lieutenant Alwyn Merwe van Zyl from Regiment Oranjerivier died in the Grootfontein Hospital after contracting malaria while serving in the Operational Area. He was 26.
  - **1981** - Two members of the South African Medical Corps were killed after suffering multiple shrapnel wounds in an accidental hand grenade explosion at Walvis Bay. They were: Private Henry John Pieterse (20). Private

- Kevin Henry Stanley (19).
- **1981** - Israeli air strikes destroy Iraqi nuclear weapons facilities.
  - **1982** - Rifleman Carlos Everisto from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. He was 21.
  - **1982** - Sergeant Lloyd Mizwandile Mbele from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment was Killed in Action during a Contact with Enemy Forces in Southern Angola. He was 28.
  - **1985** - Trooper Johannes Ludwig Basson from 701 Battalion SWATF was killed at M'pacha after being struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 19.
  - **1990** - President F.W. de Klerk lifts the state of emergency in SA.
  - **1991** - Several Lesotho army officers are arrested after attempting a counter-coup to reinstate Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, ousted on April 30.
  - **1997** - Foreigners flee heavy fighting between rival militias in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo.
- "Ace of Aces" (74 confirmed kills, 30+ possibles), dies at the age of 59.
- **1960** - Argentine government demands Israel release Adolf Eichmann.
  - **1965** - US troops ordered to fight offensively in Vietnam.
  - **1976** - Corporal Hendrik Josias Stephanus Coetzee from 4 Maintenance Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident at Wenela Base in the East Caprivi. He was 19.
  - **1979** - Rifleman Johannes Leonardus Truter from 8 SAI was critically wounded in the head when his Temporary Base near Beacon 6 was attacked by SWAPO/PLAN insurgents on 4 February. This serious head wound left him completely paralysed and he remained in intensive care in 1 Military Hospital until he succumbed to his wounds on 8 June 1979. He was 19.
  - **1981** - 2nd Lieutenant Duncan Frederick Lahner from 32 Battalion was killed when his Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Buffalo Base. He was 21.

- **1984** - Two members from 5 Reconnaissance Regiment were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola. They were: Corporal D. Shiningivali (24). Lance Corporal K. Awino (22).
- **1985** - Rifleman Izaskar Kariko from 911 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-line. He was 22.
- **1987** - Corporal Jacques Barand Zaayman from 1 SAI was killed on the Malsespoort to Glen Road outside Bloemfontein when his Ratel overturned while he was instructing a pupil in driving skills. He was 19.
- **1988** - Colonel Andre Bekker from the South African Air Force was killed when his civilian Christen Husky aircraft crashed at Wonder-

## 8 June

- **1900** - Botha's Pass in Natal comes under attack by General Buller's forces.
- **1948** - John Rudder becomes the first black officer in the US Marine Corps.
- **1953** - Colonel René Paul Fonck, Allied World War I

René Fonck





boom Airport during a routine training flight. He was 46.

- **1995** - Marines rescue downed USAF Capt Scott O'Grady in Bosnia.

## 9 June

- **1865** - The Second Basotho War, known as Siqiti war, breaks out.
- **1938** - The Chinese breach the Yellow River dykes at Huayangkuou, halting a Japanese offensive at the cost of perhaps 800,000 lives.
- **1940** - French government flees Paris for Tours, as German troops cross the Seine.
- **1940** - Norway surrenders to Germany, as King Haakon VII flees into exile in London.
- **1942** - Nazis raze Lidice, Czechoslovakia. About 1,400 people are slaughtered.
- **1944** - Normandy: U.S. VII & V Corps link up to form a continuous beachhead.
- **1959** - The first ballistic missile sub is launched from USS 'George Washington' (SSBN-598).
- **1967** - Military service becomes compulsory for White South African men.
- **1976** - 2nd Lieutenant Kevin Roy Winterbottom HC (P) from 4 Squadron had just taken off from Air Force base Waterkloof in his Atlas MB-326KM Impala Mk II, when it suffered engine failure due to a bird strike. There was a busy road ahead of him, so he began a left turn, which set him up on a heading di-

rectly for the built-up area of Monument Park. Realising this and although extremely low, he persisted with his left turn in a final effort to avoid damage to property and injury or death to persons on the ground. The aircraft was by this time so low as to exclude the possibility of ejection and it hit the ground just as it cleared the built-up area, disintegrating on impact and killing him instantly. For his actions he was awarded a posthumous Honoris Crux. He was 21.

## 10 June

- **1915** - British and French troops secure German Cameroon, Africa.
- **1917** - The South African Native Labour Contingent were recruited and employed to assist Britain in the First World War with labour duties.
- **1944** - Ouradour-sur-Glane: SS massacre 642 men, women, and children in a French village.
- **1967** - Cease fire ends the Six Day War (Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt vs. Israel).
- **1974** - Captain Petrus Johannes Coetzer from 6 SAI suffered severe brain injuries in a private motor vehicle accident on 8 June 1974 near Lichtenburg while on leave. He remained on life support in 1 Military Hospital until he succumbed to his injuries on 10 June 1974. He was 29.
- **1975** - Corporal Timothy Chadwick from 6 SAI was

accidentally killed while busy building a bunker at Bagani. He was 20.

- **1979** - Rifleman Johannes Wilhelmus Landerd Jans from the Johannesburg Regiment was Killed in Action in Southern Angola. He was 22.
- **1980** - Rifleman Jose Miguel from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action in a landmine explosion in Southern Angola during operations against enemy forces. He was 29.
- **1980** - Thirteen members of 61 Mechanised Battalion and 1 SAI (attached) were Killed in Action or Died of Wounds during the attack on the PLAN Smokeshell Base complex during Operation Sceptic in Southern Angola. The casualties were: Lieutenant Johannes Jacobus Du Toit (HC) (22). Rifleman Francois Johan Loubser (19). Rifleman Petrus Johannes Joubert (19). Rifleman Gert Johannes Venter (25). Rifleman Gerhardus Johannes Kemp (19). Rifleman Jacobus Hendrik Fourie (20). Corporal Paul Kruger (20). Rifleman Stephen Maritz Cronje (19). Rifleman Peter William Warrenner (19). Rifleman Roberto Nicola de Vito (19). Rifleman Michael Clarence Luyt (19). Rifleman Francis John Lello (19). Rifleman Andrew John Madden (19).
- **1981** - Rifleman Antonio Johannes from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with

SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola. He was 24.

- **1982** - Rifleman K Comoxo from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-Line. He was 25.
- **1982** - Israeli troops reach outskirts of Beirut.
- **1991** - Ticker tape parade up Broadway to honour Gulf War veterans.

## 11 June

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Colonel B.T. Mahon occupies Potchefstroom.
- **1900** - The battle of Donkerhoek (Diamond Hill) marks the continuation of the South African War.
- **1904** - German Lieutenant-General Lothar von Trotha lands in Swakopmund, South West Africa.
- **1940** - World War II: North Africa. British planes raid Italian targets in Libya following Italy's declaration of war against Britain and France on the 10th.
- **1940** - Italian air raid on Malta.
- **1940** - RAF raids Genoa and Turin.
- **1960** - Libyan president Colonel Muammar Gadhafi admits to providing funds, munitions, and training to the IRA.
- **1968** - Lieutenant Johannes Viljoen from 1 Squadron was killed when his Canadair CL13B Sabre crashed near

Pietersburg during a routine training flight. He was 23.

- **1977** - Dutch Marines rescue hostages on a train held by Moluccan terrorists.
- **1985** - Rifleman Litwayi Herbert from 202 Battalion SWATF was killed in a military vehicle accident at Vungu-Yungu. He was 20.
- **1994** - After 49 years, the Soviet military occupation of East Germany ended. At one time there had been 337,800 Soviet troops stationed in Germany. Over 300,000 Russians died during World War II in the Battle for Berlin.

## 12 June

- **1898** - The Philippines declared their independence from Spain. The islands were named after King Philip II. Once freed from Spain, the islands were then invaded and occupied by U.S. forces. They became an American colony and remained so until after World War II.

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Redvers Henry Buller occupies Volksrust after a victory at Allemansnek.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: President Steyn issues a proclamation refuting Lord Robert's annexation proclamations. He points out that the Orange Free State government is still in existence and its military forces are still unconquered and thus in terms of the Hague Convention, military rule cannot be imposed.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The two-day Battle of Diamond Hill or Donkerhoek, started on the previous day, ends when darkness sets in and Comdt.-Gen. Botha orders his burghers to return to Bronkhorstspuit. The following day Lord Roberts withdraws to Christinen Hill, Sammy Marks' farm.
- **1918** - First air raid by an American aviation unit, France.
- **1937** - The Purges: Stalin

**Muammar Gadhafi**





- initiates mass executions of senior military personnel
  - **1943** - British King George IV lands in Algiers at the start of a North African tour of Allied troops.
  - **1943** - Himmler orders extermination of all Polish ghettos.
  - **1944** - First V-1 cruise missile attack on London.
  - **1944** - US troops liberate Carentan and Chaumont, Normandy.
  - **1962** - Two members from Central Flying School Dunnottar were killed instantly when their AT-6 Harvard struck the ground and disintegrated near Dunnottar while they were carrying out unauthorised low level aerobatics. The crew of the aircraft were: 2nd Lieutenant Bruce Erroll Gaylard (19). Air Mechanic Hermanus Lambertus Booysen (18).
  - **1967** - Israel declares it will keep some of ground won from Egypt, Jordan and Syria in Six-Day War.
  - **1976** - A military coup in Uruguay overthrows civilian president Juan Bordaberry, beginning a nine-year dictatorship.
  - **1983** - Staff Sergeant Donald Norman Coleby from Regiment Groot Karoo Died of Wounds 10 km south of Cuvelai. He was 27.
  - **1983** - Special Constable K Kambirua from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 26.
  - **1989** - Private Clive Dean MacKenzie from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed instantly when he was electrocuted after accidentally touching overhead high tension wires at the Bulkop Railway Station while in the process of offloading military supplies. He was 18.
  - **1993** - US helicopters and gunships destroy four of Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid's arms depots, one week after his forces allegedly killed twenty-three Pakistani members of the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping forces in a series of fire fights.
  - **1999** - NATO peacekeeping forces begin operating in Kosovo, Yugoslavia.
- 13 June**
- **1900** - The "Boxer Rebellion" begins in China.
  - **1917** - Major German bomber raid on London's East End, 162 die, including 18 children at the Upper North Street School.
  - **1942** - World War II Britain loses 230 tanks in desert battles.
  - **1942** - Peenemunde: First V-2 rocket reaches 1.3 km.
  - **1944** - First V-1 raid: one of ten missiles fired strikes London, six die.
  - **1951** - UN forces reach Pyongyang, Korea.
  - **1956** - Last British troops leave Suez Canal base, turn-

- ing the waterway over to Egypt after operating it for seventy-four years.
- **1970** - P.W. Botha announces that South Africa is establishing a new submarine base at Simonstown at a cost of \$7.7 million.
- **1973** - Captain Anthonie Johannes Brits from 8 Squadron was killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed near Bloemfontein during a routine training flight. He was 28.
- **1993** - Twenty Somalis are killed and fifty more wounded when Pakistani members of the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping forces fire into a crowd of demonstrators protesting UN attacks on warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid..

#### 14 June

- **1775** - The first U.S. Military service, the Continental Army consisting of six companies of riflemen, was established by the Second Continental Congress. The next day, George Washington was appointed by a unanimous vote to command the army.
- **1912** - The headquarters of the defence force of the Union of South Africa is founded in Pretoria.
- **1917** - General John J. Pershing and his staff reach Paris.
- **1940** - The Nazis open concentration camps at Auschwitz and Oranienburg.
- **1944** - First B-29 raid on Japan; 60 bombers hit the steel

- works on Honshu.
- **1952** - Keel laid for the USS 'Nautilus' (SSN-571), the first nuclear powered submarine.
- **1979** - Rifleman Lloyd Matthew Marthinus Kasoor from the South African Cape Corps was killed in a military vehicle accident at Grootfontein. He was 20.
- **1982** - Falklands: Argentines surrender to Britain, ending the 74 day war.
- **1985** - The SA Defence Force attacks alleged ANC homes and offices in Gaborone, Botswana, in Operation Plecksy. Twelve or thirteen people are killed.

#### 15 June

- **1864** - General Robert E Lee's home, Arlington, becomes a US military cemetery.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: Sergeant J. Rogers of the SA Constabulary earns a Victoria Cross near Thaba Nchu.
- **1915** - After the 1914 Rebellion, General Christiaan de Wet is found guilty of high treason in the High Court, Bloemfontein, and sentenced to six years' imprisonment and a fine of £2000. Within a few months the fine had been paid from voluntary contributions.
- **1934** - At a meeting in Rome Hitler meets Mussolini for the first time.
- **1940** - The Germans capture Verdun.
- **1962** - 2nd Lieutenant Johan

- Andries De Bruine from 1 Squadron was killed in when his Canadair CL13B Sabre crashed near Pienaarsriver. He was 23.
- **1964** - Last French troops leave Algeria.
- **1974** - Minister of Defence P.W. Botha announces during a press visit to the Caprivi Strip that the Defence Force has taken over protection of the country's northern borders as a full military operation, replacing the police in the area.
- **1975** - Rifleman Rumai Tete-ko from Alpha Group (Later 31 Battalion) was killed after being attacked and trampled to death by an enraged Buffalo while on Patrol in Southern Angola. He was 22.
- **1978** - Bombardier Christo Loots from 4 Artillery Regiment was killed at Oshakati after being struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 19.
- **1981** - Rifleman Peter An-

- dre Clifford Meyers from 6 SAI was accidentally killed after suffering severe head injuries when he fell 10m from a slide during training at Grootfontein. He was 26.
- **1984** - Ciskei's former Commander of the Armed Forces, Major-General Charles Sebe, brother of President Lennox Sebe, is sentenced to twelve years' imprisonment after being found guilty of incitement to public violence.
- **1988** - A meeting between the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) and the SADF takes place, with a main objective to discuss alternative national service. In August Minister of Defence Magnus Malan broke off relations with the ECC.
- **1993** - Rifleman Johan Cloete from 8 SAI died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained in a shooting incident at Boskop. He was 21.

#### 16 June

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer

Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini





War: Start of the 'scorched earth' policy. Lord Roberts issues a proclamation warning the Republican forces that houses in the vicinity of Boer activities will be burnt and the inhabitants made prisoners of war.

- **1911** - The City of Fez, Morocco, is occupied by the French army.
- **1953** - Soviet tanks crush workers' protest in East Berlin.
- **1955** - Abortive coup against President Juan Peron of Argentina.
- **1957** - French offensive in Algeria.
- **1965** - Civil war starts in Chad.
- **1975** - The Simon's Town agreement on naval cooperation between Britain and South Africa is formally ended by mutual agreement after 169 years.
- **1976** - Rifleman Clifford Donald Holland from the Durban Light Infantry was killed at Ruacana when he was struck by bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 19.
- **1977** - Rifleman Stephen Jones from Regiment Schoonspruit died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained at the Oshivello Training Area. He was 27.
- **1984** - Rifleman Johann Jacobus Hurter from 1 Parachute Battalion was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 24.
- **1984** - Special Sergeant N.

Nghifino from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 32.

- **1992** - Two members from 117 Infantry Battalion were killed when their Military Vehicle was involved in a head on collision with civilian vehicle at Mankweng. They were: Corporal Sedi-ma Johannes Lebepe (25). Rifleman Kgabo Theophilus Kubjana (25).
- **2006** - Up to 5,000 children still serve in the Ugandan armed forces even though they are officially banned from enlisting, a senior UN official said.

### 17 June

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: "Steinaecker's Horse", an irregular unit of about fifty mercenaries in British service, using Black armed tribesmen and operating from Swaziland, damages a bridge near Kaapmuiden. The rail traffic to Delagoa Bay is interrupted for about fourteen days.
- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: President M.T. Steyn appoints judge J.B.M. Hertzog as general.
- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British politician David Lloyd George denounces the concentration camp policy.
- **1940** - France asks Germany for terms of surrender.

- **1940** - Operation Ariel: Last British and Allied troops evacuated from France.
- **1942** - World War II: The first American expeditionary force lands in Africa.
- **1945** - Final Japanese defensive line on Okinawa breached.
- **1963** - Field Marshal Sir Alan Francis Brooke, Viscount Alanbrooke, dies at the age of 79.
- **1965** - Vietnam: First B-52 raid, 50 km north of Saigon.
- **1967** - China becomes world's fourth thermonuclear power.
- **1975** - The British Minister of State for Defence says that the ending of the Simon's Town Agreements means an end to all the military co-operation between Britain and South Africa.
- **1977** - Private Johannes Albertus Erasmus from 11 Squadron was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 19.
- **1978** - Rifleman (Mrs) Heyletta Swanepoel from the Bronkhorstspuit Commando collapsed and died after suffering a fatal heart attack while on official duty at the Zonderwater Shooting Range at Cullinan. She was 40.
- **1979** - 2nd Lieutenant Samuel Walters Coetzee from 32 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces. He was 20.
- **1980** - Rifleman M Tjisota from 37 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact

with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 20.

- **1982** - Two members of 5 Reconnaissance Regiment were Killed in Action during a Contact with Enemy Forces. They were: Sergeant Lloyd Mziwandile Mbele (28). Lance Corporal Oiva Shilongo (22).
- **1982** - Special Constable A. Ndawedapo from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was killed in action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 26.
- **1984** - Trooper Andre van Neel from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 19.
- **1985** - Rifleman Juston King from 6 SAI was killed in Private Vehicle Accident at Uitenhage while returning to his Unit from a leave pass to clear out on completion of his National Service. He was 21.
- **1987** - Two members from the Central Flying School at Dunnottar were killed when their AT-6 Harvard, Serial No. 7048 crashed on the farm Rietkuil, 10km South East of Delmas during a training sortie. The casualties were: Captain Bruce Matthew Nelson (26). Captain Ricardo Henrico Vergottini (26).
- **1989** - Rifleman Neill Knight from 4 SAI collapsed and died while at Rooikop

Base, Walvis Bay. The Post Mortem revealed that he was suffering from a brain tumour. He was 20.

- **1993** - United Nations (UN) troops storm the headquarters of Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid in Mogadishu, but he is not there.
- **1997** - Sierra Leone's military leader, Johnny Paul Koroma, is sworn in as head of state and pledge to restore peace to the war-weary West African nation.
- **1998** - USS 'Missouri' (BB-63) is dedicated as a war memorial, Pearl Harbour..

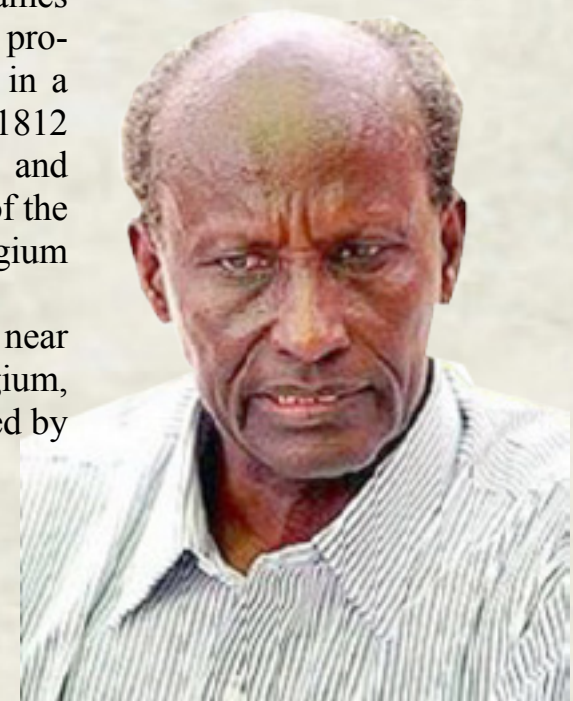
### 18 June

- **1812** - After much debate, the U.S. Senate voted 19 to 13 in favour of a declaration of war against Great Britain, prompted by Britain's violation of America's rights on the high seas and British incitement of Indian warfare on the Western frontier. The next day, President James Madison officially proclaimed the U.S. to be in a state of war. The War of 1812 lasted over two years and ended with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium on December 24, 1814.
- **1815** - On the fields near Waterloo in central Belgium, 72,000 French troops, led by

Napoleon, suffered a crushing military defeat from a combined Allied army of 113,000 British, Dutch, Belgian, and Prussian troops.

- **1823** - The British Army adopts trousers for infantry, in lieu of breeches & gaiters.
- **1940** - Hitler and Mussolini confer in Munich, discuss the imminent surrender of France and plans for an invasion of Switzerland.
- **1940** - Winston Churchill says "this was their finest hour".
- **1942** - Dr. Bernard Whitfield Robinson becomes the first black officer in the U.S. Navy.
- **1945** - William "Lord Haw-Haw" Joyce is charged with treason.
- **1974** - Marshal of the Soviet Union Georgi Zhukov, dies at the age of 78.
- **1975** - Two members from Infantry School accidentally drowned at Gamkaskloof. They were: Rifleman Gabri-

**Mohammed Farah Aidid**





- el Johannes Erasmus (19). Rifleman Gerhard Joshua Franzen (19).
  - **1983** - Rifleman Johan Steyn from 3 SAI died from a gunshot wound accidentally self-inflicted while at Potchefstroom. He was 18.
  - **1984** - Rifleman Paulus Hausiku from 202 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 20.
  - **1985** - Private Kurt Preuss from the Technical service Corps was killed when struck by a bullet resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldier's rifle. He was 21.
  - **1987** - Five members from 32 Battalion were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces near Evale in Southern Angola during Operation Radbraak. The casualties were: Corporal Bernard Sokola (34). Lance Corporal Joao Vocolo (32). Rifleman Joao Goncalves (38). Rifleman Paulus Kapinga (22). Rifleman Lituya Ntjamba (19).
  - **1988** - Special Warrant Officer Daniel Katapotle from the SWA Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 37.
- by the U.S.S. Kearsarge.
  - **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: General Buller enters Volksrust, the first town in the ZAR to fall into his hands.
  - **1948** - USSR blocks access to West-Berlin: Berlin Blockade begins.
  - **1953** - Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed by electrocution at Sing Sing Prison in New York. They had been found guilty of providing vital information on the atomic bomb to the Soviet Union during 1944-45.
  - **1968** - Candidate Officer Alwyn Johannes Botha from Regiment Molopo was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident 11 kilometres from Zeerust. He was 18.
  - **1973** - 2nd Lieutenant Hendrik Willem Alberts from 4 Squadron was killed when his Atlas MB326M Impala Mk I crashed near Masito while engaged in Operation Brolly Tree 3, a training exercise that was being carried out in the Zeerust area. He was 23.
  - **1975** - Sergeant Daniel Johannes Labuschagne from 19 Squadron was killed in a military vehicle accident in Rhodesia. He was 30.
  - **1975** - Rifleman Diederick Johannes Vorster from Services School was accidentally killed when struck by a bullet resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while he was stationed at Oshakati. He was 19.

## 19 June

- **1864** - The Alabama, American raider, is sunk outside Cherbourg harbour, France,

- **1976** - Corporal Robert Sheppard Gibbon from 1 Special Service Battalion was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 19.
- **1979** - Two members from 8 SAI were killed when their Buffel Troop Carrier overturned at Oshivello. They were: Rifleman Daniel Johannes Mocke (19). Rifleman Gerritt Franchois Roos (19).
- **1980** - Rifleman Jacobus Frederick van den Bergh from 53 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action when his patrol was ambushed by SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near Etale Base. He was 19.
- **1985** - Private Johannes Philippus Prinsloo from 101 Base Workshops was killed in a military vehicle accident at Bagani. He was 20.
- **1987** - Lance Corporal Gerhardus Christiaan Meyer from the Technical Service Corps was killed in a military vehicle accident at the Army Battle School at Lohatla. He was 24.
- **1987** - Rifleman Adriaan Gerhardus Riekert from the Brakpan Commando was killed in a military vehicle accident in Brakpan. He was 24.
- **1987** - Rifleman Willem Uithaler from the South African Cape Corps was killed after being struck bullet resulting from the accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle while at the Touw's River Training Area. He was 23.

- **1992** - Warrant Officer 1 Johannes Jacobus Fourie from 10 Engineer Squadron was critically injured in a military vehicle accident on 15 June 1992. He was admitted to the Pietersburg Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries on 19 June 1992. He was 45.
- **1992** - The Goldstone Commission recommends that the 32nd Battalion "should not again be used for peacekeeping duties anywhere in South Africa". The Commission's Tokoza Committee says that the battalion has committed acts of violence against residents of the Phola Park squatter camp.

## 20 June

- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: The British execute P.W. Kloppert, a Cape rebel, by hanging. Cloete claimed that he was not a rebel because he had Orange Free State citizenship.
- **1939** - Heinkel He-176 rocket plane flies for first time, at Peenemunde.
- **1941** - The U.S. Army Air Corps is reorganized as the Army Air Forces.
- **1963** - Cold War: Washington-Moscow "hot line" established.
- **1963** - Air Mechanic Robert Henry Mentis died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while stationed at Voortrekkerhoogte. He was 17.
- **1968** - Candidate Officer Pieter Frans Jurgens was

killed when his AT-6 Harvard crashed near Dunnottar while on a routine training flight. He was 19.

- **1973** - The Minister of Defence denies that South African troops are supporting Portuguese armed forces in Mozambique, as alleged by FRELIMO.
- **1983** - Trooper Jan Hendrik de Lange from 2 Special Service Battalion was killed after being struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 17.
- **1984** - Two members from the 2nd Battalion Transvaal Scottish accidentally drowned while their patrol was crossing the Cunene River near the Ruacana Falls. They were: Rifleman Arthur Hendrik Boshoff (21). Rifleman Leslie George Wasas (21).
- **1984** - Special Constable Blasius Kutenda from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 25.
- **1987** - Rifleman K. Tjihote from 102 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents in Northern Owamboland. He was 22.
- **1988** - Rifleman Ian Michael Webb from 6 SAI died in hospital at Tsumeb after sustaining severe head injuries when the right front tyre of a SAMIL truck burst causing the driver to lose control approximately 5km past the Tsumeb turn-off. He was 20.

**Ethel and Julius Rosenberg**





## 21 June

- **1901** - Second Anglo-Boer War: "In a letter to St John Broderick, Secretary of War, Lord Kitchener declares, 'It was a mistake to regard the Boers as a civilized race which could ever be an asset to the British Empire: they are uncivilized Afrikaner savages with a thin White veneer ...' He asks the cabinet to endorse a scheme that will allow the permanent banishment of all Boers who at any time have fought against Britain, as well as their families... He suggests the Fiji Islands in the South Pacific."
- **1919** - Scapa Flow: Germans scuttle over 400,000 tons of warships.
- **1942** - World War II: The Second South African Division under Major-General H.B. Klopper surrenders and the German force under General Rommel captures 25,000 Allied troops, under whom 10 722 South Africans at Tobruk on the coast of Libya.
- **1948** - Berlin Airlift begins.
- **1967** - Air Mechanic Adam Hendrik Schoeman from 1 Squadron was accidentally killed at AFB Pietersburg after he was sucked into the engine air intake of a Canadair C13L Sabre while setting the fuel pumps during a full engine run. He was 19.
- **1977** - Rifleman Raymond Ward from the SWA SPES was killed in a military vehicle accident while travelling to De Aar. He was 24.
- **1979** - Two members from 32 Battalion were Killed in Action during a contact with enemy forces in Southern Angola near Beacon 32. They were: 2nd Lieutenant Willem Adriaan de Vos (19). Rifleman S. Mukonda (27).
- **1980** - Corporal Petrus Johannes Badenhorst from 5 SAI was critically wounded on 20 June 1980 in an explosion while doing evening "Klaarstaan" in the Ops Room at Concor Base, east of Ruacana. He succumbed to his wounds and resultant blood loss in the early hours of 21 June. He was 20.
- **1980** - Corporal Willem Adriaan Finnies from 41 Battalion was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN Insurgents. He was 18.
- **1982** - Bombardier Dirk Hero Onne Hassebroek from 84 Motorised Brigade was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident in Sector 70. He was 23.
- **1982** - Three members from the South West Africa Police Counter-Insurgency Wing: Ops-K Division (Koevoet) were Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Northern Owamboland. They were: Special Constable Paulus Antonius (20). Special Constable Immanuel Kavulu (29). Special Constable Theophillus Ndevelo (26).
- **1983** - Sergeant Terrence Moffat Atkinson from 1

Construction Regiment was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident at Musese in Western Kavango. He was 56.

## 22 June

- **1939** - World War II: France surrenders to Germany eight days after the German forces invaded the country.
- **1940** - About 10,000 Afrikaner women, led by Mrs H.C. Steyn, march to the Union Buildings to protest about the South African involvement in World War II on the side of Britain. The women protested against South Africa's participation in World War II on the side of Britain and requested that South Africa should withdraw from the war.
- **1941** - Starting at 3:15 am Operation Barbarossa begins, as some 3.2 million German soldiers plunged headlong into Russia across an 2,987 kilometre front, in a major turning point of World War II. At 7 am that morning, a proclamation from Hitler to the German people announced, "At this moment a march is taking place that, for its extent, compares with the greatest the world has ever seen..."
- **1942** - The heaviest single day's loss of life in Australian military history; 845 soldiers and 208 civilians aboard the Japanese prisoner-of-war ship 'Montevideo Maru' was sunk by the American submarine 'Sturgeon' (SS 187) in the South

China Sea.

- **1944** - Russians begin "Operation Bagration", the Destruction of German Army Group Centre.
- **1945** - Okinawa secured: 110,000 Japanese troops, 100,000 civilians, 17,520 US troops died.
- **1955** - Soviets shoot down US patrol plane over the Bering Sea.
- **1984** - Rifleman Andries Kees from the South African Cape Corps died from gunshot wounds accidentally sustained. He was 18.
- **1985** - Corporal Johannes Gobe from 201 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents near the Cut-line. He was 29.
- **1987** - Airman John Liam Corrigan from the Lowveld Airspace Control Sector was accidentally shot dead by a visitor at Mariepskop while he was on guard duty. He was 20.
- **1990** - Signaller Ronald Leon Wheeler from Group 10 was killed in a military vehicle accident at Umkomaas. He was 20.
- **1993** - The UN resumes food distribution in Mogadishu, Somalia, ten days after fighting between UN troops and those of warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid halt.
- **2003** - A US Marine is killed and eight other service members are injured by errant bombs dropped by a US B-52 Stratofortress in Dji-

bouti, the United States' only base in Africa.

## 23 June

- **1900** - Second Anglo-Boer War: British forces advance. General Clements reaches Winburg. General Hamilton enters Heidelberg after a slight skirmish. General Clery joins Buller at Standerton.
- **1902** - Field-cornet Salmon van As is executed by a firing squad after being found guilty by a British Court Martial of murdering Captain Richard Miers.
- **1940** - Hitler orders preparations for an invasion of Switzerland.
- **1942** - Rommel breaks the Gazala Line and drives on Egypt.
- **1970** - Two members from 42 Squadron were killed when their Cessna 185A crashed at Vaal River near

Potchefstroom after flying into High Tension Wires. The aircraft crew were: 2nd Lieutenant Johan van Sittert (21). Candidate Officer Petrus Johannes van Deventer (22).

- **1974** - Lieutenant Freddie Johannes Zeelie from 1 Reconnaissance Commando was Killed in Action while engaged on anti-insurgent operations in Southern Angola. He was the first South African soldier to be Killed in Action during the Border War. He was also the only member of Special Forces to ever receive the Louw Wepener Decoration. He was 22.
- **1980** - Sergeant Jacobus Daniel Cilliers from 17 Squadron was Killed in action when his Alouette III was shot down by an RPG-

**Erwin Rommel**





7 anti-tank rocket during the later stages of Ops Sceptic. He was 23.

- **1982** - A Defence Amendment Bill provides for a re-organisation of the defence system intended to give the South African Defence Force (SADF) adequate manpower to deal with almost every conceivable threat.
- **1984** - Corporal Johannes Christiaan Theunissen from 7 SAI was Killed in Action. He was 21.
- **1994** - Some 2,500 French troops head into Rwanda to protect civilians, the first outside forces sent there since UN. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali appealed for international involvement to stop the genocide.
- **1997** - In the Central African Republic, soldiers fire on foreign peacekeepers in the third major rebellion since May.

## 24 June

- **1916** - World War I: The first Battle of the Somme begins. It lasted five months and the death toll of more than 1 million resulted in an allied advance of 125 square miles. Many SA troops were killed in action.
- **1917** - Russian Black Sea fleet mutinies at Sebastopol.
- **1940** - France signs an armistice with Italy.
- **1945** - Victory parade in Red Square in Moscow.
- **1978** - Private Anton Nel

from 1 Satellite Radar Station at Mariepskop died from head injuries received in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 20.

- **1980** - Private Michael Johannes Range from the South African Defence Force Institute (SADFI/SAWI) in Pietersburg was killed when the military vehicle in which he was travelling, overturned. He was 18.
- **1983** - Corporal George Louis Steytler from 1 Parachute Battalion Died of Wounds after being critically wounded in the head when his Patrol TB was attacked by a FAPLA/Cuban force while in an area approximately 38km from Cahama. He succumbed to his wounds while on the Casevac helicopter ferry flight back to AFB Ondangwa. He was 19.
- **1997** - Defence Minister Joe Modise warns that the proposed R1,4 billion cut in the defence budget could seriously disrupt the defence force's ability to function and to contribute to the fight against crime.

## 25 June

- **1677** - Governor Johan Bax of the Cape, who waged war against the Hottentot (Khoi-Khoi) Chief Gonnema from 1676, concludes 'a good, lasting peace'.
- **1862** - Custer's Last Stand. 250 men of the US 7th Cavalry, under General George Armstrong Custer, are attacked by between 2,000 and

4,000 Indian Braves near the Little Bighorn River. Only one scout and one horse on the US side survive the battle.

- **1940** - Hitler tours Paris, taking in the Eiffel Tower, Napoleon's Tomb, and the Opera.
- **1941** - Finland declares war on the Soviet Union.
- **1942** - World War II: General Sir Claude Auchinleck becomes commander of the British Eighth Army in North Africa.
- **1942** - World War II: British Air Force stages 1,000-bomber raid on Bremen, Germany.
- **1942** - Eisenhower takes command of U.S. forces in Europe.
- **1950** - The Korean War breaks out. Nearly 90,000 North Korean soldiers and hundreds of Russian-built T-34 tanks cross the border into South Korea. South Africa, as one of the founding members of the United Nations, decide to assign a fighter squadron to the UN forces to help defeat North Korea. The Korean War claimed the lives of thirty-six SA Air Force members.
- **1960** - Corporal Petrus Cornelius van der Merwe of the South African Air Force was killed when his Defence Flying Club Piper Cub crashed and burnt out near Pretoria while on a routine general flying training flight. He was 24.
- **1972** - Rifleman Arno Roesstroff from 1 SAI was

killed after being struck by a bullet resulting from an accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle. He was 19.

- **1979** - Gunner Jeffrey James Mitchell from 4 Artillery Regiment died in 1 Military Hospital after suffering extensive burns accidentally sustained when a fuel tank exploded at the Regiment in Potchefstroom. He was 20.
- **1980** - Two Members from Central Flying School Dunottar were killed when their AT-6 Harvard crashed 1,6 kilometres North of Dunottar while carrying out simulated instrument flying. They were: Lieutenant Donald Gordon Stanbury (22). Candidate Officer Lloyd Douglas Liebenberg (19).
- **1981** - Lance Corporal Frederick Aspelting from North West Command was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident, at Oudtshoorn. He was 19.
- **1981** - Corporal Johan Cornelius Du Toit from Regiment Langenhoven was Killed in Action in Southern Angola. He was 24.
- **1981** - Staff Sergeant Willem Marthinus Roothman from the South African Corps of Military Police was killed in a military vehicle accident in Oudtshoorn while on a call-out to investigate a case. He was 41.
- **1981** - Signaler Dirk Jacobus Venter from 84 Signals Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident. He was 22.
- **1982** - Two members from

32 Battalion were accidentally shot dead by own forces in a friendly fire incident near Evale in Southern Angola during Operation Groenslang. They were: Corporal James Conroy (20). Rifleman Antonio Pedro Manuel (32).

- **1983** - Leading Seaman George Edward Wellington Ford from the 1st Marine Brigade, South African Marines was killed in a military vehicle accident while on deployment in Eastern Caprivi. He was 20.
- **1988** - Angolan, Cuban, South African and United States officials meet in Cairo, in search of independence for Namibia in tandem with a withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.
- **1991** - The last Soviet troops leave Czechoslovakia.

## 26 June

- **1917** - First American combat troops arrive in France.
- **1934** - Germany and Poland sign a non-aggression pact.
- **1939** - Polish anti-aircraft gunners down a German plane that had "strayed" over the Hela Peninsula.

• **1977** - Gunner Willem Christiaan Lentink from 14 Artillery Regiment was killed in a Military Vehicle Accident in Pretoria. He was 20.

• **1977** - Rifleman Christiaan Hendrik van der Westhuizen from the Witwatersrand Rifles was killed when he accidentally fell off the back of a moving Unimog. He was 21.

## 27 June

- **1905** - Mutiny in the Russian battleship 'Potemkin'.
- **1918** - First use of parachutes to escape an aircraft in combat: two German airmen jump.
- **1941** - The Germans capture Bialystok.
- **1942** - As the Eighth Army abandons Mersa Matruh, North Africa, Rommel's forces claim to have captured another 6,000 British troops.
- **1944** - American troops liberate Cherbourg from the

**Boutros  
Boutros-Ghali**





Germans.

- **1950** - North Korean troops reach Seoul, as the Security Council calls on UN members to aid South Korea and Truman orders USAF & USN into action.
- **1950** - US sends 35 military advisers to South Vietnam.
- **1971** - The Chairman of Armscor announces that under an agreement with a French aviation company, Mirage III and F jet fighters will be built in South Africa with the help of French personnel.
- **1976** - First women cadets enter the Air Force Academy.
- **1977** - Private Hendrik Johannes Naude from 42 Squadron was killed in a private motor vehicle accident. He was 18.
- **1980** - Rifleman Nicolaas Johannes Kruger from 25 Field Squadron was Killed in Action when he stepped on and detonated a boosted anti-personnel mine near Okatope in Northern Owamboland. He was 20.
- **1985** - Rifleman J. Filimon from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 23.
- **1986** - Rifleman Frikkie Carolus from the South African Cape Corps died from a gunshot wound sustained during the accidental discharge of a fellow soldiers rifle at De Aar. He was 26.
- **1988** - 2nd Lieutenant Muller Meiring of 61 Mechanised Battalion was Killed

in Action North East of Calueque. He was 19.

- **1988** - Eleven members of the SADF were Killed in Action during a retaliatory air strike by Angolan Air Force MiG-23 aircraft on SADF positions near the Calueque Dam after SADF Artillery had accurately bombarded Cuban and FAPLA positions in the town of Techipa on 26 and 27 June 1988 causing heavy casualties. The casualties were: Lieutenant Noah Tucker of 8 SAI (23). Corporal Ewert Phillipus Koorts of 8 SAI (19). Lance Corporal Johannes Reinhard Gerhardus Holder 8 SAI (19). Rifleman Johannes Mattheus Strauss Venter of 8 SAI (19). Rifleman Thomas Benjamin Rudman of 8 SAI (20). Rifleman Phillipus Rudolph Marx of 8 SAI (19). Rifleman Andries Stephanus Johannes Els of 8 SAI (19). Trooper Michael John van Heerden of 8 SAI (19). Lance Corporal Wynand Albert van Wyk of 1 SSB (19). Trooper Gregory Scott of 2 SSB (19). Trooper Emile Erasmus of 10 Armoured Car Squadron (20).
- **1990** - Lance Corporal C Chimongaia from 201 Battalion Died from Natural Causes at Omega. He was 27.
- **1995** - SA signs a protocol of intent on military cooperation between the Ministry of Defence of South Africa and the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic.

## 28 June

- **1914** - Archduke Frans Ferdinand, Austrian heir to the throne, and his wife are shot and killed by a student in Sarajevo. This leads to World War I.
- **1919** - The signing of the Treaty of Versailles formally ended World War I.
- **1942** - British 8th Army in North Africa retreats from German attack to El Alamein.
- **1942** - North Africa. General Rommel and his *Panzer-armee Afrika* capture Fuqa.
- **1965** - President Johnson orders US ground forces to Vietnam.
- **1975** - Private Gerhard Erasmus Smith De Beer from 1 Maintenance Unit was killed in a military vehicle accident in Grootfontein. He was 18.
- **1976** - Three British mercenaries, Andrew McKenzie, John Barker and Costas Georgiou and an American, Daniel Gearhert, are sentenced to death in Luanda for their part in the Angolan civil war.
- **1986** - Rifleman Geelbooi Zamblenzini Mthimunya from 115 Battalion was murdered at Weltevrede after being attacked by persons unknown and burned to death. He was 20.

## 29 June

- **1913** - Bulgarian troops initiate hostilities with Serbia in Macedonia, triggering the Second Balkan War.
- **1944** - Bobriusk: Soviets

encircle portions of German Army Group Centre.

- **1945** - Operation Olympic: President Truman set the invasion of Japan for 1 November.
- **1949** - US troops withdraw from Korea after World War II.
- **1965** - Lieutenant Lourens Benjamin Schlesinger from 1 Squadron was killed near Louis Trichardt when his Canadair CL13B Sabre suffered a suspected bird strike. He failed to eject from the aircraft before it struck the ground, exploding on impact. He was 24.
- **1965** - Captain Peter Maxwell from Central Flying School Dunnottar, a veteran of the Korean War, was killed instantly when his AT-6 Harvard crashed at Potchefstroom Airfield after the left wing of the aircraft struck the ground when he attempted to execute a roll at low level. He was 42.
- **1966** - North Vietnam: US bombs fuel storage facilities.
- **1970** - US/ARVN end two month military offensive into Cambodia.
- **1977** - Rifleman M. Makehe from 34 Battalion (Later 202 Battalion) SWATF was Killed in Action during a contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents. He was 22.
- **1982** - Lance Corporal Jacobus Johannes Gerhardus van Staden from 61 Base Workshops was accidentally killed when he was crushed between two military vehicles

during a vehicle recovery operation at Tsumeb. He was 22.

- **1985** - Rifleman H. Andreas from 101 Battalion SWATF died from a gunshot wound accidentally sustained while in Northern Owamboland. He was 23.
- **1988** - Rifleman Christiaan Fick from 1 SAI was critically injured in a private vehicle accident and died later that day. He was 19.

## 30 June

- **1851** - The Battle of Viervoet, in the British-Basotho War, takes place. The British under Warden suffers a reverse.
- **1917** - Greece declares war on the Central Powers.
- **1934** - "The Night of Long Knives": Hitler's "blood purge".
- **1936** - Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia appears before the League of Nations to appeal for help following Italy's invasion of Ethiopia and his exile.
- **1941** - Leading German Protestant clergymen congratulate Hitler on the invasion of the Soviet Union.
- **1960** - The Belgian Congo becomes the independent Republic of the Congo, with Joseph Kasavubu as president and Patrice Lumumba as prime minister. Civil war soon erupts.
- **1962** - The French Foreign Legion leaves Algeria for the last time.
- **1980** - Corporal Theo Bence van Niekerk from 1 Recon-

naissance Regiment died from a gunshot accidentally sustained while at Fort Dopies, Caprivi Strip. He was 22.

- **1986** - Rifleman L.N.D. Jonas from 101 Battalion SWATF was Killed in Action during a Contact with SWAPO/PLAN insurgents in Southern Angola near the Cut-line. He was 26.
- **1988** - The SA Defence Force claims that 200 Angolan and Cuban troops died in a clash at Calueque earlier in the week.
- **1988** - Zimbabwe foils a South African commando attempt to rescue five alleged South African agents awaiting trial for bomb attacks against the ANC in Zimbabwe.
- **1989** - Sudanese military leader Omar Hassan al-Bashir topples the civilian administration of Sadeq al-Mahdi.
- **1992** - Four members from 9 SAI were killed when their Samil 20 vehicle overturned at Middelrust. The casualties were: Sergeant Clinton Donovan Elliot (25). Lance Corporal Cleston Beukes (19). Rifleman Jacobus Adams (24). Rifleman Aubrey John Ruiter (19).





## QUIZ

# General Military Knowledge

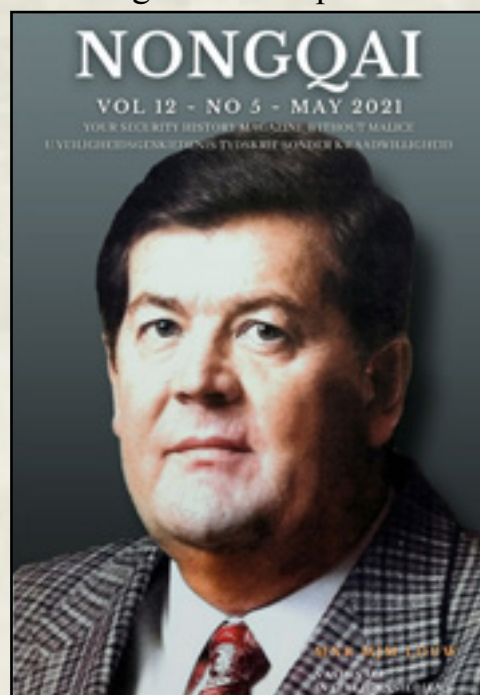
1. The United States of America.
2. Nothing to report.
3. The Royal Navy.
4. Bock's Car.
5. Colonel Paul Tibbets.
6. Dad's Army.
7. Avtomat Kalashnikova.
8. The Nuremberg war crimes trials.
9. Dr. Mary Edwards Walker. She was awarded the medal during the American Civil War.
10. Corporal Pieter Arnoldus Swanepoel, 2 SAI, HCS, 11 November 1975.
11. It is the only version of the pistol that has a safety catch.
12. Mobile Army Surgical Hospital.
13. Spetsnaz.
14. Zanzibar. They declared war on Britain and then surrendered 38 minutes later.
15. William Joyce.
16. The United States Navy.
17. It was 5 Reconnaissance Commando. They only became 5 Reconnaissance Regiment after they moved to Phalaborwa.
18. It was A 111 118. Armistice Day 11 November 1918.
19. American actress Jane Fonda.
20. Agent Orange - a powerful herbicide used to eliminate forest cover and crops in North Vietnam.
21. In 1993.
22. Brixton Ridge in Johannesburg. It was during the Rand Rebellion in 1922.
23. The 332nd Fighter Group (The Tuskegee Airmen).



## Useful links

Every month we will be featuring a few useful links to military websites, newsletters and on-line magazines. Stuff that we think our readers will appreciate.

Here are two of our favourites. The first one is Nongqai, the unofficial police newsletter for veterans of the former South African Police Force and for those interested in Police History. The second is Jimmy's Own, the official newsletter of the South African Signals Association. Click on the magazine covers to go to the respective websites.



# Military Despatches Website



"Things don't have to change the world to be important."

*Steve Jobs*



Our aim is to make the Military Despatches website easy to use. Even more important to us, we want to make the website informative and interesting. The latest edition of the magazine will be available, as will all the previous editions. More over, there will be links to videos, websites, and articles that our readers may find interesting. So check out the website, bookmark it, and pass the URL on to everyone that you think may be interested.



Have you checked out the bookshelf on the website? Here you can open and read individual articles on screen with no need to download anything.

You will find articles on numerous different topics that have been published over the past two years as well as video clips and documentaries.



# Hipe!

## media

**E-mail**  
**[editor@hipe.co.za](mailto:editor@hipe.co.za)**



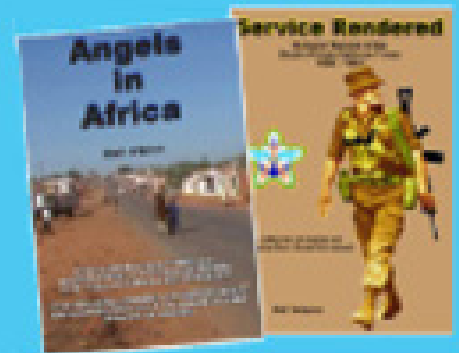
### **Online Magazines**

Flip book magazines with pages that can be turned.



### **E-books**

Produced in any electronic format required.



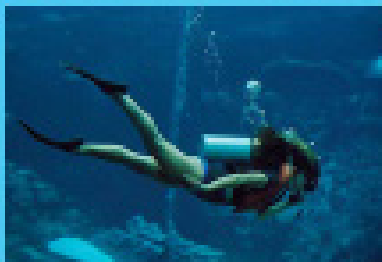
### **2D & 3D Animation**

Produced in any video format.



### **Video Production**

Scripting, storyboard, filming and editing done to any video format required. We also do aerial and underwater video and stills.



### **Still Photography**

**If you're thinking digital media then think Hipe Media.**